

**AUBURN vs. #25 TEXAS A&M**  
**November 3, 2018**  
**Jordan-Hare Stadium >> Auburn, AL**

AUBURN HEAD COACH GUS MALZAHN QUOTES

*Opening statement...*

“First of all, I’m extremely proud of our team. We didn’t play our best football today in any of the three phases. I think what really stands out to me is our guys fighting. They didn’t quit. There was plenty of times where they could have. I think Noah’s (Igbinoehene) interception was really the play of the game. We went down and scored twice at the end.

“We’ve been talking all week about just playing Auburn football, the fight and the character and everything that goes with it. That’s really what defined the win for me today. A lot of times how you win can help you moving forward. That will definitely give us momentum. Obviously, we have some things we need to work on. I’m really proud of our players.

“Also, I want to thank the fans. The fans were unbelievable and there were some tough times. A lot of fans could have shut it down, it didn’t look pretty there in the third and fourth quarter. They hung in there and really was a big part of the game. I really appreciate our fans.

“I believe this is the first time in this series that the home team has won, and it was a dogfight to be able to do that. They are a very talented team. Defensively, they are as good as advertised against the run. I thought they had a good plan offensively and were able to run the football. They have a very good running back and offensive line. Really, what stood out to me is that I’m very thankful I have the chance to coach a team like this with the character that they have. It was a big win for us in a lot of different ways.”

*On Noah Igbinoehene’s interception changing momentum...*

“It kind of got the crowd back into it, too. That interception was really something, and we were able to make explosive plays back to back. The rest of it is history. The momentum was all on our side and the crowd is going bananas. It really inspired our defense and offense, and we were able to make plays with the game on the line. That’s hard to do, especially when we have played like we’ve played. We didn’t play that good and we were able to do that. It was a good sign.”

*On the rest of the season...*

“There’s a whole lot to play for. That’s a good (Texas A&M) team that we beat. We’ve got three more games. Obviously, two big ones that everybody in this room knows about and there’s a lot to play for. Our guys are going to be hungry and excited to finish this thing.”

AUBURN PLAYER QUOTES

**Jarrett Stidham, QB**

*On the last two drives...*

“Our number was called and we executed. That’s what it comes down to. We just executed.”

*On if he's comfortable in those last two-minute kind-of situations...*

"As a quarterback, you love throwing the ball. At the end of the day though, you do whatever it takes to win the game. We've won games like that before. We've won games doing that. Whatever is asked of me and the rest of the team, that's what we're going to do."

*On feeding off the momentum after TAMU turned the ball over...*

"It's huge. Any time your defense is able to come away with the turnover, you capitalize on that. I thought we did a great job with the double pass and with Noah's pick, it was really great to see us with that momentum and run with it."

*On Seth Williams...*

"Seth [Williams] is a freak. He will continue to be a freak for a very long time. I have full confidence in him. I get to see him grow each week. He's a true freshman, but you wouldn't think it the way he's playing. The way he's catching onto everything. College football is a huge transition from high school ball, so I couldn't be more proud of him."

### **Dontavius Russell, DL**

*On getting the win...*

"We're happy with this win, and we're ready to move forward."

*On what this win means after coming back from being down in the fourth quarter...*

"We talk about having that fight as Auburn Tigers. That's what we did. We came out and we fought. Whenever you're able to come out and fight and win after the way we did, that's what we're happy about. It's the fact that we were able to come back the way that we did."

### **Chandler Cox, FB**

*On if he's ever been a part of a comeback like that...*

"I've never been a part of a comeback like that. It's something that every player should experience at least one time, and I was able to do that today. I was super excited like everyone else was."

*On his touchdown...*

"They called my number to help out and do something for the team, and that's what I did. I told them I was going to score in the huddle. I knew there were no other options. That's what I did. I knew it would give some energy to the team, and that's what I wanted to do."

*On how the offense turned around in the fourth quarter...*

"We just kept believing. We just kept thinking about the spring, the summer, the long nights and the early mornings. Those hard workouts. We didn't do those for no reason. We did it for games like this. We went out there knowing we could do it, and so we did."

### **Deshaun Davis, LB**

*On his thoughts about the game...*

"I am so proud of this team. I don't even know how to put it in words the way we won this game. Down 10 points in the fourth quarter and the defense had to make some big stops. We put on an offensive show; we wanted to make some plays and we did. I was so proud of the offense because of the things they have been

through all season, and those last two drives they put together was just outstanding. We showed a lot of fight today, and we knew coming into this game there was going to be some adversity.”

*On keep fighting during the fourth quarter...*

“It is all about fight. It all goes back to times when I probably was not even born yet. Auburn is built on toughness and fight. We showed some will to not quit this game and we found a way to win it.”

*On the tough November stretch...*

“This win is big for us. First things first, we knew we had to take care of today. We got some momentum rolling in the right direction and got the ball rolling in the right direction. Now we have to go to a tough environment at Georgia next week, and hopefully we can carry some momentum with us. But November is going to be just like any other November for Auburn. When we committed here, we knew what we signed up for and we are ready for the test.”

## **Noah Igbinoghene, DB**

*On how his fourth-quarter shifted the momentum...*

“I knew it was gonna shift, because before that we knew that we needed to really play because the offense was kind of struggling a little bit. It was just crazy how it turned out when I got the pick and then we scored. I think the game changed after that pick.”

*On mindset after one second was put back on clock...*

“Yeah, the whole team was out so we had to go back and kind of collect ourselves for the last play of the game. I was just trying to tell everybody to calm down because we hadn’t won until the double zeroes were on the clock. We did calm down and won the game.”

## **Seth Williams, WR**

*On his two touchdown catches...*

“The ball was thrown up and I knew that once the ball was up there, I had to go up and come down with a touchdown. I had position on the DB, so I knew I had to come down with the ball.”

*On coaching staff and team trusting him late in the game...*

“It means a lot. That they give me the opportunity to go and get a catch like that in the really clutch moments of the game really means a lot.”

*On what changed the final three possessions of the game...*

“I feel that we just clicked at the right time, we were on the same note at the right time and were able to finish the game off right.”

## **Ryan Davis, WR**

*On today’s win...*

“It was definitely a good feeling, just happy for the team, happy for this program, and we were able to do it for the fans. Just pulling out a tough win, being able to come back through the pressure and go through everything, just everything we’ve been through this season and stuff like that. [It’s] just a testimony to how this team is so close, and we are sticking it together and fighting through whatever, so I’m just glad we got this win.”

*On his touchdown pass...*

“That’s something that we’ve been working on for a few weeks. It was just the right time to call it because we did a great job at the time of that coming off a turnover, so it was well executed. Practicing it’s been exactly

how we've been practicing the look we had been getting for it. Sal (Cannella) did a great job of just catching the ball and I just had to get it to him."

*On his big catch and run late in the game...*

"Jarrett [had] seen me immediately, and I just did a good job of using my instincts. I had great downfield blocking on the way, so I didn't do it all by myself, but I did do some things. I'm glad I was able to get a big run and I was trying to score. Honestly, I got a little tired."

## **Derrick Brown, DL**

*On the defense staying tough despite being on the field for 38 minutes...*

"I think just the way we are mentally trained ... when it comes down to us, when we go through summer and fall camp, that we always go until the last second. Because nothing is ever decided until the game clock runs out."

## TEXAS A&M POST-GAME QUOTES

### **Head Coach Jimbo Fisher**

*Opening Statement...*

"It was another extremely competitive, tough game. Typical SEC game. We knew it would be when we came here, and we knew if we left any life in them, they were going to fight, scratch and claw. That's what they always do, and we did that. We played excellent football for three quarters. We ran the football much better this week. We stopped the run much, much better this week. We got points, scored touchdowns in the red-zone, converted, moved the ball. And then in the fourth quarter, when we had the opportunity to put the game away as far as two or three drives at about midfield to the 35, 40, we just got hung up. Whether it was a missed assignment, dropped ball, missed block - something that caused us not to finish the drive. On defense, we played great for three quarters and then gave up two drives. They started throwing the football, and we didn't generate enough rush and we give up the pass plays. We had a busted assignment up the middle on that last one on that little cross route, and they got through. On the special teams, even though we're critical, we're down there driving in the red-zone, we miss a field goal from 30 yards that puts us up 13. That changes everything. Then we gave up a punt return. They switched the punt and ran the other guy there, but the gunner was right there beside him, and we don't make a tackle. They catch it and get a great punt return and took momentum of the game. They got it at home, and that's what you can't do when you're a road team. You have to finish. Again, we moved the football on offense. The first turnover, we shouldn't have dropped the pitch. Then the last interception, we should have thrown where we get it or nobody gets it. It's still a 70-yard drive. We could have punted it, maybe down to the 10 or 15 or wherever we did before, but we give up two big drives. We have to learn to finish. Our kids are playing hard, we're getting better in a lot of areas. We're playing more physical. We ran the ball. Things went well in a lot of areas."

*If the pre-film evaluation of Kellen Mond is good...*

"I don't know. I'll watch the film. I'll see what he saw. You can't make that judgment. You've got to come off and communicate. You see what he saw in the game and look at the film. No, he did not play his best game, but he made some great plays, made some great runs and made some great decisions. He made a couple of nice throws. We'll look at the film and evaluate where he played and what he did. His legs were a big part of why we were able to run the football."

## **#12 Cullen Gillaspia, Sr., FB**

### *On momentum swings...*

"Football games have momentum, and that was just a swing of momentum. We let that swing get the best of us. It's a football game, and momentum changes. They came alive, and we didn't. There's 100 other plays in that game that could have gone better and could have gone worse, either way. It's football. Sometimes you win them, and sometimes you lose them."

### *On what went wrong in 2nd half...*

"It was just a lack of execution. At the end of the day, it comes down to us making plays. Auburn is a great ball club. They came out and might have started a little slow, but they finished fast. We might have started a little harder and finished slow. It is what it is. They made some plays that we didn't. We made some plays that they didn't. It just so happens that their time of execution was a little better than ours. We'll come back and look at the film and fix these mistakes next week."

## **#46 Landis Durham, Sr., DL**

### *Describe the feeling in the locker room...*

"It's hurting man. It's a tough way to lose, to dominant the whole game like that. We preach and preach to finish, and we fell short of that. Now we're hurt."

### *On why they lost...*

"We just didn't execute. There's plenty of opportunities on all three phases, and we just didn't execute in the way we could have."

### *What changed in the game...*

"Momentum. Their crowd got back into the game. They were able to pick up their tempo. They got the ball back. I don't know how many plays it took, but we just weren't moving the ball, and then the defense didn't get a stop either."

## **#11 Kellen Mond, So., QB**

### *On the game...*

"Very disappointing. We just didn't really execute. We didn't hit the big plays when they did, and that's something we're going to need to continue to work on and build on through the rest of the year."

### *On the offense...*

"It was small detail things. We were executing and driving the whole game. A lot of times we could have done better converting in the red zone. Jashaun (Corbin) ran the ball very well tonight, but we have to find a way to finish in that fourth quarter."

### *On finishing...*

"We definitely had them on the ropes. It was those small detail plays that we didn't make that they made. Hat's off to them. They're a good football team and made those plays."

*On this season comparing to freshman year...*

“Every loss feels the same to me. I pride myself on winning, and this team works hard to win. No matter what, a loss feels the same for me.”