

# Florida State University Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 2, 2019

## Willie Taggart

Miami, 27 - Florida State, 10

WILLIE TAGGART: Of course we're frustrated with the loss. To be honest with you, words aren't going to make it better right now. We got to come back to practice, get better, and get ready for BC.

Again, disappointed. Didn't do enough to try to win that ballgame. We got to get better quick.

**Q. Just started off with some penalties and just things not going right. How do you explain some of the issues that you thought were corrected that came back again in this game?**

WILLIE TAGGART: Well, again, it's unacceptable. Not enough guys on the line of scrimmage, those things hadn't happened to us for a while. But those pre-snap penalties, jumping offsides and things we address have day in practice, you can't do it.

That put us in a hole in the first half and found ourselves in a lot of long yardage situations. It's tough against a really good defense. We knew it going in. We talked about it. We worked on it. We just didn't play with a lot of poise and confidence, especially early, and it cost us.

**Q. Field position was an issue today; something we haven't seen a ton of this season. What were some of the issues that led to that that you saw?**

WILLIE TAGGART: Those penalties, especially early. Penalties and we didn't do anything offensively, so we didn't flip the field. We didn't do anything offensively. We didn't do anything special teams-wise to flip the field position.

I thought offensively and special teams, we didn't come to play.

**Q. Offensive line obviously is not a new issue. Are you surprised at how Miami was able to dominate both against the run and the pass?**

WILLIE TAGGART: I was. Again, I don't think we really had a game like that where we just -- I mean, it was ever play back there at quarterback not having time to get rid of the ball. That's very disappointing. Didn't think that was going to happen. We knew they had a good D-line and good defense, but didn't think that would happen to us.

**Q. Obviously any loss in rivalry game is tough. What did you say to the guys in the locker room to console them about this loss?**

WILLIE TAGGART: Well, it was frustrating. I mean, they're all upset, disappointed. They all wanted to win this ballgame very bad.

But they also know we got to play winning football. You can't have those penalties. We got to block. We got to be where we're supposed to be. And then we got to do a better job as coaches. Make sure our guys are in the right place, the right place to make plays.

**Q. Was there any thought to going to Blackman earlier?**

WILLIE TAGGART: No, not necessarily. I didn't think it was Hornibrook. He was getting hit quite a bit. I will say we probably could have got rid of the ball a little early at times, but, no, we just weren't doing a good job protecting and the run blocking.

**Q. Defensively you guys haven't given up a ton of big plays this season; they were able to hit some. What do you account that to?**

WILLIE TAGGART: Well, that first touchdown pass was one-on-one. They beat us on that. I know the touchdown there, last touchdown they scored on the deep pass, supposed to have had a guy the middle third of the field; threw the ball and he wasn't there, so that was a missed assignment on one of our players.

**Q. How do you rally the team now with three games remaining starting with practice tomorrow?**

WILLIE TAGGART: We got to come ready to practice. We got three guaranteed games waiting for us, and they're all important. We got to go on the road and play BC. We got to get back to work and find a way to get back.

**Q. Coach, the offense gave up nine sacks today, which I believe is a record for the program. Was Miami doing anything special defensively to kind of rattle the offensive line, or were the pass rushers just getting to quarterback a little too quickly?**

WILLIE TAGGART: They were just winning the one-on-one blocks. A lot of times just winning the one-on-one battles. Again, we got to be able to protect and hold up and not give those away. They were knocking our guys back with ease at times, and quarterback didn't have time to step up and throw the ball.

We just got to be better. One of those days. It's a really bad day for our O-line. We got to, as coaches, make sure we're doing thing the right way to help our guys up front. We're pretty young in spots up there, so it will be interesting to look at the tape and see exactly where the pressure was coming from and who was getting beat and what we need to do to correct and make sure it doesn't happen again.

**Q. Some of those issues, penalties and offensive line play and turnovers, these are things that have hurt you in the past. When you are within a season like this mid-season, what can you do better as a coaching staff in order to improve in those areas?**

WILLIE TAGGART: We just got to keep pressing on. I mean, those penalties, I can't go out there and stand beside him and tell him don't jump offsides. Our guys got to do that when they're out there. Those things can't happen.

Then we got to make sure again that we're doing things to allow our guys not to do that. Again, that's unfortunate with those false starts that we had and then not lining up right. I mean, that's on everybody, the players, the coaches. We've got to line up first and foremost.

Again, we were better at that, and today we kind of reverted back.

**Q. Your guys pass rush. Appeared going into the game I think a lot of people expected you to dominate that matchup. Were you disappoint with the lack of pressure you got on Williams?**

WILLIE TAGGART: Yeah, we needed to put more pressure on them. We knew going in that they get max protection a lot, and so we had to be creative on how we try to get there.

Again, we pressured; didn't get there. He was able to get a couple of those deep balls off. So, again, we pressured quite a bit the week before we got there; this week we didn't.

I think a lot of it sometimes you got to win some one-on-one battles. That's some of the things they did and got our guys.

**Q. When you're trying to build a program, it's a lot of steps forward. I assume you think you made some in the last two years. Did this feel like a step back, a significant step back? Can you start going forward again?**

WILLIE TAGGART: I wouldn't say a significant step back. Yes, it's a step back whenever you lose. I wouldn't say it's a significant step back.

Again, the way you go forward, you go out and win ball games. We get a ball game next week up at BC and we got to go win. That's how we continue to move forward, go out and find a way to win.

We got to, as coaches, make sure we got guys in the right position to make plays, and our players got to go out and execute the plays when we call them. I mean, comes back to that. We stress that all week. Our players stress that all week about how they need to execute.

Again, we got to do that. Coaches, we got to make sure we put them in position so that they can execute.

**Q. You said the players really wanted to win this game. On the first play of the game there was an offsides. Do you believe that your team was a little too anxious to win this game?**

WILLIE TAGGART: I wouldn't say we were too anxious. I thought we did a good job controlling our emotions compared to last year when we played in this game. I thought we were better from that standpoint.

Again, just lack of focus. I think that's what it was. On the first play you can't be that way. So I thought our guys were ready. I thought they knew the game plan. Just went out there and didn't execute.

**Q. Big recruiting weekend for you guys. I know relationships are more important than results, but what are you marketing to these high school players for your program right now?**

WILLIE TAGGART: What we've been marketing since day one on what we're trying to do here. We're trying to build a program, and we want these young men to come and help us build this program. We're going to continue to sell what we've been selling. We're selling Florida State University. We are selling our program, where we are trying to go with it, and letting them know they're going to be a big part of helping us get back to where we want to go.

But we won't get back unless we continue get good football players to come in a build that.

**Q. With as much success as you guys had with Cam in the Wildcat last week and the drive you got the ten points here tonight, did you want to go to Cam even more than you were able to in that formation? Overall thoughts on you guys did when he was in the game?**

WILLIE TAGGART: I thought early they came out and they made adjustment to it and they went cover zero and tried to bring everybody in there. I thought we made some adjustment to be able to get Cam free at times.

Thought it worked for us for the most part. Cam was battling a toe injury and didn't practice a lot this week, and so coming into the game we didn't have a lot of that package in for us. Wanted to be smart with him.

But I thought what they were doing defensively kind of took some things away from us. We did make a couple adjustments and were able to get in there, so that was good to see what -- again, could you run it more? Probably.

Again, being behind and behind the sticks at times, it takes away from a lot of those things. We got to play cleaner football to be able to do a lot of the things that we want to do.

**Q. You're 4-5. I think you were same record at this point last year. The fans are going to look at the results, but what are you seeing inside the program that are signs that you're making progress that maybe we aren't seeing on the field right now?**

WILLIE TAGGART: Well, I think if you just look at - which you all do - look at statistics, you'll see some improvement from where we were last year in a lot of areas. Again, at the end of the day when you talk about the fans, it all comes down to winning. We got to find a way to win.

They don't want to hear all the other stuff. They want to win. We got to find a way to win ball games. We know what we got going on inside and our guys are fighting. Again, we got to find a way to win. I don't think you're going to please anyone until you win ball games.

That's our job. That's my job. To find a way and get this program back to where it belongs. We are going to work our tails off to do that.

And we got three ball games left. Everybody is going to be committed to those three ball games to try to correct it.

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