

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE

# POSTGAME OPPONENT QUOTES

Saturday, November 4, 2017

Floyd Stadium – Murfreesboro, TN

**Middle Tennessee 41, ODU 10**

### HEAD COACH BOBBY WILDER:

#### **On the team's energy to start the game:**

"Yeah there's no question the effort was there but the execution, that's what really hurt us, particularly on offense in the first half, because we had a lot of plays and a lot of possessions but our inability to score touchdowns in the redzone came back to haunt us today."

#### **On the blocked field goal attempt:**

"Yeah it was a basic lineup that they ran. We were a little slow on our operation time and we didn't get a hand on the end guy on that play."

#### **On starting quarterback Steven Williams Jr. being taken out:**

"Yeah he got hit pretty hard in the head on that run at the end of the half. He was having some problems with his balance and we just didn't feel good for his safety, playing him in the second half. But he was having an excellent first half. He was 10-for-13 in the first half, he had two drops and overthrew a deep ball, so he was on all of his reads and was playing really good football. It's unfortunate he got hurt."

#### **On the Middle Tennessee run game:**

"Yeah we were trying to play a lot of dime coverage early in this game, a lot of six-defensive back sets to handle the pass game. And I thought in the first quarter we did an excellent job of it and in the second quarter, (Stockstill) took advantage of some match-ups. He's an excellent player, one of the best players in the league and we just couldn't hold up throughout the game."

#### **On the injuries through the season:**

"Yeah it was really an unusual season, the injuries early and then the quarterback situation, ya know, the third week losing Lawry for a length of time and then losing Cox for the last three games, there was a lot there with the injuries. But it's really about the execution, the next guy has got to come in and play well. I thought this was clearly the best year in Conference-USA since we've been in it with the quality of teams. There's definitely eight teams bowl eligible and there might be a ninth so this was a good year in the league. And we got ourselves behind in the middle of the season but really proud of the way we battled in the last month. We just didn't have it today."

#### **On the feeling of this team going forward:**

"Yeah we'll take a look at everything with the program, we'll do a full assessment starting next week. We'll look back at everything, we certainly have a lot of good football players coming back, Stevie Williams got valuable experience this year and he got better every game he played. It's unfortunate he didn't play in the second half, he was playing so well today. We didn't turn the ball over in November, so we gave ourselves a chance from that regard, but certainly in a lot of areas we have to improve in as a program."

### DEFENSIVE TACKLE MILES FOX

#### **On the Middle Tennessee run game:**

"We had a thing going this week that we were going to run off the ball as D-Tackles, playing with speed as fast as we can. And I guess they caught us in the run game, we were playing pass every play so I guess that kind of hurt."

#### **On if the energy was there going into the game:**

"I feel like we did. I just feel like everyone played hard, I just feel like it wasn't our day, it wasn't meant to be. It was kind of bad luck, it all starts in the offseason, so we've got to have a strong



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offseason.”

**On the feeling in the locker room:**

“Little bit of both, I feel terrible for the seniors right now. I wish we could have sent them to a bowl game in their last year. But we’re going to have a year next year. We’re going to be crazy. We’re really looking forward to Stevie, with a year under his belt. The defense is going to be great. The rest of the offense is going to be great. We’re going to have a good team.”

