



Florida State vs. Miami
Saturday, November 2, 2019
Miami Coaches Quotes

Head Coach Manny Diaz

Opening Statement

"Obviously, very proud of our football team. Winning on the road in the league is always special as we saw last week; winning on the road against your rival is one of the most special nights you have. You don't get too many opportunities to do it. For our guys to come here and play the way they did from start to finish ... I thought we took control of the game in the first half. Florida State made a run in the third which you knew that they would. A couple of stops there that our defense made where we turned field position against them and our offense hitting some big plays to capitalize. I thought it was great team ball – offense, defense, special teams. We're becoming what we thought we could become as a team and to do it a Doak Campbell Stadium, like I said, I couldn't be more proud."

On the play of Miami's defensive line...

"They were relentless. That fact that we can roll nine different guys in there, stay fresh, stay after their quarterbacks, it was really the first time maybe in the entire season we had not played a mobile quarterback. So, to have a stationary target, I thought was fantastic. I thought our defensive plan was very good. I thought we took away all their ability to create explosive plays which is such a big part of their offense. But like I said, we felt like ... we weren't sure they had seen something up front with what we would bring. But we had to put that into reality. I thought our guys up front they justified what we thought going in to the game."

What defensive adjustments did you make during the game?

"I don't know that it was really an adjustment. It's hard to score, we all understand, if you are getting dominated up from there are not a lot of things that work. Obviously, we were winning that battle up front, so it just came down to – would we tackle when the ball got out in the perimeter? Or would we allow the ball to get thrown over our head. Because there is a constant threat. Akers is a constant threat; 15 (Tamorrion Terry) is a constant threat. The fact that our guys stayed relentless the entire time is the way it looked."

Talk about the improvement of the offensive line

"There's no doubt. I mean they have been getting better. It has been exciting to see. And then Jarren (Williams) with the accuracy on some of those deep balls – on the two posts for touchdowns – was outstanding. I thought the poise of our offense – we got a little unlucky on the fourth down – where they held that ball and thought we had subbed, and we hadn't. We had a great chance to take over the game in the first five minutes of the third quarter but as been the case the whole year, we just don't panic, and we just go out there and play the next series on both sides of the ball. It's going to be hard; you don't just expect to drive every time you had it but in the critical moments to come up with the plays we came up with was really encouraging."

What did it mean to have DeeJay Dallas and Jeff Thomas back on the field?

"DeeJay (Dallas) as everyone knows is the heart and soul of our team. His ability to finish runs and make big plays – a big screen on the first drive that gets us down the field – how many times has he done that this year? And then to have Jeff (Thomas) they came up and pressed us – they had not shown a lot of press coverage, and they come up and pressed us on that play, and we ran two posts and Sydney grabbed the inside post so it's one on one and Jeff just ran by the guy. That's the dynamic you need in your offense. It was very similar with Dee Wiggins the one there in the fourth quarter. The fact that we could hit some shots down the field is outstanding. We knew that Jarren (Williams) could always hit shots down the field. There had been a myth that that was not capable and I think that he definitely dispelled that today."

With three straight wins over Florida State, how do you see the big picture?

"No. 1, special for our seniors to go out 3-1 with three straight wins against FSU. That's something that, again, they will be proud of forever. As far as our team, I think we are starting to find ourselves. I think last week at Pitt was a big, big deal to us in a game that could have gone either way as so many of our games have. These guys love playing with each other, and they love playing together. That's what they are about. They are really coming together. They are bonding. I'm excited to see what this team looks like as we continue through November."