



Brian Kelly - Head Coach - Notre Dame

COACH KELLY: You guys have had plenty of time to think up questions. So we'll just let you guys get rolling.

Q. Brian, you said during the week that Josh Adams has explosiveness back. What did you see from him today?

COACH KELLY: I thought he has explosiveness back. What did you see from him?

Q. Could you just talk about what you saw from him and specifically the touchdown run, what happened on that play.

COACH KELLY: We felt like tempo would be our friend today. It's a very athletic football team. They crowd the line of scrimmage. Numbers are very difficult for us in terms of blocking everybody. So tempo was going to be a big thing for us.

Our inside zone play allows us a little bit of misdirection and the opportunity not to block everybody because you've got to defend the quarterback as well. And in that situation, if you're not perfect with your defensive fit, it gives you an opportunity to fit the ball up inside, and we were able to do that on that particular run play that you're referring to.

Q. Jarron Jones and the rush defense today held them to 2 yards in the first half and 18 for the game. Dominant effort by your --

COACH KELLY: Dominant effort against a Power Five football team that was nationally ranked a few weeks ago. I think that's about as good a performance that we've had in a while here. Jarron was outstanding. He was awarded the game ball.

What I think stands out to me more than anything else is when your senior is playing his best ball. That says a lot about how he feels about coming to work every day, getting better, regardless of the record. I think that's a real positive for our program and for him individually. He was a beast today out there.

Q. Finke and Yoon obviously came through in the end for the special teams, but it was a rough day (indiscernible).

COACH KELLY: Well, look, our whole football team had been battling at times being indecisive in certain areas, whether we were indecisive at the quarterback position, whether we were indecisive as a play caller, whether we were indecisive at the cornerback position, indecisiveness kind of put us where we are today.

So the word that we were using was let's be decisive in everything that we do. Well, there's still some indecisiveness that is lingering. It's slowly leaving, and the opposite of that is



being decisive and confident in what we're doing. And we have to be more confident. We've got really good players that care a lot, that have a lot of pride in what they do every single day, and I just have to reinforce with those guys to be more decisive.

They're coming on the other end of that, being indecisive. They're getting closer to being decisive.

Q. Brian, Justin Yoon got dinged on, I think, a field goal. Then you had Chereson kicking off for a while. Then you brought Justin back in again. Did he get injured?

COACH KELLY: No, he had a little bit of leg -- what I'll call tendinitis. We want to be careful with him, stretching him out on kickoffs all the time. His workload picked up incrementally this year with kickoffs and his PATs and field goals. Chereson's done a really nice job. So we wanted to give him some kicks and really take some of the load off of Justin.

Q. How would you evaluate DeShone's ability to bounce back from the last couple of games?

COACH KELLY: Really, really pleased with some of the play within the play. For me, my eye is focused on rhythm, timing, getting the ball out of your hand, and I thought he was -- I thought it was the best since he's been here in getting the ball out of his hands.

There was a couple of throws on the next to last drive that he would like to get back, but he's not flawless yet. So sorry, guys. He's not flawless yet. He's got some work that he'll continue to work on, but he was really good today. He did a lot of really good things.

I think the thing that stands out for me was the mental toughness that he showed coming back from missing a couple of receivers on the drive prior to and really showing some mental toughness on that last drive. I was looking for that in this game, and he showed that to me, and I was really proud of him.

Q. What can you build from the defense's play overall -- I mean, they were put in bad positions today -- and how they handled the last drive by Miami?

COACH KELLY: Well, I think, first of all, any time that you can hold anybody in college football to an ineffective running game and then pass breakups. We do sack the quarterback here at Notre Dame. So for you guys that didn't think that that happened, we do sack the quarterback. If you want to go direct snap and drop back, we can get to you. Now, if you just catch it and throw it, it's hard to get to you. So we can sack the quarterback.

I thought it was a complete effort from a defensive standpoint. There are things we can do better, there's no question, but I thought the run defense was solid. I thought we got our hands on balls and pass breakups and deflections. And we pressured the quarterback. So I



thought a lot of good things happened out there today defensively.

Q. Could you just quantify the importance of this team closing out a close game and being victorious.

COACH KELLY: It just meant that we're not going to have to go through this again. We were all going to have to listen to, okay, the locker room is falling apart, a bunch of baloney, and we'd have to go through all this again. It wasn't going to change anything.

We were still going to do the same thing. The attitude would have been great. Their preparation would have been great. But they were going to have to figure out how to win a football game late, and that meant they had to execute better, they had to play all phases better at the end, and they did.

Offensively, they scored the last ten points. They stopped Miami on the last drive, and we executed in our special teams game in kicking the field goal. Those three things had to come together sooner or later for us to win a game. So they executed and closed out a game. That's all that means.

Now they know how to do that. So we'll go back to work with the same underpinnings, the same things that we've worked on over the last 10, 12 weeks, but now there's a lot more confidence in that room that they believe that they can do it, and if they just pay attention to the little things and are more decisive, they're going to win for -- they can win every game they play because they lost five games by one possession. So they know that.

Q. I know you'll have a chance to look at the film, but it seemed to me like you guys tackled better today. Is that your assessment, and is that something you guys worked on over the last two weeks?

COACH KELLY: No. We've worked on it for the last -- it's been a point of emphasis for the last 4 1/2, 5 weeks. We made it the first period. We changed up our tackling circuits. We made it a point of emphasis in terms of the way we're going to tackle. We're starting to see that come to fruition.

Q. Coach, what goes on on the bottom of the pile at the 2 yard line when ten guys are on top of each other grabbing for the ball?

COACH KELLY: Well, I think we all know what's happening in there. I can tell you what I'm hoping happens, that we come up with the football in that situation. But I think we need to stay away from even getting into those kind of scrums. I think the play you're referring to is the one that the ball came loose on the goal line.

But we've been on the other end of those, and our guys were going to find a way to win this



game, and we came up with it. But clearly, you can understand that there's -- it's survival of the fittest down there.

Q. Strategically, what allowed Jarron to make the impact that he did. What got him through this so often?

COACH KELLY: We're playing a lot more three downs, so he's on the center. I don't know if you saw a lot of things that we were doing, but we're -- you know, we're hugging up those guards, and any time you bring the guards -- the guard has Nyles on top of him, and he doesn't know whether he's pressuring him or not, Jarron is one-on-one with the center. A couple of times, we were able to get him one-on-one. You can't block him one-on-one.

Q. Coach, you talked about the scrum there. I believe DeShone is the one who came out with it.

COACH KELLY: He was.

Q. What does that say that the quarterback is the one who can go in and get the ball when it looks like that?

COACH KELLY: One of the things I was looking for from him was not whether or not he could throw another dig route. I needed some toughness from him, some mental toughness. And that's an indication. He was not going to be denied. He was going to find a way to get that football. That grittiness is maybe what we were lacking a little bit, and he showed some of that grittiness in the way he went and fought for that football.

Q. And just the season he's had with all the close losses, how important was it there, backs against the wall, when Josh milked that run, I'm sure there was a few wondering, (indiscernible). How important was it for him to get you guys back into that play?

COACH KELLY: I can tell you what was on the sideline. You saw the energy on our sideline. Our guys were not going to believe that they couldn't do it.

Now, the time might have ran out, and we might not have won the football game again, and they would have come back on Sunday and Monday, and they would have went back to work and kept working until they got a win. There wasn't a belief, when I looked in the eyes of every one of those players, that they weren't going to figure out and find a way to win.

So no one was surprised. They were just happy as heck that it's finally over, that they got through it in a close game, that they found a way to win. That was the feeling more than anything else. It was the exhilaration that they finally got through and finished a close game.



Q. A couple big plays by Nyles. You brought up sacks as well. Going back to the summer, he was kind of expected to be one of the leaders. Do you think he is growing and developing with what you see out of him?

COACH KELLY: I thought he's played very well all year. I think he's been as consistent of a player that we've had on defense, from Game 1 to game 8. His toughness, his demeanor and the way he comes to practice every day, there's no -- I'll tell you what. In that locker room right now, if you're saying who do you want in your foxhole? They want Nyles Morgan in their foxhole. He's a guy that you want watching your back because he's there every day. Every practice, he plays with toughness, and I think he's been that consistent performer for us.

Q. Talk about your players up front played well this game. Obviously, that was a big part of the run defense. But it looked like you guys were kind of throwing some different looks, using your linebackers maybe a little bit more downhill on some stunts. What did you see with Miami that made you think you could have success with your linebackers maybe stunting like that?

COACH KELLY: You know, there's a number of factors that go into each and every game plan, and one of the things that was really, really important here was we knew more than anything else in this game that we had to attack the line of scrimmage. It's a big offensive line, and they had talented backs. If we didn't dent every gap and they caught some seams, we weren't going to catch them. So we needed to attack the line of scrimmage.

So this was a game plan that was set up. I thought it was an outstanding game plan that our defensive coaches put together, and that was really aggressive to the line of scrimmage. Now, it put us -- those corners were on an island a lot more today, and I thought they made some outstanding catches. We were on body in coverage. They made some great catches in third down situations, but they were on their own a lot today, more than at any time this year.

So the looks that you saw today is that we were run blitzing a lot more today than at any other time.

Q. Earlier in the season, when you were giving up bigger plays in the run game, you talked about fits at linebacker. Obviously, you have to go back and watch the film and assess things, but did it seem like your guys, including the safety coming down, did it seem like they were more consistent with their systems?

COACH KELLY: Yeah, the systems are better. In terms of what we're asking them to do, we're overlapping with both safeties in terms of making sure there aren't any big plays. We let one ball get outside. We were a little late with our safeties, but other than that, they're



doing a great job of overlapping each other.

Q. You talked about the corners being on an island. Most of the time it was refreshment. Donte Vaughn in particular seemed to really handle himself well on the vertical game. Could you talk about what you got from him today. They seemed to want to challenge him a lot down the field.

COACH KELLY: Yeah, he plays the ball very well. He's got a good sense of when to turn. Some guys just have a blind spot to that. He's long. He can rake through the basket. He does a really good job with that.

We feel like the things he has to work on is recognition. He's a little slow sometimes to fire his guns on some of the spots and bubble screen things. But he's going to be a really, really good player. I love coaching him. And just all those three freshmen corners out there are just doing a great job for us.

Q. Last thing from me. Third down's been an issue this season. You guys went 8 of 16 today. Was it just execution? Was there something you saw on third down you thought you could exploit?

COACH KELLY: We spent a lot of time on it and self study. Obviously, we did some things differently today to put ourselves in better positions to manage our third down situation.

Q. Earlier on, you mentioned more decisiveness a couple times. How much, whether subconsciously or not, do you think a win will get those guys playing more decisive?

COACH KELLY: It helps a lot. But indecisiveness is -- it's trusting what your coach, right? It's trusting in yourself and trusting in your teammates. Those three things have to come together. So if one of those three things is not present, it brings some indecisiveness in what you're doing.

That happens to different players at one of those three levels. Some is they don't trust their teammate, and so they go do his job, which, obviously, is not a good thing. Or they don't trust themselves. Or the third, obviously, is they don't trust the coaching, and they do their own thing. We're really close to getting all those three things together, and a lot of that has to do with inexperienced players who are gaining now eight weeks into the season, they should be a lot more experienced, and they shouldn't be freshmen anymore. I think that's where we're at.

Q. A couple of injuries. McGovern looked like he left early.

COACH KELLY: McGovern, Martini.

Q. Cage, they brought down.



COACH KELLY: Cage -- all went into the concussion protocol.

Mark Richt - Head Coach - Miami

COACH RICHT: First, congratulations to Coach Kelly and the Notre Dame football team. They played an excellent ball game and deserved to win -- how they played, how they finished. Obviously, started very slow. It could have been really bad, but somehow or another, after they went up 20, we found a way to offense, defense, special teams to get 27 and take the lead, which is exciting to me as a coach to see that happen.

And then really from that point on, Notre Dame pretty much took the game over, and we weren't able to get the job done, really either side of the ball at that point.

Absolutely proud of the effort of our young men. It's not easy to stem the tide like that and rally in a place like this. (CHECK AUDIO).

With that, I'll open it up.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH RICHT: We never really established the run much offensively. Defensively, they just kind of picked at it, picked apart, picked us apart a little bit, short passes, intermediates, a little bit of a run here, run there, just kind of worked their way down the field. High execution by them, and we didn't have any answers early on on defense.

I thought the stop to force the field goal that made it 20 was huge because we know teams at 20, you're three scores from taking the lead. We did get a touchdown on the board before the half, which was good.

And the other, we onside kicked, get it, just a beautiful job there by Carter especially. Not the best kick, but good enough. I thought his patience to wait for it to go ten was huge. A lot of guys might have jumped on it too quick. The kick wasn't quite as we thought, but we saw a film and thought we had a shot at getting that thing. Man, when you get that, that's when you got to score. That's when you got to put points on the board. We could have had it within six points at halftime, which would have been huge.

But we started the second half, and we score on the first drive, which is great. Cut the lead down to six. Before you know it, it's tied, and then we get the lead. At the very end, again, we just didn't have enough answers defensively or offensively.



Q. Coach, the way this team was about a month ago, 4-0, ranked top ten in the country, four losses now. Where do you go from here?

COACH RICHT: Go play Pitt.

Q. How can you assess what happened in the four-game losing streak?

COACH RICHT: We didn't get it done, obviously. I mean, it's a team thing -- offense, defense, special teams. Bottom line is we didn't get it done. Came close. 3 out of 4 came close, but close doesn't count. We've got to get better.

Q. (No microphone.)

COACH RICHT: They're all good players. There's a bunch of good quarterbacks around. Kizer certainly played well tonight.

Q. What did you guys say at halftime? You guys came out totally different in the second half. Who stepped up in the locker room?

COACH RICHT: I think everybody was in a good place. The coaching staff did a good job of painting a picture of what could happen. Just fight. Just fight. See what happens. We knew if we would fight and execute it, we'd have a chance to get back in this thing, which we did. We did more than that, quite frankly.

You can look in a group of guys' eyes and see if they're going to pack their bags, and that wasn't it. We lost four in a row, as you mentioned back there. We haven't lost our fight. People that aren't in the game itself -- it's hard to turn it around when it starts like that, really hard to do, especially after you've lost three. You're looking around and saying, hey, I've had enough, and that's not what they did.

That's hard above everything. That's the thing that made me most proud of what happened tonight, but we all know it's about wins and losses, and we lost.

Q. Mark, where do you think the biggest breakdown for them the last few weeks in the pass protection. The numbers have doubled or tripled.

COACH RICHT: Part of it is just getting behind. You get behind, and you may end up having to chunk it a little bit more than you may want to. The other thing is just not really establishing the run well enough, getting ourselves in a situation where it's third and manageable or medium. It's just hard to call a run and expect to get the first down. We just did not really run the ball well enough on first and second down and set ourselves up for more manageable in third down situations.

Of course, if you run and play action pass, it takes a little edge off the rush because you're not quite sure. Is it run? Is it pass? What is it? It changes their pass rush a little bit and the



intensity of it. But if you're sitting there like we've got to scheme them up and pass pro and run these route concepts and get people open -- and I think we did get people open, maybe more so in the first half than the second.

There's times when -- there's always going to be times when you get beat and then you get a sack, and that's going to happen. But when you get behind and you don't get the running game going like you should, it just puts us in a situation where we have to drop back and throw the ball to have a chance to get back in it.

A lot of good things did happen, but in the end, not enough.

Q. What was the range on Badgley there on the last drive? Where did you think you had to get him?

COACH RICHT: If we got to 40, he can make that. It would have been a 57-yarder. We were getting close. We were getting close. Maybe one more completion on the clock play is what we were hoping for, but couldn't quite get it done.

I had called a play before the time-out that I wish I'd have called again -- I don't know if it would have mattered in regard to protection. There's a play I would have called that would have given us a better chance to get him throwing on rhythm and having a shot, but when they called time-out, I thought they were going to change coverage. And they may have changed coverage, but it looked pretty close to the same as what they had played before.

So I called something that I thought -- I was reacting to the fact that I thought they might run more of a true prevent defense on that one.

Thank you.

DeShone Kizer - Jr. - Quarterback - Notre Dame

DESHONE KIZER: That first pass, the way the offense was clicking and the defense (indiscernible). I just missed the feeling of winning. It was somewhere we want to be for the rest of the season.

Q. How important is it for you guys to close out a close game in the fourth quarter?

DESHONE KIZER: (No microphone). To have the early success I did early in my career last year to get those games and feel like that. To feel what it's like to win in a close game like that was awesome. But after experiencing a losing side of things, it definitely allows me to appreciate this more, to come up big at the end of the game.



Q. What is it like at the bottom of the pile?

DESHONE KIZER: It's awful. I don't know if it's possible, but I think a guy bit me. Actually, the guy whose leg was under there was kicking at the ball as we were going after it, and I was just trying to lock his leg up as long as I can. The ref came in and yelled white. As soon as I heard one yell blue, I let go of the ball. It allows them to not see any more of it. Obviously, that guy had one leg, all ten fingers, and maybe a chin on the ball to hold the ball.

But it was fun. Obviously, it was a key point of the game. Obviously, we don't want to tumble down there, but you look at it from an outsider's point of view, burn two time-outs, leave 30 seconds on the clock, you never know what happens with a guy like Brad Kaaya out there with more than a minute and two time-outs. It led us to victory.

Q. You were ten yards back. How do you see everything going on, and how do you wedge yourself in there?

DESHONE KIZER: I threw it. Even in the huddle, we knew that was the play to call. My momentum was taking me that way so I could go up and do a click or something fun. The ball just came flying out. Caught it on the corner of my eye and went over there. Went through probably two or three Miami guys' hands. Saw Brown and went over there.

Q. Is it a sense of relief for you guys to get this off your backs?

DESHONE KIZER: Absolutely. As much as you want to look at each game as one individually, to have the season that we've had so far, all of that builds up, whether you know it or not. To go in that locker room and sing the fight song the way we do when we win, it's a great feeling. It's the reason we come here to play, to win games, and represent the university in the best way we can.

Q. How do you guys build on this?

DESHONE KIZER: To take this, and a lot of this will be our motivation. You forget what it's like to get out there and take the victory. You start taking the small things for granted. Now, having the setback we had in the first half, we learned not to take the small things for granted. Now having the "W," it will allow us to get back to winning the way we need to.

Q. (No microphone.) What was that conversation like?

DESHONE KIZER: Coach Kelly challenged me this week. He told me we're going to throw the ball around. We're going to use as much quick plays as we possibly could to get ahead of the sticks, and we did. He said, hey, look, we don't need to you go out and make crazy plays. These are all simple things. The only way is to have the mental toughness and the discipline to make the throws every time you need to.

Obviously, the second to last drive, I lost that. Coach Kelly came over and challenged me



again. He said, I told you, those are the plays we have to make to win this game. Go out there the last drive and make those same plays, and that's what leads us to victory.

Q. Do you think that recovery makes a statement about mental toughness?

DESHONE KIZER: Yeah, it's a lot down there. I feel like there's only white jerseys all around me. That's probably my favorite play of the season, going down there and doing what it takes to win for my team. There's big guys down in there, but for a quarterback to be down in there, it's awesome to come up big.

Q. How long did it seem like you were down there?

DESHONE KIZER: Oh, my gosh, it took forever. The whole time I was waiting for the crowd to cheer, in a sense I thought we were already in the end zone. All the work I was doing down there, I thought I was going to get up and start cheering. Once I figured out it was on me to get the ball, that's when I held on for dear life. I had his arm and had his whole body mangled up in there. As soon as I heard the referee come in and say white at the beginning, that's when you heard all those Miami cheers. Then one guy said blue, and I let go of the ball so they didn't evaluate anymore.

Q. You're up 20-0, you're down 27-20. That happened several times this year --

DESHONE KIZER: We won tonight. That's all that matters. I don't know how they came back. I don't care how they came back. I don't care what it took for them to come back, the lull we were having on offense. Whatever it takes to win the game. It all led to those issues. Special teams play, fumbling on the 1 yard line, all of those things allowed us to have the motivation and the mindset to come back and get the win.

I don't care how pretty it looks. I don't care how many yards I threw. I don't care how many trick plays we run. I just want to make sure we win games. That's the only thing on my mind.

Q. Did it feel like a duel with Brad? He went out in the second half and was lighting it up. Did you feel like it was a one-on-one?

DESHONE KIZER: Not necessarily. There's so much going on on our side of the ball. I stuck to my responsibilities. I knew at halftime they have one of the best quarterbacks in the country, and they're not going to give up. It's hard to leave an animal caged the way that he was in the first half. We knew he was going to come out and play good ball, and he did. We knew on the last drive, they'd have the ball. Obviously, they got rolling, as we expected them to, and defense came up big for us to make the plays they needed to at the end.

Q. (Indiscernible.)

DESHONE KIZER: It's all motivational based. To actually feel what it's like to get a win kind



of propels you into the week to do whatever it takes to get back to that feeling. Practices can be long and tough when you're losing games. Now we have the motivation to get out there, fix the things we need to, and work on trying to peak at the right time to continue to have these wins.

Q. What did you say (indiscernible).

DESHONE KIZER: We're going to tell our kids about this one. So many times, when you hear one of the guys are playing and you have the potential of playing against those guys, obviously, you never know when your time is going to come to be the starter, but you always hope that you and your friend are going to be out there. Another conversation we had back in junior year, and now we're out there and playing, obviously, two of the elite quarterbacks in the country right now.

So to have that opportunity to play against a guy you've been tight with your whole life is awesome. We made sure we acknowledged that, and then I went out there and challenged him. Now I think I have the skill to go out there and challenge him again.

Q. Was that line play lucky, or was there skill to go in there and get it?

DESHONE KIZER: It's pretty lucky for me to get in there. After you're down there, it's all will power. The way the recovery rule is, it's not the first guy who jumps on it, it's the last guy who has it. All the guys in there are screaming and yelling. Guys pulling on you and scratching. It's all will power and toughness to remain strong and hold on to the football.

Q. (No microphone.)

DESHONE KIZER: This season's been so rough, especially at the quarterback position. I've had highs and lows. To have individual success and then still losing games, and to have close games where you're not playing the best. This is just a cherry on top of a long first seven weeks of the season, eight weeks of the season. That was just us allowing the emotions to come out, and hopefully that feeling I had there will propel me to move forward and get back to those feelings.

Cole Luke - Sr. - Cornerback - Notre Dame

On winning again...

"It's good to win again, obviously we're gonna savor this moment and we gotta look forward tomorrow but it's just a great feeling."

On what it's like in the closing minutes of a close game...

"You just realize how much little things can actually determine whether you get a win or a loss in the game. And things like that can actually determine it and it's just crazy because



after we've been through all those five losses where they were decided by small things you realize how big that fumble could have been and how that could have changed the game and one missed tackle and how that could have changed the game so it's just crazy when you're in the moment."

On the impact of this game going forward...

"It gives us the confidence boost that we needed. We can take this and run with it. A lot of the young guys can take this as well and run with it, so it's a good feeling."

Equanimeous St. Brown - Fr. - Wide Receiver - Notre Dame

On his game performance...

"I think we did pretty good. We did a lot of shorter passes this game to be more efficient, to get us rolling, to get us comfortable. I think it helped a lot; I think it helped us get the win."

On Deshone Kizer's mental toughness...

"He's always been mentally tough I think. He's always been poised. He did his job. I feel like he didn't have to do anything exceptional. He did a great job of doing what he does."

Mike McGlinchey - Sr. - Offensive Lineman - Notre Dame

On his overall sentiment on today's game...

"We are getting better and we just keep pushing forward. I said it earlier this week; we are competitive guys, we have a proud, traditional program and we are not going to just sit around and let things happen to us. We are going to try to fix it now, and there is no point in waiting for it. We just had to keep chipping away at it. I am proud of what happened today. It is just a testament to the guys that we have in our locker room. No matter what the circumstances are on our football team, or what has happened to us previously in this season, it does not matter. We are going to keep approaching our jobs the same way and have the energy and enthusiasm to carry out our jobs. That is exactly what we have done for the past couple of weeks and it finally paid off today."

On his thoughts when Miami took the lead...

"It does not shake my confidence at all. It was not the first time that we have been in that position this year. Obviously this is the first time that we have been in that position this year and it has worked out in our favor. We preach it all the time: no matter what the circumstance or situation is in the game, you have to do your job. The scoreboard does not affect the way that I block a guy or the way that DeShone throws the ball. We have to keep going. There is no looking back and there is no use in trying to control things that we cannot control. That is what we did at the end of the game today. We got back to basics, did



our job and punched two drives in that gave us a win.”

On the difference that allowed the Irish able to come back from behind this time...

“We executed, and that is it, plain and simple. There were times this year that we did not execute when the time came that we needed to. We just got the job done. I cannot really pinpoint why today and why not the rest of the season, but that is all it comes down to: execution and doing your job. Everybody across the board, all twenty-two guys who were on the field at the time, did it. Our defense played out of their minds today. They were put in some bad situations and kept them to some field goals that kept us in the game. It is a huge win for us and it is a great feeling. I am just so proud of our guys.”

Nic Weishar - Jr. - Tight End - Notre Dame

On the win...

“It is just a great feeling, especially being at home. At home, we have not been so great this year. Just to be able to get a win in front of the home crowd and to keep everyone’s spirits up was great. Being 2-5 is not always easy. Not to say that we have attitude problems or anything, but getting the win is a great feeling. That is what is so special about this team is that as a 2-5 team, the attitudes did not waver at all. Coach Kelly has done a great job in making sure that that did not happen and so have the seniors, captains, and others of that nature.”

On Jarron Jones...

“He is unbelievable. Today especially, just watching him from the sideline when we were on defense, I think that he made every play when we needed one. It was really cool to see that.”

Jarron Jones - Gr. - Defensive Lineman - Notre Dame

On the mood of Miami’s last drive...

“Our main focus was to get a turnover. We were excited for this last opportunity because there were past opportunities where we didn’t come out successful.”

On the mood in the locker room before this win...

“We were very upbeat and excited for this game and another home opportunity against a bitter rival in Miami. It was a great chance to show what we can actually do.”

On the importance of this win...

“This win was critical because we have to win out to go to a bowl game and that is our focus. We would like to finish out the season 7-5.”



Josh Adams - So. - Running Back - Notre Dame

On coming off the bye week...

“The bye week was great. It gave my body time to heal from nicks and bruises and really gave me a chance to rehab the right way, make sure that I was getting done everything that I needed to get my body right, trying to feel healthy again. Week by week, it’s a long season so it can really take a toll on you. It definitely gave me a chance to get right and get focused mentally.”

On the difference that led to today’s win...

“We’re just blessed to be here every weekend and to be able to play in front of this crowd who gives it their all each and every week no matter the outcome. It’s just a blessing to be here. It’s just a blessing to be able to go out and play. We just focus on keeping the intensity up and keeping the energy up. We know what we’re capable of, and most importantly we wanted to get the win.”

On the sideline mood when Notre Dame was down 20-27...

“Confidence was fine. I think we really tried to focus on keeping our energy up. We know what we’re capable of. We know that we need to put points on the board as an offense. When we get our opportunity we have to capitalize. I think we did a great job at staying focused, focusing on our job, and not worrying about the things around us. We know the defense is going to get us the ball back so we need to focus on ourselves as individuals and putting it together as an offense.”

On where today’s win ranks on Josh’s list of birthdays...

“It’s definitely up there. It’s definitely up there. It’s great. I’ve got my family here to celebrate my birthday with me, so just blessed to be able to play and can’t wait to hang out with them after.”

Nyles Morgan - Jr.- Linebacker - Notre Dame

On aggressiveness of front seven defensively...

“Yeah, we really got after it this game, it was a necessity. We had nothing to lose, nothing to hold back. You know, everybody was on the same page.”

On knowing what was coming from Miami’s run game today...

“Yeah, it’s kind of like we simplified things. We just made adjustments, so they just did what we thought they would and we just executed.”



On asserting himself as a leader on this team...

“I think I was doing okay. I’m not here for the fame, I’m not here for the glory, I just want to win. I just want to do whatever I can to win, if that incorporates getting on someone’s butt, that’s just what I feel like I have to do. I’m not trying to do it. I just want to win so bad. I know a lot of these guys around me want to win, too. Somebody has got to step up.”

On if this is a turning point...

“Definitely, we could really finish out this thing strong. We got the ball rolling, just finish it out.”

On what was said in the huddle on Miami’s last drive to try and tie/win...

“Time to buck up, this why we’re here. We’re here to finish out games. Everybody do their job, play fast play hard, and get out of here (with a win).”

On freshmen cornerbacks (Vaughn/Love)...

“They are going to be some players in the future. The freshmen (had to adjust to) bright lights. Overall I’m proud of them, both of them.”

On if this was the best the defensive unit has played so far...

“I would say so. The way the game turned out, I would say so. We came together, and fought as one.”

On how good it feels to get a win...

“It feels amazing, it’s like finding a pot of gold.”

On the last play...

“It’s like an emotional high, I was like, yes, I was too excited. We had a sack, end the game, time ran out, ballgame over.”

Brad Kaaya - Jr.- Quarterback - Miami

On what turned the team around to start scoring lots of points...

The second half everyone just let it cut loose in all positions. The O-line played better in the second half. We were able to run the ball a little bit better and that opened things up for me and just made good plays and the guys finally woke up but we just cut it loose in the second half.



On what was said at halftime...

We just said this thing isn't over but there's no reason to quit now and we knew that the defense was going to have our back and they were going to get some key stops and they did. We took the lead.

On what the loss means to them...

We're a close bunch and win or lose we're going to stay together and there's no finger pointing we just keep playing even all the way down to that last play. Hopefully this thing turns soon.

On the loss...

It was a tough one I thought we had them. Even on that last drive we were getting close to field goal range. I thought we had them on the ropes but they stepped up and made plays in crucial situations and in the end it was the deciding factor.

Shaq Quarterman - Fr. - Linebacker - Miami

On this loss comparatively...

I wouldn't say [this loss] was worse than the others. Every loss is a tough loss because the objective is to win. We've taken a couple on the chin but we wake up every Sunday to get right back to work.

On challenges with the atmosphere...

Always travelling, you have to deal with the crowd and the feeling of not playing at our own stadium. It's an adjustment. Sometimes we can make quick adjustments and sometimes it may take a couple more series than we want.

Linebacker Shaq Quarterman on challenges from Notre Dame...

Previously, Notre Dame has had a good quarterback with a really strong arm, they would air it out. They came in this game doing a lot of short passes, slants and hitches, so we had to adjust to that. We were expecting them to come in and do what they had previously been doing, gun-slinging downfield. Second half we came back out and the halftime adjustments were great. We just have to work on finishing.

David Njoku - Jr. - Tight End - Miami

On quarterback Brad Kaaya...

He was saying that we had to remain focused, that we can't give up because there was still a lot of game to play. We followed his lead. Brad [Kaaya] is extremely tough. I'm very proud of him. Every day, you can see him progress and I'm very proud of how he's getting tougher



each and every week. He wants to win so he pushes his body to reach that goal.

On what it says about the team...

It shows that we have heart. We don't give up, no matter what the score is. We could have easily folded our hands and looked to next week, but we decided to dig it out, fight, and give it all that we've got.

On the change at halftime...

We had a mentality that we had to dominate. Defense was doing a great job, [Notre Dame] only scored 10 points in the half. Offense obviously stepped up as well. It was just a different mentality.

Stacy Coley - Sr. - Wide Receiver - Miami

On the motivation to keep fighting...

Just for us. We've just got to battle just for us. Just come out with wins. Execute more and just stop shooting ourselves in the foot.

On the bowl game potential...

Right now we're just not looking at a bowl game we're just trying to win and just stay focused on the next game.

On what they need to do to change their losing streaks...

We just got to execute more. Once we execute nobody can stop us. Once we stop shooting ourselves in the foot then everything goes our way and we make plays and put points on the board.