

ETSU VS. VMI

POSTGAME QUOTES (NOVEMBER 4, 2017)

HEAD COACH CARL TORBUSH

ON THE GAME

We did a lot of good things today. It's been so long since we won by more than a point or two... it felt good to get the win.

I thought our players played extremely hard. Obviously, we made some mistakes that got us in trouble a few times.

I thought it was a tough ball game. VMI is a tough football team. They have a great football coach, and it was a great win for us. We needed a win like this. We put ourselves in position to go to Samford to keep our goal of finishing with a winning season alive.

We know what we have to do down there at Samford. We know they are not going to be in a good mood when we get there. Obviously, Samford will be ranked, and then, we go to Chattanooga, which is our crosstown rival.

We had a good crowd here today for Senior Day. When we gave them a chance to get loud, I thought they got loud, and that's what we need to do. We need to be good enough that we can get the crowd involved and get excited about the game.

ON THE PLAYERS GRADUATING

I'm very proud of that group of young men that we honored prior to the game. These guys stayed through the thick and the thin for the last four years and they have a reference in me for the rest of their lives. We probably have more seniors than I would really like to have right now, but they are all in position to graduate and that is the most important thing.

These guys came in green, because if you think about it, when we first started, we didn't have anything. I look back and it's amazing how far we've come in this short period of time. These guys have grown really close together, and to come in here and get a win in the first game ever played here, and then to get another win in the last game of their senior year, is a really rewarding experience. I'm excited for them. I'm also excited for our football team and the coaches as well.

FALON LEE – RUNNING BACK

ON TODAY'S GAME

We just wanted to establish the run game. Last year, at their place, it was wet and muddy. We couldn't get our feet in the ground and cut the way we wanted to, but here on our turf, we just want to close out our home field the right way... We did it.

HOW MUCH WAS THE RUN GAME EMPHASIZED THIS WEEK IN PRACTICE?

We had a lot of guys rotating in and out. We knew we could run against these guys. We kept pounding it and kept pounding it. It all finally opened up.

ON HIS TOUCHDOWN RUN

It took me more attempts than I wanted to. I was just like, "Hey, just keep pounding it." It opened up for me.

AFTER THE GAME YOU HEARD FROM PRESIDENT DR. NOLAND, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SCOTT CARTER AND HEAD COACH CARL TORBUSH. , WHAT DID THEY SAY IN TERMS OF BELIEVING IN THE DREAM THAT WAS ETSU FOOTBALL AND KIND OF SACRIFICING THAT AND SACRIFICING YOUR TIME TO KIND OF BUILD WHAT WE HAVE HERE TONIGHT?

It's been a process. It hasn't been pretty. Our first year we only won two games, and everyone came back the next year and kept fighting and getting better. Our goal is to close out this season by winning out, so we can finish with a winning record.

AUSTIN HERINK – QUARTERBACK

ON TODAY'S GAME

It felt good to end our final home game of the season with a win. This was something we wanted to do. It's important to defend our home field and we needed to get this conference win. We have two conference road games remaining, so hopefully this gives us some energy going into the final two.

We started off rough, but we were able to come together and move the ball in the second half. We were able to run the ball when we needed too and Falon had some big runs for us. I think that was something that we really wanted to do, coming into this gam, and in the second half, we showed we were able to do that.

AFTER THE LOSS TO VMI LAST YEAR, HOW IMPORTANT WAS IT TO GET A WIN THIS YEAR?

Last year, there were a lot of things going on at VMI and that game. It's something that we look back on and use as motivation, so to be able to beat them this year, at our place, I think that closed the chapter on that one. We just need to move forward and finish the last two games on a positive note.

NASIR PLAYER – DEFENSIVE END

ON HOW THE DEFENSE PLAYED TODAY

We felt like we had to let VMI know that what happened last year wasn't going to happen again. This was a real important game for us. It was personal. We took that game last year really personal. We all felt like we could've played better that game and we didn't show how well we can really play, so we had to let them know what happened last year wasn't going to happen.

ON THE TOUCHDOWN

When I saw the ball in the air, I was just like don't drop it and again after (I caught it), don't drop it. I also thought I couldn't get tackled, because I caught an interception when I was in high school and I got tackled on the two-yard line, so I couldn't let happen again. I wanted to get the touchdown this time.

WAS THAT YOUR FIRST TOUCHDOWN AT ANY LEVEL?

Yes, at any level. This was my first touchdown at any level of football. Little league, middle school, high school, that's my first touchdown ever.

ON THE CELEBRATION FOLLOWING THE TOUCHDOWN

It was fun. It seemed like everyone was a lot more excited than I was, because I was just standing there and then next thing I know, everyone was running at me. I tried to run off the field, but then everyone came and tackled me so that was fun. It was a good moment.

RIVER BORUFF – LINEBACKER

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OPEN THE STADIUM WITH A VICTORY AND CLOSE IT WITH A VICTORY?

It's just important to keep the tradition alive. We were excited to end our final game inside our stadium with a win.

ON THE FINAL TWO GAMES OF THE SEASON

The next two games are extremely important. We want to win out. We've been trying to win out this whole time. We need to focus on our next opponent and build off this win.

TREY QUILLIN – LINEBACKER

WITH A YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY LEFT, HOW TOUGH OF A DECISION WAS IT TO NOT COME BACK NEXT YEAR?

It was a tough decision, but I think just in terms of injuries, it's the best decision for me. But I think we will have a phenomenal team next year with a lot of talented young guys coming back. I know ETSU fans have a lot to look forward to.

YOU HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE THE START, DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE LEAVING IT IN GOOD HANDS, IN GOOD SHAPE?

Yes. It's never been in better shape. With the talent of the team, the coaches and especially the administration, I think we have a lot to look forward to in ETSU.