



Florida State vs. Syracuse
Saturday, Oct. 26
FSU Player Quotes

Redshirt junior LB Emmett Rice

On what went right for defense:

"We were just harping on the fact that the only way we're going to keep our energy, is if we go three and out. That was really a big thing for us."

On going against Akers in practice:

"It's tough, but it pays off in the end because you know you're not going to face an opponent that's as good as Cam. He's definitely the best running back in the country. The first time practicing against him caught me off guard, but the hype was real – that was the first thing that went through my head. He's a five-star running back for a reason and he shows that every day in practice and then he brings it to the game."

On Cam Akers' four touchdowns:

"That was big, it was huge! He was basically our offense. When you get Cam the ball, we know we're going to be good."

On linebacker's evolution over past few weeks:

"We are definitely making our reads better and playing more efficiently. The key to that is just the way that we practice. We focus on practicing hard so that when it's game time, it comes easy."

On freshmen linebackers Kalen DeLoach and Jaleel McRae:

"They've stepped up from when we first met those guys. They're not freshmen anymore. They've taken all the strides to become great linebackers."

Redshirt sophomore RB Khalan Laborn

On Cam Akers on a game-to-game basis:

"I just see him running hard and working hard. That's exactly what he does in practice. It just reassures me that I have to work hard when my time comes."

On feeling leading up to this game:

"We were in Doak, so we knew we had to come out with a win."

On dealing with distractions:

"We did well. It just seemed like there's so much tension and everybody wants to win so we just came together today and made that happen."

On trick play execution:

"It doesn't look like that in practice, but we came together as a team and got that play to work so that's all that matters."

Redshirt junior OL Andrew Boselli:

On Cam Akers:

"He's unbelievable. The way he runs the ball just juices you up as an offensive lineman. When you're finishing a block and you see him break through and have a big run, you're just ready to go – even in a hurry up situation! You're fired up to go and ready to play."

On how the wildcat formation affects him:

"It doesn't really affect me. We kind of run the same kind of schemes, but it gives it a different edge with Cam at running back."

On starting at Doak:

"For me, it's a dream come true. When you're a little kid growing up you want to start for a big football program and Florida State was that place for me, so the opportunity was a dream come true. It was a lot of fun and I'm glad we were able to get the win."

On different offensive lineup:

"One thing that we're really blessed with is having a lot of depth on the offensive line, so the one that coach picked for today got guys all working hard and just trying to finish blocks. So, I think we saw today that we were able to really kill it in the run game."

On offensive line chemistry:

"I think it's doing really well. If you look at the last two weeks, you can see that we've done really well, and we don't plan on easing up at all."

Redshirt senior QB Alex Hornibrook:

On when he found out he was starting:

"It was kind of later in the week. We do something where we split some reps, and everybody plays so we can see who will be picked for the week. Usually they tell you that you're going to start, and you just go out there and play. That's all you can do."

On triple pass trick play:

"After that play, a lot of the linemen said they had no idea what was going on. They play took longer than it was supposed to. Cam was supposed to throw it back to me and when he looked at me I signaled for him not to throw it because there was a guy right there; but he ended up throwing it back and the guy wasn't open who it was supposed to go to and we just kind of made a play of it."

On having Cam Akers in the back field:

"It's definitely easier with him back there. He did a great job today. I think he had four touchdowns and that was awesome to see. He's just a competitive guy and I told him that he makes some of the best three-yard runs that I've ever seen. He just breaks tackles and the offensive linemen did a great job for him as well."

On what works well offensively:

"Syracuse just kept moving the chains. Cam was doing a great job with that and the offensive linemen were doing a great job of opening up the holes for him. It's just as simple as that. The ball was moving every time he ran it and that helped us out."

Redshirt Junior Defensive End Janarius Robinson

On getting after the quarterback and finishing with seven sacks as a team:

"We all felt pretty good going into the week. At practice we focused on getting the quarterback and pressuring him. The previous two teams that Syracuse faced had 8 and 9 sacks against them. We went into this game trying to get ten sacks and while we did not reach that goal, I think we still did a pretty good job at it."

On getting back into the win column before the Miami game:

"It feels good to come back home to Doak Campbell in front of all the fans and getting the win. We snapped out of our losing streak with the win today and looking forward to getting back at it tomorrow."

On practicing this week after two losses and staying focused:

"The disappointing losses is not who we are and what we are trying to achieve this year. We were very focused on looking at the game from last week and looking at the film. After that, we threw that game out the window and came back on Tuesday ready to work."

On watching Cam Akers during the game:

"I watch him on the Jumbotron once we make our defensive adjustments. I will go over to the sideline and watch from a far. Cam is a great guy and great athlete. He will do anything and does anything that he can to help his team out and I appreciate that about him."

Junior Defensive Back Hamsah Nasirildeen:**On being extra motivated this week after= the ejection last week:**

"I definitely feel like, me coming out of the Wake (Forest) game, I could have helped that team. I just wanted to get the chance to get back out there, help the guys, and just be with my teammates again."

On defending the wildcat with Cam Akers and Khalan Laborn:

"It is difficult no matter who we have back there, but you all see how special three (Akers) is and four (Laborn) is. When you have guys like that back there, it is very dynamic and you really have to respect that. It is hard to account for quarterback run. When you have someone like Cam (Akers) back there it is definitely very difficult."

On the overall success of the defense during the game:

"The focus, the attention to detail, and coming out into the fourth quarter I feel like we could have still played better by shutting some things down. It was all just focusing during the first half and being locked in. We all came out with a goal, everybody was doing their job, and we look good when everybody does their job."

On the triple pass play and how different it looked in practice:

"All I can say is that it was exciting. First it went to Cam (Akers), then back to Alex (Hornibrook), and then it went out to Terry (Tamorrion Terry) who is always making plays. The play did not look like that in practice, but those guys were out there trying to make plays and that is all came down to."

Junior Running Back Cam Akers**On coming into the game with high goals:**

"I do not want to say it was all me because guys put me into positions where I could make some plays. All I can do is give credit to God and the offensive line for opening up the holes for me. Now I am just ready to come back to work."

On setting a high standard after two tough losses in the previous weeks:

"We got to respond. We still had, at that point, five games left. We need to show our fans that we still have fight in us, we are still Florida State, and we are coming to play every week no matter the situation or the outcome."

On the coaches approach this week to running the wildcat:

"The coaches definitely approached me about the wildcat this week. We practiced it, we loved it, and we got a lot of reps in. We felt very confident in running it and using it in the game this week. It looked good and worked."

On when he knew he was going to have a special game:

"I am always feeling it. Just during the whole week and working the whole week I felt really good. It started on Sunday and I knew it was going to be a big week for me."

On meeting Governor Ron DeSantis:

"That was my first time every being around him. He introduced himself to me and I introduced myself to him. He told me to just keep going and keep pressing and I told him that I will. Just being able to meet the governor of Florida is a big honor for me."