

GREENWOOD, S.C. – The Erskine Flying Fleet lost to Tusculum University, 47-7 on Saturday at J.W. Babb Stadium.

Here's everything coach Shap Boyd along with quarterback Lance Brownlee had to say.

**ERSKINE SPORTS INFORMATION
FOOTBALL
TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY AT ERSKINE POSTGAME MEDIA
March 27, 2021
J.W. BABB STADIUM – GREENWOOD, S.C.**

Erskine Head Coach – Shap Boyd

Opening statement

Boyd: “We obviously didn’t perform like we would have liked to. I think Tusculum is a good football team, I just think that mentally we are not the team that we needed to be to have a chance to compete for 60 minutes. I think the best thing that I can take away from this game is at halftime they regrouped a little bit and they came out in the second half and they played hard for 30 more minutes. It wasn’t a complete debacle. They were put into a hole and they came back and they fought. That was good to see in the second half.”

We talked to Lance and he said that a couple of guys came in and tried to rally the troops. When you have a game like that, it’s easy for the guys to put their heads down.

Boyd: “That’s something I am preaching all the time. Demeanor. I really struggle with kids who hang their hands. If I see a kid do it in practice, I’m all over him. I think we had some of that, but for the first time there were some players that were not allowing it to happen. Lot of times it’s been the coaches. The players were the ones that were stepping in. It was good to see. I can take some positives out of it, we have to. Nobody wants to get whipped like that. The head coach over there is a friend of mine and he walked up goes ‘I’m sorry coach,’ and I said ‘hey, it’s not your job to stop yourself from scoring.’ It is what it is. We definitely can play better and hopefully we will get back on that track and try and move in that direction, starting tomorrow.”

With Edward Waters canceling, it was a short week. Trying to get game film and get prepared. Can you walk us through how you guys were trying to prepare the players as best you can?

Boyd: “We knew what Edward Waters was. Everybody knew the game plan. We had everything set. We really didn’t even know we had a game until probably 3 o’clock on Wednesday. To have played x number of games up until that point and then to lose a game, I knew that that practice wasn’t going to be a good practice for us. I said we won’t practice (Wednesday) because at that point we didn’t have a game. We didn’t know anything about Tusculum at that point. Tusculum was not even one of the teams that was being floated around as possible opponents. There was five or six schools and they were like seven or eight I guess, because I didn’t know anything about Tusculum. To get them thrown in late, with freshmen feeling comfortable and ready to

play Edward Waters because they felt like they let one get away. There was a little something else that Edward Waters was bringing to the table. Playing a game was better than not playing a game, but definitely it was less than ideal. I'm not making an excuse, we didn't get re-centered and refocused and that's my job, I'm the head coach. We had to practice on Thursday and then Friday is normally just a run through, but we had to practice on Friday as well. So, we basically had a practice and a half to prepare. I just didn't do a good enough job, I guess. I don't think we were very focused."

You had the second-string offense going in, the second-string defense going in. What's the positive of that?

Boyd: "Getting to see some kids. We did that last week with North Greenville. NGU was a really good thing. It forced us to play some kids. It's hard when you're in the season to experiment with kids because you only have a limited number of reps in practice. You only have so many reps in the course of a practice. Our first kids will get 16-18 reps, our two's will get a little bit less than that. You don't have a ton of plays. NGU was awesome because it forced us to kind of play some kids. I think some kids did some good things. I wish I was playing them because we were playing better. I wish we could've flipped the coin tonight and they're playing good, not the other way around. I wish the circumstances were flipped.

You got the touchdown late there with the QB read. Can you talk about getting to the one yard line twice and getting stopped twice. Can you talk about how that feels like the longest yard on the field?

Boyd: "Our offense is hamstrung. Our offensive line is limited. They've had a lot of injuries and they've had a lot of different things that have changed their composition. They're playing with different players than they were at the beginning of the year. You don't have a unit that's used to playing together. They have kids rotating in almost every week and that's been tough. It's frustrating. It's frustrating for everybody. It's frustrating for the offensive coaches, it's frustrating for the defensive coaches. It's frustrating for everybody because they're moving the ball and get into the red zone and then struggle in the red zone, but you have to have people all on the same page and in sync. It's hard to get in sync when you are changing them in and out as much as we are in the present time. Honestly, we have kids that aren't ready to play too. At times, kids that aren't ready to play, have to play. That's the nature of the beast when you're playing with all young kids. Some kids are physically more mature than others and some kids are definitely more ready to play than others. Most of these kids aren't necessarily playing because they aren't good enough. It's just they are physically not ready to play. Whether it's a mental thing or it's a physical thing, they are just not ready to play."

Most games this season, you've talked about how you are not concerned with the result of a play or the score of the game or anything like that. You've talked about preaching effort about giving effort on 100% of your plays. You come out and get punched in the mouth. How did you feel like your kids responded to that? Did you see that kind of effort towards that level that you want to see?

Boyd: "Effort has really not been an issue. We didn't get whipped today because of effort. It

wasn't effort, it was execution. That's the part that I've said is that we have to give great effort and we've done that. We've done that for the first three games. The problem is now, that effort is not enough. You have to give effort with execution and that's the part where we're falling down and we're coming up short. We were not as focused. Our minds were not where they needed to be to compete against a team of this caliber. I'm not saying that they are world beaters, but they are certainly at a different level than where we are at this point. We couldn't afford not to be at our best and we definitely were not at our best. I don't think it's an effort thing. I don't think that for a second. I think they had mental lapses, at times it appears that it's effort, but I don't think it's effort. If it was, they would have a price to pay for that if it was effort and I truly do not believe that's been the case. We definitely have to get better. It's more between the ears. Physically we are what we are, we cannot get bigger, faster, stronger overnight. That's weight room stuff and that's stuff that has to happen between now and August. The only other part that we can work on now is the mental aspect and knowing our assignments and trying to execute our assignments better."

Erskine Student Athlete – Lance Brownlee

With a game like this, talk about how you're feeling and how you take a loss like this?

Brownlee: "It's tough, but you learn from it. Like coach always says, you don't need to harp on this week, there's always the next week. You have to keep going, keep your head up and always focus on the next play."

For a lot of guys, it seemed like there's the ability for guys to get down and it seemed like on the sideline some of that happened, but also seems like for you and the offense you guys kept going. How were you able to lock in and keep playing?

Brownlee: "We had some guys during halftime that kept coming in saying 'we have to keep our head up.' Everyone knows as soon as you put your head down you're defeated. You always want to keep fighting and keep pushing and that's what coach Hayes pushes for us to do."

When you got in in the second half what were you trying to do out there? Walk me through your drives.

Brownlee: "Me and coach Hayes were talking about it and we just need one. We needed to get a drive started and that was my mentality. Don't do too much, see it, throw it and get the read."

On the read option, when you saw the defensive tackle pulling did you just say 'alright I'm just walking it in, we have to get this'?

Brownlee: "I told coach Hayes on the drive before, I wanted it. The next time down I think he understood that I wanted it in my hands, I felt like I should've scored. Got a pull read and Oz Smith did a great job as a left tight end, I got a good block and got around him and got in the end zone."

Was there anything that you were seeing that led you to think this is going to be open if we implement this, or were you just saying I want the ball here.

Brownlee: "I just wanted the ball in my hands. Me and Collin were talking the whole time and when I asked him when I pulled was the hole there and he said 'no you have a good read the hole was clogged up.'"

You get down to the one-yard line and get stopped multiple times it feels like the longest yard on the field. Talk about how tough it is to score there.

Brownlee: "When you get down on the goal line you see a lot more man coverage and you get more people on the line. The defensive line's job is to clog it up and that's just what they were doing today. We've had a couple problems the last couple weeks too. We're working on it, trying to implement new things and trying to get our running backs in the end zone."

You didn't find out who you were playing until Wednesday, so talk about the challenges of

putting together a game plan and gaining an understanding of your opponent.

Brownlee: “So Wednesday we found out we weren’t playing Edward Waters. We were told as of then that there was no game and had the rest of the day off. Later that afternoon we were told we were playing Tusculum. The coaches didn’t get the film until late Wednesday night, so we didn’t even practice Wednesday. Coach Hayes and a couple other coaches stayed up all night breaking down film. I thought the coaches did the best they could do for two days’ notice. That’s hard on anybody, not just the players but the coaches as well.

Have you ever been through something like that, where it’s been that last minute?

Brownlee: “Senior year of high school. Hurricanes. Every year during high school we’d get a hurricane where I’m from. I remember we played on a Wednesday night because a hurricane was coming Friday. It’s tough, but it’s what you have to do some times.

In those moments are you just trying to simplify everything down, we’re just going to play whatever system we’re running?

Brownlee: “Yeah you can only game plan so much in that short of time. At some point, we have to do what we do and have to make them stop us.