

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE POST-GAME QUOTES

2017 Celebration Bowl

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

Marquell Cartwright (Offensive MVP)

Franklin McCain (Defensive MVP)

Jeremy Taylor

Lamar Raynard

Head Coach Rod Broadway

Marquell Cartwright on following Cohen and what the season has meant/his performance:

“I talk to Tarik a lot. We wanted people to know that even though Tarik’s gone, we can still be a dominant team. We’re a running back school, and we wanted to let that be known.”

Jeremy Taylor on shutting down the Grambling offense/QB Devante Kincade:

“The biggest thing was to contain (Kincade). We knew from watching film that he likes to run, and if his first option isn’t open, he’ll take off. Our biggest thing was keeping the containment and keeping him in the pocket.”

Jeremy Taylor on going 12-0/winning the Celebration Bowl:

“12-0 is something most teams don’t do, and it’s something most teams don’t get close to doing or seeing. So we’re feeling pretty good right now, and we’re blessed to be here. I graduated last week, but the memories I’ve made with these boys right here, that’s something I can take with me.”

Lamar Raynard on being 12-0:

“I appreciate all the fans on our side. We held on, man. And that’s the thing about this team. We’re fighters. It doesn’t come around a lot, and it wasn’t easy. It was something we had to grind for.”

Raynard on his relationship with Cartwright:

“We started together in the ninth grade. We were a dominant force in high school, and we decided to come to college together because we thought we could be really great together. I just want to tip my hat to (Cartwright) because they really tried to take the game away from my boy. And he came back and fought even harder and harder. And people doubted him ... this guy is my brother, and we stay right down the street from each other. There’s a lot I could say, but I’ll keep it short. I love him, though.”

Franklin (Mac) McCain on his INT:

“Well I watch film a lot, and I try to know a lot of things before they happen. The receiver had a tight split, so I kind of knew he was going to run an out route. So I ran the route for him and made the play.”

NCAT Coach Rod Broadway

Opening Statement:

“It was an excellent win. Let’s give Grambling their dues. There were two really good football teams out there, and usually when you get two teams like that together, it comes down to who makes the fewest mistakes and we were able to win the ball game. We made way too many mistakes and we had a lot of opportunities slip away. But I told the team prior to the last drive, this is how championships are won and we were able to go down and put the ball in the end zone to end the season 12-0, which is an unbelievable feeling.”

On his relationship with the fans:

“They showed up, didn’t they? They like it when you win. But these guys have been unbelievable. They’ve shown up all season. Most places we go, our fans outnumber those of who we’re playing.”

On where he sees his legacy after his fourth HBCU national title:

“I don’t look at all that. I’m extremely proud of our players and the jobs our coaches have done. I’m so happy for those seniors, and I’m happy for our school. We’ve come a long way.”

On WR Elijah Bell:

“He’s a special talent. He’s 6-2 and a half, 225-pound receiver and he can outmuscle guys out there. He’s just a sophomore, he’s going to be unbelievable before he leaves here.

On his defense’s effort/holding down Kincade:

“It looked like to me he went crazy. That boy showed out. One of the things we wanted to do is not let him beat us with his feet, but he kept a lot of drives alive with his feet. We had a chance at him to get a few hits but we just missed him. He’s slippery. I was impressed with that young man. We had spies on him a couple times but we just couldn’t catch him. There were about five plays where we had him dead to rights but we couldn’t get him. He’s a lot more impressive in person than on tape.”

On the Celebration Bowl experience/the game’s impact beyond the field:

“Last time we won this game, we benefitted, and our school benefitted with applications at an all-time high. Let me say this, this week has been a beautiful experience for our kids. What a great event. My hat’s off to the people who put this game on. I say this to MEAC Commissioner Dr. Thomas all the time, for them to have the vision to get this game going and for our guys to have that experience, it’s a beautiful thing. I’ve spent 24 years in Division 1, and every season we started with the same goal in mind, which is to go to a bowl game, and they hand-delivered us one. For our guys to experience this is priceless.”

On the eventual failed 4th down play at the GSU 1-yard line:

“We were in four-down territory. You’re thinking that if you don’t get it, you pin them down in a spot where you can get a short punt and get good field position. We let them out of the hole a little bit, but we were able to get it back. But we’d go for it again. You have to be able to make those plays in championship games.”

On the defense's play/it being a staple of his championship-winning teams:

"I've been a defensive coach all my life. The number one principle in our program that we preach from the moment our players step on campus is stop the run. I don't care who we play, we have to stop the run. We're going to overload the box and make you beat us throwing the ball. I don't think there's enough passers that can actually complete 70-75 percent of their passes against us – which is what it would take to beat us – so we're going to take away the run. We're going to do that. We'll give you 300 yards passing, but if you can't run the ball you're not going to beat us. We're too good up front, we'll get enough pressure to where you'll have erratic throws once in a while. If you can get 300 yards passing against us, God bless you and as you have seen, it hasn't happened a lot this season."

On QB Lamar Raynard:

"He has really grown as a player. Coach Barnette has done a wonderful job developing him. But Lamar has a lot of natural ability and he puts the time in."