

ULM WARHAWK FOOTBALL



POST-GAME QUOTES: AUBURN 31, ULM 28 F/OT

Head Coach Todd Berry

Opening Statement...

"We're really proud of our kids, obviously. They keep battling back. There's a lot of things that we have to overcome when you're on the road and you're playing against some very, very good athletes, some very good coaches and a great tradition. We keep battling. Obviously, would've liked for this one to come out different. It's on me, all the way on me. I did not manage this game as well as what I needed to, and so this is my fault. I wish I could have it over obviously for the kids' sake, but I think this group's got a lot of character and they'll battle back. We came out of it relatively healthy and in terms of injuries I won't know anything probably until tomorrow in relation to one of the injuries."

On quarterback Kolton Browning...

"I don't know if we got him as involved as what we should have. We kept him a little bit more involved in the Arkansas game and I think we should've got him more involved in the game earlier in the game because he is a difference kind of guy and he starts making things happen and everything starts changing for us. I don't think I got him involved in the game fast enough, early enough, and we need to have him involved earlier in the game."

On mistakes/differences from last week...

"I was much more aggressive last week in going for it on fourth down and every game is a little bit different. You play it off different because the match-ups are different. The situation's different. I knew going in to this game I wanted to play much more of a field position game than last week because just the nature of the teams we're playing. We handled the field position pretty well, we took care of the football, which were two of the things. I don't know what the time of possession came out to be, but I'm assuming that we probably won that. That was something that we kind of went in wanting to do. I don't think we were obviously as good as what we need to be on third downs, and that's something that we've got to correct. Our tackling was really, really not very good, and some of that's them. Don't get me wrong, they've got some outstanding players, they're going to have a great season as they continue to move forward and I know that, they know that. We need to tackle better. We didn't tackle as well as what we needed to and looking back I'm much more aggressive than what I showed today. It's on me. At the end of the game, I don't take that field goal, so it's on me. I go for it. It's the way that I am. That's on me. It's my fault."

On deciding to go for a field goal in overtime after going for fourth down last week...

"Last week, obviously, we had the ball second. We already knew what the score was. They had already kicked a field goal and while obviously we could still tie it with a field goal, sometimes it's better to put some points on the board and you put some pressure on the other team to try to make something happen and obviously that didn't work for us. Like I said, this one's my fault. Error in judgment."

On poor tackling...

"I think you've certainly got to give Auburn players a lot of credit because I think obviously they are the ones that are pulling out of the tackles and you can't dismiss that and just say that it's bad tackling. Sometimes guys have good players, and they do. We didn't wrap up near as well. We were kind of throwing bodies around and sometimes you can get into some bad habits. We didn't tackle a bunch in practice this week because we were a little bit beat up and we wanted to kind of come in fresh. Obviously we need to tackle some more this next week because this is still a young team. There's just not very many seniors in this group and we had a lot of freshmen out there for the first time today, and it showed at times. Some of those guys we had to play a lot of people, it was certainly a little bit warmer day. We played a significant number of people in this game. We're about a year away from where we'd like to be at a maturity standpoint, but they fight and we've got to tackle better."

Junior QB Kolton Browning

On today's game...

"I felt like at times we moved the ball really well down the field. There were also some plays where we felt like we could have scored some more points today than we did."

On what the key was to playing with Auburn and being successful offensively...

"I think it was an all-around effort from everybody on the offensive side. The receivers were running great routes and getting open. The offensive line did a great job protecting and seeing the blitz and giving me time to get rid of the ball. The game slows down a lot once you've been in the system for three years."

On if he felt like the team prepared well for Auburn...

"They did a lot of things that we expected them to do. They ran many of the same coverages we practiced, but we were prepared well. Our coaches did a great job of preparing us for this week. I felt like we executed our game plan just like we knew we could."

On if he felt hurried today...

"I had time, for the most part, but they have a really fast, really good defensive line along with the rest of their defense. I did get hurried a few times, but nothing to panic about. I felt like I could still step in there and make the throw or make a play."

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On the defense trying to get after him...

"We definitely saw more stunts during the game than we thought, and they blitzed toward the end of the game a lot. But still, they ran a lot of coverages that we knew they were going to."

On what it says about the team to have a good start to the season...

"We never look at the scoreboard and say 'It's over.' Our offense is explosive and very dynamic. We can move the ball up and down the field really fast. Coach can put us in a two-minute situation, and we can take shots down the field, or we can take a slow drive inch by inch. If we can continue to execute on offense the way we have the first two games, I think we'll be very successful and keep putting points on the board."

Senior LB Cameron Blakes

On problems with tackling...

"We just over-pursued mainly. I put a lot of it on me, because most of the time I was the man on the line of scrimmage. Those are normally the plays I usually make. I just had an out of body experience on some of those plays which is unlike my character. For the most part I was pursuing really hard and running behind their pads."

On Auburn's running game...

"We just got outplayed as far as the physicality. We showed spurts of it but we just weren't consistent. They gashed us for big ones and you just can't have that."

On Auburn's trick play that resulted in a touchdown...

"It did catch us off-guard. We prepared for the play they came out with. We just weren't expecting them to do a throwback. One of those plays you just have to chalk it up to the board."

On Hail-Mary pass at the end of the half...

"That was supposed to be an eliminated touchdown by me. I got in the backfield and beat the fullback, but I just didn't make the play. It's something that I'm used to doing, and that my team is used to doing. I just totally let them down on a lot of big plays and I take full credit for it."

On the team's mood...

"We just play ball. Everybody's the same. Everybody puts on their pants the same way we put on our pants. It's just going out and executing, and seeing who plays better. They outplayed us for the most part in this game, especially the running game."

Sophomore DE Joey Gautney

On Auburn's yards after contact...

"I hate to say it, but we had some poor tackling this week. We couldn't focus on locking up the core of the defender. It's an easy fix. It won't happen again. It's one of those things that if you don't practice during the week, then it is going to be hard to come out and play it."

On difference in running game from Arkansas to Auburn...

"Their running back was a completely different running back than the one we went against last weekend. I think he's about a 170 and he's quick. That has a lot to do with it, but in the end, if we are all coming to the ball then we should be able to make the play when we hit the ball the first time. There's no excuse for a broken tackle."

On defensive adjustments made at halftime...

"We went out there and we didn't execute the defense as well we wanted to in the first half. In the second half we came out and executed a little better. We held them to seven points in the second half. We came out and executed in the second half. We executed the plays that were designed to stop them."