

Florida State Head Coach Willie Taggart Postgame Transcripts – Miami

Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018
Hard Rock Stadium

Opening statement...

“Tough loss for our football team. We didn’t finish the game in the second half. We did some things that we knew we shouldn’t do. We just turned the ball over. We stressed that all week, not giving up the turnover. We knew how this crowd would get if we turned the ball over. Not only is it good for their football team, but it got the crowd back in it. Second half, we turned the ball over. They got the momentum. We didn’t finish the game like we should have. I thought we did some good things as a team. We didn’t get what we wanted, which was to win. This one’s going to hurt for us for a while.”

On the illegal forward pass and what he saw...

“He threw it in front of him. I thought it was good.”

On whether or not they can review it...

“Yeah, they can. They said they looked at it and said it wasn’t.”

On disappointment on not closing out...

“Very disappointing. We lost a game against a rival that we really wanted. Our guys were playing well, by far the best we’ve played all year. The second half, we just didn’t finish it, again. Those turnovers did us away.”

On the change in pass protection in the second...

“No, they didn’t do anything different. We had some missed blocks a couple of times. There were a couple of times where I thought Deondre [Francois] could’ve stepped up in the pocket. That hurts us. We just have to get better in the pocket and step up. We can’t just sit back in the pocket and wait for a guy to get open. We’re rolling around right now and we can’t do that. We have to understand that we’ve got to hitch up and get rid of the ball.”

On seeing progress despite the loss...

“I did. That’s why this is really frustrating. I did see some progress, but we didn’t finish. We came here to win and we didn’t win.”

On telling QB Deondre Francois to be patient and the level of difficulty he faced...

“It’s not difficult when you keep getting hit. It’s the same thing. These guys do it and continue to get hit. These guys work at that daily and it’s some old habits that they’ve got to get out of. We have to do a great job in the bye week and get better in the pocket.”

On if it was tough getting grounded after halftime...

“No, it wasn’t. I talked to the guys about what winning teams do and we can’t get here and get into a shoving match and a shouting match with those guys. We have to go out there and do what we have to do and play football. That’s something, again what I’ve said before, that our guys know how to play football. We just have to teach them how to win again.”

On helping the team stay motivated after this loss...

“I don’t think our team gets down. I think these guys are really close and they’ve bought into what we are doing. Again, they know we let one get away. We can’t turn the ball over. We’re going to turn the ball over we’re going to have what we had today. We’ve got to take care of the football. I told them, ‘if we take care of the football, I don’t care who we’re playing, we’re going to have a great chance of winning.’”

On the emotion in the locker room...

“They’re hurt. We came here to win and got hurt. We lost the game and we were up. They’re hurt. Pride. Seniors are upset. They don’t have the chance again to play against Miami. The younger guys are upset they couldn’t do it for them and they should be.”

On the positives and D.J. Matthews...

“We talked about it earlier in the week because we have been giving some really good returns the last couple games. We want him to be better at that and he did that. I think our guys are doing a better job of holding up the line to catch the ball. That’s something we didn’t do earlier in the year. We worked on that. We’re doing it more now and we see how good he is when he gets the ball. Our guys did a great job of blocking and allowing him to catch the ball. He gets the ball and anything can happen.”

On the message into bye week...

“We have to get to work. We have to correct some things. We’re not going to hold our heads down. It’s okay to cry. We’re not going to hold our heads down and we’re going to keep working and find answers to some of the problems that we have. One of them, we can’t turn the ball over. Most of the games we lost were because of that and sacks. We have to get better than that.”