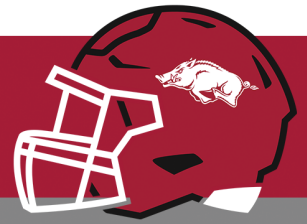




ARKANSAS

FOOTBALL



AUBURN vs ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 | FAYETTEVILLE, AR

POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS HC CHAD MORRIS & PLAYERS

CHAD MORRIS

OPENING STATEMENT

"Let me give credit to Coach Malzahn and Auburn. Very good football team. We knew that coming in. They are very physical. He's built a great program and credit to those guys. We knew they were very big and physical up front. I thought our guys played extremely hard. We took two big, huge haymakers right out of the gate. We talk all the time, you can't give a great football team any help. We did that. But, I will say this: I thought that once we stabilized and we went on a span there for about 32, 33 minutes to where our defense was playing exceptional, and we only gave up 3 points. I would have liked to have seen us keep some momentum right before half. We were able to capitalize on some opportunities, and we should have come away with some points before half. But we challenged our guys at halftime. That we needed a stop and to get the ball back to the offense and then see what we can do. We did that. We went and got a three-and-out. That was a credit to the way our defense was playing. We were able to go on a 17-play drive and come away with some points. We should have got the ball in the endzone. But we were at least able to come away with some points. When that happened, we had some momentum. We gave up two big plays. And they got two big play scores on us. We are just not good enough, we are not experienced enough to survive four turnovers and some big plays in key moments. Thought our youth showed at times today. Played a lot of guys. But we are going to keep giving the effort. We are going to get in here tomorrow and get back to work. Obviously, it doesn't get any easier. We have to continue to push that rock."

On the fake punt...

"Yeah, not the result we were looking for. It was something that they had shown. And we actually have been working on that for a couple weeks. I thought, at times, we maybe needed something to get us kick started. We just weren't moving the chains and maybe needed something to give us a spark. I knew we were going to have to try to steal a possession somewhere. Luckily they missed the field goal so that didn't hurt us. We were looking for anything to get a spark going."

On Auburn and the time frame he feels he can get his team competitive...

"They're very talented. The thing that is probably more impressive is the depth they have, especially on the defensive side of the ball. They have great speed, I think their defensive front, like I've said all week long is as good as I've been against. They're able to rotate in and keep guys fresh. We've got to keep developing the guys that we have, we've got to continue to recruit and we've got to go back to work, one day at a time."

On sticking with Ben Hicks at quarterback...

"When it got late in the game like that, it wasn't fair to any of those other guys to go in in that moment. I felt all week long as we got through the week, the understanding of the protections, I was very comfortable with Ben. I never felt like the wheels actually came off, that never crossed my mind. I felt like our guys continued to play extremely hard. We gave up some big plays and we made some substitutions there at the end to try and get some young guys in on the defensive side of the ball and they were able to crease one on us. Not the results we wanted and definitely not the way we wanted to finish that game."

On what he can do offensively in the last five games to get something going...

"I think the one thing we've got to do is, we've got to execute. We've got to be able to capitalize on the shots when we do take them and really we've exhausted a lot. A lot of RPOs are happening right now, we've got to make sure we're doing a good job reading those RPOs right and this is a good football team we went against this week too. We've just got to go back to work. I knew, I didn't feel like we could get the ball running effectively inside, we were trying to get the ball out on the edge. That was the game plan coming in and we knew their speed was good, but they were able to stabilize the outside run game too for us. We've just got to go back to work and make some plays."

On C.J. O'Grady's performance...

"I think we all know what kind of playmaker CJ is and I think you look around, we tried to get the ball to our playmakers as much as possible tonight. We had a few drops that was disappointing, but guys were giving effort. CJ has definitely been a guy that's been consistent and we've just got to continue to find ways to get him the ball."

QUARTERBACK BEN HICKS

On playing the whole game...

"Yeah, I'm fine. I thought I played ok, made some good throws. We tried to sustain some drives and we were able to do that on a couple drives. But obviously, the way we started, it wasn't good enough. We had a turnover on the third play of the game, and then two three-and-outs. We put our defense in a really tough spot, so that was disappointing, but you have to tip your cap to Auburn's defense. They played really well. They are a really good defense and they played like it today."

On the early turnover and how difficult was it to overcome...

"Three just made a really good play, reached over with his long arms and knocked it out of my hand. So obviously not how I wanted to start. But, we just tried to come back out and tried to find a way to sustain a drive and we didn't do that early on."

On facing Alabama next week...

"Yeah, just like what Sosa said, you come here to play games like that, and you don't get a lot of opportunities to play the number 1 team in the country at their place at night. So, we will just try to go out there, have a good game plan and cut it loose and have fun. We are just going to play our tails off like we have been."

DEFENSIVE TACKLE McTELVIN AGIM

On how the defense played overall...

"We have a lot to improve on, me especially. I know I missed two tackles today. First and foremost, I can't be missing tackles, even if the game was a little away from us. It's just something we have to address. We have to make sure we're making plays that are supposed to be made. This is what Coach (John) Chavis has been trying to harp on. I can't be talking about anyone else until I fix what I need to fix."

On going through a tough stretch before facing the No. 1 team in the nation...

"You just have to face the opponent at hand. We're going to bury whatever happened in this game tomorrow and move forward to Alabama. It's a great opportunity. It's why you come to play in the SEC; to play these big games and top-ranked teams. It's a great opportunity and we're going to try to take advantage of it."

On if the program can return to prominence...

"I definitely think it can return to that. After the Kentucky loss, I said that these coaches and this staff were the right people for the job. I still believe that. It just takes time and things to go your way. A few things just haven't been going our way. I feel like, in time, it can happen. When people come to see what Fayetteville, Arkansas and all of Northwest Arkansas has to offer, it's a hidden gem. When people see that, they're going to be able to appreciate it."

SAFETY KAM CURL

On how the locker room is right now...

"The locker room is good and we're sticking together. It's a tough time right now. That's why we're coming together even closer because we know we have to lean on each other in this hard time. I feel like the locker room is doing good."

On tight end C.J. O'Grady..

"CJ is the best tight end in the nation to me. To be able to go up against him in practice every day is a real challenge and it's going to make us better. I feel like CJ comes out and he always puts out every game. You can trust in him every game. I feel like CJ is a real good player."

On the game..

"We got hit in the mouth early, but we responded. We started playing our game. We have to finish the game. We have to carry what we did in the first half through the rest of the game."

On playing No. 1 Alabama next week on the road...

"We can't be scared because, if we're scared, then they already beat us. We're gonna go out there and we're gonna play to our best ability. We're gonna play our game, play as hard as we can and see what the outcome is."

LINEBACKER BUMPER POOL

On the fumble play to keep the ball in bounds...

"I was just running to the sideline and saw, that if I were to pick it up, I would have gone out of bounds. I wasn't trying to bat it. I was trying to give our guys a chance to make a play."

On the game...

"I think we got stunned early. They came out of the gate hot. We kind of rebounded and played some really good defense. I think everyone just kind of got settled into the game and started doing what we were coached to do. We were playing physical and, then towards the end of the game, we just got to continue to fight. That has to be a key emphasis for us is never quit and just fight until there is no time left. When you get one stop, you build momentum. We had it. We can be explosive on defense and make those good plays. We just have to sustain it."

On playing No. 1 Alabama on the road...

"I think you get another opportunity to play college football. We all grew up as kids wanting to play this game. So, sweet, we get to play the number one team. Let's go see what we got. Everyone has to have that mentality of just keep fighting. It doesn't matter who we're playing. You're getting the opportunity to play at this high level. You have to embrace that."

On tight end C.J. O'Grady

"CJ is a great player. He makes big plays when we need them and we're happy to have the guy on our team."

On the mentality of keep fighting...

"It's just going out there every play and giving it your best. That's what I mean, fight. It doesn't matter if we're up by 30 or down by 30. You have to have that same mentality. That I'm playing for the Arkansas Razorbacks and I want to give it my best every play."