



Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl
Tuesday, December 30, 2014
LP FIELD - Nashville, Tennessee
LSU POSTGAME QUOTES



HEAD COACH LES MILES

(on what difficulty did Notre Dame switching quarterbacks bring)

(Everett) Golson was certainly the passer. (Malik) Zaire, the runner. I think recognizing that, was something that we knew. I think they executed their offense well. Switching in and out wasn't the difference. I think the fact that Zaire's a good runner, and Golson threw some balls today, he's capable to do.

(on if John Chavis is leaving program)

I do not know that. I am told that's the case. I have to find that out later. I'm told by the people that read the media.

(on if rumors of John Chavis leaving affected game preparations)

No, are you kidding me? He did everything he had to do in preparation for getting this game plan ready to roll. I can't imagine that players certainly had anything, but great effort and energy out there.

(on if Notre Dame presented any surprises in the first half that led to defense being off balance)

Well I think they ran a couple of speed sweeps, they hit pretty well, and I think they had a nice little sprint out call and tried to get loose. I don't know if they surprised us so much. I think they executed their offense very well.

(on making decision to go with Trent Dominique rather than Colby Delahoussaye on field goal attempt)

In every practice we chartered every kicker, and he won. In fact he was in the high 90s for the entire week, before we picked him daily. We anticipated that he would be that guy. He had a great week, multiple weeks of preparation, and many kicks. I'd say you know he was certainly in the 70s, so we felt very confident that he'd made it.

(on defense not getting off field on 3rd downs)

It was amazing to me. We pass-rushed, and we'd go by a guy, and he'd simply roll out to the right and hit a guy in the curl. You know, first down. Even when we got to the quarterback, he let it go. I was watching one ball on third down, and said 'this one's going to be ours'. The receiver makes a great play on it, and our guy falls down. I don't know. Seven makes and one miss in the first half. I mean it was not characteristic of our defense.

(on if game showed Anthony Jennings is team's quarterback heading into the future)

Well, I can tell you that there was some indecisions, that we would have liked to have had back, but there were some really crisp throws and he was accurate today. I felt like he ran the ball well, but I look at spring ball. This will be a very competitive spring. Looking for out of spring, I would like to pick another starter and it could be Anthony, or it could be certainly Brandon. The competition will have to continue there.

(on the future of the LSU team and program)

We're in a good position with the team that returns. We're sophomore- and freshman-heavy, and we will be a very very, good football team. The good thing about this program is they've been around leadership-like, by all counts ... they understand what real quality people look like, and how to work hard. How to read and this is a very talented group of guys. So as much as I hate to admit it, certainly this is a loss. It's been a great year. I have enjoyed my time with these guys. These guys work hard and they do it with a smile on their face. Their focus is always getting better, and we're working on them, and with them, with very cooperative efforts.



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HEAD COACH LES MILES

(opening statement)

First and foremost I would like to congratulate Notre Dame. I thought they played very, very hard and they beat a good football team here today. I felt like we would defend them better than we did and we felt like we would score and move the football. Certainly, we moved the football well. We did the things offensively that we should have done. We did not stop Notre Dame, certainly in the first half much at all. Again, give great credit to Notre Dame.

Just before the half, they tell me that with all the review I could get from the field, that that ball crosses the goal line. And in fact if that's the case, then we need a better way to communicate that to us. We need to see it better on the field. It's not nice to hear that ESPN drew a line, and they did this, they said 'certainly it's seven points'. So that's the kind of information we got in our locker room. The guy that carried the ball, forcing it (Holder-Brad Kragthorpe), said he absolutely scored. Kids will be kids, but this guy's gonna tell the truth. He's going to tell it to you straight.

With that being said, I thought there were some great performances. I think Leonard Fournette distinguished himself in this game today. A very special player. I thought we did some things better offensively, than we have. I think DeSean Smith, tight end, steps in and makes some big plays. And I thought the offensive line played pretty well in spots.

I think there were some dominant players sitting to my right and left (Vadal Alexander and La'el Collins) and I think they played very well. That they were the seniors, they played last game in their uniform, and I just want you to know something. These seniors that we say goodbye to, are leaders. Are hard workers. Everything that we ask them to do when they stepped into the roles as leaders, we suggested it as a very active role, and they take it serious. We're gonna miss them. I tell them in the locker room, and I tell them now.



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OG VADAL ALEXANDER

(on if he has made decision on whether he is returning to LSU next season)

No. I will have to sit down and talk to my parents about it, and discuss it. I haven't made a decision yet.

OT LA'EL COLLINS

(on the disappointment of final game's result and concluding his college career)

I'm not disappointed at all in my team. I think they came to play big today. For me, it's time to take that next step and be replaced by young guys. I just had a talk with them and they look forward to going into the off season and getting better. This team has so much talent they're going to be right back. So for me, I gotta go on my own road now and I look forward to it.



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NOTRE DAME POSTGAME QUOTES



HEAD COACH BRIAN KELLY

(opening statement)

Great football game. This was a match up that we had wanted at Notre Dame, and I know LSU had felt the same way. We wanted to be challenged. We were disappointed in the way we played at the end of the year and our guys wanted this opportunity to finish the season the right way. They played hard, they played for four quarters, and really, the mantra for us was 'get this in the fourth quarter and find a way to win.' They certainly did that. We controlled the ball for the last five and a half minutes and Kyle Brindza came up with the game winning kick. Really happy for Kyle (Brindza) and that's the way he came in to Notre Dame. We recruited him out of high school off the heels of watching him kick game winners in high school state championships. It's a great way for him to finish up his career, great football game.



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K KYLE BRINDZA

(on being 'iced' twice)

Icing doesn't really work on me. You know as coach Kelly already said it was about a life lesson we all learned and I've went through a lot of adversity. I've had a great career, and it almost ended like that. It hurt me a lot these past couple of weeks. Going into this game, you know, me and Malik (Zaire) just clicking on all cylinders trying to figure everything out. Going out there, my mind's always clear. It's clear as day. I finally shook off all the cob webs. I trust the guy next to me, and that's how we got the game done.

(on kicking the game winning kick)

It felt great. Not only just for me but to leave a program so historic like this in this kind of fashion, it's a blessing for me. To be able to help win the game for all my teammates it's a bigger blessing.

QB MALIK ZAIRE

(on his performance)

I think what was important today is that we got the whole down. I know in previous games, I can take accountability for most of that, I'm glad that when it came down to it we got that shot to prove that we can get off a field goal successfully. In terms of my play today, I was just trying to do my job. I know what the game plan was, what the plan of attack was in order to win the football game. I just tried to protect the football, and that was probably the number one thing that I tried to focus on and do my job and not put it all on myself. The other ten guys around me, especially the offensive line, would get their job done, and we had a great game today.

(on being emotional after the game)

Just the whole season, just being a little frustrated in terms of finding my place on this football team and being able to stay focused and stayed tuned in when things weren't going the way I felt like I could contribute to the team. Life is about these opportunities that we get each and every day and we take advantage of them, and I'm thankful I got that opportunity. I didn't want to ruin it for this team. Coming off the losses we had, I think it was important we took advantage of it. When this team focused on winning, this team came together and we got the job done.

(on his role today)

My role never changes in terms of being the distributor. When they call my number I just run the play. Try to get it in the best possible position. My job is to make plays for other guys. It's just my job to distribute, so just to be a facilitator and a commander of an offense is something that is important to me. And it's important that we protect the football and keep the team moving forward.

DL SHELDON DAY

(on him returning next year)

I guess we'll find out in a week.

K MALIK ZAIRE

(on being able to play a lot)

Well, I hadn't really played a lot since my senior year in high school, so just being out there gave me that feeling alright I'm doing this again. I was kind of nervous, but after a while I was like they're hitting me pretty hard, so it's time to stop being nervous. You have to stay focused on the fact this is about your team, this is about getting your team a victory, so no pressure was placed on me specifically individually because I knew that the pressure was on the whole team. It was big game. We're not playing a community college. This was important for us to keep moving forward and having a strong effort into the spring moving into next year.

DL SHELDON DAY

(on his confidence in Malik)

I am confident in Malik (Zaire), so it was like a hell yeah.

(on how he felt physically)

As far as percentage, it was probably about 90 percent today. A little slow, a little sore, but I guess that comes from playing a SEC team.

(on any doubts he may have had about the team being ready or not)

Not at all. You can't miss an opportunity like this.

K KYLE BRINDZA

(on his field position when kicking)

To be honest, I don't really need to pick a side. Because, at the end of the day, it's how you have self confidence in yourself. And so, through the past couple of weeks, you know Coach Kelly kept coming up to me and saying we need you, be confident in yourself, you know you have that confidence in yourself when you came here these past couple of years, so don't let it go to waste right now. For me to be confident, you know, put it on the left hash, right, middle, I knew it was going in.

QB MALIK ZAIRE

(on working with Everett Golson during the game)

Knowing that both of us were going to play, it was just about working together. My perspective on it is that we're still competitive; we're still getting after it. We still had that mindset that we have to do this for the team, and we're going to push each other. Coach always asks us how great do you want to be, and I think that with that competitiveness in the end is going to push us through towards that goal. I'm glad we got a chance to do that. It'll be interesting to see how it plays out next year.