



**VRBO Citrus Bowl
December 29, 2018
Player/Coordinator press conference
Kentucky defensive coordinator Matt House and linebacker Josh Allen**

THE MODERATOR: We are now joined by defensive coordinator Matt House and Josh Allen. We'll start with an opening statement from coach and then open it back up for questions.

MATT HOUSE: We're just really, really excited to play in this venue, to play in this Citrus Bowl, with a great tradition and history that this game has presented. We're really excited about playing in Orlando against a quality opponent and excited for the opportunity to finish with our tenth win.

THE MODERATOR: All right. Questions.

Q. Yesterday Kash said that McSorley remind him of Johnny Manziel and there's been a Nick Fitzgerald comparison because of Joe Moorhead's influence up there. What do you see when you see McSorley, Coach?

EDDIE GRAN: A winner, a guy that just consistently finds a way to win. He prolongs downs. He can throw the ball vertically down the field. He can hurt you with his feet, but more than anything, I think he's just a winner.

Q. For Josh, in your film study of Trace McSorley, what impresses you the most about him?

JOSH ALLEN: When he starts to scramble, he can throw the ball effectively down the field. I feel like he's a great mobile quarterback. He knows how to get out the pocket when he feels pressure.

Q. Josh, when you have a mobile quarterback like McSorley, does that change the way that you go about rushing the passer in trying to put pressure on him?

JOSH ALLEN: Yeah, because now we've got to rush as a group. Can't just rush by myself. We all have to do our job to contain rush. He'll find the littlest crack and take it home if he can. I just do my job and then everybody else has to do theirs and hopefully we'll get home.

Q. Josh, growing up in New Jersey, how much was Penn State involved (in recruiting you), either on their end or on your end, way back when you were in high school?

JOSH ALLEN: In high school, I wasn't a heavily recruited kid. I had two offers, three offers, you know, from little schools. Kentucky gave me a chance. Kentucky gave me a chance and I went with it. I haven't — I never heard anything about Penn State hitting me up on recruiting.

Q. This is for both of you, but first Matt. How much does Penn State's offense — how many similarities are there between Penn State's offense and Mississippi State's offense, and if you can both address that?

MATT HOUSE: You know, I think there's a similarity in the system. But I think there's a difference in the personnel. I think the quarterbacks are different. Sanders, the running back, presents different issues. He's really effective. I think Hamler, the slot, Johnson, the receiver — that's where the biggest differences are. And I think they do a great job of using their personnel, creating formations and matchups where they can isolate and create one on ones. So is there similarity in the system? Absolutely. But when you look at the personnel, there's quite a bit of difference.



Q. Josh?

JOSH ALLEN: You know, it's not a lot to say, you know. I'm really — I'll just say what he just said.

Q. Do their similar systems to help you?

JOSH ALLEN: Yeah, you know, we can go back and look at the film from last year, when he was there, just to see what they did and see how they went and then go there. We feel like we did a pretty good job last couple years against them. I'm just looking forward to playing against them.

Q. Gentlemen, can I ask you both what your favorite part of the Orlando trip has been so far?

MATT HOUSE: Practicing in the sun. I mean, there's been great hospitality here. You know, the guys have had — there's plenty to do for both our team and I know, selfishly, as a coach, for our families. The bowl has done a great job with that. And all joking aside, it's been fun to get outside and fly around and practice, you know, in a little bit of nice weather.

JOSH ALLEN: Yeah. Practice has been cool, but it's been a little hot. It's been a little hot out there. But, you know, I just like all the activities the bowl sets up for us. The Best Buy trip was a pretty good experience. Got to get whatever we want. So that was affordable.

But everything — everything every day, you know, we're having fun. We're enjoying ourselves and, you know, it's going to set us up for a great game this week.

Q. Much has been made about getting the tenth win, the elusive tenth win. Is that something that you all play up, that you want to strive for or do you kind of downplay it, want to treat this as a normal game, in spite of the things surrounding the big game?

MATT HOUSE: I'll be honest with you, that's what I love about this group. It's a competitive group. Is the tenth win big? Absolutely. But every time you put the ball down, this group wants to win. So I think whether it's been game four, game seven, you put the ball down, this group wants to win and wants to play.

Q. Coach, you said a few minutes ago that Miles Sanders presents — I don't want to misquote you — but different issues. What do you see on tape from him and what kind of things does he do that maybe reminds you of another guy you've seen this year or in past years?

MATT HOUSE: I mean, he catches the ball out of the backfield really well. He can make shallow cuts and accelerate, really an elusive guy and he's got good speed. So I don't normally like making comparisons player to player. I think he's an exceptional player.

Q. Coach, what has been the key to Josh's development and improvement the last couple years?

MATT HOUSE: I mean, I've said this a lot but it's the truth: He's exactly why you should come back for your senior year. From the minute he made that decision, he's been all in. I don't care if it's been academically, in the weight room, in the film room. You know, I feel blessed to have the opportunity to coach him his senior year and I know I'm speaking for our whole building. He's what it's all about coming back for your senior year.

Q. Josh, I read somewhere that your sister plays basketball at Louisville. Is this correct?

JOSH ALLEN: She graduated last year. She's in the WNBA now.



Q. How much trash talk goes on between you and your sister in terms of these two schools?

JOSH ALLEN: You know, it was never any trash talk. She played one sport. I played another sport, and we play different seasons. So when we're in football season, she supports me. When it's basketball season, I support her. There's no trash talk. We love each other. We're competitive but we just want the best for each other and we just go from there.

Q. Matt, you're going to have two freshmen kind of fill in the role of Jordan in this game. How does that change things for you guys at all because obviously those guys not as experienced and may not be as talented yet?

MATT HOUSE: You know, they're not as experienced but I don't look at them as freshman right now either. I mean, each one of them have played in all 12 ball games. They've grown. They've learned from their mistakes. Have they been around as (long) as Jordan? No. But at the same time, I've got great belief and trust in those two kids and I'm excited to watch them play.

THE MODERATOR: We'd like to thank Josh and Coach House for their time. Have a good week.