

Florida State University Football Media Conference

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Jimbo Fisher

COACH FISHER: Very hard-fought game. We know the team right now, we still have some work to do. We still have to make the plays at the right time at the key moment. We had our opportunities and we did a heck of a job coming back in the game, made some great drives. Tremendous last drive, checking, running, throwing, getting some things around. The offense is growing more. It's expanding more.

Third down we got -- going way up in the red zone, again, capitalize on touchdown down in the red zone and things we did, a couple turnovers hurt us.

Defensively containing him, he had one big scramble out where he broke a play, had some nice runs but our defense did a nice job but again both sides of the ball have to get a stop and make the drive at the right time. We missed an unforced field goal. Slip up there but they did, too.

The game was back and forth, but we've got to keep going. We expect to keep playing better -- that's the ultimate thing. Still a lot of progress being made but there's no moral victories or anything like that. We have to find a way to make the next play.

We've got to do a better job of keep putting them in the best position, coaching the heck out of them, make sure they understand everything. And our goal right now is to keep playing with the right attitude. Our guys have a great attitude. They have great heart. They care about each other. They are hurt again. They are hurt in that locker room because they knew they were that close -- you play a guy like Lamar -- when you got them down, you can't let them up -- you need to have a great mindset.

Got to keep competing relentlessly. Got a quick turnaround this week. Be right back to being and go watch the film. Keep our great attitude of where we're going -- you have setbacks in life and everybody's going to test them right now. Everybody's going to jab at them, jab at us, do the things you've got to do, I know that. That's stay to go, stay strong, get that thing right back and finish strong down the stretch. That's what we've got to do.

Questions.

Q. What happened on James' fumble, what did you see?

COACH FISHER: I'll wait and see the film. I don't know. Given it -- taken it -- that's simple. We sit down after the game, calm down, let him think about it, watch the film. I don't make any judgments until I see the film -- inaudible -- they didn't do it on purpose.

Q. Does that feel like how the season's gone, situations like that?

COACH FISHER: We've been one inch away, one play away. You can't quit fighting. That's the

thing. Sometimes they don't -- even when you fight for them put your heart and soul, they don't come. You have to continue to dig for them and that's what we're going to do.

Q. In close games like that where it's kind of a shootout to the finish, how much does experience play, Lamar versus James?

COACH FISHER: Well, I think it does. There's no doubt experience does. But the only way to get experience is to get in the middle of it and you've got to push your way through it. Did a heck of a job. Put us in position to do it. Got to finalize it and make the play.

Q. James was fired up after that --

COACH FISHER: Well, you get competition and you get going. He had plenty of opportunity in the game earlier and he did some good things and he missed a couple things. There's youth in there and you can see the growing, but you see the competitor, and the caring and how good this kid really is and how much heart and soul he's really got.

Q. Just wondering, based on what you know about your own kids, how many more of these disappointments do you think they can absorb and still move on?

COACH FISHER: I don't know, life -- don't worry about that. I'm worried about one thing: Playing this week and getting prepared. You don't worry about that. You take things in life as they come and if you prepare and we fight for those inches, maybe they don't come any more, so we don't worry about that. I don't worry about that.

Q. Do you like your chances with these kids?

COACH FISHER: Without a doubt, the heart and soul and ability to compete and hustle and play hard and push and challenge and coach them and them to play -- there's no quit in these kids, none, none, in any way, shape or form. So yes, I do, I love these kids.

Q. How are you handling this? You haven't been through anything like this --

COACH FISHER: That's part of life. I've been through ups and downs in life. There's part of it. Keep looking at myself to what I can do better. As a head coach, you're in charge of it. You've got to find ways to find those inches for them and put them in better position, get your coaches to get them in better position and coach everything and run the organization the way it is and that's my job. We've got to keep fighting.

Q. So what can you do better?

COACH FISHER: Find those inches. What I just said. Get your coaches to coach them and look at every detail of everything you're doing, make sure you're doing it would you tell, you know, without, you know, over-scrutinizing and let them play and not put pressure on but don't put too much pressure. You can be too tight, too. You've got to go back and coach and do things exactly what they are supposed to be done, and sometimes they don't happen and you practice again till you do it. You do it again; it's like riding a bike, you ride it, and sometimes you fall over. You get back up, you pedal it, and all of a sudden one day you keep pedaling, you know how to ride it. Just you start riding it. Every time if there's a wreck or you hit a rock and you wreck, you have to get up and keep riding. And keep doing it the right way and not flinch, and if they don't do it the right way just line up and do it again. Ain't no sense to yell or holler. Just go do it again. Go do it again. Go do it again.

Q. Your thoughts after Louisville scored the first touchdown, the three defensive possessions after that --

COACH FISHER: Did a great job -- then got a turnover on one and offensively, that's where we could have taken advantage. We had a couple drives right there that we didn't finish, but then second half we did an excellent job.

First drive was that -- but the defense did a great job. He got that big scramble on that one play, which sometimes he's going to have a play that you go, okay, I've got him, and he gets one every game. And there was one right where he broke down the sideline, I don't know whether it was that or the second half. I don't know which possession it was. Other than that he did a good job. A couple times, we had our box guys and our force guys, guy was supposed to be on him and then tried to play down and overplayed some things. Had a couple missed plays that way but that happens with ball and kids.

Q. Bowl eligibility is becoming a question. Are you going to reschedule that Louisiana game?

COACH FISHER: I have no idea. You have to ask the administration. I don't know what's going to happen.

Q. What would be your --

COACH FISHER: I'll answer it if I think about it. If we can play -- I love to play so whatever we can play, we can play. I love to play ball. So it would be great. But that's whatever's best for the school and the situation and everything that goes with it.

Q. How do you respond to the fans' frustration?

COACH FISHER: Same thing. I mean, I understand. That's what's part of this. If you're a fan -- are you going to be a loyal fan or not, just keep fighting with us. We ain't quitting on you. Please don't quit on us. We're going to keep fighting, scratching, coaching, playing, and you see the heart and desire of those kids. And understand something: What if that's your kid? If that was one of your kids or your nephew or your cousin or your friend, keep supporting them, you know what I mean. Just keep supporting because it ain't that.

And us coaches, we're trying to do the same thing. I understand you're going to get on us, same thing. That's part of the business. That's part of life. I understand that. When success happens, they put you too high and once failures happen, they put you too low. That goes with the territory. Wore going to keep coaching the same way because there's no quit in us either. We're right there. Got to find a way to get it.

Q. You're 0-3 at home, more clutter, more distractions at home, do they put more pressure on themselves?

COACH FISHER: No, I don't think so. I mean, the games are one-possession games. We love playing at home in our stadium. It's good. We played hard. We played good. We're one-possession game on all of them and we just have to find a way to get it.

Q. James took a shot the last play -- is he okay?

COACH FISHER: Yeah, he was. He got up afterwards. I checked on him. He's fine.

Q. Then he made some big plays down the stretch especially on the deep ball -- to see him get involved --

COACH FISHER: It really was. He and Tate really made some nice plays. Izzo made a couple nice plays -- somebody else made -- backs had a couple nice catches, I was just trying to look at the stats right there -- who had the ball. All those guys, it was good to see those guys make plays and runs they did a great job. It was great to see them keep coming.

Q. Preface this by saying a guy almost got thrown out of the stadium by a cop because he was being a little bit of a jerk, but the fans after the game -- any comment on that?

COACH FISHER: No, I have no comment. I just -- no frustration. Just support, you know what I'm saying. There's no reason to be nasty. But at the same time defending players and people you're with, I'm in charge of them. I love them like a father. When they say something to your family, you take up for them.

Q. On the replay where James fumbled, have they ever had any problems with ball security?

COACH FISHER: No.

Q. Seems like a safe play usually?

COACH FISHER: Oh, about a thousand times a day. I mean, that's what you read. But that just shows you, you never know. I look and see. That's day one installation. It's not there -- just shows you, every -- and we just ran it a bunch of times. Habit.

Q. Seems like several games now, stretches where a certain segment you'll play well, and then --

COACH FISHER: That's what I'm saying. You've got have to play together. That's the thing in team sports. It's not -- you've got to -- all segments got to be together to make everything click. We're blocking well up front, we're running the football, for the most part had some, on third-and-long situations, they got some hits on him, you know what I'm saying and made some plays but at the same time, they protected pretty well, gave him time to throw the football and made plays.

Q. The interception in the first half -- what was the thinking?

COACH FISHER: It was actually a back side read. They doubled Auden and they played the crossing route and he went to his third receiver. Threw it, actually, it was right here and I thought he should have put it out here but we had a chance to make it. That was the read. That's where he had to go with the ball. What do you mean, the thinking on it?

Q. Just, you know what the play was --

COACH FISHER: It was a read -- we were going to go to Auden, they ran, covered Auden, played the over route. That was the third route. Coming back, read right through his progression and made a throw, and I thought he made a pretty good throw and then the guy made a great play. They come up with it and come up with the 50/50 ball. Maybe could have laid it out a little more, laid it over the top a little more where he missed it. That's what I could tell on the film. I

can't see until I watch the film.

Q. Doesn't seem like a Friday night game against Boston College team playing real well -- great time for that --

COACH FISHER: We'll go back and practice tomorrow and get ready to play. I mean, whether you're Friday or Saturday, they are going to tip it off, they are going to kick it off, so you have to be ready to play.

Q. After that post play, Jackson -- it was more D.J. Matthews, third wide receiver, was there something on that play?

COACH FISHER: We were trying to get D.J. in the game earlier. We had talked about in the game we wanted to make sure we played D.J.

Q. If you think about --

COACH FISHER: -- it allows us to move some of the other guys in different positions, too, because there was some different ways we wanted to attack things and we wanted to move some of the other guys around. So it allowed D.J. to play in the slot --

Q. In the third quarter, I think it was fourth and two in the half, going for it there --

COACH FISHER: Yeah, but your field goal is 12-for-12. He hit 12 in a row and you have a 44-yard field goal and that gives you the lead.

If you're behind like on the other time or something like that, but you've got a guy that's 12-for-12, what would you do -- exactly. You know that afterwards. I mean, the guy's kicking the heck out of it. I trusted him solely, like what was it, 43, 44 yards, and unfortunately he just missed one. He had been hitting it good and told him good job. And that was for the lead, so you definitely take the points, take the lead.

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Florida State vs. Louisville
Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017
FSU Offensive Player Quotes

Redshirt junior tight end Ryan Izzo

On his performance:

"I thought the offense didn't really do what we needed to do in the first half. In the second half we came out with a lot more momentum on our side and played well."

On motivating the team as a team leader:

"We've just gotta keep pushing on the younger guys. Everybody's not used to this, even the older guys. I've never never been through this since I've been here so, just try to keep reinforcing that we still got some play. We've got six more games left and we've got to finish out strong."

On what went wrong on offense after the first drive:

"Some people just didn't perform as well as they needed to, me personally, too. Momentum was on their side and they've got a great player over there in Lamar (Jackson) and their whole offense and they've got a great defense too, so it was kind of just a mixture of everything."

On how they will respond:

"I expect to respond in a really positive way. I think we've got great leaders on this team and we're going to step up and reinforce that the season is not over with and just keep moving forward."

Redshirt Junior Center Alec Eberle

On the fumble from quarterback James Blackman late in the fourth quarter:

"Whenever something like that happens, of course it's demoralizing and it hurts. No matter when it is, when our team gets down like that with our backs against the wall, we always try our hardest to find a way to comeback and never going to give up. Like you saw today, we were going at it as hard as we could. We were going to come back and win that game, and when something like that happens it just really hurts."

On the mood in the locker room after the game:

"Like Coach Fisher always says, "The sun will rise another day tomorrow," and we've got to be ready to play, fix what we messed up, and be ready to play against a good Boston College team coming up in a short week. Have a short term memory and be ready to come out tomorrow."

A message to the fans:

"We are going to keep doing our thing, we are going to keep pushing, and try to be the best team possible. We hope the fans continue to be the best fans possible and keep supporting us like Coach Fisher has been saying."

Junior Running Back Jacques Patrick**On the team being able to bounce back after losses:**

"I see some resiliency in us and being down 28-14, we came back and had a chance to win the game. That just speaks to the character of the team and the toughness of our guys to be able to keep going, especially with what those guys did to us last year. We had some key stops, made plays, but just came up one play short."

On Quarterback James Blackman after the game:

"He's a young guy and I told him to keep his head up. Eighteen years old in a situation like this is very tough. He just has to keep going and I'm proud of him because he is a heck of a player. It's not what you go through, but how you come through it."

His relationship with Cam Akers:

"He's my little brother and he came in humble which I respect anybody that comes in humble. He came in wanting to learn, always asking questions, and it pays off. We all just go out there and execute what we are coached."



Florida State vs. Louisville

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017

FSU Defensive Player Quotes

Junior defensive end Josh Sweat:

What is the mood of the locker room? Is it to continue to work hard and push forward towards Friday?

"Yeah we just have to get back to practice and work on some of the mistakes. That's really all we can do right now; just continue to practice hard and get everything right."

There was another late drive kind of like Miami. Is it just not doing enough to get off the field or not making one last play to get the job done?

"I don't really know what it is. Obviously, we're not making the plays we need to make when it's time to make them. We're not making enough plays and I wasn't rushing him (Lamar Jackson) like I was supposed to. I didn't want him to run out of the pocket like he did last time and I was a little hesitant trying to contain him."

Did Lamar Jackson show you anything you weren't expecting?

"Not really. He is a great playmaker. We knew he could run and if we got too far up the field he would hit the B-gap. I felt like the front did a really good job at getting him on the ground."

How were the emotional swings on the sideline?

"It was back and forth. You had to pick everybody up when we were down. When things were going well, everybody was ready to go. It was a big momentum change when things happened like the fumble we scored on and when we got that fourth down stop. When we fumble or throw an interception, we had to get everybody on the sideline, back on the same page."

How do these kinds of losses affect you personally?

"I feel bad for a little bit. I know I did everything I possibly could. I just go back to practice and throw it behind me. It doesn't define any of us, so we just get back to practice and work hard."

Take us through Louisville's last drive

"The tempo didn't bother us, it was more our control and everybody doing their assignments. Tackling was the biggest factor; just too many missed tackles across the board. That was my biggest thing, I just wanted everybody to get the guy on the ground. If you blow a coverage or somebody catches the ball on you, just get the guy on the ground."

You are 2-4 on the season, is it even more disappointing to be 0-3 at home in front of your home fans?

"It's more disappointing the legacy of Florida State, not really about fans. I care for the fans since they help us sometimes, but when it's going wrong, you know how it is. I just want to continue the legacy and it's not going well right now."

Sophomore Defensive End Brian Burns

What are the solutions to the defensive break downs?

"Do your job. We emphasize that all week, all day, every day. Of course, mistakes are going to be made. That's what we have to focus on."

What is your message to the fan base?

"Remain positive. If you're on our side, you're on our side, if you're not, it's whatever. We are going to remain positive in the locker room and finish the season strong."

Are you worried about not making a bowl game?

"I'm not focused on that right now. Of course, we want to make it to one but we have to take the games one-by-one and every play one-by-one."

Redshirt sophomore defensive back Derwin James

On if it is more disappointing to have three losses at home:

"It's just disappointing to have those losses, period because we worked so hard this summer and this spring coming in and who would ever have thought we would have four losses right now."

On defensive changes after the first drive:

"We just got more situational. We realized what was in front of us and everybody was just doing their job. No mental lapses and we just focused on what's in front of us."

On the mood in the locker room:

"Disappointed, because we're just coming up this short every time. It just seems like there's one or two plays that we just don't make so it's just disappointing."

On Lamar Jackson:

"Everybody knows he's one of the most dominant players in the country. He's versatile, he can beat you with his legs and he can beat you with his arm. You can't make any mistakes and you can't leave anything against him."

On message to fans:

"Every dog has his day. I can just truly say that, every dog has his day. We're so used to winning around here. Right now we are down but, we are still gonna fight."



Florida State vs. Louisville
Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017
Louisville Head Coach Bobby Petrino

Opening Statement

"A great win for us. I am really excited for our players. Our players were excited after the game. The best thing is they came to work every day during the week after a hard loss a week ago with a great attitude and a lot of energy. Our assistant coaches did a nice job of getting them prepared to practice every day and practice with a purpose. I'm just really happy for our defense to come out and play the way they did. Offensively we did some great things at times. We were really stubborn about running the ball. On a hot day like it was today I wanted to try and keep our defense off the field as much as we could. And then special teams, we came through. Just a great team win."

On the improvement you saw on defense?

"Tough. It was a lot of toughness. A lot of good running backs that we went against and a good offensive line. I thought our defense did a great job of having great toughness, playing fast, helping each other out. We got guys to the football. We made plays and we came up with turnovers. It was great to see those turnovers turn into points."

On the play of Tru Washington?

"I'm really happy for him. He made a couple of really good plays on the ball and a couple of really good returns afterwards. He's really hung in there and has been positive and worked hard. So it was great to see him make those plays."

How much confidence in the kicker (Blanton Creque) on the last kick?

"All the confidence in the world. He would have made the other one if you (a member of the media) didn't jinx him. It's was all your fault. You were talking to him on the radio show the other night about not missing a kick. It's all your fault."

What do you need to work on moving forward?

"We've just got to keep doing what we did this week – come to practice with a great attitude, a lot of energy and be real focused in the meeting rooms. Be able to stop the run, get a pass rush and offensively be consistent moving the ball."

Your reaction to the play with the fumble?

"That's a great question because I wasn't watching it. I was looking at the clock and thinking about when I need to call timeout and how I'm going to keep time on the clock. I didn't even see the play. All of a sudden, I heard, 'ball, ball, ball,' and we got on it."

On the momentum switch back to your team...

"That's football. We had a nice tackle and the ball came out, and they recovered it in the end zone that was a great hustle play by No. 8 (Nyqwan Murray) he really worked

hard to get there. We were really close to it. The last one came our way. That's football."

On being stubborn about running the football today...

"You know how much I like to throw the ball. I like throwing the ball. I like the passing game. I felt like we could do that but I thought the best way to win this game is to really run the ball at them, try to wear them out, and we could get some big runs ... so we called a lot of run plays. A lot more than I really like to."

On running the play so well today...

"I don't worry about their game. Our game, I thought we came in and executed it well. In the first half we gave them a touchdown when they got a fumble, recovered it and ran it into the end zone. I thought our defense was doing a really nice job. We wanted to stick to it; we talked about it at halftime let's stick to the game plan. Reggie's (Bonnafon) running the ball real well, we've got Day cranked up and you've got Lamar back there. Our receivers were getting antsy; they like to catch the ball and when we did call it they made plays."

On Lamar Jackson

"He's just a great player. It's so much fun to watch him play. So much fun to watch at practice. His attitude, his toughness and the way he led this team this week – he's just an amazing player. He did a hell of a job (today). He ran the ball real well. He ran it with toughness. They were hitting him. They've got some speed in the secondary. He ran away from them at times. When we did throw the ball he was accurate and made good decisions."