

ETSU VS. ROBERT MORRIS

POSTGAME QUOTES (OCT. 7, 2017)

HEAD COACH CARL TORBUSH

ON TODAY'S WIN

This is a great win for our football program. It doesn't matter how we win. We played a really solid defensive football team today in Robert Morris. I thought we fought hard. We had a couple of chances to put the game away but we couldn't come away with the touchdowns in the red zone. The defense bounced back after last week's performance and did a lot of good things today. It was just an old-fashioned, tough, hard-nosed football game on both sides of the football.

We go down to Western Carolina next week and will face another good football team. They don't like what happened to them last year in Bristol and will be ready for us. We know what we are getting into and they have a fine football team. Coach Speir has really done a nice job turning them around this season.

ON NOT BEING ABLE TO SCORE TOUCHDOWNS IN THE RED ZONE

Anytime you get into the red zone you want to punch the ball into the end zone. We settled for field goals today and we will work on that. We are not there yet and need to get better in that area. I think we are competing and putting forth the effort, but we need to be a better football team in that area of the game.

ON TODAY'S EFFORT BY THE DEFENSE

Nasir (Player) played well today and he has done so all year. We didn't know if he would play in the second half, but he's a tough competitor. He wanted to go out there and help this football team get a win today. Nasir practices extremely hard and goes out there with a workman-like attitude. He played well, but everyone on defense played well today. We gave up a few plays there at the end but we did a great job putting pressure on their quarterback all game long.

This game was kind of like I anticipated it to be. We knew it would be low scoring. We hung right in there with what they were trying to do and ended up on the winning side.

Anyone who is an athlete or a competitor takes pride in what they do. We didn't play as well as we should have last week at Furman. The players know they didn't play well last week. They didn't hang their heads, because they came out today and bounced back. They came out from the opening snap and played extremely hard.

NASIR PLAYER – R-SO. – DEFENSIVE END

DID YOU FEEL LIKE YOU SET THE TONE EARLY WITH THE FIRST SACK?

It doesn't just set the tone for me, I feel like it sets the tone for the entire defense. Whether I was the one that got the sack or whether anyone else got the sack, I feel like that's a tone-setter for everybody. It let's everybody know we're here, we're going to come out here and we're going to keep on doing this all day.

DID YOU GUYS TAKE THE CHALLENGE AFTER LAST WEEK... YOU GAVE UP 56 POINTS, TO COME OUT HERE, BETTER PERFORMANCE TODAY?

This week was definitely a statement game. We definitely had to let everybody know that we're still ETSU defense and we're still out here. We just had a bad week last week. But we just wanted to let everybody know, we're back, refocused, and we're back to doing what we do.

TALKING ABOUT COMING OFF THE END, AND BASICALLY COMING AROUND UNBLOCKED... IT HAD TO FEEL GOOD WHEN YOU GO UNBLOCKED AND, SEE THE QUARTERBACK STANDING THERE?

Sometimes it's nerve wracking, because if you come unblock and you miss, then everybody's going to be mad at you. I just have to tell myself to come under control, even when I come unblocked like that. I just had to make sure that I didn't miss, because that would look really bad.

THIS IS YOUR THIRD SOLD OUT CROWD IN FOUR HOME GAMES. TALK ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE AND THE FANS HERE TODAY.

It started out yesterday, when they had the pep rally for us. We walked through campus and there were a whole bunch of people here. There was a big event and they had fireworks. It was nice. That set the tone for today. Today, during the Buc walk, when I got out there and saw all those people out there, I was like, "Okay, this is ETSU Homecoming. This is for real." It was a great environment. It made me feel good before the game.

BLAKE BOCKRATH – R-FR. – LINEBACKER

ON TODAY'S EFFORT BY THE DEFENSE TO GET THE WIN

This win, it meant a lot. The defense showed up today. We were in the backfield all afternoon. They had trouble containing Nasir and our defensive line. It felt good to get the win today.

We knew we had to step it up, but we also knew we needed to play smart.

ON REDSHIRTING LAST YEAR AND NOW STARTING THE LAST TWO GAMES

Everything has turned out great, actually. I've been working all off-season, I was working all redshirt season, and I just needed to put a little weight on. I'm looking forward to the rest of the season, and the future seasons here at ETSU. I'm excited to be given the opportunity and hopefully I can continue making an impact on defense and special teams.

AUSTIN HERINK – R-JR – QUARTERBACK

ON TODAY'S GAME

I thought all week, going into this game, this defense we're playing is going to be really good. I thought if we could stay on the field and keep our defense rested that we would be alright.

Obviously, we would like to convert around the goal line. We could have had three more touchdowns, so that's a little frustrating. But we'll go back to work and fix that this week and get ready for Western (Carolina).

Our defense played incredible. They bailed us out all day. Sometimes, when you play football, there will be games like this one today. You have to be ready when your name's called and make a play.

I think we made some adjustments at halftime. Robert Morris' defense is one of the best defenses we've seen all year. They are really big up front and the secondary mixes up a lot of their coverages. Making a pre-snap read, as a quarterback, was a lot more difficult this week. We had to get some mesh routes to rub some guys off and get open, but I think that did well for us in the second half.

TALK ABOUT THE INABILITY TO GET INTO THE END ZONE, GETTING INTO THE RED ZONE SO MANY TIMES.

Last year, there was a stat that we were one of the best red zone teams in the country. Obviously, today that was not the case. It is really frustrating, because we were right there, knocking on the door and could not get in. We'll go back and see what that was. Whether it was protection. Whether it was me making some bad throws. We will figure that out and get better from it.

DRAKE POWELL – R-JR. – WIDE RECEIVER

ON THE TOUCHDOWN CATCH

It was a called slant and a scramble drill came into the effect. Austin (Herink) rode around, and I wrapped around the corner. Austin kept me in his sights, hit me, and got a nice little touchdown. Then down here we had bash called because we had just got him on a slant, so we thought he'd be heavy inside. It worked, because I was open and was thinking I had my second touchdown of the day. Instead, the ball snuck up on me, hits me in the hands, and I dropped it. Stuff like that happens. It bothers you a little bit and eats at you, but I tried to brush it off, went out there and finished the game strong.