

Rutgers University Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Piscataway, New Jersey, USA

Greg Schiano

Postgame Press Conference



Michigan 52, Rutgers 17

GREG SCHIANO: Appreciate you sticking around. Try to answer what I can here tonight.

Q. How would you evaluate the first half --

GREG SCHIANO: Yeah, thought he did some really good things early on. I think he made some young quarterback mistakes in the second half. Literally, in like a minute-and-thirty-second time period. Things that are definitely correctible but I guess inopportune time.

But he'll get it. Just a matter of time. It was good learning experience for him. Unfortunately it was part of -- it wasn't all of it. It was part of -- a big part, but it was only part of.

We played clean football field in the first half. The penalties kind of disappeared. Really, there was no turnovers. It was clean football.

To beat a team that's a National Championship contender, you have to play clean football for 60 minutes. You have to do some things that are a little aggressive and be able to cash in on those things and that's where we were in the first half.

But the second half, the roof caved in there a little bit in that time period and it's hard to go back and catch up.

Q. To follow on that, he's had an interception in six of his last seven games and it's starting to become a trend. Is that part of the growing pains of a young quarterback, or does that raise concerns about the long-term viability of as a starting quarterback?

GREG SCHIANO: I think it's learning as a young quarterback, yeah, especially when you are doing it against one of the top defenses in America.

Yeah, I think, you know, we couldn't have done what we did in the first half back in September.

So we have definitely gotten better, but not good enough to beat that team. But we are getting better. I have no doubt about that. Just not better enough.

Q. Is that first half kind of what you want this thing to look like, your team, overall, the way you played, the way the defense played, complementary football?

GREG SCHIANO: To some degree. I think we've got to run the football, though. We were unable to run the football tonight. We just didn't run a lot of plays, period but we didn't run the football enough, well, right.

So when you're throwing and running and hamming-and-egging it, that's the way I would like to see it, and we didn't do that.

But playing clean and playing with an edge, yes.

Q. I guess when you're playing a team like that and they start to get the lead and start to get momentum, how tough is it because they are so good and try to get it back, and then try to the train back on the tracks?

GREG SCHIANO: It's hard, when you turn it over three times in a consecutive manner like that, you know, because then all of a sudden you're looking up, and the mountain's pretty steep.

I thought our guys really, really committed this week in practice. They knew what this challenge was. I think we painted a really clear path for them how we could do it, but what we had to do to have an opportunity to win the game at the end and that was the whole plan: If we could get it to the fourth in the last six minutes, we thought we had a good opportunity to win the game. But we didn't do that.

Q. Bit of a footnote in the whole thing but Timmy Ward scoring the first touchdown, all he's been through getting to that point, what is it like for you as a coach to see him have that moment?

GREG SCHIANO: That's really heartwarming, because you're right, he has been through a lot to even be playing college football, no less at a Big Ten program.



And Timmy has become a guy on our special teams that he's very calm and he makes some of our checks for us, which sounds like a little thing, but special teams, you don't spend as much time as you do on offense and defense on special teams. So you need a guy or two who can keep things calm and make the decisions out there, and he's growing into that, which is important for us.

Q. You've talked a lot about seeing this team better at the end of the season than the beginning. Are you starting to see that in certain ways, or is it overshadowed by the fact that when you turn over the ball like that?

GREG SCHIANO: Well, it can be overshadowed, right. That's my job as a coach to recognize and show these guys where they are making growth. Because it would really be -- it could really be demoralizing if you look at the final score and you come in tomorrow and they come in tomorrow and sitting in these seats where you're sitting, and you know, get up there and start telling them why they didn't win the game.

There's things they did very, very well but as I said earlier, we are much better than we were in September, but we are not better enough to beat that team. They are a really good football team. They are top in just about every statistical category, and you know, they play with an edge.

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