

Rutgers University Football Media Conference

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Piscataway, New Jersey, USA

Greg Schiano

Postgame Press Conference



Rutgers 45, Miami 17

GREG SCHIANO: Well, thanks for sticking around. It's been a long day with the weather delay and everything. So why don't we just get right to it and I'll try to help you with whatever I can.

Q. The defensive play started to get it together as the game went on.

GREG SCHIANO: Yeah, I've told you, the defense is going to be a work-in-progress. If it wasn't, then everything I believe in is not real. If practice is everything, and cumulative repetitions are what make you an elite player, we just haven't had enough practices with these new guys yet.

We have a lot of new guys on the defense. We are going to keep working. We've got better. I was really proud of the way -- it got to be tenuous there for a minute and the way they locked in and got some stops, I thought we got? Big-time stops when we needed them.

We still have 1 violations. We still have some things, you sit there and go, why would we do that? And we made some mistakes as coaches. We're going to have to continue to just chop away there with the defense. But I was proud if them. They thought and, you know, it's good. Really good.

Q. What stood out to you the most through the first three games about how efficient and opportunistic the offense is and especially with the way Athan is playing?

GREG SCHIANO: Again, that's why I believe in what I believe in. Kirk has been here -- it's his third yard. You know, what is Athan doing? He's running. He's repeating; he's repeating; he's repeating. It's not like we reinvent our offense every day.

So practice, you know, I just believe so much in cumulative repetitions of doing things correctly. You know, it becomes

more and more second nature, and some of those throws and catches today, you know, with Athan and Ian had, I thought, a tremendous game.

K.J., you know, really, I mean, not only did they have a lot of catches, and I don't really get into the stats much, but they had a lot of DPIs caused, right. Like they were getting tackled. They don't go on the stat board but you know, those would have been big, big plays. The reason they got tackled is they had them beat.

So I think we are coming around there. There's some young guys like Ben Black who we need to keep pushing into the game. D.T. is already established. He had a couple drops but he's going to be fine.

I thought Kenny, he had a drop, but then he came back and made, you know, converted a first down. I thought, Colin, same thing, he made some -- that's good defense. You saw what they did last week, essentially giving up ten points to Wisconsin. They had Pick-Six that went out of bounds -- it wasn't a Pick-Six. They picked one and went out of bounds at the two. It's a really good defense over there.

I was proud of our offense. I think tremendous game plan by Coach Ciarrocca. Obviously we don't always coming out throwing like that, but I think he did what needed to be done to a defense that basically dares you to do that.

I was really proud of our whole coaching staff. I mean, it's been hard, right. Defensively there's a lot of great coaches on that staff and drives them crazy that we're not playing to the level but again, it's what practice is about. So we'll just keep going.

Go back to work tomorrow, and we'll continue to get better and better. We just got to keep 'em healthy. I'm worried about Dantae Chin. That will hurt if it's long term.

Q. You're not sure about Dantae, whether it will be long term or not at this point? It's too early?

GREG SCHIANO: I don't know, no.

Q. Can you explain what happened on the last play of

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the third quarter? Some confusion or frustration on your part. What exactly happened and what were your conversations with the officials?

GREG SCHIANO: Okay. So this is how we're going to handle this: I'm going to handle that with the league office, and that's all I'm going to say about it.

Q. You mentioned a little bit about Ian Strong, but just what have you seen from him both as a leader and a player in his development in year three now?

GREG SCHIANO: He's right in the process of developing. He's not there yet. He'll be the first to tell you, but man alive, remember now, this guy was recruited as a safety, and I'm not really sure how many Division I offers he had, right. Like when we started recruiting him, Bucknell was his only offer.

And you talk about a guy who is going to be an NFL football player and all that. He's a special guy and just works really hard.

Again, Coach Brock, Coach McNulty, those guys do a tremendous job. We took one of the things when we came back, the room wasn't -- it may have been one of the weak spots on the team, and been able to flip it and really get some good players in here. And it's good going to continue. We have some good players committed at the position. Just have to keep doing it, right.

Receivers can change games when they are dominant. I call it -- I've told you guys before, I call it flyover yards. You fly over a whole bunch of stuff that you never have to see when you can complete those balls, holding penalties, fumbles, all kinds of things that you don't want to think about.

We've got to keep pressing the envelope and again Coach Ciarrocca is doing a tremendous job leading that staff. Just got to keep going.

Q. After struggling last week against Ohio, the offense went 7 for 10 on third down. Did you see any marked improvement in the money downs?

GREG SCHIANO: That was something we talked about, right, we converted a lot of fourth downs last week but it's not like we warranted to be in fourth downs. It happened because we were not great in third downs. You're exactly right. It was a little bit of a challenge thrown out, and I thought they stepped up. When you're 70 percent on third down, it doesn't get a lot better than that. I guess it could get 30 percent better but it's pretty good.

Q. An hour delay, did you prepare for that?

GREG SCHIANO: We always do. We have home plans, how you handle at home and how you handle it on the road. Because you certainly don't have the same facilities when you're on the road.

But I thought our guys, we talked about it and they were prepared for it. We had a plan, the strength staff, the nutrition staff, the training staff, the coaching staff, the doctors, everybody knew what we were going to do if we went. It was a little weird that it happened in the warmup, right. I've had that, believe it or not, before.

So I thought our kids did a great job of relaxing when it was time to relax and then locking back in when it was time to look back in.

Q. You talked before about Bo being the son of a coach. What did you see on the play, the interception that he had in stepping up?

GREG SCHIANO: I thought, first off, he did a really good job. I thought it was a great call by Coach Smith, right. They had worn us out a little bit on a couple routes to the flat, and Coach Smith changed the coverage and put bow but you've got to make the play, right, and bow did just that. And it was a big -- I thought, a big, big play at the time.

Q. A couple long passing plays. Did you see anything particularly on those plays that went wrong?

GREG SCHIANO: One of them is 100 percent on me, right, and I've got to do a better job coaching that. And then some of them are I discipline issues that we have to get to the bottom of.

There's plenty of things to get fixed for everybody. So there's no, like, none of this. The one thing that I talked to our team, we've got to have each other's back, always, have each other's back. It's tough out there. I know our players do. They have each other's back and they have our back and vice versa. That's what a family does.

Q. You got more involved in the run game when it was scrambles or keepers. Was that something that was a focus going into the game or how he handled the Miami front?

GREG SCHIANO: It was a little bit of a focus, and you worry about, it right. But they force -- they do something defensively schematically that dares to you do it, and we felt like, you know what, the risk/reward we had need to do. Like you said, the scrambles, he created. I thought that

was big.

The other guy that I need to mention that I didn't is Jack Scullion. I mean, that's a weapon, guys, eight for eight in touchbacks. So what we did is we ran eight sprints and we never had to make a tackle. To me, you want to play football from the 25, I love it. And I was really proud of him, the way that he handled it because eight kickoffs is a lot of kickoffs, right.

I want to make a shout-out to Big E. Eric's walked his 15th walk, hard to believe, right. I heard, obviously I couldn't see it, but I heard there was like literally over a thousand people there following him, which just -- it confirms to me what's special about Rutgers, right. The Rutgers community takes care of their own, and that, to me, was special.

So I got to see him before we came down the scarlet walk and that's always special. But I really want to thank everybody in the Rutgers community for stepping up, and they always do. So thanks, guys.

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