

NO. 9 AUBURN VS. ARKANSAS
September 22, 2018
Jordan-Hare Stadium | Auburn, AL

AUBURN HEAD COACH GUS MALZAHN QUOTES

Opening statement...

"I felt like it was a very good win for us tonight against a SEC opponent. What stood out to me was our defense played outstanding. I think we held them to 3-of-17 on third downs and had two turnovers. Really, our goal was to put pressure on the quarterback and I feel like we disrupted the quarterback.

"Special teams -- one of the better special teams performances we've had in a while. They did a super job. I think we blocked one or two punts and got a hand on that other one. We returned a kickoff for a touchdown and that was really big. Ryan Davis was very impressive on his punt returns and had some good blocks and everything that went with it.

"Offensively, we didn't play our best, but we didn't turn the ball over. That was really what we talked about. We don't turn the ball over and we get after the quarterback. We felt like we liked our chances. Overall, it's a good win. It's good to get back in the win column."

On putting last week behind with a win...

"You get a win. I think that's the number one thing that's most important. We have a good football team, I think everybody can see. We've played two Top 10 teams, beat one and got beat on the last play of the game in the other. We've got a good football team. We've got some things we have to improve on, and I think everybody sees that and we understand that. You look at the offense, it's a pretty inexperienced group and they'll continue to improve."

AUBURN PLAYER QUOTES

Arryn Siposs, P

On the special teams play tonight...

"It was huge. Some really big plays for us. Sometimes we were struggling a little bit, but there were some certain plays that got the offense going and put us in a good position to be able to play some offense."

On how he feels about his role for the team...

"I feel like I've got to keep playing my role. I've enjoyed every moment so far which has been great. I've just got to make sure I keep doing that throughout the season. I'm really enjoying my time and as I've said I just got to make sure I'm playing my role each week."

On if he's getting more comfortable...

"Yeah, absolutely. Each week we go through film and things on what you're doing wrong and what you can work on. It certainly gives you confidence to build into the next game. Each week I feel like I'm getting a lot more comfortable."

Jordyn Peters, DB

On added emphasis on special teams this season...

"It's been ten-fold. Every day in practice it's pounded in our head that we've got to make a play on special teams. Not offense and defense, it's just special teams. Every day. 'Game-changing plays' - it's our motto."

On if he got his hands on the first punt that was nearly blocked...

"No. On the first one I ran past him. I was too fast, I ran past him. I really should have tackled him. But that's never happened to me before. But I got my hand on the second one."

On the mindset when a punt block is called...

"Go get it. It doesn't matter if I get blocked or whatever, I'm still trying to go get it and take (the ball) off the punter's foot every time. The idea of failing is not in my head at all. It's just, 'go get the ball.'"

JaTarvious Whitlow, RB

On the last touchdown drive in the fourth quarter...

"We just had a slow start. Once we picked it back up, you know what we can do. We just had a slow moment, just a little slow on the rushing part. But we're going to pick it back up, we're going to watch film and get better."

On splitting carries with Kam Martin tonight...

"I take it as a team thing, we need everybody to win. Once they put me in, I just have to go and give them what they give me. Once Kam gets in he has to give them what they give him, so we go on and we play together. We are behind each other and we work as a team."

Javaris Davis, DB

On tonight's win...

"Overall, we had a great team effort. Everyone played for each other and got the sour taste out of our mouth that we had last week. It was a tough loss for us (vs. LSU), as a whole. That's all we were trying to do, rebound and get back on track."

On interception return...

"I guess I made a good play. Once I had the ball in my hands, I just tried to score. I didn't do that. I mean, I did, but it didn't count. I guess next time I've got to make it count. Overall, I felt like it was the defensive line with the pressure. Salute to them. We've got a great defensive line. I kind of had a flashback when I got the ball and saw a whole bunch of green grass."

On last time he made a play like the return...

"I'd probably say high school. I kind of had a flashback when I got the ball and saw a whole bunch of green grass. I knew I had to do something with it. I knew I had to score. I knew I had to get in the end zone."

On Jordyn Peters' special teams performance...

"That wasn't surprising because he's very good at that, and he already has like two (blocked punts) on the season. I guess it's just his nature."

On freshmen in Auburn's secondary...

"All those guys are good - good young guys - and they are going to be playmakers at Auburn for a long time. Like I said before the season started, we had some young guys that were very talented and they were going to have to play early. Those (freshmen that played today) are some of the guys, and I feel like we have some more that have just got to keep coming along as the season progresses."

Anthony Schwartz, WR

On fitting in so far...

"I feel like I'm fitting in great. It's just me wanting to play my role. I knew my role coming in, so I just wanted to do whatever the team needs to do. Whatever they need me to do, I'm going to do it."

On what he brings to the offense...

"I bring speed. I can stretch the field. I can open up the field. I can help the run game get better. I can help the underneath game get better. I can pretty much help everything get better for the whole team."

On track and football ability...

"I've always loved football since I was little. I made sure to get extra work every day when I was little. I made sure I got extra work in high school. I made sure to get all the fundamentals down first."

On transitioning to SEC...

"The speed and the physicality. It's a very physically game in the SEC and especially in the SEC West. I've just got to fill out more. Everyone is fast. The D-line is fast. The linebackers are fast. Usually in high school, I just ran away from them. They can actually kind of catch me on the perimeter. I've just got to get faster still."

Jarrett Stidham, QB

On Auburn's offense tonight...

"It is what it is. We've got to play a lot better, but we found a way to win and that's all I care about. As long as we're winning, obviously we're going to have a lot of things to correct and fix, but as long as we win, that's all that matters."

On feeling pressure in the pocket...

"No, I felt good in the pocket. I think that this year that's been one of the things I really wanted to focus on, is being better in the pocket. I've done a good job of that so far, I just have to make better throws."

ARKANSAS HEAD COACH CHAD MORRIS QUOTES

Opening remarks...

“That’s a good football team we just played. They’re very well coached, a great front seven. They are a veteran football team. We knew we were in for a battle tonight.

“Let me say about our football team, these guys fought. They didn’t back down. There was no challenge that was too big for them. I’m extremely proud of the way that these guys fought. Especially with the adversity that these guys have had to battle over the last two weeks. They keep caring and giving what we ask them to give. That’s a sign of a football team that is going to continue to get better.

“There is a lot of hurt in the locker room and the coach’s office right now because they care. We’re going to continue to get better. The little things, the special teams, the two weeks in a row now with the battle of field position. Defensively, to have to go on a short field several times over. To be put in a ‘first responder’ so to speak and having their backs against the wall and still kept coming out. They kept fighting and making plays.

“I give credit to Coach Chavis and our defensive staff. They had a great plan and the players believed in that plan to hold an offensive team like we did. We have some things we have to continue to get better at and we will. We have to clean up things offensively and in special teams.”

On defense...

“We showed up every day. They showed up and came to work. Coach Chavis and those guys put a plan together. These guys believe in the plan and each other. I was very impressed with the way they fought. It didn’t surprise me because that’s what they’ve shown to do and that’s what they’ve been doing. These guys care and they’ll come back. Adversity is going to make us stronger. We’ll keep pushing forward and getting better.”

ARKANSAS PLAYER QUOTES

Ty Storey, QB

On tonight’s game...

“Defense played great. (But) it starts with me. I’ve got to make more plays, and we’ve got to put the ball in the end zone. And we’re going to do it, we’re confident in the people around me. Our system we’re running, it’s good stuff, we’ve just got to execute. We’ve got to execute.”

On not finishing drives...

“We’ve got the guys, we’ve got the system, we’ve got guys making great (plays) ... This is going to work, we’ve got to just execute it.”

On knowing he would be the starter this week...

“It was good going in knowing that I’m going to be the guy, so I knew what exactly I had to do. I thought we had a great week, we had a great week of preparation.”

Dre Greenlaw, LB

On tonight’s game...

“I was just happy to be out there and help my team. I am not 100 percent, but whatever I can do to go out there and get that boost, that confidence and try to make some plays for the team.”

On preparations for this week’s game...

“As a defense, we had a really good week of practice. They got tendencies that they like to do, and I think that, defensively, we went out there and fought hard. Every individual did their assignment and they did a good job at watching the film during the week and recognizing their opponent. We came out ready and pumped.”

On the spark he brought to the defense...

“Just my presence, knowledge of the game and I think me being the only senior at linebacker it helps with vocal presence and boosts confidence. Knowing that you have someone back there that has played a lot of football games and you can really trust it helps. I think that is kind of what I bring to the table.”

De’Jon Harris, LB

On tonight’s game...

“I think our defense did a good job. We held them to only about 250 yards, that was a big step that as a defense we took from the previous years going against the offense. We have some things to clean up, especially on special teams. Offensively, we have to keep working on the new scheme and get the right guys on track. I think we played a really good game.”

On having Dre Greenlaw back on the field...

“It felt good out there. I know he was probably hurting a little bit. He played more than what I thought he would be after coming out of that ankle injury. I think he did a good job. It is Dre, you know. We are going to get together tomorrow and try to correct a lot of things.”