

Auburn vs. Georgia Post-Game Quotes
November 14, 2015
Jordan-Hare Stadium

Auburn Head Coach Gus Malzahn

Opening Statement...

“That was a tough one today. I thought our defense played very well. They held them to 243 yards. They have a lot of play makers on that side of the football. I thought our offense did a good job in the first half. Obviously, in the second half we didn’t get it done.

Uncharacteristic, we had three turnovers. We had been protecting the football extremely well and the three turnovers were big. The special teams touchdown with the game tied was also uncharacteristic as well. The bottom line is that we are disappointed, and that was a tough one.”

On the thought process with Sean White and the three straight passes...

“We knew we were going to play both quarterbacks. We made that call before the game and just felt like that was a good time to put him in there. We felt like we had some good opportunities in the passing game. We went three-and-out and it obviously didn’t work out, but that was our thought process.”

On the health of Sean White...

“He’s not 100% but he was healthy enough to play.”

On the play of Jovon Robinson...

“We got some big first downs and some rhythm and some pace. In the second half, we didn’t do a very good job of getting that initial first down. That is when we are at our best. I think we got one first down in the third quarter and just a few in the fourth quarter. We just never got in that rhythm like we needed to be.”

On the passing game...

“We just didn’t get it done. I think that is the best way to put it. We ran the ball well at times. Of course that was our plan to run the football and use play action, but we weren’t very balanced.

On the quick passes to the outside...

“We were going to try and pace run and we thought we had some opportunities on the perimeter. We just didn’t get as many yards as we would have liked.

On the health of Tray Matthews...

“He wasn’t healthy enough to play. He wanted to, but he wasn’t healthy enough to go.”

On the quarterback play going into Idaho...

“Both guys played today, and we will practice hard and get them ready for next week.”

On Austin Golson going out...

“That is a big blow anytime you have your center making the calls and all of that. I thought Devonte Danzey stepped in and his snaps were good, and that is what you always worry about when you lose your center. But Danzey came in and his snaps were good. But losing Austin was a blow. Austin was not healthy enough to come back in today.”

On Xavier Dampeer’s injury...

“He is doing okay, but he is not ready to play.”

On being more aggressive...

“Well, I think we had a couple opportunities, but we just couldn’t get it done. We just didn’t make enough explosive passing yards. That was a big factor today.”

On the defensive performance...

“The defense played well. The big fourth down stop was huge. I thought they did some very good things and the defense played well

today. We didn't win. That is the bottom line. Maybe one group needs to step up, but we just didn't score enough points to win today."

On message to the team...

"It was just to show your class and your character. This is a tough one. We have to rebound and win next week. That is what is on our mind. There is no doubt in my mind that our guys will come ready."

On Georgia's return for a touchdown...

"He is an electric guy (Isaiah McKenzie). The punter was just trying to get out of there. He had a little bit of space and had a good cut and had the ability to take it to the house. That was a big play in the game."

On play calls in the fourth quarter...

"Well, we didn't score a touchdown, and that is what it is about. We needed a touchdown."

Linebacker Cassanova McKinzy

How the defense did today... "I think we did really well, probably one of our better games. Everyone played their part. Everyone did what they had to do individually and it feels like it all comes from the preparation from practice."

Reason for defensive progress the past few games... "We just want to. Senior leadership -- we have a group of seniors that want to get better and leave Auburn getting back to the defense like it used to be. That's what we are trying to do. Coach (Ryan) Russell kept on preaching and preaching about finishing the season off, just leave the number and jersey in a better place than where you found it. That's what we are trying to do as seniors."

Linebacker Kris Frost

Do you feel the defense is progressing... “Yeah, we feel like we’ve made a whole lot of progress. I feel like we’ve made a lot of progress with our team. One game doesn’t reflect the progress that we have made. We just have to keep pushing.”

What’s been the reason... “Just a sense of urgency, the intensity that we bring to practice each and every day, and to learn, which is extremely key to our success. I feel like that’s a big point for us. When it comes to our success, it’s learning the game and I feel like we are doing a great job of that now and we will continue to get better.”

About the goalline stand... “It was extremely big. Every time we get on the field, we have a sense of urgency unlike any other and I feel like it’s gotten better over the course of the season. It was really big for us as far as momentum was concerned. I just wish that we could’ve made more plays towards the end.”

Quarterback Sean White

On how comfortable he was... “I was comfortable. I was comfortable enough to go out there and play. I wish I could have played better for my team and have more success but I didn’t. It just didn’t happen.”

On protecting the ball... “Just a couple of plays. We didn’t really take care of the ball as well as we could have. As far as me, I have to hold on to the ball when I get sacked. I get hit from behind, but I still have to be aware of that and not fumble.”

On his injury... “Sometimes that’s just how it goes. Not everything is going to go perfect. Not everything is going to go your way, and that’s college football. You’re going to have to fight through adversity, and obviously the last couple of weeks I’ve been going through some adversity. And today I didn’t play and have as much success as I hoped, but I’m going to come back and fight through it, practice hard next week, and come back stronger.”

Quarterback Jeremy Johnson

On the quarterback rotation... “That was the game plan, to play us both. I knew I was coming out and there wasn’t any confusion. We both knew we were going to play this game.”

On what went wrong... “They just won. It’s a disappointing loss. They just came out with the victory. We’ve just got to get better. With a game like this, a big rivalry, you always want to win this game. Unfortunately we came up short. All we can do is get better from this game.”

On Georgia’s defense... “They were definitely moving. Usually we would get five to six yards on those plays but they were flying around making plays.”

Kicker Daniel Carlson

On chances of winning without trying the onside kick... “I think the coaches always make the right call. You never know how things are going to play out. We did get the field goal eventually and if we had recovered the onside kick, we may have had a chance. A lot of times it is just how the ball bounces and how the other team reacts. They made a good play on it and we didn’t get it.”

On the consecutive field goal record... “It really doesn’t matter right now. I’m just doing what I can to help the team right now. I’m not worried about any records or awards or anything. I’m just worried about the next kick and worried about what I can do to help the team.”