

GRAMBLING STATE POST-GAME QUOTES

2017 Celebration Bowl
December 16, 2017 • Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta, Ga)

Devante Kincade
De'Arius Christmas
De'Andre Hogues
Head Coach Broderick Fobbs

Talk about the experience of being in the Celebration Bowl.

DEVANTE KINCADE: This was a great experience! Good times together making life memories. Seeing the Hall of Fame Mueasum, Doug Williams, and all those guys it was a great experience.

Playing against North Carolina A&T's defense

KINCADE: They were getting at me a little bit but that's my job to make plays for my teammates. They were playing man to man defense and coming up the field a lot so I knew I had to get loose and as soon as they had their back turned I could make a play which would have made it easier for my teammates.

Two-year journey from Ole Miss to Grambling

KINCADE: It's a blessing. I would like to thank Coach Fobbs for giving me the opportunity to play quarter back. I didn't know about the HBCU life because growing up the hype was to go to a big Division 1 school. If I could have come out of high school I would have come to Grambling just to get a real college experience. No matter your position or contribution to the team they will treat you like a star

Listening to the school's alma mater for the final time

KINCADE: I wanted to go out with championship. This champion was my go away present was a championship game, but God had another plan. Listening to the song was overwhelming because thought about how my college career is really over. I wish I had another year at Grambling to play one more time.

N.C. A&T defense and stops made.

De'ARIUS CHRISTMAS: we got too comfortable. We made adjustments and made a couple plays but they just made a couple more plays.

Changes in the second half of the game for your defense

CHRISTMAS: We gave them a couple of check downs. They dropped some down routes that hurt us. We were comfortable and making plays but they got the job done.

Positive take away from this year

HOGUES – I got a team full of brother

KINCAID: The bond with my teammates. The pain we went through to get this point. Even though we came up short in our eyes we are still champions with a lot ahead of us.

What did you see on interception?

De'ANDRE HOGUES: The slot receiver tried to curl back up and I could see it coming. I didn't think he (Kincaid) was going to throw the ball but when he threw it I just made a play on it.

The rivalry between the SWAC and the MEAC

CHRISTMAS: It's the best going again the best. In order to be the best you got to beat the best.

Head Coach Broderick Fobbs

OPENNING STATEMENT: Well, what a football game! It was two heavy weight contenders and champions going at it, both teams stopped each other in the red zone, had turn overs, they just stopped us one more time than we did it. It hurts. It takes a real man to put yourself out there and be told "No you can't have that". I am very proud of my team and coaches for what we have been able to accomplish. I take my hat of NCAT. They are a great program, very discipline ball club. They did a great job and they deserve to win today.

Thoughts on mistakes in ball game and what happened

It happens! Sometimes you drop or fumble the ball and other times you make a really good play. One time I thought they did a good job of stripping us (Martez) which was a turn over, we got ourselves out of that. A second time they were able to get something out of it. This game is about execution. If you have two evenly matched teams it boils down to execution. That's the difference in a ball game.

On losing your first senior class to graduation

I wanted to win it for them because they work so hard. It's a shame that only one time can be a champion because both teams put it out there to get to this point. I told them they are still champions, we just came out short. We finished 11-2. Our goal was to play 13 games, we did that. Our goal was to have double digit wins, we did. Our goal was to win a conference championship, we did. This is just one goal that we came up short. At the end of the day I'll take 3 out of 4.

Impact this bowl has on recruiting and HBCU football

(It's a) huge impact on recruiting. Looking at the caliber of talent that was on the field today it speaks volumes for the two conferences. There are a lot of good players that make goof plays.

On missing quarterback Kincaid next year

Of course, I will miss him a lot. The last three season the offensive player of the year has been a quarterback (Johnathan Williams or Kincaid), but there will be someone else. We'll keep rolling and doing what we do.

The progression of Grambling's program

I am proud of coaches and players for what they have been able to accomplish. I asked the guys how many have lost more than 5 games on the team and it was only 2 players that stood up. Everyone on the team has won 7 ball games or more which speaks volumes. They are a bunch of winners. They fault to the end, it just boils down to executions.

What did he see with Cartwright and the fumble?

It looked like he caught the ball. There was a minute left on the clock and I was going to hold my time out, so I was just going to throw up a prayer and see what happens. As I saw they replay I realized it was a drop, so I was going to lose my time out, but sometimes you must empty your bullets.

What does Grambling State offers as a program?

Our program is unique because we pour into young people the right things. I always say light can do two things: it can blind you from the truth or shed light on the truth. Universities shed light on facilities, uniforms, stainless steel lockers, tv's and waterfalls but you can't take any of that with it. The only that matters are what you are pouring into your players educationally, in his development as a man, and lastly football wise. I think our kids are thirsting for that. When you walk out the door the only thing you are doing is renting the facility for four to five years.