

Grambling State University – Post-Game Notes

Opening Statement – Coach Broderick Fobbs

It was a pleasure being the National Black College Champions. It was a great opportunity for our program and its just one of those moments when we needed to bite down, play good defense, and run the ball. That's what make of football team a very dominant football team. We were able this year to win in many different ways. Today we ran the football effectively and was able to establish drives and put what we needed to into the end zone. Hat off to North Carolina Central, they have a great program. Coach Mack is a heck of a football coach. He did an exceptional job and this definitely was an evenly matched football game as you can tell by the score.

Did you think NCCU was going to play defense the way they did?

Martez Carter: Yes we felt like they were going to play like most of the teams have these past few weeks. We had to step up to play.

How important is your faith along this journey?

Jameel Jackson: Every Saturday we have chapel and breakfast together. We are very faithful as a team. We know its by faith and not by sight. Our coach did a very great job instilling faith in us and we are very thankful for that.

How important was your offensive line to help you make your plays?

Davante Kincade: Every week someone gives us something different. I tell my guys no matter what's going on I'm gonna be alright. If we don't communicate well then we will fail. I tell them I'm trying to take care of them like you're taking care of me.

How did going into half time trilling lead to you having the best game of your season in the second half?

Kincade: We knew coming into this game they were gonna give us their best shot. So after the first half we came back ready to play against what they got.

What kind of adjustments did you make offensively coming out in the second half?

Carter: It's not the first time we have been down at halftime, but we know we have an offense that can come out and do what we have to do. When you have the kind of guys we have on offense it makes it fun, especially when you have someone like Jestin (Kelly) who can run you over you and then I come in and do what I do you better make adjustments or you will be in trouble. I would hope you would make the adjustment, but if not it's fun.

Coach Fobbs

How did the shift in energy from the fans effect the game?

That happened the last two or three weeks. Our fans do an exceptional job of following up and helping us when we have those weak moments in a game. They remind us of who we are. They left us up along with our band and keep us motivated. At the end of the day we are all champions. We are not perfect by ourselves but we are together. This was a great contest and a great bowl game! I wish we could have skipped all the other games and just been here.

Is the experience more than you expected?

I was able to be a part of bowl games with my father but this has definitely exceeded my expectation. The Celebration Bowl is being branded here in this community and I wouldn't want to have it anywhere else.

Where the program was a few years ago to get to where it is now?

When we first got to Grambling it was a fractured program. Our kids were broken and not very trusting of anyone, they had already had three coaches in one year. When I first came you could see the look on all the players faces saying "well how long are you gonna be here?" But I'm the type of person that believes in accepting challenges and it couldn't get any worse. So it wasn't a pressure issue it was just learning how to get up off the ground first. Learning how to trust and love. Then we had to learn how to win. Most importantly we had to learn how to experience success then forget about it to go out and do it again. Our kids get it, you have to play for an entire 60 minutes.

Talk about play calls between first and second half.

Our philosophy is being very aggressive at first and score in bunches. We try to spread people out by throwing the football out to get those receivers and safety together so our quarterback can play in a five man box. So our motto to attack this thing for the most part as worked for us. When we are able to get a lead then we try to lean on our running game. We like to allow our defense to rest so when it counts they can make plays.

Experience of coaching with his father and being a father figure to his players.

In my late 20's and 30's I can reflect and say I was very selfish as a coach but I didn't think I was, but when you start thinking you want to win and coach against coaching great these are very selfish thoughts. I had to change my mindset and the Lord really helped me with this. Coaching is about pouring into young people and making them successful. Once I refocused and become more about the development of the young man I got what I always wanted anyway. Giving him what he needs to have good character so that he can have the tools he needs in life.

The challenge of defending the title going into next year.

We talk about the difference between "becoming" and "being". You can become the president but now you have to be the president. Being the champion means now how you go about your business. How do you go about the fundamental things in football? Consistently going to class. Consistently going to treatment. That's what a champion is. When we come back in January that's gonna be our talk. We became a champion, now its time to be one!

