

**Auburn Head Coach Gus Malzahn  
Comments vs. Idaho – Nov. 21, 2015**

*Opening Statement...*

“I am happy for our team to get our sixth win and get bowl eligible. We talked about getting off to a fast start. We got the chance to play a lot of guys that deserved to play late. It is always good to see those guys out there that do a good job on scout teams and as back-ups. I am very happy with that. The things that stood out to me defensively are getting the three turnovers. We got the fumble and Rudy Ford got the pick six, and I thought that was a big play in the game. We also got some good fourth down stops. Offensively, the thing that really stood out to me is that we didn’t have any turnovers. That was really a focus, protecting the football. We had a lot of different guys handle the ball, and that is really something that stood out to me. Overall, I am pleased to get the sixth win and I think the team came out of that one fairly healthy.”

*On Jeremy Johnson’s performance...*

“I thought Jeremy (Johnson) did a good job. I thought he did a very good job in the air and I thought he did a very good job on the ground. He managed the offense very well. He made a couple of really good decisions on his own read.”

*On Jovon Robinson’s performance...*

“I think he did very well.”

*On the mindset before facing Alabama...*

“There is a fine line. I think the best thing is we got the victory, and we got the chance to play a lot of guys late in the game. It got a little sloppy, but it’s a win. We wanted to get our main guys out of there early in the fourth quarter. We are happy that we came out of this one pretty healthy and we got the chance to play a lot of different guys.”

*On the fake punt...*

“We have had that up for a long time, and haven’t had the right opportunity to call it. I thought that was a big play in the game too. It was a pretty close game at the time. It was like fourth and seven. I don’t think we have faked a punt in three years around here. So it caught them off guard.”

*On if it takes pressure off being bowl eligible...*

“It’s always good to get bowl eligible. That means 15 more practices and one more game for your seniors, so that’s big. Of course we are playing our rival next week and that’s something that both teams look forward to every year.”

*On if the players will be looser after today’s win...*

“I’m not for sure about that. We are playing Alabama. They are going to be ready and we are going to be ready and we will see what happens.”

*On being physical with two offensive linemen down...*

“We tried to be. We thought we had some depth at the first of the year. Devonte Danzey came in and got his first start at center. I thought he did a very solid job. Shon Coleman, we held out and I thought Robert Leff did a very good job in his absence. We were just hoping that we didn’t have any more injuries up front and thankfully we didn’t. That will be very important moving forward.”

*On Sean White and Austin Golson...*

“I will probably know more tomorrow or Monday, as far as that goes. I think everyone will work their hardest to get ready. Austin Golson will be a bit of a challenge.”

*On the importance of taking shots down field...*

“We talked about running the football and throwing the ball vertically down the field. We felt like they would load up against the run and the times they did we were able to hit a couple of shots down field. We

were close on the one that got overturned, but we wanted to start making Jeremy (Johnson) start throwing the ball vertically down the field.”

*On the importance of playing Tucker Tuberville...*

“Tucker (Tuberville) is an outstanding young man. He has been a blessing for us as coaches and one of those bright spots. He is going to be a great coach too. We were happy for him to get out there and do his thing.

*On if they will call a pass play for Tucker...*

“We will have to ask Rhett (Lashlee) that.”

*On when preparation for Alabama begins...*

“Here in about thirty minutes. As soon as I get done with the TV I will head to the office.”

*On the importance of taking those shots down field...*

“It was big. I thought Jeremy managed the game and didn’t put the ball in jeopardy and did a very solid job. They mix up their looks. They gave us some different looks and we felt like they would. The thing that stands out to me is no turnovers. That was big.”

*On what happened on Idaho’s first play.*

“I think they had an over route. I am not sure exactly, that would be a good question for him (Will Muschamp). They adjusted after that.”

*On focusing on the Iron Bowl from two years ago...*

“Every year is different. I think the best thing for us is that we are playing at home and we know our crowd, our coaches and our players will be ready. We are glad to be playing at home.”

*On the importance of getting Tony Stevens going...*

“Tony (Stevens) had been one of those guys you have seen in the last

three or four weeks that has really started to take that next step. He made a couple of good blocks too. I think on the two runs by Roc Thomas, he was at the point of attack. The two H-Backs also made some good blocks on those two plays as well. We are very happy for Tony.”

### **WR Tony Stevens**

*About his own performance in the game...*

“I was just happy to get in the end zone. That’s my goal every game to get in the end zone. I finally did it today.”

*How the year has been for him...*

“I just try to go out there and do my role. I’m happy. I just try to go out there and execute and get the ball. Right now, I’m just happy, just enjoying it. I’m having fun with my teammates, spending these last few games and this last game with the senior wide outs Ricardo (Louis) and (Jonathan) Wallace. They’ve been helping me with the game.”

*About seeing the offense rolling and scoring points...*

“Yeah, that’s the type of offense we are. To put up 56 points, that’s our goal really every game. It just felt good.”

*About next weekend and being underdogs...*

“We’ve got to go out there and execute whatever the game plan is. Practice this week hard and get out there Saturday and just take care of business.”

### **LB Kris Frost**

*About defending Derrick Henry next weekend...*

“He’s a big back and he’s obviously very talented. Then again, Alabama seems to always have really talented guys at the running back position. We just have to do everything we can to contain him and really just get after their offense from the start.”

*On the momentum three turnovers tonight gives the defense next*

*weekend...*

“It’s extremely big. Momentum is a big part of this game and turnovers is the key to defense. It’s definitely put us in a good position for next week.”

*About Alabama being different from other good teams...*

“They execute well. That’s what good teams do. Great teams execute well. They don’t hurt themselves and they put themselves in position to win games. That’s really what they do. That’s the mark of a great team.”

### **LB Cassanova McKinzy**

*On next week’s game...*

“We’ve got to flip the switch. It is a real big game. It’s personal. They have a good team and we have a good team. We have been playing pretty well. We will have a hard week of practice. It is going to be very intense. We have a lot of young guys playing this year so we have to get them to understand what the rivalry is all about.”

*On his final Iron Bowl...*

“It is very big. I want to go out winning. I have been playing Alabama since I have been here and that is a very big deal to me. I am going to do all that I can do to help my team win the game.”

### **LB Tré Williams**

*On his fumble recovery...*

“I was in the right spot at the right time. That’s all that was.”

*On the defense’s confidence going into the Iron Bowl...*

“Coach Muschamp won’t let off, no matter who we play, what time we play, nothing. In practice, we go hard every day. We will be ready.”

*On the significance of winning the Iron Bowl...*

“It would mean a lot. We are already bowl eligible, which is a good thing, but again it is Auburn vs. Alabama -- it’s the Iron Bowl. It is always great to win the Iron Bowl.”

*On less pressure now that Auburn is bowl eligible...*

“That was a big help. We really went into this game doing it for the seniors. We didn’t want the seniors to go out without playing a bowl game. They gave us big motivation.”

### **DB Johnathan Ford**

*On his interception touchdown...*

“I saw some blockers and just hit the hole and took off. As soon as I caught it, I just turned up the field and tried to get as many yards as I can. I had some blockers and I got in the end zone. “

*On his transition from safety to nickel...*

“It has been good. In this defense, they are very similar. They have the same kind of calls so I adjust very well on the fly. I have been able to pick it up really fast so it hasn’t been difficult at all for me.”

*On less pressure after being bowl eligible...*

“The pressure is not off of us. The season hasn’t being going the way we had wanted it to, but we are just looking to improve each week and get better. It definitely feels good to get another win for our seniors. They have put a lot into our program and to get them into another bowl game. It is a great situation for us and it is big for those guys because they put a lot into the program.”

### **QB Jeremy Johnson**

*On his performance...*

“I feel like I made some plays, made some throws that I’ve missed. But overall as a team I feel like we played well and we executed at a great level. (It was a) great win, and a lot of momentum going into next week.

*On throwing more deep passes...*

“It feels great and just giving those guys chances to make plays, which they did today, and it just feels good to have a victory.”

*On tucking the ball and running...*

“Just the zone read, and we’ve been watching on film all week that they were going to crash, and they were going to allow me to pull [the ball] and run for what I can and get out of bounds That’s what I did.”

*On his confidence...*

“I’ve been confident, and in this game there was a lot of momentum, for this team and myself. It’s a win. We’re going to enjoy it and watch our mistakes on film tomorrow.”

**WR Ricardo Louis**

*On long catch in second half...*

“Coach has been saying they were giving me chances down field, and they did that and I was just trying to make a play on it. I need that moving forward for me and Jeremy [Johnson] to get that rhythm back that we had in camp and the spring going deep. Once we get that back I don’t think we can be stopped.”

*On looking ahead to facing Alabama next week...*

“We’re definitely going to be ready for that. It’s the Iron Bowl; you’ve always got to bring the A game. Every time you play them, you have to bring your A game, so that’s what we’re going to do.”

*On facing Alabama’s tough rushing defense...*

“Next week, it’s hard work in practice, doing everything right and focusing on the details. Once we do that, we’re going to be alright.”

*On first half deep catch being overturned...*

“I thought I caught it; I thought I had my hand under it. I had one hand on the ball and the tip of the ball had hit the ground. When I [saw] it on the big screen, I knew it wasn’t a catch “

