

2008 Florida Football

Post-Game Notes

Florida vs. The Citadel

November 22, 2008

- ♦ Florida is now 10-1 for the second time in the last three seasons and for the sixth time in school history (1991, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2006).
- ♦ UF's current streak of scoring 42-or-more points in six straight games is the longest current streak in the country.
- ♦ Florida is the first SEC team since the inception of the league to score 42 or more points in six straight games. UF becomes the only current member of the SEC to score 42 or more points in six straight games in college football's modern era. The only other current member of the SEC to score 42 or more points in six straight games was the 1915 Vanderbilt team. The league was not formed yet.
- ♦ This streak matches Head Coach Urban Meyer's longest of his career. The final six games of his tenure at Utah the Utes recorded six consecutive games of 42 or more points.
- ♦ The 49-point first half marked the third time in Meyer's career the Gators scored 49 points in one half. (vs. Kentucky, Sept. 24, 2005; vs. Troy, Sept. 8 2007)
- ♦ Meyer's teams have scored at least 50 points the most times of any UF coach in his first four seasons (10). Stever Spurrier is second with six. Meyer is already has the second highest total of games scoring 50 or more points by a UF head coach while coaching the Gators; Spurrier leads with 33.
- ♦ Florida's 705 offensive yards marked the third time in school history that a UF team has accumulated over 700 yards of total offense.
- ♦ The Gators tallied 394 rushing yards on the day, marking the first time since 1996 they have rushed for over 300 yards in back-to-back games.
- ♦ Florida has now rushed for five rushing touchdowns in the past two games. It is the first time since 1996 that Gators have completed this feat.
- ♦ Junior quarterback Tim Tebow has thrown multiple touchdowns in seven straight games, the longest streak of his career. Tebow is now tied for second with Chris Leak (2003-06) in Florida record books for all-time TD responsibility (101) and he moved to fifth for single-season TD responsibility (33). He also moved to second on the single-season passing touchdown list with 19, second only to his total last season (23).
- ♦ Tebow threw a 16-yard pass to senior wide receiver Louis Murphy with 10:34 remaining in first quarter for his 20th touchdown pass of the senior and 57 of his career. Murphy has caught five TD passes this year and 11 in his career. He also extended his streak of consecutive games with a reception to 24.
- ♦ Tebow's 31-yard touchdown pass to redshirt freshman wide receiver Deonte Thompson with 13:16 to play in the first half was his final throw of the game. He recorded 201 passing yards, which is his highest total in the last five games.
- ♦ Junior running back/wide receiver Percy Harvin scored an 11-yard rushing touchdown off a direct snap with 14:51 to play in the first half. It was the first play of the second quarter. Harvin has now scored in the last 13 games he has played in, which put him first nationally, ahead of Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree (playing at 8 p.m.).
- ♦ Redshirt freshman running back Chris Rainey recorded his second career 100-yard rushing game. He tallied a career-high 142 yards on the day.
- ♦ Redshirt sophomore running back Emmanuel Moody rushed for over 100 yards for the first time in his career at Florida, registering 116 yards on a career-high 13 carries. He scored his first career UF touchdown with 9:44 to play in the game on a five-yard run.
- ♦ For the second time in 2008, two UF running backs ran for over 100 yards each. Rainey and freshman athlete Jeff Demps each recorded 103 yards in the win over Arkansas.
- ♦ Senior defensive tackle Javier Estopinan scored his first career touchdown on a one-yard run with 10:36 left in the third quarter.
- ♦ Junior safety Wondy Pierre-Louis recorded his first interception of the season with 7:21 to play in the game. He has three in his career.

Urban Meyer's Plan to Win

- *Play Great Defense*

- UF has had at least one interception in 10 of the 11 games this year.
- Florida has outscored opponents, 122-0, in the first quarter over the last seven games and 147-7 on the year.

- UF has allowed just three first-half touchdowns all season and is outscoring opponents, 255-29, before the half. The Gators have also forced opponents to punt 39 times in the first half in 2008.
 - The Gators have recorded 20 interceptions in 2008 and 479 interception return yards.
- *Turnovers*
 - With three interceptions today, the Gators now own a +18 turnover margin.
 - UF has not turned the ball over in seven of the last 13 games.
- *Score in the Red Zone*
 - The Gators have scored on 47-of-51 trips inside the red zone and 7-of-8 on the day. The Gators did not score in final red-zone attempt of the first half because time expired.
- *Win the Kicking Game*
 - Florida was forced to punt the ball for the first time in the game with 5:35 to play in the fourth quarter.
 - Only five of Florida's 11 opponents have started a drive in Florida territory. Overall, UF has started 32 drives in opponent territory this season and the Gators have scored on 26 of them.
 - Florida has punted only 35 times this season.

◆ **The 2008 Senior Class:**

- Four members have already graduated and are currently enrolled in graduate school: Defensive tackle Javier Estopinan, long snapper James Smith, offensive lineman Phil Trautwein and kicker Jonathan Phillips.
 - Ten players will graduate in December and the remaining players are scheduled to graduate at the end of the academic year.
 - This senior class has won a National Championship, two SEC Eastern Division titles and two January bowl games. They compiled an overall record of 40-9, marking the second winning class in UF history and the best record in the SEC during the last three years (19-5). They were also 14-1 versus the SEC East over the last three years, 24-2 in the Swamp and 11-1 in rivalry games.
- ◆ Attendance: 90,374
 - ◆ Game Captains: #33 Kestahn Moore, #43 James Smith, #63 Jim Tartt and #93 Javier Estopinan; Florida won the half and deferred to the second half.
 - ◆ Weather: 59°F with winds out of the NNE
 - ◆ Several members of the military were recognized prior to the start of the game. Included among the group was Charles Crews, a member of the Wounded Warrior Project*, who served in Somalia and Iraq and was a Staff Sergeant in the Marine Corps. Four local soldiers participated in the coin toss and were recognized during a timeout in the first half.
 - ◆ Prior to the game, the 2008 senior class was recognized and during the first quarter, there was a presentation recognizing George "Mr. 2-Bits" Edmonson and the Mr. 2-Bits Golf Invitational.
 - ◆ Gator student-athletes sponsored the season-long "Gators Canned Goods Challenge for Kids," a canned food drive to benefit the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank in Gainesville. Fans were asked to bring cans to every home football game. Before the final game, the Gators had collected over 3,300 pounds of food.
 - ◆ *About the Wounded Warrior Project: The Wounded Warrior Project is an organization whose mission is to honor and empower these wounded warriors and make this the most successful, well-adjusted generation of veterans in our nation's history. The Wounded Warrior Project provides services and programs including adaptive sports opportunities and benefits and career counseling to ease the burdens of the wounded and their families, aid in the recovery process and smooths their transition back into civilian life.

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Post-Game Quotes

Urban Meyer

Florida Head Coach

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On Senior Defensive Tackle Javier Estopinan:

"Javier has had a career a lot like Jim Tartt, injury-wise. They are both great players. I remember when Javier was playing his best football a couple years ago versus LSU and he hurt his knee. He's had three ACL injuries. We talked about getting [Estopinan] a touchdown, we practiced it and it worked."

On Percy Harvin:

"He is one of the top two or three players in the nation. There are things that I've seen him do that I've never seen anyone else do. The next two weeks will be huge for him. There really is no surprise how I feel about him. He'll go down in history as one of the greats at Florida and he's worked for that."

On the senior class:

"I tried to get the seniors as involved in this game as possible. Just because you're a senior doesn't entitle you to that, but they deserve it. The crowd was fantastic in supporting this senior class. To sustain four years of college football now-a-days is hard. They're going to achieve all that we ask of them. One hundred percent of them will graduate, that's amazing. I am very proud of them."

2008 Florida Football

Post-Game Quotes

Florida Players

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Senior Running Back Kestahn Moore

On starting his final game for Florida:

"It's a great feeling to come into the Swamp. Getting the chance to start in my last game at the Swamp was something special."

On scoring two touchdowns:

"It felt great. I hadn't been in the end zone in a long time. I thought about doing a celebration when I scored, but I forgot about it."

Senior Defensive Tackle Javier Estopinan

On scoring a rushing touchdown:

"It was awesome. It was Coach Meyer's idea, which surprised me. We have a lot of playmakers on the offense, so Coach is stingy with his touchdowns. I just wanted to make sure I had the ball. I was nervous I would drop it, and if you watch the play you'll see me pause for a second out of nerves. It was special."

On his career at Florida:

"I made the right decision to come here and I wouldn't change a thing. We have the chance to win the SEC and potentially win another National Championship. I've had great memories here. It's great to know I made the right decision."

2008 Florida Football

Post-Game Quotes

Kevin Higgins

The Citadel Head Coach

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On how they planned for the game:

"We planned for this game like we do most of our games. We put our packages together offensively, defensively and on special teams. We limited what we did from an offensive standpoint just because of the defensive line and our ability to hold them from the pass protections' standpoint. We did a lot more three-step drops; we put a couple of wrinkles in the terms of throwing back that weren't as successful as we would have hoped. We knew that they are an outstanding football team. We were hoping to keep the clock going early in particular and obviously they are an outstanding team."

On their play:

"We didn't execute like we would have liked to. Obviously, it's a great football team that we were playing against. I thought our guys could have played better, we dropped some balls, we didn't tackle as well we should have; but, a lot of that is because of who we were playing, a great football team."

On the seniors that have played their last game with The Citadel:

"First of all, the senior class is responsible for us winning seven games last year, the first winning season in 15 years. They are very instrumental in turning this program around. We have some great leaders."

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The Citadel Players

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Sophomore QB Cam Turner

On the fans at Florida:

"Playing Florida was a great experience. The crowd was great. Playing in front of that many people was a great experience. They were in my ear the whole time."

On Florida's defense:

"Florida's defense did a great job. They brought pressure all day long and made it difficult for us to execute the way we wanted. Florida's defensive line and linebackers did a great job. We found a rhythm in the second half and had some good drives. "

Freshman RB Asheton Jordan

On preparing for Florida's special teams coverage:

"We know Florida is one of the fastest teams in the country, so we moved our scout teams up several yards to prepare for their speed. It paid off. Our guys executed well on special teams; getting back and providing blocking."

On playing in The Swamp:

"Playing in a stadium like Florida Field in front of so many fans was great."

Senior WR Scott Flanagan

On his touchdown pass to QB Cam Turner:

"Coach knew I played quarterback in high school, so he called for me to throw the ball. Cam made a great play coming down with the ball for a touchdown."