

Georgia State Head Coach Bill Curry

(Opening statement)

“It takes an awful lot to build a football team. It’s pretty clear to me now that it’s considerably more than I thought. I see enormous progress in the eyes and in the efforts of our guys. Are we playing the kind of football that we have to? No. But I see effort and a lot of fire, and we don’t give up. Ever. We learn that in the off season. We build on experiences like today because we’re able to see where we had opportunities to actually be in this game that we let slip away.

“Tennessee’s execution was superb in the passing game when the game was still in question, and they put us out of the game with their excellence in that regard. If we can eliminate our center-quarterback issues, and eliminate the penalties that come at the worst possible time--and they are fewer this year, but they come at the wrong time. We made up for a couple of them today and made the first downs anyhow, and we fought every step of the way, but we have to eliminate the mistakes. We have to be able to adjust to what modern offenses do. There was much more determination and grit this week than there was last week, and next week there will be even more. And then even more the next. That’s a promise. This group is special.”

(On his quarterback)

“He never makes an excuse. He always takes responsibility. He says, “I did it. I’ll fix it.” He is ready to go back to work, every snap and every series. He never quits. The way he finished the game was demonstrative of the person he is.”

(On the end of the game and giving up)

“The fans didn’t understand; they booed when we used our timeout. We’re going to use everything we have. We won’t ever let it go. If we get possession with four seconds left, we’re going to try to score another one because that’s what we are. We will never allow an asset to go unused. We will never leave a timeout on the board when it would give us another shot. So if the fans are late getting to their cocktail party, I apologize to them, but we’ll do it every time--every single time-- to teach a lesson to the guys that you never give up.”

(On Cordarrelle Patterson)

“There was shock and awe at the speed of Patterson. In that respect, we didn’t look a lot different than N.C. State. I had a long talk with Mike Archer and he said that guy is an NFL guy, and he just outran us. He outran us on the kickoff return. The ball was kicked a few yards into the end zone and he brought it out. I was praying that he wouldn’t. But he’s special. I’d like not to see him again on the same field.”

(On playing at Neyland)

“It’s a funny dynamic, because I looked up there and I thought, “Why would I have affection for this place?” I’ve been here twelve times before. My first away game my freshman year. It was my first college away game and I was ejected for fighting. Then I came back a bunch of times to play, and I managed to win here when I was playing and then we won some when I was coaching--but not as much as Tennessee won. There’s something about it. I have a lot of affection for this place. I looked up at the half, and the stands were full to watch Georgia State. And I thought, Wow. I give the fans credit for that.”