

NO. 10 AUBURN VS. SOUTHERN MISS

September 29, 2018

Jordan-Hare Stadium >> Auburn, AL

AUBURN HEAD COACH GUS MALZAHN QUOTES

Opening statement...

"First thing, I'm pleased to be 4-1 and want to thank our fans for sticking around for the two-hour delay. That was a long delay, and fans really stuck it out and I really appreciate them.

"Overall, I'm pleased with the victory. Defensively, I felt like we played well again. The three turnovers and Christian Tutt's turnover late really sealed the game. (Southern Miss) was 2-13 on third down, and we've talked about playing good third-down defense and our guys did that.

"Offensively, I think the big thing is that we had trouble protecting, and at times I think it made things a little bit ugly. Running the football, once again we have to be more consistent. I am very proud of Kam Martin coming in. Boobee Whitlow had a little bit of an injury and wasn't able to return. Kam Martin did a super job coming in. We had a couple of guys get banged up, starters, and I thought the backups that came in did a solid job, especially that last drive when they knew we were running the football. Overall, I'm pleased to be 4-1."

On the weather changing the game plan...

"I guess the awkward part about it was the two-hour delay and it was four minutes until halftime. It kept pushing it back 30 minutes more and 30 minutes more. We didn't play really well the last four minutes. We had the ball, plus we were getting the ball back at halftime. I was really hoping we could go ahead and extend our lead and we didn't. But that's part of it, that's no excuse for anything. We just need to come out ready to play."

SOUTHERN MISS HEAD COACH JAY HOPSON QUOTES

Opening remarks...

"We never like losing, it's always tough. But I saw a bunch of Golden Eagles that fought for 60 minutes, I guarantee you that. And something that as a football coach you're always proud of. You're proud of their effort, you're proud of the way they fought. We gave ourselves a chance there in the 4th quarter to put ourselves in position to win. Didn't capitalize on those opportunities. We had a couple of other opportunities we would have loved to have had. But I did see a lot out of this football team. And as a football coach, you want to win every game, but when you see guys play hard and give the effort that our guys gave tonight, you're certainly going to be proud of them. Up front, I thought we really were physical tonight on our defensive side, so that's something you always love."

On if this was the most physical game they've played all year...

"I think it was. I thought we were definitely physical tonight. But our defense has played pretty physical all season. And again, we had some plays here and there that were tough ones. I sure would have like to see that one call tonight get reviewed again. When we hit Tim Jones across the middle, that would have been nice to have a review there. But our guys played hard."

On how the weather delay affected the team...

“We adapted well to it. Our guys kept their energy up in the dressing room. They were positive. Our spirits were good. We had kind of taken the first punch, and we felt pretty confident going back out in the second half. And I think my guys responded well to the adversity.”

AUBURN PLAYER QUOTES

Noah Igbinoghene, DB

On the defense’s performance...

“We were out there for a long time, but we held our ground. We weren’t perfect, so we have some stuff to improve on. I just think we’ll get better every week. That’s our goal.”

On the positives to take moving forward...

“Tackles for loss and turnovers is what we wanted to improve on. We got two turnovers today. We were flying around the field today. We still have stuff to fix and things to improve on. That’s what we’re going to focus on.”

On Southern Miss’ scores...

“It’s always disappointing when the other team scores, but we just have to brush it off and play the next play.”

On preparation for Southern Miss’ offense...

“We knew going into the game about how good their offense was. We prepared for that. They came in and showed us what their offense can do. They’re a very aggressive offense, but I think we handled it well. It wasn’t perfect at all, we still have stuff to improve on, but I’m glad we got the win.”

Deshaun Davis, LB

On the defense’s performance...

“I think overall we played a pretty good game. We came in wanting a shutout, but they got 13 points for whatever reason. That’s not the standard we want to hold, but we got a win. Every time you get a win, you don’t want to be too negative. We just have to correct the things we need to correct going into a hostile environment at Mississippi State. We need to get ready to continue SEC play.”

On the huddle on the sideline to keep the defense excited...

“That first touchdown really put them in the game. The energy in the stadium, and even on the sideline, was kind of dead. With the rain delay and guys coming out slipping around because of the grass, we still had a football game to play. They weren’t making excuses, so we couldn’t make excuses.”

Jarrett Stidham, QB

On pass protection...

“It’s part of it. Growing pains, especially when you have guys that go down. It’s just part of playing football. We’re going to have to find a way to get better. We just wanted to come out and execute. I thought we did some things really well and some things that we’ve obviously got to fix. Anytime you have injuries or whatever it may be, you’re going to have some growing pains. That’s why you play the game. You have to get better every week, and that’s what we continue to do every single week. I have full confidence in our team that we are going to continue to push ourselves every week and get better.”

On hitting a few deep passes...

"I definitely wanted to hit a couple of long balls and kind of just get back into that rhythm of hitting those guys down field. Luckily, we had some guys go make some plays and bail me out."

On improvements that can be made...

"There's going to be a lot. Obviously, looking at the film tomorrow will help me have a better answer for you. Hopefully, I have a better answer for you on Tuesday. I'm sure there's going to be quite a few things that we can fix. That's the great thing about football. It's never going to be as good as you feel it is or as bad as you feel it is. It's going to be a good week for us. I'm excited."

Jeremiah Dinson, DB

On Christian Tutt's interception...

"That's huge. It's nothing but trust. He was in the game late when they had the drive. It's big for him."

On freshmen making an impact...

"We trust all the freshmen. Like I said a couple of weeks ago, we trust anybody that's on the field with us. For Christian Tutt to come up with a big play like that it's huge. We're going to need that."

On his interception...

"It was a deep over route. The quarterback rolled out and I kind of rolled out with him. I saw the receiver back side, and I sprinted and turned and high-pointed the ball. It feel good."

Derrick Brown, DL

On Christian Tutt's interception...

"Definitely a big play, throughout the night we were trying to get that turnover. Tutt came up with a big play and he definitely did his job and was able to capitalize on that."

On returning to SEC play next week...

"Get better. Gotta get better... they got good crowds (at Mississippi State), the crowds are definitely going to be an effect. We've got to be able to perform our best, no matter what the situation is."

On areas where Auburn can improve...

"All around. We've got to just take a look and every week our goal is to improve, We're not happy unless we get a shutout and we haven't done that yet, so that's what we need to do."

Darius Slayton, WR

On hitting a few big plays early...

"I think it was really important. Whenever we were able to get some of those big plays it energized us and those usually lead to touchdowns."

On Auburn's offense overall tonight...

"Obviously, I think we still didn't play our best game, we had some execution errors in there, but we got the win."

SOUTHERN MISS PLAYER QUOTES

Jack Abraham, QB

On tonight's game...

"I thought we fought hard. We missed a couple executions, but the way we fought and played, and the effort we gave, we're getting a lot better each week."

On Auburn eliminating shuffle passes to the outside...

"Yeah, they're really fast, really big and strong. They obviously had seen it, and knew where we are and what was coming. We had to make a couple of adjustments, but they were on it."

On benefit of the rain delay for Southern Miss...

"It helped a lot. There weren't nearly as many people there after the rain delay, and obviously that helped a good bit with crowd noise and everything. So it definitely made a difference."

Jacques Turner, DL

On the team's pass rush...

"We have got to focus on getting to the quarterback. Before this (game), we only had two sacks. So we are trying to get back to the quarterback and change the game."

On the strip sack late in the game...

"It hit my helmet, but I'll take it. I was just trying to give it all I got, and get to the quarterback and make a play."