

Saturday, November 4, 2017

## Alabama Football vs. LSU Postgame Quotes

### ALABAMA

#### Head Coach Nick Saban

##### *Opening Statement:*

“Obviously, this was a tough game. I told the players before the game that we had not had a hard test yet. Hard defines you in terms of who you are and we did not play a great game today. We had a lot of self-inflicted wounds but you can’t be disappointed with the way our players fought, hung in there and did what they had to do to win the game. You have to give LSU’s players a lot of credit. This is always a tough and physical game, and it was certainly all of that tonight.

“It is a great win for us but it was a costly win as well. Shaun Dion (Hamilton) is probably out and so is Mack Wilson. We already have a couple linebackers who are already out, so this is going to be a challenge moving forward, but the guys who were in there today did a pretty good job.

“We missed a check when they got in the wildcat and (Darrel Williams) was the quarterback. It was a big run to set up their touchdown. Half the team checked and half the team did not, so we were half in and half out, and that’s not a good thing to be. If everyone had done it wrong, we probably would have been okay, and if we all did it right we would have been alright. We didn’t have a lot of consistency on offense, but we made plays when we needed to make them and we scored enough to win. Getting off the field on third down was a problem in the first half, which is how they kept the ball. We did a little better job on that and on pressuring the quarterback in the second half.

“Again, this is always a tough game and they have a good team. They are playing very well, so this is a good win for us. We have a lot of other tough teams to play in the future. We need to look into the things we need to improve on and try to not have the self-inflicted wounds in the future.”

##### *On quarterback Jalen Hurts’ play:*

“Jalen played a really good game. They played an eight-man front on us and made it really hard to run the ball. They ran people at the quarterback to try to take (Hurts) away from the running game. Some of the scrambles on third down were really key in the game, and he made some really good throws, as well. When people play like that, you make some big plays, but it can get ugly in between, and that’s how it was today, but I think he did a really good job out there”

##### *On Minkah Fitzpatrick playing with injuries:*

“We just played him in one situation – he was a short-area player – and most of the time with those things its long speed that will get you. We don’t know how bad (his injury) is; we’ll probably do an MRI on it tomorrow and make an assessment, but the fact that he was able to go out there and play probably was an indication that it wasn’t too terrible. We will have to assess him.”

##### *On the running game:*

“It wasn’t good. They played an eight-man front most of the time. They were playing mint defense so you have to be able to throw the ball effectively. They played man-to-man a lot and you have to be able to

beat man-to-man. I think we beat man-to-man at times, and at times we had two or three balls that we could have caught that we didn't catch. You have to be able to execute in those kind of situation, and being able to execute is the most important thing. Discipline to execute is the most important thing – I don't care how big the game is, how much emotion you have; you have to channel it in the right direction. You have to have discipline to execute and be able to focus to make plays and be the best player you can be when we need you to be the best player. Some of the younger guys on the team, they probably learned a little bit tonight (about being the best player you can be) and they'll grow from that and get better. We need our whole team to learn from this and get better.”

**#33 Anfernee Jennings, LB**

***On his leadership role as a game captain in tonight's contest:***

“That's the type of stuff I dream of. Being a captain on this team is a big honor, and I take pride in it. I always want to play at a high level for my teammates, and getting to lead them on the field tonight was amazing for me.”

***On the atmosphere of tonight's game:***

“We always know this game is going to be a dogfight, no matter what the rankings are. We look forward to it every year. It was another battle this year, and I'm really thankful our guys came out with a great win against a really tough LSU team.”

**#10 JK Scott, P**

***On importance of every kick:***

“It's funny that you say that because I was talking to Javier Arenas last week about being a specialist and he emphasized the importance of taking every rep in practice like it's a game. I've been told that before, but the way he put it made it real to me. Being game-ready is what I worked on this week and that was my mindset coming into the game. It's the best mindset you can have because it gives you the best shot to be successful each time.”

***On his big game tonight:***

“I just wanted to punt well for my team and I was looking to do anything I could to help us win. I'm thankful we came away with a victory, and I'm glad I could contribute to that.”

**LSU**

**Head Coach Ed Orgeron**

***Opening Statement:***

“Tough, hard-fought battle. Those guys fought. They played to win the game, we just didn't make the plays when we could. We had problems with coverage. They (Alabama) made the big plays when they were supposed to. We didn't.”

***On the game being close and if he was proud of his team:***

“We came here to fight, and nobody likes losing, but you know what? These guys believed the whole week. I'm proud of this football team. There's some good young men in there. I hurt for them. I wish I could've made better decisions for them to help them win the game. That's all.”

***On failing to cut the lead in the third quarter:***

“We just got to make those plays. We’ve got to be able to move the football. Obviously, they’re very good on defense, but we moved ball sometimes. We had 306 total yards. They had 299. But we just didn’t make the plays we’re supposed to make, convert when we’re supposed to and put the ball in the end zone.”

***On the difference between the two teams:***

“I did not think that their receivers would challenge us like they did. I thought that was the difference in the ball game. We could not cover their receivers man-to-man like we usually do. Obviously, on offense, I think that we need to be able to score points against these guys. We moved the ball. The last two times I was here, we didn’t move the ball too well. Tonight, we moved the ball. We just didn’t convert. We need to continue to do the things we’re doing and believe in it.”

**#16 Danny Etling, QB**

***On moving the ball against Alabama this year versus years past:***

“We had a good game plan. We executed what we were trying to do and we were pretty comfortable in moving the ball. We’ve just got to finish and make the plays.”

***How to finish the season strongly:***

“Just do the same thing last year where we refocused (after losing to Alabama) and we didn’t let this affect us and we just move on from there.”

**#23 Corey Thompson, LB**

***On moral victories:***

“I believe in moral victories to a certain extent, but at the end of the day we have to win. We did a lot of things well so we have a lot of things to be proud of.”

***On the competitiveness of this Alabama vs LSU game/rivalry:***

“It’s always competitive. We made some mistakes, but we will correct them and get better. We are going to continue to improve every year and keep looking forward to doing better in the future.”



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**POSTGAME NOTES – 2/1/1 ALABAMA VS. 19/19/20 LSU  
SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 2017 • BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM • TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**

**NOTES**

**GAME CAPTAINS:** Alabama’s captains for tonight’s game vs. LSU were defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick, linebacker Anfernee Jennings and offensive lineman Ross Pierschbacher.

**SEC STREAK:** With tonight’s 24-10 win over LSU, Alabama has now won 21 consecutive SEC regular season contests (not including SEC Championship Games) dating back to a 38-10 win at Georgia on Oct. 3, 2015, the second-longest streak in school history. Alabama’s last loss was a 43-37 defeat by Ole Miss on Sept. 19, 2015. Alabama won a school record 27 consecutive SEC games from 1976-80.

**SABAN'S 59th GAME AS AP No. 1:** The matchup with LSU tonight was Nick Saban's 59th career game coaching Alabama as the Associated Press No. 1 team, the most games coached as No. 1 at one school. At 53-6 (.898), Saban has won more games coaching as the No. 1 team at one school than any other coach in college football history. Woody Hayes (Ohio State) and Bobby Bowden (Florida State) are tied for second with 40 wins apiece. Bowden was 40-5 at Florida State as No. 1 and Hayes went 40-6 with Ohio State.

**ALABAMA AS THE NATION'S NO. 1:** Alabama has played 83 games as the nation's top-ranked team since the inception of the Associated Press Poll in 1936. In those games, the Crimson Tide boasts a 72-11 (.867) record. Those numbers are even more impressive when you look at the 11 seasons under the direction of head coach Nick Saban (2007-present). Since the ninth game of the 2008 season (125 games), Alabama has played 59 games while being ranked No. 1, posting a 53-6 (.898) record during that span.

**115-7 UNDER SABAN WHEN LEADING AT THE HALF:** Under head coach Nick Saban, the Crimson Tide is 115-7 (.943) when leading at the half. Alabama led LSU, 14-3, at the half tonight and has held the lead in 33 of its last 39 games dating back to the start of the 2015 season, including 13 of 15 games in 2016 and all nine games this season.

#### **DEFENSIVE NOTES**

**FIRST HALF DEFENSE:** Alabama has not allowed a first half touchdown in SEC play this season. The Tide held Vanderbilt, Arkansas and Tennessee scoreless and limited Ole Miss, Texas A&M and LSU to a single field goal each in the first six SEC contests this season.

**TURNOVER STREAK STANDS AT 36 GAMES:** Junior Ronnie Harrison's first quarter interception tonight extended Alabama's streak of games forcing at least one turnover to 36. The streak began in Alabama's 34-0 win over ULM on Sept. 26, 2015. During the current run, the Crimson Tide has forced 67 turnovers (45 interceptions, 22 fumbles) and returned 16 of those miscues for touchdowns. Alabama is 35-1 during this run. Alabama's last game without a forced turnover was a 43-37 loss to Ole Miss on Sept. 19, 2015.

**SEASON-HIGH SACKS FOR TIDE:** Alabama finished with a season-high six sacks in tonight's win over LSU. Freshman Dylan Moses led the way with 1.5 and was followed by senior Rashaan Evans, sophomore Raekwon Davis and redshirt freshman Quinnen Williams, who finished 1.0 each. Juniors Ronnie Harrison, Da'Ron Payne and Minkah Fitzpatrick who each added 0.5.

**GETTING TO THE QUARTERBACK:** Over the first four games of the season, Alabama recorded a total of 5.0 sacks for an average of 1.25 per game. Since then, the Crimson Tide has amassed 24.0 sacks, averaging out to 4.8 sacks per game over the five-game span.

**10 POINTS OR LESS:** Alabama's 24-10 win over LSU tonight marks the 79th time under head coach Nick Saban that the Crimson Tide has held opponents to 10 points or less, the seventh time in nine games this season and the 22<sup>nd</sup> time in the last 39 games dating to the start of the 2015 season.

#### **OFFENSIVE NOTES**

**SCORING STREAK CONTINUES:** Alabama's school record consecutive games scoring streak was extended to 222 games against LSU tonight with Jalen Hurts' four-yard touchdown pass to Irv Smith Jr. on Alabama's second possession. The Crimson Tide was last held off the scoreboard in a 9-0 loss to Auburn on Nov. 18, 2000.

**FAST STARTERS:** Alabama has now outscored its opponents 114-9 (12.7-1.0) in the first quarter and 204-29 (22.7-3.2) in the first half this season.

**RIDLEY THIRD ON NCAA ACTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION LIST:** With his reception on Alabama's second possession tonight, junior Calvin Ridley now has at least one reception in all 39 games of his Alabama career and ranks No. 3 in consecutive games with a reception among active players in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

**HURTS NOW THIRD ON UA CAREER TOUCHDOWN RESPONSIBILITY LIST:** Jalen Hurts' two touchdowns tonight (one throwing, one rushing) moved Hurts into third place on the Alabama career touchdown

responsibility list at 53. Hurts has thrown 33 career touchdown passes and rushed for 20 career scores in 24 games. John Parker Wilson ranks (2005-08) No. 2 on the UA list with 58 touchdowns.

**HURTS NOW 10<sup>th</sup> ON UA CAREER PASSING YARDS LIST:** With 183 passing yards tonight, Jalen Hurts moved into 10<sup>th</sup> place on the Alabama career passing yards list with 4,186 yards in 24 career games. Walter Lewis (1980-83) is ninth with 4,257 yards.

**HURTS NOW THIRD ON UA QB SINGLE-SEASON QB RUSHING LIST:** With 44 yards rushing tonight, Jalen Hurts has now rushed for 616 yards to move into sole possession of third place on the UA single-season quarterback rushing list. Hurts already holds the school record after rushing for 954 yards as a freshman in 2016. That performance broke Steadman's Shealy's 37-year-old school record of 791 yards, set in 1979.

**HURTS SETS UA QUARTERBACK CAREER RUSHING TOUCHDOWN HIGH:** Jalen Hurts' third quarter three-yard touchdown run is the 20<sup>th</sup> rushing score of his career, which sets a new UA career high for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback. Harry Gilmer (1944-47) held the previous career high at 19.

**SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES**

**SCOTT FIRST UA PUNTER TO REACH 10,000 YARDS:** Senior JK Scott's 413 yards on eight punts tonight gives him 10,113 yards, making him UA's first 10,000-yard punter. Scott moved into first on the Tide's career punting yards list following the Arkansas game on Oct. 14. Scott's 221 career punt attempts ranks second to P.J. Fitzgerald (2006-09), who finished his career with 238.

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