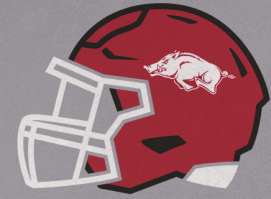




ARKANSAS



FOOTBALL



VANDERBILT COMMODORES vs ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018

POSTGAME QUOTES: VANDERBILT HEAD COACH DEREK MASON

Opening statement

"Shout out to Coach Morris and Chief. They're a class act, those coaches and coaching staff are a class act. I'm proud of our team, their effort was exactly what we talked about. At times, the football looked really good on offense, we did a great job focusing on what we needed to do. That's a great sign for us. I challenged this football team to challenge themselves. I thought the challenge was tough at times, but it helped this team grow up. I thought our three-headed monsters of running backs did exactly what they were supposed to do. They played well, they played hard. Kudos to the offensive line, they played extremely hard. The defense came in with turnovers. Offense didn't give the ball away, defense took the ball away. That's the difference in the ball game. It's just about continuing to get what's there. There's a lot left in this football team, but they had to get one before anything else. They got one, now getting ready to head into the bye week. Rest up, heal up. I'm just proud of this football team, impressed with the way they responded. It's never easy trying to break through, and I thought they broke through."

On the offensive performance...

"We talked about it before. We had that conversation. I truly believe we need other guys to step up and be balanced. You can't guard everybody. You can't just guard the box, guys on the perimeter have to make plays. Giving us a chance to create one-on-ones. Today, I saw a lot of pride. Ke'Shawn [Vaughn] came in and gave us some carries. They just gave us everything they had, that's what we have to do moving forward. We have to utilize everything we have in this offense. I challenged Kyle today and he responded. That's what it's about. These guys are tough-minded, but sometimes you have to take it a little deeper. The production of this offense has to flow through Kyle [Shurmur]. He's the one calling the plays and managing the game. With that being said, he did a good job managing the game today. He limited his throws and we did a good job running the ball. That's a strong formula around here when you go back and look at Vanderbilt's history. Do some play action and take some shots, use the screen game and there is a chance for success."

On spreading the ball around...

"It's just utilizing the tools available. These tools have been available all season, but we can be slightly predictable. So we said, 'Let's change the game a little bit.' We added a little spice to it. I thought we did that. Kudos to Andy [Ludwig] and the staff, they came up with a game plan. Moving around several people, understanding who to get the ball to."

On the use of screen plays in scheme...

"With any aggressive defense, when you bring the house to get sacks, you can leave yourself vulnerable to the screen game. With that being said, that was part of it. We knew they were going to come, they came with animal cross dog the first one and got the sack. Obviously when you bring the house like that you can leave yourself open to opportunities in the screen game. Again, that's the gamble you take. That's the high risk, high reward stakes that are involved. Having been a former defensive coordinator I understand that as well. I had to make sure our guys weren't all gas, no break all the time. When you do that you put yourself in harm's way."

On the impact on Ke'Shawn's week off...

"Just fresh legs. I called him fat man coming into the week. He hadn't done anything for ten days, but his legs were fresh. I love that dude, I love what he is. We kept asking him in practice all week if he needed oxygen. It was about trying to get him his touches, get him in shape. I thought our offense did a masterful job of using him in the first. Sitting him and then bringing him back in the second half when we needed some gas. That was my design based on the simple fact that he had limited amount of practices and really him being off for 10 days didn't lead himself to being in the best shape. With that being said, he did a good job."

On the 49 carries as a team...

"Having the ball longer leads to that. I tell this group that travels with us, you have to be consistent and stay on the field to get touches. That's part of the formula. The more plays you have the more you can feature your guys and I thought again that's kudos to Andy for the play calling and the kids for executing. Again, I can't credit the kids enough. Andy had great play calling but the kids made it happen live and that's what's important. Our football players won this football game. It wasn't about what the coaches call. The coaches always call solid stuff. At the end of the day our kids really executed and that's what it was all about."

On going into bye with a win...

"I think it's uber-important. For us right now, we need that in the worst way. I thought our guys strained into that effect when we needed it. The opportunity and the focus on what need to correct, but still feel good about what you did. Put yourself into a position to get a little bit rest, work extremely hard on the details and coming off of it we can do what we need to do when we play a tough and talented Missouri team."