

AUBURN vs. TENNESSEE
October 13, 2018
Jordan-Hare Stadium >> Auburn, AL

AUBURN HEAD COACH GUS MALZAHN QUOTES

Opening statement...

"Obviously, very tough loss and very disappointing. I really felt like we would come out and play our best game. Got off to a good start, things were going good.

"I think the big picture of the deal was the three turnovers and one of those turnovers led to a touchdown. That was really the difference in the game. Tennessee didn't turn the ball over and they had a good third-down plan. They were almost 50 percent on third down, and their quarterback made some plays with the receivers and some one-on-one situations as far as that goes.

"I'm very disappointed, but I will say this, our kids fought to the end. I'm proud of our kids' fight, but obviously, this is a disappointing loss at home. We give Tennessee credit and congratulate them. They had a good plan and their kids fought hard and found a way to win. Like I said, they protected the football and we didn't. I think at the end of the day, that was really the determining factor of why we lost."

On the team's performance...

"I'm very disappointed in our performance. I thought we would play better and we had a solid week of practice. I'm disappointed for our players, I'm disappointed for our fans, and I'm not happy."

AUBURN PLAYER QUOTES

Dontavius Russell, DL

On overall game...

"We didn't win the game. That's all I really cared about from the beginning was winning. I don't think we executed well. That's the main thing. We have to get back in and watch the film and find out ways in which we can play better as a complete football team. That's the thing we're not doing right now."

On moving ahead...

"We will go in on Sunday and see the film and try to fix our mistakes. That's the only thing we can do."

Jarrett Stidham, QB

Did any defensive schemes catch the offense off guard...

“No, everything that they, for the most part, threw at us today was expected.”

What can the offense do to improve...

“Every day, I’m going to go to work and get better, and I’m going to keep fighting for those guys in that locker room. That’s what it’s completely about for me. I don’t care about the future, I don’t care about the past, I don’t care how great or bad I did last year or how I’ve done up to this point. I’m going to continue to fight for my teammates. My goal personally is to make sure I am doing whatever I can on a daily basis to make sure I can do whatever I can for my team.”

On dealing with disappointment...

“It is very disappointing obviously. We had very high expectations coming into this year. We keep shooting ourselves on the foot, like today; I turned the ball over three times and that is completely on me. Regardless of any circumstance, I have to do a better job on holding the ball and not turn it over. It is not fun losing like this but like I have said over and over, our guys are hungry to get better every week. I know that collectively we are going to stay together, we are going to block out all the outside noise and we are just going to continue fighting for each other just like we have been doing all along. That’s what is all about, playing for each other and continuing to build those relationships with those guys.”

Chandler Cox, H-Back

On the loss...

“Just not executing. The turnovers. We had three turnovers, and if you turn the ball over in a SEC matchup, you know, it’s hard to win the game like that. And that’s the biggest thing. Everyone might go at the coaches this week and say, ‘the play-calling is bad.’ But you know what, at the end of the day it’s us as individuals on the field not executing. And we see that every single week. And I see that in myself - I’m not executing every play - and the people around us. We’re just not executing as 11 guys out there and that’s a problem, because they can only do so much for us.”

Opening remarks...

“We beat a really good football team today. It’s like I told them in there, if we learn to execute and raise our level of fight, we’ve got a chance to have a really good football team. There were times in the game where things didn’t go our way. I didn’t think we played very well at certain times in the game, but our guys kind of kept their poise. Fought a little bit harder. They played with a little better technique. We got some turnovers and didn’t turn the ball over.

“Did some good things in the special teams area to give us a chance against guys that are really good returners. Jarrett (Guarantano) did a good job taking care of the football, thought our offensive staff did a fantastic job mixing it up. I know we didn’t run the ball very well, we’re going to have to improve on that. But we did make some plays throwing the football, I thought we put the ball where our wide receivers could make the plays and nobody else.

“There was a couple of times where we got into a red area, we needed to finish off, put some touchdowns and we didn’t. But it’s a fantastic effort by our guys. Something that we can build on moving down the road.”

On what it’s like to win on the road...

“Let me tell you, this is not an easy place to win. Nowhere is in the SEC. So to go on the road and win against a really good football team in the SEC, I think it speaks to how far we came as a program in the last 10 months. Things didn’t go our way today all the time, but we’re learning to kind of play the next play, not letting the last play have any effect on the next ones. We’re growing up. I think it’s good for our guys. I’m glad for them. It’s good to see the smiles on their face and I hope they get used to winning.”

TENNESSEE PLAYER QUOTES

Jarrett Guarantano, QB

On taking advantage of downfield throws...

“I think we are starting to build on that and those type of things. So, I think that today was the first step in the right direction of those down the field passes.”

On finding poise after getting down early...

“We’re used to being down, as you guys know. So we weren’t focused on the scoreboard at all. That’s one of the things that Coach was saying pregame, don’t worry about the scoreboard. Let’s be the most physical team out there and let’s just go play ball.”

Ty Chandler, RB

On how it feels to get a win on the road...

“It feels good. We finally got an SEC win. It feels great. I was so ready to shake it off. I was tired of losing. I’m glad we came here and got this win in a tough environment. It was a great team we played against today, so I’m glad we came in here and got it.”

On the offense's performance...

"We were able to execute and move the ball down the field. We were able to convert on third down, and that's all it comes down to is executing and focusing on the little things."

On Jarrett Guarantano's performance...

"We knew he was going to come here and do his thing. He's a great quarterback and a great leader for us, so I knew he was going to do his thing. It was just important that we made sure we protected him."

Baylen Buchanan, DB

Overall thoughts...

"We definitely knew that they were going to bring tempo to us. I feel like after that first drive, we just got back to the sideline and adjusted. We really just took off after that."

On what they did in practice to prepare after loss to Georgia...

"We wanted to improve our tackling. The effort this week was just way different than it usually is. Everybody was excited to get out there and get better. I think that showed on the field today."

On what this win does to the team's confidence...

"Our energy is definitely there. Everyone is really excited, so I think this will build confidence. We just have to get on the film and prepare for our next opponent."