

ALCORN STATE POST-GAME QUOTES

2018 Celebration Bowl

December 15, 2018 • Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta, Ga)

QB Noah Johnson

S Brady Smith

RB De'Shawn Waller

Head Coach Fred McNair

Brady Smith on Coach McNair at halftime in the locker room

“Coach is big on finishing and we knew we made mistakes and had to come back and fix it. It was a pride thing, I believe in the defense and offense too but we had to give it our all for the last thirty (30) minutes. To give our all for the seniors and go out with a bang.”

Noah on his season

“We lost a National Championship I don't care about what the season we had. We lost a championship and nothing else matters right now”

Noah Johnson on his injury

“I pulled my hamstring during the two-point conversion and wanted to play for the seniors to go out with a bang, I have time to recover”

De'Shawn Waller on the game

Second half we came out better than we did in the first half. Whatever coach called we had to execute it. Second half we came out with better effort and more execution. The offensive line did what they had to do so it allowed me to do my job

De'Shawn Waller on playing in his hometown

“Being home either if I won or lost, I had my family on my side. At the end of the day I know I made my mom and Dad proud no matter what I did on the field.”

Coach Fred McNair opening statement

“They played a heavy ballgame and I thought the first half we didn't execute as well as we should have but in the second half we did, and it all came down to a two-point conversion.”

Coach Fred McNair on the two-point conversion and if the refs explained the conversion

“They confirmed it was incomplete but didn't give an explanation. I was looking for a juggle or if his foot was out of bounds”

Coach McNair on the seniors

“The leadership the seniors showed for the underclassmen was amazing. We are going to miss these guys. This is it for them and it’s time for them to move on and hoping we impacted their lives in the future”

Coach McNair on how he felt about how they played this season

“I’m proud of them and how they competed this whole season. I told them in life adversity will strike and the way you approach a game is the way you can approach life. They care about each other its a family-hood. They executed better than the first half and they will cherish this moment for the rest of their lives and hopefully, they learn from it as well”

What adjustments did you make from the first half to the second half of the game

“We felt that we needed to wear the guys (N.C. A&T) down because they had a good defense.”

McNair on next year

We have a big junior class coming back and are excited about what's to come, it was a tough loss this year for the seniors. We just gotta pick them up and life will take them on and face the real world.”