

North Carolina Central Post-Game Quotes

Opening Statement from Coach Mack: “First of all I would like to say thank you to the Celebration Bowl and the Air Force Reserve for allowing us to play in this game. I thought our team played extremely hard and it was a real exciting game. This was a tough fought battle from start to finish. We made a couple mistakes the entire course of the game, not just the last few series but thorough the entire course of the game and that probably should have been a little different. I think our team, our community, and everyone at North Carolina Central are extremely proud of the way these guys went out there and competed and laid it all on the line for 60 minutes”

How did you all feel coming into the game as the underdogs?

Malcolm Bell: “Basically being the underdog it gave us extra drive and to play hard against those guys. We fought hard but unfortunately we came up short”

Reggie Hunter: “I just want to make a statement. Well, we are not the underdogs. We are not the underdogs. We are coming back next year.”

What were the emotions like going from struggling all throughout the game to fighting to come back?

Bell: “It’s just a game of ups and downs and coach told me yesterday, good things are going to happen and bad things are going to happen, so I’m just happy that as a team we stayed the course and we made a big play at the end of the game and unfortunately we didn’t get the extra point but we played hard for four quarters.”

Frederick Henry-Atkinson: “Like Coach Mack said there were a few plays that were left out there and honestly we should have been able to make those plays and it should have went better but basically I saw a different outcome that could have happened with this game, and it was a relief that we made that big play at the end and get close but a disappointment when we missed the field goal but again it all could have been avoided if we were making plays at the beginning like we should have been.”

Was the call on you Quentin after the touchdown for taking off your helmet?

Quentin Atkinson: “If I am not mistaken, that is what my coach did tell me, and I did apologize to my team and I do take the fault for that and I do want to apologize to my team for that and it was a selfish act and I am not selfish, but in the heat of the moment I did that and I was excited to bring the team back, So I do want to apologize to my team for that.

Coming from an HBCU and knowing there are a lot of kids watching and looking up to you, what does this game mean to you guys?

Henry-Ajudua: “This game means a lot to us because all summer we worked hard to get to this point and this was our ultimate goal. I will say to the little kids looking up to us to keep going and grinding. Know your purpose; it’s all about the grind.”

Malcolm you were able to make some big plays like that last touchdown; were there more opportunities for that?

Bell: "Most of those plays out there, some were made and some were not you know, just miscommunication and being able to communicate, and that is why there were some good plays made on the field and some that were left on the field"

What did you guys say to Quentin after the penalty for the helmet to pick him back up?

Bell: "There were a lot of mistakes made and it was kind of a bonehead thing but we at the same time we made a lot of mistakes at the beginning that the outcome wouldn't have been a 10 to 9 score. That's my brother; I'm not going to beat him up about that. We have been together for three years and I'm just not going to beat him up about that... I love him"

Coach Mack post game Q & A

Was the plan with Mike Jones to shadow Chad Williams?

Coach: "I don't think we had a real plan to neutralize him, as far as a one on one situation, I thought we did a good job of putting a safety on him. Chad is a great player however I did think we did a great job of not allowing one player to beat us. We were aware of him the entire game though"

What was the motivation or game plan to get the guys geared up to go after them after half time?

Coach: "We knew we had to be relentless, and get after the QB and try to flush him out the pocket and trying to neutralize them in different ways the entire game"

Explain the feeling being able to play here in the Georgia Dome having all the fans.

Coach: "They were fired up and really excited, we had a lot of momentum and help from the fans excitement so the players were feeding off of the fans as well as being excited. The fans did a great job of getting loud and getting the guys rowdy"