



# FOOTBALL

WVU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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## WEST VIRGINIA vs. GEORGIA SOUTHERN // POSTGAME QUOTES

Milan Puskar Stadium // September 5, 2015

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen

### Opening Statement

Obviously, I am very proud of the guys. They played well on all three sides of the ball. They prepared well. I am really pleased with the coaching staff and how they approached this on all three sides of the ball. The execution from the players was great. It was important to them, and you could tell it was important to them. Georgia Southern is a tricky bunch. Never in my wildest dreams would I have guessed that we would beat them 44-0 because of what they do offensively. Defensively, they don't give up points like that very often. Overall, I am really proud of the guys. They are a good team.

On if anybody on the coaching staff had experience with that type of offense

No. We spent some time in the offseason with some people that do it. I am not going to mention anybody, but Tony (Gibson) went and saw a couple of people and came up with a plan. He executed it pretty good. I'm very proud of him. He's done a great job since he's been here. Our defense is pretty motivated and excited. The leadership that we have on that side of the ball is showing. Hopefully, it continues.

On the tricky offense that Georgia Southern presented

I was listening to Gibby (Tony Gibson) on the head set a couple of times, and he was talking himself out of blitzing. Our nature is to blitz and attack. You can't do that against these guys. You have to sit back and read your keys. You have to understand what your assignment is, and do what we ask you to do. The guys bought into it. We have very smart senior leaders. We have guys with a lot of experience. I doubt the d-line was credited with a lot of the tackles, but they did a great job with holding gaps and holding double teams. Bruce Tall is doing a great job with a lot of those guys, and a lot of those linebackers and safeties rallied and made a lot of tackles as well.

On the younger players at wide receiver

I am excited on how those guys performed. We have two young receivers that have over 100 yards in the first game of the year with a new quarterback is exciting. Five is a player. One is a player. Those guys can run. I told you they can run. We are going to ask them to do a lot more than just run fast and catch balls down field. They continue to get better. Their catches will continue to get better. I knew the timing aspect of it was going to be key. I was hoping that we could get it together early. He overthrew a couple of them. That's the timing aspect of it that only time can get you right. We have something to build on.

On Karl Joseph's performance on defense

I have never given anybody a game ball, but I gave him one down there in the locker room. He's the inspirational leader with what we are trying to do. It's been fun to watch him mature and grow up. He's been a great player. He has played over 3,000 snaps in three years, and for him to take the next step to be the inspirational leader on defense and be the guy that I trust to stand in front of the room and talk and motivate everyone is great. He's a pretty motivated young man. Those weren't easy interceptions, too. In one quarter, I said 'what will happen when we throw against a passing team.' What's going to happen then? He played well. He played really well.

On scoring touchdowns in the red zone

I was furious. It challenged our guys. I yelled at them, but I yelled at myself. I said, I guess I forgot to tell you that you are supposed to score. I called all these plays, and they executed it pretty good, but we didn't finish those plays. I got on them pretty good. Wendell (Smallwood) finished a couple runs, which looked really good. I can't remember who all scored in the second half, but we did a better job of finishing those drives for touchdowns. Six for seven. The one where I went for it on fourth down, I wish I could take that back. I was impatient. That was stupid. We should of at least been seven for seven. Josh (Lambert) did a good job on knocking the ball through. That's going to happen, but we have to continue to focus on finishing drives with touchdowns.



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Georgia Southern coach Willie Fritz

#### Opening Statement

Great job by West Virginia. I was very impressed. Coach Holgorsen and his staff really did an excellent job. Coach Gibson's defense tonight - I know they prepared for us for quite some time. Obviously they did a great job with their preparation. My hat's off to their staff and their team for going out and executing and playing a tremendous ball game. I guess we were minus five in turnover takeaways. I think I won a couple games being minus five, but it's extremely difficult to ever win a game, when you're minus five in the turnover takeaway margin. Especially with the type of game we play. I'm disappointed. I thought at times in the first half, in particular, our defense played well. In the opening of the second half there's a couple of things that they did some nice things also, but we kept putting them in a hole. We just couldn't answer offensively. We were beat without question. They did a nice job. They coached better than us and played better than us.

#### On WVU's Defense

It was probably a little more vanilla than I thought they were going to be. They did a super job of execution. We had a few new wrinkles that we ran. It's a little different running against their big bodies and our guys in practice. They did a good job tackling. There was three or four plays in the first half that I thought were just a whisker away from getting 40, 50 or 60-yard runs, giving us a little more confidence. They tackled well and did a really nice job of playing with leverage. When we threw the ball on a few occasions, we just couldn't get away from them. They have a tremendous secondary, and they covered us like loops. A lot of things they did defensively, we worked on. They just out-executed us.

On his expectations of the matchups with the young receivers on the outside and how that ended up matching up for WVU

All week we talked about staying over the top. The quickest way to get beat is over the top. One area that we did a poor job with in the first half was closing in the middle of the field. We were playing half coverage. We just didn't do that. Corners got beat and there were a couple of times we were in positions to play the ball. The first touchdown in particular, we got turned around and a touchdown for them. It looked like we had leverage, and we didn't do a very good job. They did a nice job. They have good speed. Their quarterback does a good job in throwing the deep throw accurately and they are not afraid to throw it accurately. They did a very good job of pass protection. When you play at this level you can not pass down the middle. It's going to be a game out there and we had to stay on the edge.