



Florida State vs. Louisville
Saturday, Sept. 21
FSU Player Quotes

OFFENSE

Junior Running Back Cam Akers:

On battling back in the game and getting the win:

"It just shows our progression and how much work we have been putting in. We have been staying cool, staying together, and just building on the losses we've had. Today that started to show. We showed a lot of grit and heart as a team as we came out with a victory."

On the mood on the sideline during the game when Louisville took the lead:

"Respond. That was the number one word going around the sideline. Just stay in our cocoon and keep doing what we have been practicing. We have practiced for adverse situations like that and have played in adverse situations this year. The vibe was just to respond."

On staying in your "cocoon" and blocking out the outside noise:

"It is definitely a challenge sometimes because there is a lot of outside noise coming from some people that do not expect much from us. Tonight, this team showed a lot of grit and the ability to play from within. Staying within each other and staying together is all you can ask for."

On the difference in being able to finish this game compared to previous ones:

"I think execution was the biggest difference in this game. We were able to execute better and not have many pre-snap penalties. In previous games we were not able to execute for four quarters, but tonight we did that. Every week you have to start back up and be able to play for four quarters."

Senior Quarterback Alex Hornibrook:

On his thought process as quarterback James Blackman got hurt:

"The first thought I had was just making sure that he was going to be alright. It was tough to see him go down. He is obviously a captain and means a lot to the team. All week, I prepare like I am going to play so today I felt ready going into the game. I don't know if you guys saw it, but during the game James (Blackman) could barely walk and he was still helping out the team on the sideline. He helped us win the game today."

On the emotions in the locker room after the game:

"It was fun. I don't know if anybody said anything, but we had some music on, coaches were dancing, and we had some people dancing that shouldn't have been dancing. It was awesome. Moments like the locker room tonight is why you play football."

On his first pass as a Seminole being a touchdown:

"I was just laughing. I thought that was kind of funny. That was a great call by Coach (Kendal) Briles. You all saw how he was wide open. He (Keyshawn Helton) ran about 60 yards. That was a pretty fun one."

On the improved execution in this game:

"I think it was the mentality on the sideline. When we went down near the end of the game, it would've been easy for everybody to just hang their heads and just say here we go again. Instead, everybody was ready to go and everybody knew what they had to do. I think how everybody approached it was the difference this week."

Senior Offensive Lineman Ryan Roberts:

On Alex Hornibrook's performance...

"I'm so proud of him. I love that dude to death. He works his butt off every day. He's prepared every day. He never wavered and when his number was called, he was ready to do it."

On Hornibrook throughout position race with Blackman...

"Nothing's changed. He's the same dude every single day. What else could you want out of a player? He comes to work, works his butt off, and prepares everyday as if he's about to take every single snap."

On Hornibrook's adjustment to the offensive style...

"He's a super intelligent guy and he was a guy who just has an incredible work ethic. He's the hardest working dude in any room. I always prided myself on being that and when he comes in, I'm just like, 'Dang. I have to pick myself up.'" Again, I'm so proud of him. He works his tail off everyday."

DEFENSE

Junior Defensive Tackle Marvin Wilson:

On Florida State's improved run defense the last two weeks:

"That is the biggest aspect that we have been emphasizing on the defensive side of the football, stop the run. When you stop the run the majority of the time, you win the game. The team with the most rushing yards usually wins the football game that is true at any level, from Pee-Wee to the NFL."

On What Wilson emphasized to teammates throughout the fourth quarter:

"I told them that we are good, we have been here before, and we have learned what not to do. I told them that we are going to trust what we have learned, that we are going to trust each other, and that we are going to trust our coaches, that we are going to win this football game. That is exactly what we did."

On conversations when James Blackman and Jaiden Lars-Woodbey went down:

"Next man up. In practice, that is an emphasis for us. You never know who might go down, or who might need to step up. Just next man up that is our mentality."

On whether James Blackman going down has a huge impact:

"Definitely, most definitely, it was hard to watch James (Blackman) go down. That is my guy, that is everyone's guy, being the leader that he is, and being the vocal leader that he is. He will come out and work his butt off. Especially after last year having to sit and wait his turn, he's come out and played great football this year. I am praying for him, for a fast recovery to get him back on the field."

On Alex Hornibrook:

"It was no surprise. Alex came in and he had a great fall camp, he was a great leader. He was not one of those guys who was all about him, he was not worried about his playing time. He was one of the most involved guys, constantly meeting and working with teammates, and his play this game was no shocker."

Junior Defensive Tackle Cory Durden:

On the emotional win and what it meant to the football team:

"I feel like this win was a stepping stone for this football team. We played all four quarters. We handled adversity throughout the game and we were bounced back through it. I thought we responded well to the adversity."

On Cyrus Fagan's fourth quarter interception:

"It was a confidence builder. They were driving down the field, and as a defense we bent but we did not break. We had one of our playmakers come up with a big-time play, and that is what we are expected to do at Florida State."

On Florida State scoring the last 14 points of the game and breaking the "Here we go again" mindset:

"The thing that we preached throughout practice this week was staying positive, we emphasized staying positive. Football is a game. You will get so many opportunities and so many plays throughout the game, that everything is not going to go your way. It was about staying positive when the bad stuff does happen, I feel that the opposite is what we did last year, we had the 'here we go again' mentality, and that is not this team's mentality. Everyone stays locked into the game, everyone believes in the coaches and believes in our teammates. The 'here we go again' mentality, we through that out the window."

On finding a way when leaders like James Blackman and Jaiden Lars-Woodbey went down:

"I feel that shows that this team does not have a drop-off between the one's and the two's. Next man up. Football is a game of chances, and you never know when it will be your turn. We emphasized everyone staying ready, and everybody stepping up. That is what happened today, we had players on this team step up. Hornibrook especially, when (James) Blackman went down, Alex Hornibrook stepped up huge today for this football team."

Junior Safety Cyrus Fagan:

On his interception and how it affected the game...

"I was just doing my job for my teammates because I knew that they were depending on me. We always say, 'Somebody's going to make the play,' because we know we have a bunch of dudes out there on the field. I was just doing my job. God blessed me with the opportunity, and I was able to pull through."

On his evolution as a player since last season...

"I've just been working on everything. My mentality has also changed. When things don't go my way, I've learned to just keep my head strong and fight through. I've started blocking out naysayers...blocking out everything and just believing in myself. I look at that man in the mirror every day and tell myself, 'I have to do it. I don't have any other choice.'"

On what it meant to have such an impact on the game...

"It was a great feeling. A wonderful feeling. I've worked my whole life for that. Now I'm just trying to get some more of those."

On what he saw on the playing during interception...

"A bender coming from the side, like a dig route, and I just ended up catching the ball. I tried to run, but he had my ankles so I couldn't go anywhere."

Senior Defensive Back Levonta Taylor:

On how important this win was...

"This win was very important for the program and I think this win is going to boost everyone's confidence even more and now we can get things rolling."

On what was different this game...

"This time we just knew that the story couldn't be the same. I was telling myself, We have to win this!" We knew we couldn't just let people keep blowing our big leads and we end of losing. Now we have to figure new things out."

On Cyrus Fagan's interception...

"I was happy for him. It was his first career interception and in a crucial moment like that – it was big!"