



2015 Birmingham Bowl Postgame Quotes
Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015
Legion Field – Birmingham, Ala.

Auburn Head Coach Gus Malzahn

Opening Statement...

"I'm just really happy for our players. They played extremely hard and our defense was outstanding. Memphis has a really good quarterback and bunch of skill guys that have made plays all season long. Our offense in the second half really took the game over, especially upfront. That made a huge difference for us".

On winning this for the seniors...

"I am extremely happy for our seniors to be able to get the guys out with a bowl win and see the smiles on their faces. We have a lot of great kids and thanks to them, this will leave us with momentum for the future. You can tell that we have good things ahead".

On remembering the last time the defense played this well...

"That was a great overall defensive performance. We really wanted to get pressure on the quarterback and harass him. Our secondary was able to lockdown their receivers and we didn't give them much room. I also thought we tackled well today, which was huge. Lance Thompson, Rodney Garner, Travis Williams and the defensive guys did a super job getting these guys ready to play."

On Jovon Robinson...

"I'm proud of him. He really protected that football today. He did a good job out on the perimeter and got some tough yards. The run that stood out to me is the one from the three yard line when he kind of got stuck but kept moving his feet and the offensive line drove him into the endzone. That was one of the huge plays in the game."

On the punt return of Marcus Davis...

That was a huge play. The way he hit the sideline and made a couple of cuts was big and it was a huge play in the game. He's done a good job all year by simply catching the ball, securing the ball and making good decisions. It couldn't have come at a better time, and I'm really happy for Marcus.

On the momentum that Jeremy Johnson provided...

"He didn't start the game, but he really handled himself like a champ. When he came into the game, it gave us great momentum. He threw a touchdown pass and came back and ran for another. Overall he did a very good job and I'm proud of him. He gave us momentum in the second half and there is no doubt about that."

On the production of Carlton Davis...

"He has really started to establish himself as one of the lockdown corners in this league. He started as a freshman and really is a tough kid and a great competitor. His future is really bright."

On finishing the season on a winning note...

"It means a lot. Like I said earlier, these seniors have meant a lot to our program and a lot of them helped us get to a national championship, so to see them go out on a winning note is big. They have helped get our confidence back. The thing that stands out the most about this team is that we've had some close loses but they stuck together. The kids played their tails off and never quit. The future is very bright and I think that you could see that today."

On the hiring of Kevin Steele...

"I just wanted to confirm that Kevin Steele will be our next defensive coordinator. We are extremely excited to have a guy with his experience. His character, his work ethic will all fit in very well with us and he is getting ready to take over a very talented group."

Auburn Player Quotes

Kris Frost, Sr., LB

On the importance of today's victory...

"Having the opportunity to play this game is a big deal, especially with the legendary stadium we are playing in and the position that we were in knowing we had to get to seven wins. We knew what was on the line for us as seniors and as a team. We knew we had to come in and execute the plan, and we knew that we had a great plan. If we did that, the game would come out in our favor. We played a great game defensively and offensively. We put a lot of pressure on the quarterback and pretty much checked off everything we wanted to do."

On stopping the Memphis offense...

"We knew what we had to do, and it was all about executing. We executed well on each and every single play. Our coaches put us in great positions to be successful."

On what the next defensive coordinator can expect...

"He can expect a whole bunch of guys with incredible work ethic. We have guys that are always willing to go to work. They clock in, get the work done and clock out at the end of the day. They come in with the same attitude each and every day. I think a lot of that has to do with the great group of seniors that we've had this year, and also with the young guys that always have a great approach to practice and really love the game. That is all that it comes down too. You will work hard for the game if you really have a passion for it. That is what the next defensive coordinator will come into. It will be a gold mine."

On winning the game after Cassanova McKinzy's injury...

"It was hard for all of us, especially the linebacking core, to see that. This is his city, and he wanted to put on a show for his family and friends. We kept saying in the locker room that we have to raise our level now. We had already been doing well as a defensive unit early in the game, but we had to raise it higher. We had to have people come into the game like JaViere Mitchell. He did a really good job. Injuries happen, but the game of football is all about adjusting to the flow of the game. We are praying for Cass. We know he was be back as soon as possible."

Jovon Robinson, Jr, RB

On playing against his hometown team...

"It is definitely a blessing. I have been able to be influenced by a lot of people along my journey. Today's game was special because it was personal. I know a lot of guys that play for Memphis. They came into the game as a tough opponent and a rivalry for me. I stuck to what I knew and listened to what my head coach had to say. The results came out in our favor."

On his performance over the last third of the season...

"I think my performance over the last half of the season is a testament to my work ethic during the spring and summer. I experienced a slight injury that hindered me, but I had the support of my teammates. I pushed through adversity. I was able to be successful."

On Jeremy Johnson's performance...

"He has loads of talent, but I think I taught him a couple of moves. I glad for him. He is deserving of what he did today."

Carlton Davis, Fr., DB

On stopping the Memphis offense...

"We knew Paxton Lynch was a very dynamic quarterback. All week in practice coach preached to not let him beat us by himself. I think we did a great job executing the game plan. We stuck to it and just played Auburn football."

On his freshman season...

"It has been a growing year. My coaches just preached to me to get better and practice every day. I tried to improve one thing in practice every day. That's why I got the results that I did. I am real happy with my season. I felt that I could have made a few more plays, but that comes with being a freshman and learning the game."

Marcus Davis, Jr., WR

On punt returns...

"The guys up front did a very good job of giving me a chance. I just took it from there. I really appreciate the guys up front."