

# FIU VS. MIDDLE TENNESSEE

NOV. 15, 2014

## POSTGAME QUOTES

### FIU HEAD COACH RON TURNER

#### *Opening Statement*

"It was a great win for us, and a great win for the program. I am very proud of the guys for falling ahead 21-3 against a very good, physical team. They just kept battling and kept fighting. There were some sore ankles all week, and they just kept coming back. Some other guys stepped up and played, so I'm just very happy for them. I'm very proud of them; and I'm very happy for the seniors. The last time they walked off that field they got the W. It was a good team win against a good football team."

#### *On the offbeat plays throughout the game....*

"There were some crazy ones out there. I think the Hail Mary at the end of the half and the play before the Hail Mary popping that run. I mean some of the guys, it was recommended, 'take a knee, take a knee' and I said no were going to pop it so we popped it. We ran it, we popped it, got range, and guys did a great job. Guys did a really good job of steeping up, buying some time, which you have to do in those situations. It was a huge boost. We didn't come out with the energy that I wanted and expected. We can't come out in sport them 18 points, we've got to come out with more energy."

#### *On thoughts about the slow start...*

"I think the practice went well. We had great energy so I don't know. I have no idea why we got off to the slow start. We will look at it and get it fixed. We got it going, but we have to come out sooner."

#### *On what changed in the second half defensively...*

"Energy. We just had energy. I mean I get that we didn't have it earlier, but we the coaches did a good job at making some adjustments on some things they were doing. The players did a really good job of handling the adjustments that the defensive coaches made. They got some confidence and got some confidence. They (FIU) shut down some of those things they (Middle Tennessee) were doing."

#### *On what goes into closing out a game like tonight ...*

"Having the confidence to do it. I think in the second half we continued to gain confidence. Defensively we were stopping them. Offensively, we were moving the ball so I think our guys felt confident. It's all about confidence. We hadn't done it in other games, but I always tell them once you learn how to do it once, you will know what it takes. I think our guys did that today because of the confidence we have."

*On if last week's game had any carry over into this game...*

"You might think that but I didn't see it at all during the week. We came back here Sunday and had very good focus. We came back Tuesday and had very good focus and good practice. I don't think it did at all. Obviously they were very disappointed, but I also think they were determined to finish on a winning note and send our seniors out with a win; but most importantly finish on a positive note for the guys not coming back. So I don't think it had anything to do with it"

## **MIDDLE TENNESSEE HEAD COACH RICK STOCKSTILL**

*On overall thoughts of the game...*

"I thought we started out pretty good offensively and defensively. The fumble near the end of the first half really hurt us. In the second half, we didn't give ourselves a chance. The turnovers hurt. When you turn the ball over five times, you don't deserve to win."

*On disappointment of loss...*

"It's disappointing, highly disappointing because we didn't give ourselves a chance. You're up 21-3, you're going in to make it 28-10 at half. We didn't play well, and it was uncharacteristic. We had three backs fumble the ball. It was just a very disappointing, sickening loss."

*On Hail Mary pass before halftime...*

"We let them back in the game. That's what I told them. That play gave them some momentum going into halftime because fundamentals. We didn't protect the football."

## **FIU TIGHTEND JONNU SMITH**

*On hail marry and fumble recovery play...*

"I was just trying to make a play for my teammates. I was playing my heart out to send our seniors out the right way."

*On hail marry...*

"The ball was tipped, and I got into position where I was supposed to be and made the play."

*On the (Napoleon) Maxwell fumble for touchdown...*

"I told him that it was my fault after the game because my man forced the fumble; so I had to make up for it."

*On flatness to start the game...*

"Some games you come out fired up, and some games you don't. It didn't have anything to do with if we were ready or not."

*On connection with quarterback (Alex) McGough...*

"Off the field we're real tight knit. I treat him like my little brother. When you have that relationship off the field it translates to on the field."

## **FIU LINEBACKER DAVISON COLIMON**

*On interception return...*

"It was a great feeling. It was my first pick, and I wanted to make something out of it. It was an unbelievable feeling. I got some great blocks from teammates, and it could not have been done without the coaching."

*On the pass that was intercepted...*

"I believe it was tipped. I think it was Denzell Perine that tipped it, and I just made a play on it."

*On the momentum changing...*

"At halftime we talked to each other, and we knew we had to pick it up. We wanted to come out with the momentum coming out of the half, and that's what we did."

*On the mood shift going into halftime...*

"It lifted a lot. We were excited so that gave us momentum."

*On anything else changing after halftime...*

"We emphasized everybody doing their job, and not doing anything you are not supposed to do. We took key to what we were supposed to do."

*On what is needed to force turnovers...*

"It starts off up front with the D-line with getting pressure as well as getting in line with the DBs and safeties. We just want to come with pressure each time so we can create havoc and create turnovers."