

University of Florida Football Media Conference

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O'Cyrus Torrence Press Conference



Q. You came to Louisiana, what, '19?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Yes, sir.

Q. That was your first year?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Yes, sir.

Q. You were visiting during the '18 season and doing all that, but you weren't playing with the team, right?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Just a little bit. Coach Napier's first year, yeah.

Q. What did you, from playing with those players the next year, how they learned from that first season, how they grew from that first season, what was different? He's going through kind of a similar process here.

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: You just realize and kind of see, once they buy in and the players start seeing some of the things works, you see more of the team bonding and stuff like that, and it creates more of a team, and that just helps out and builds the discipline and other things to make the team better.

So those are the little things that takes a while to build. But you see those changes as the first and second years go on. So I feel those are going to be the most notable changes next year.

Q. Are you seeing some of that taking root? How important is this coming month for the team to continue to bond and gain some momentum?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: I'm starting to see it compared to how we started from fall to the first game, even to now. It's very important because I feel like there's a lot of games left to be played, and it depends on how we finish. We could still have a pretty good season and finish with a nice record.

If we continue those things well, like the discipline, the

small things, the small details, I feel like we could finish the season nice and be a good starting point for next season to build momentum for next season.

Q. How key is it to be in a bowl game? You have to win 2 out of 4, so chances are good there. How critical is it to just get to a bowl game?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: I feel it's very critical because you go to University of Florida, and they just automatically assume they're going to have a championship and a bowl game. It is critical to get two games so we can be bowl eligible. I feel like these next few weeks we're going to take very serious to get that accomplished.

Q. Georgia's defensive front is obviously very talented, but you guys gave up three sacks. I think that's the first time you've given up maybe more than one sack in a game. What was different about their front, and what do you guys maybe have to improve on going forward?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Probably communication-wise for us and knowing where the different persons are coming from. With them, they did a lot of good showing pressures and dropping out and disguises and stuff like that. We just got to know how to communicate through those things and pass off those pressures even better and stuff like that.

They was going pretty physical. Some places they're more physical than us. We've got to make sure we be able to hold the line better with those types of downs, and when we know they're bringing the pressure, got to hold up a little bit better.

Q. As a team as a whole, where do you feel you guys have made the most growth this season so far?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: I would say being together and staying back to back when times get tough in the game. Being able to still fight hard when the game is not going our way.

Like going into halftime a few times this year, offensively going into halftime, we didn't have a good first half, but we

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were able to turn it around and have a better second half. I feel like those things right there helped out.

Probably our discipline too. The amounts of penalties we don't get on ourself that messes up our drives on offense and defense like holdings and offsides and false starts, those types of small penalties that can kill a drive.

Q. When you were at Louisiana, did Billy Napier ever dismiss somebody from a team?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Not that I can remember. We had troubles with players maybe that I didn't know about, but not for the most part.

Q. I was just curious from your perspective, if that had happened, what kind of message do you think that sends just across the roster?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Maybe like a message to some things you just can't put up with as a team, as a whole. We're in this thing together, so some things you do just can't be accepted.

Q. Trevor Etienne, how nice of a piece is he for the offense? The other day he showed a lot of versatility.

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: He's a very, very like nice piece to the offense because he brings so much versatility to the offense. He can do everything we need in the running back, so he can catch it, he can go out, and he can run routes pretty well and run it well. Those type of things that we can use in a game that helps us out, he can do all those things.

Yesterday -- he's good at returning the kicks and stuff like that, giving us good field position so we can have a better chance of scoring the offense.

Q. A lot of the Louisiana guys are pretty fired up about playing Texas? It's kind of not far from a lot of you guys. Are you guys going to have family there and stuff?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: I know I am for sure because it's a closer ride from home to there. I know a lot of guys from Louisiana are going to have a lot of family come, and it's definitely going to get them more fired up to go play this game.

Q. What's impressed you about Chris McClellan? What have you seen maybe in games that's impressed you?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Like Jaydon was saying, I seen it

in fall camp, just the energy he bring to practice, and even the individual drills, like the one-on-one reps, he's trying to go again. Like if he lose a rep, trying to go again and again. Like trying to take all the reps, stuff like that.

And the intensity he plays with throughout practice. Even at the end of practice when everybody's tired, he's one of the guys you see pops out on film. It just shows in a game. It's impressive. I'm glad to see that it's showing in the game so he can get the recognition he deserves.

Q. What do you think you've learned about the physicality in the SEC eight games into it?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: It's definitely got some difference from what I'm used to. You definitely see more players bigger and stronger and stuff like that. So it's just a different challenge every week. It's funner and makes the game more tough at the same time because you never know what type of players you're going to get.

You don't know type of defenses, like they're going to run pressures and things like those. It makes the game more difficult but fun at the same time.

Q. Take us through your injury and what that process was like getting back on the field. And what you were going through in the previous game going through warmups there?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: It was a strain in my MCL, so it was a day-by-day injury. The week of LSU, when game day came, it was a matter of how I felt doing warmups, but Coach decided to let me make the call, whether I felt good enough to play.

Towards the end, after warmups, I felt like I wasn't going to be much help on the field if I tried to play through it and I could possibly hurt it even worse. So I decided to be smart and sit out. Knowing that Georgia was coming up, try to heal it all the way to be ready for Georgia.

Q. Has it healed now?

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Oh, yeah, it's good.

Q. You guys heal fast.

O'CYRUS TORRENCE: Yeah.

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