

Marshall Head Coach Doc Holliday

Opening statement:

I think I say every year, but how nice is it to be the head football coach of a game you know you can't lose with the way that game is. How special was that to watch Red Dawson leading that team out there. It was just an unbelievable moment. I think we can all cherish bringing those players back and taking the field the way we did today. It will be an experience I will never forget, just such a special time. I am proud of our football team. It was a very physical game in the first half and that is the way Charlotte always plays. I thought our guys came out in the second half and responded really well. Nobody has run the football against Charlotte like we did today. In the second half Knox had over 100 yards. We call that competitive excellence around here. When a play goes in and it is finally his turn and goes in well prepared to do that. He is a tremendous young back who will see a lot of carries for us. He had a lot of carries because of that. I thought Isaiah Green went in and did well. That being said, I thought our defense, after the first drive, did well. That team had less than 200 yards. Excited about our football team and the way they played. We have to come back and get ready to roll but it was a great evening for The Herd.

On facing adversity early:

Anthony hasn't done that all year. We did get the turnover in that half but I thought our kids responded really well. Even with the adversity we still took it down and scored, which is huge. Then we stuck it in the next drive there too with the field goal. It was just a great team win for us and the fact that it happens on the game to honor the 75 makes it even more special.

On offense picking up defense:

That and special teams had a blocked punt for a touchdown which I thought was huge. I thought our kicker went in and did well. He went three for three today in field goals and showed he can stick it through there. At the end of the day, we take care of the football and we haven't lost a game all year. We would still have the one, but we still end up winning the turnover margin. Just need to continue to take care of the football and continue doing all three phases. Take each game one at a time and see what happens.

On Knox:

He has great pad level. He is 225 pounds. I like what I saw out there tonight and you are going to see a lot more of that kid. He is just a Freshman but he is a good young back. Greg Adkins did a great job assigning some runs. I think Knox had well over 100 yards tonight, matter of fact he had 116. We ran the ball pretty well against that team and that is a tribute to Greg, Tim, and that offensive line.

On pass rush:

We had that one sack at the end of the half where Couch was offside and they ended up getting a field goal but other than that the defense did well. They got some pressure. They rotated a couple of quarterbacks in there. The one guy played against us a year ago and he was more of a running type guy, but they kept going back and forth with him and the Miami kid who transferred. However, again defense

played well. If you can play that kind of defense and do really well on special teams and continue taking care of that ball, you have a really good shot at winning the game. That is kind of what we did today.

On Hernandez:

He showed up a lot. He played really well. You know Malik Gant; I don't think there is a better safety around then he is. You guys have been around here a long time and if you know a better one, a more physical one I would like to see him because he is just a tremendous football player.

Greg Adkins, offensive line coach

On adjusting to Charlotte's defense...

Charlotte changed their defense over the last three games and played this three-down front that not a lot of people are playing. We spent a little extra time trying to figure out some runs and they worked out pretty well for us.

On the mentality heading into the game...

The mentality going in was that the windows were going to close pretty fast with the way that they had played the run game. The design of the runs were to try and separate the defense a little bit and give us a little more space and get the ball out on the edge a little bit more than directly in the middle.

Isaiah Green, redshirt freshman quarterback

On returning to the starting lineup...

It felt good to have an opportunity to represent this community, this football team and the whole city. It felt good to be able to put that jersey on and help us get a win today.

On Brenden Knox's performance...

Everybody on our team already knew that Knox was capable of that performance. We just had three guys in front of him that were playing good football for us. When his time came today, he stepped up and took advantage of the opportunity.

Brenden Knox, redshirt freshman running back

On the game and his performance...

That felt great. It was a good team win. All the rest of the backs, we push each other to be the best we can possibly be and today was just my time to step up.

On the third quarter drive that put Marshall ahead for good...

We just kept moving the ball and trying to progress. That drive was huge for us. I just do whatever I have to for the team.

Frankie Hernandez, redshirt senior linebacker

On responding to Charlotte's opening drive...

Coach Holliday was on us after we (gave up the 75-yard touchdown drive). It's a long game and stuff like that happens. We knew we had to tighten up and buckle down a little bit harder.

On the offense providing a third quarter spark...

We got the running game going with Brenden Knox. He's going to be really good for our program. Brendan got it going, the offensive line got it going, and everyone was clicking.

Chase Hancock, redshirt senior linebacker

On playing for the 75...

We haven't lost this game since I've been here and I think it's important that it continues. You can't stress enough the importance of this game. There's no better way to honor the ones who lost their lives than to come out with a win.

On the pregame entrance...

Every year the (administration and staff) finds a way to make it more special. This year, we got to walk with the former players. It's very humbling and I'm glad that, as a senior, this was my last time to honor the 75 on this night. I'm just glad I got to be a part of that.

Jordan Dowrey, redshirt senior offensive lineman

On the run game...

I think that, especially in the second half, we got comfortable with what they did on defense. We got to know what they do. After we got a feel for it, it became a game where we had to be as physical as possible. That was on the o-line and the running backs, and between the two, we found some success in the run game.

On the early stages of the third quarter...

The first drive of the third quarter is big. When you come out and on the first play, turn the ball over, that puts a lot of pressure on the next time you get the ball because momentum is going their way and that can get out of control. When momentum shifts in an important point of the game, you have to go out and get the momentum back. We did a good job of that. We understood what the importance of that drive was and made sure we did everything we could to get points out of it.

Ryan Bee, redshirt senior defensive lineman

On the importance of the game...

All week, we knew what we were playing for this week. It's bigger than all of us and we took that and ran with it. It's a big game. I've been here five years now and we've never lost this game. It's a good tradition to carry on.

We heard that they wanted to establish their run game and that's what they've been doing. Benny LeMay is one of the best running backs in our league and it was a point of emphasis to win on first and second down, get them behind the chains, get it to third down, make them pass it and I felt like we did that tonight.

Malik Gant, redshirt junior safety

On winning this game for the 75...

That was huge. That was our main goal was to win for the 75 and all of our fallen players who used to wear this jersey, Devon (Johnson), Lo (Larry Aaron), for everybody. It just had a strong meaning to the game and we just wanted to show everybody that it's more than a game at Marshall.

On responding after the opening drive...

Our coaches were telling us on the sideline that adversity is always going to hit. We knew exactly what it was and we knew going out what we had to do, where we made our mistakes and we just fixed them. As a unit, our backs sometimes are against the wall, but we know we're strong enough to get back on our feet and show what we're really about.