

2009 Florida Football

Post-Game Notes

Florida vs. Georgia

October 31, 2009

Team

- ♦ Florida extended its nation's-best and school-record win streak to 18 games.
- ♦ Since Urban Meyer became the head coach in 2005, the Gators are now 14-1 against tradition rivals (Florida State, Georgia, Miami and Tennessee), including a 4-1 record against the Bulldogs.
- ♦ With the three sacks tonight, the Gators defense has recorded 16 sacks over last four games.
- ♦ The Gator defense recorded six tackles for loss against Georgia, marking the seventh game in a row the defense tallied five or more tackles for loss.
- ♦ Special teams continue to stop opponents from returning punts as they did not allow any punt return yardage for the eighth straight game. The Gators have recorded zero punt-return yardage this season.
- ♦ Gators have allowed only 88 points this season, including only eight touchdowns through eight games as the defense allowed two today for the fifth and sixth allowed of the season.
- ♦ The Florida offense has scored a touchdown in 56 of the last 67 quarters, while going three-and-out just 27 times over the past 72 quarters, as they did once twice tonight.
- ♦ The Gator defense allowed the Bulldogs on four third-down conversions on 12 attempts. UF has held its past four opponents to a combined 12-of-62 (.162) on third downs.
- ♦ Florida scored a touchdown on the opening drive of the game on a pass from Tebow to Cooper. It marked the first time the Gators have scored a touchdown on the opening drive since the Charleston Southern game. Florida has posted a score on its opening drive in five games this season, as it recorded a field goals against Tennessee, Kentucky and LSU.
- ♦ In the last four years, the Gators have forced a turnover on Georgia's first drive of the second half three times. In 2006, Ray McDonald forced and returned a fumble for a touchdown on the first play of the second half and in 2008, Joe Haden made an interception and returned it 88 yards on the Bulldogs' first drive. This year, Jones intercepted the ball on the first play of the second half.
- ♦ The Gator defense recorded a season-high four interceptions as Jones tallied two and Stamper and Spikes had one each.

Individual Player

- ♦ Senior quarterback **Tim Tebow** broke Georgia's Herschel Walker (1980-82)'s SEC record, scoring his 50th rushing touchdown with 1:32 left in the first half on a 23-yard run. It was his seventh of the season.
- ♦ Sophomore kicker **Caleb Sturgis** connected on a career-long 56-yard field goal with 4:47 left in the first half, marking the second-longest FG kick in UF history (Chris Perkins vs. Tulane, 1984, 60 yards). It also marked the longest in the SEC this season.
- ♦ Tebow rushed five yards for his second touchdown of the day with 13:30 left in the third quarter. With his 51st rushing career TD, he surpassed Alabama's Shaun Alexander (1996-99) and LSU's Dalton Hilliard (1982-85) to move into third for most touchdowns in SEC history.
- ♦ Tebow threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver **Riley Cooper** on the Gators' first drive of the game at the 12:21 mark in the first quarter.
- ♦ The two connected again with 3:20 to play in the first quarter on a 29-yard TD pass, giving Cooper his fifth touchdown of the season and 14th of his career. The 92-yard drive was the longest of the season for the Gators and the first time Cooper recorded a multiple-touchdown game this season.
- ♦ With the two passing touchdowns in the first half, Tebow tied Rex Grossman (2000-02) for third in UF history with 77 passing touchdowns.
- ♦ Tebow recorded 85 net rushing yards in the game tonight, amassing 2,588 in his career, surpassing Arkansas's Matt Jones (2001-04) (2,535) for most career rushing yards by a quarterback in the SEC.
- ♦ Senior athlete **Brandon James** broke the SEC record for most career kick returns, tallying three today to bring his total to 201, surpassing Mississippi State's Tony James (1989-92) and Auburn's Thomas Bailey (1991-94), who had 199 in their careers.
- ♦ With 78 receiving yards in the first half, Cooper surpassed the 1,000-yard career mark as he has collected 1,009 yards as a Gator.
- ♦ Senior defensive end **Jermaine Cunningham** recorded his fifth sack of the season and second forced fumble, which the Bulldogs recovered, with 1:12 left in the first half.
- ♦ Tebow has now thrown a touchdown pass in 33 of his 35 career starts. This marked the first game in 2009 he had multiple passing and rushing touchdowns.

- ♦ Redshirt junior linebacker **A.J. Jones** stopped Georgia's first drive of the second half and then tallied another one with less than two minutes to play in the same quarter, recording three INTs in the last two games and the first multiple-interception game of his career.
- ♦ Junior punter **Chas Henry** recorded a 61-yard punt in the third quarter, his longest of the season, to pin the Bulldogs at the six-yard line. He then tallied a 42-yard punt in the fourth quarter to put Georgia at the two-yard line, marking the eighth and ninth times this season Henry placed a punt inside the 20.
- ♦ Redshirt senior linebacker **Ryan Stamper** tallied his first career interception with 11:54 left in the game.
- ♦ Tebow connected on his first six passes before throwing an incomplete pass intended for senior athlete **Brandon James** at the 5:34 mark in the first quarter.
- ♦ Senior linebacker **Brandon Spikes** returned his first interception of the season five yards for a Gator score with 6:24 left in the game. It marked the third interception return for a touchdown in his career and the fifth career interception.
- ♦ Sturgis recorded his second field goal of the game on a 44-yard attempt with 7:42 remaining in the game.
- ♦ Freshman running back **Mike Gillislee** recorded a 49-yard run with 2:28 left in the game, the longest run of his young career.

Other

- ♦ *Attendance:* 84,604
- ♦ *Game Captains:* Senior Brandon James, redshirt senior Joey Sorrentino and redshirt senior Ryan Stamper; Georgia won the coin toss and deferred to the second half.
- ♦ *Weather at Kickoff:* 84°F with winds out of the south at 9 mph and 56% humidity
- ♦ Former Gators Rex Grossman (2000-02) and Lawrence Wright (1993-96) were part of the 14th anniversary class inducted into the Florida-Georgia Hall of Fame on Friday. Georgia players were Garrison Heart and David Pollack.

Georgia Postgame Notes: Oct. 31 vs. #1 Florida

Boykin Sets Single-Season Kickoff Return Record: Sophomore **Brandon Boykin** now owns the school record for kickoff return yards in a season with 714 on 28 returns. He finished with 114 kickoff return yards on six returns against Florida. Boykin set the mark on his first KOR of the second half, which gave him 691 yards on 26 returns. The previous record holder was Asher Allen (690 yards on 28 ret. in 2007).

Points Off Turnovers: Georgia had four turnovers and the Gators converted them into 17 points. Senior QB **Joe Cox** threw three INTs and sophomore **Logan Gray** had one INT. Opponents have scored 88 points off of 21 turnovers. For the season, Georgia is minus-15 in its turnover ratio. Sixteen of those 21 turnovers have come within Georgia territory this year with three interceptions returned for TDs.

Walsh Drills Another: Sophomore PK **Blair Walsh** connected on a 49-yard FG at the beginning of the second quarter. Walsh has hit 12-of-13 this season and has drilled seven FGs of 40 or more yards in 2009. Sophomore **Drew Butler**, the NCAA leader in punting, had four punts for a 52.5 average including a 61-yarder. He now is averaging 49.7 for the year.

White Continues Success Versus Florida: Sophomore TE **Aron White** had a 26-yard TD grab in the second quarter. It was his fourth career TD catch and his second against the Gators. White had a 19-yard score against the Gators in 2008, which was the first TD of his career. Sophomore **A.J. Green**, the SEC leader in receiving, had three catches for 50 yards. Senior SE **Michael Moore** gave the Bulldogs' a second receiving TD after snagging a 4-yarder in the third quarter. It was his only catch today.

Ealey Produces Again: Freshman tailback **Washaun Ealey** got his second career start and had his first career reception (20 yards) in the first quarter. Ealey finished with 70 yards rushing on 17 carries.

Sizzling At Kickoff: Temperature at game time was 84 degrees, which is the hottest it has been at kickoff for a Bulldogs' game this year. The previous high was the season opener at Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla. The temperature was 81 degrees.

Starters: Sophomore **Nick Williams** started for the first time in his career after lining up at SLB. Freshman defensive back **Branden Smith** also got his first start after lining up in the Bulldogs' offensive backfield. The Bulldogs had their fifth different starting lineup on the offensive line as junior **Clint Boling** (LT), sophomore **Cordy Glenn** (LG), sophomore **Ben Jones** (C), junior **Chris Davis** (RG), junior **Josh Davis** (RT). Also of note, junior LB **Akeem Dent** returned to action after missing the last five games with a hamstring injury.

Injuries: Sophomore SLB **Nick Williams** left the game in the fourth quarter with a back injury and did not return. Sophomore DE **Justin Houston** injured his left elbow in the fourth quarter and did not return.

Black Helmets, Pants: The Bulldogs came out against the Gators in black helmets and black pants. This is believed to be the first time in program history that Georgia has worn black helmets. The Bulldogs have worn black pants on occasion, but the first time in the Mark Richt era. The first time the Bulldogs wore black pants was during a 33-6 win over Wisconsin in the 1998 Outback Bowl. Georgia also wore red jerseys and black pants during the 1998 Florida game.

Next Week's Opponent: Georgia (4-4, 3-3 SEC) has its homecoming matchup with Tennessee Tech on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 1 p.m. The Bulldogs have played the Golden Eagles only once, topping Tennessee Tech 67-0 between the hedges in 1943. This will be the first time Georgia will be back at Sanford Stadium since hosting LSU on Oct. 3.

2009 Florida Football

Post-Game Quotes

Urban Meyer

Florida Head Coach

Florida vs. Georgia

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Opening Statement:

"It was a very emotional locker room. It's Senior Day and we're going to make sure every senior gets a game ball for their effort. This goes from Riley Cooper to Tim Tebow, Brandon Spikes and Dustin Doe. Ryan Stamper had a career day and the seniors had a career day against Georgia. I really love this team and this is probably one of the best team wins we've had at Florida."

On A.J. Jones:

"We really need to teach A.J. to jump and catch as opposed to sit there and wait for it. You know, last year he didn't play much and two years ago he played because he had to. He's a grown man now taking care of business and is a program guy. It's a result of the coaching staff, his great family and he's a different player now. I'm really proud of him, he's doing well in school and has a great character."

On Tim Tebow breaking the SEC's career rushing touchdown record:

"To break Herschel Walker's record in the SEC is great, and I get to coach Tim four more games. This is a special record for him, it means the world to him and it means the world to his team. We gave him the game ball and we're all in awe."

On Caleb Sturgis making the 56-yard field goal:

"He does it in practice all of the time. I almost put Jonathan Phillips in but I know Sturgis has a great leg and I know he can do it. It was great momentum for the team in the second quarter."

On Gator men's basketball head coach Billy Donovan speaking to the team on Thursday:

"Billy Donovan is one of my best friends and he did a phenomenal job and that was our whole deal was this message. His message was to stick together and to have a resource like that is really cool. What he did for our team is real stuff, he's the best."

2009 Florida Football

Post-Game Quotes

Florida Players

Florida vs. Georgia

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Sr. QB Tim Tebow

On the win over Georgia:

"It was such a special win for our seniors; especially because of the rivalry between these teams. There was a lot of turmoil this past week. A lot of people were talking about stuff and it was frustrating. We wanted to come out here, play well, compete in good form and get a win. That's what we did and it was very special."

On the first few Florida drives:

"We want to start every game like that. We want to pressure everyone like that every time we get in the red zone. We were fighting and you could see the extra determination guys had today. Guys stepped up and made plays today."

On breaking Herschel Walker's touchdown record:

"It was a huge play on a third and three near the end of the first half. We ran a low power play and it seemed like nothing was there, so I cut back and the Pounceys made some great blocks. I cut behind them and the end zone was wide open. I didn't immediately think about the record, until the guys were reminding me. Then I said, 'Oh, yeah. Can I get the ball?' The most important thing has been the guys I've shared it all with."

Sr. LB Brandon Spikes

On the game versus Georgia:

"It was crazy for me too. We had a total team effort tonight. You could tell guys went after it tonight and just put it together. We had struggled a bit and were just anxious to get out there. I think we did that today. The seniors came out and got this win."

On Florida's defense:

"We wanted to come out and stop their running game. They had some big plays, but eventually we got it together. We started hitting and were able to get in front of some balls. It was great to be back out there with the defense."

On his interception:

"I knew what the play was before the ball was snapped, so I was able to make a play. The coaching staff put us in a great position to make plays, so I was able to step in front of the ball."

Sr. LB Ryan Stamper

On A.J. Jones' play versus Georgia:

"Today was great for him, probably one of the best individual efforts of the season by a player on the defense. He really stepped up tonight, especially when we needed him to. I think he had a two interceptions, sack, tackle for loss and just helped us towards a great win for the Gator defense tonight."

On the interceptions:

"We had a total of four. I finally had the first one of my career, so I'm really proud of that. I felt really good to get one in front of my friends and family. "

On playing in Jacksonville:

"It's really special to come home and play. I've dreamed of this moment since I was a little boy. This was my last time to play here, so I wanted to come out and play as hard as I could. We had a great game."

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Post-Game Quotes

Mark Richt

Georgia Head Coach

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"We'll keep challenging our guys. We have men of integrity who will do the right things regardless of the record. I don't think we'll have anybody who will give in. I think everyone will fight. I will do everything in my power to get us back on the winning track. That's what we'll start doing (Sunday)."

"We actually had the black (helmets) a year ago and thought about using them sometime, but it never seemed like the right time to do it so they stayed on the shelf. After we beat Vanderbilt and knew this game was coming, we thought it might give the guys a big jolt right before we hit the field. The young men were excited to see them and loved wearing them. And I think our fans got an emotional charge out of them."

"I thought there was some good fight, but you can't turn it over like we did in the second half and mount a comeback. We got down 14 early on, but we battled back into it. Then we're down 10 in the second half knowing we can do it again. But the first shot out of the cannon was batted and picked and all of a sudden we're down again."

"I thought we had some good fight, but it's difficult to overcome those kinds of penalties against the No. 1 defense in the country. We ran the ball well and we protected well, especially early on, and we made some nice plays, but penalties kept us from continuing drives."

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Georgia Players

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Senior SE Michael Moore

"This game could have been huge for us. But they took advantage of opportunities better than we did tonight. Now, we got to try and finish 4-0 and get to our bowl game."

"One thing about this team is that we fight back. After a loss like this, we watch film and try our best to get better."

Freshman TB Washaun Ealey

"We hurt ourselves tonight by making some bad decisions and not making plays when we had the chance to. We tried to play them hard, but now we have to go back and practice to get better."

"I think Coach Richt tried to pull some more emotion out of us and tried to get us hype by giving us (the black pants and helmet). Really about five minutes before the game, we walked back into the locker room and the helmets and pants were in our lockers."

Junior DE Demarcus Dobbs

"This is a disappointing loss. We faced some adversity in the first half and I thought we bounced back. We had a couple opportunities we should have taken advantage of but we didn't. We knew what they were going to do out there but just didn't execute."

"Florida is No. 1 for a reason. They are a great team and showed it tonight. (Tim) Tebow is a great leader. We knew what kind of player he is, but we just didn't execute tonight."

Junior S Reshad Jones

"We just couldn't finish on the field. I thought we came out and played hard, but it's just frustrating that the team overall just did not finish."