



**Florida State vs. Syracuse
Saturday, October 26, 2019
Syracuse Coaches Quotes**

Head Coach Dino Babers

Opening Statement

"Obviously, that game got away from us in the first half. We've got to find a way to start faster. Those guys (Florida State) did a fantastic job; (Cam) Akers is an amazing player and Coach Willie (Taggart) obviously ... that was a good football team. They did a nice job as coaches, and we need to regroup and get back home to the Dome and see if we can find a way to get a W which we haven't had in a long, long time."

What makes the wildcat formation Florida State was running so hard to stop?

"(Ca) Akers is the type of back that can break two or three tackles every time he touches the football. When you get into a wildcat formation basically you have 10 blockers. Somebody has got to fight off a blocker. Normally in that situation instead of having to break tackles on three or four guys, he's only got to break tackles on one or two guys to have the type of runs that he has. When you've got a first round draft pick and you've got 10 guys blocking, that is a really, really good formation. I would be very surprised if they don't continue to use that throughout the year."

Was the wildcat something you had seen on film?

"Not to that extent, and if I'm not mistaken, he threw the ball a couple of times from it as well and no one anticipates that. He's (Cam Akers) got a decent arm, actually; the ball was spiraling and it was coming out. I would imagine that's something they are going to continue to do down the road."

On the two rushing touchdowns in the fourth quarter

"First of all, we wanted to run the football. It's not that we didn't want to run before, but we were going to be headstrong about it. I'm sure ... I looked out there a couple of times and there were some ones (first string players) out there but there were some twos (second string players) out there as well .. so let's keep it real. Also, after the first touchdown they put the ones back in and I want to say the second touchdown was against the ones. I think the guys finally had had enough; they reached the boiling point and the really wanted to move the ball on the ground and I thought they did a nice job. I'm fired up about that. To me that's the best we have run the ball probably in the last three games against really, really good competition that didn't want us to do it. Those D-lineman are real in there. That's something to build off of."

Why did you go with Matthew Bergeron and what did you see from him?

"He's a fighter, and he's a lot older than a normal freshman coming from Canada. He's got a little bit more physical maturity than some of the other younger guys."

Do you have patience with your offense after eight games?

"I have patience, but my patience only goes so far. I thought that the offensive line did a better job. I'm a little surprised at the seven sacks. I'm a little surprised at that. I thought they did a better job and I thought that there was some fighting going on as far as trying to move guys out of the way. There was some growth in that group. I don't like the number and I don't like being last in the country in sacks but as far as what I saw out in the field based off of what I have been seeing, there was some growth; we can build on that."

Are your younger guys making the progress you need to see?

"I think all the guys need to do more. I really do. I'm not satisfied. Anytime you get in a losing streak you are not going to be satisfied. It's hard to be able to find the positives, there are positives in there. We need to work harder and we need to – winning is so difficult and when you have an opportunity to win you need

to embrace it. You need to celebrate a win. I think, now that we are seeing the backside of that, the difference between winning and losing is so small. A penalty here, a stepping off there, a mental mistake on an onside kick to start the second half. Those things can't happen if you really want to win.

What happened on the onside kick?

"There was a mental mistake."