

# University of Florida Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Gainesville, Florida, USA

## Shemar James

### Press Conference



Florida - 27, LSU - 16

**Q. Your thoughts on getting this win and what it means for the program right now.**

SHEMAR JAMES: It was a big win coming off that L we took in Texas. We kind of preached, wipe that out, review, go into next week. That's what we did. I'm proud of the offense, special teams and defense for coming up with a big win.

**Q. I know you may not feel like a veteran, but considering the linebackers around you in the room, from Myles to Aaron to Jadan Robinson as well, their performance playing elevated snaps with Pup out, what did you think of their performance tonight?**

SHEMAR JAMES: They stepped up big tonight, Aaron, Myles, and did what we needed them to do, step up, make plays when it counted and lead the defense.

**Q. Shemar, seven sacks tonight for, I think LSU allowed only nine sacks all season - six. You guys literally get more than they allowed all season. What was the formula to being able to get to Nussmeier, especially in the second half?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Game plan was just guys executing. We had a specific game plan to get after the quarterback. That's what we did. We affected them.

**Q. Third downs, one of the downsides, over 50 percent, 24 attempts, what's the key with an Ole Miss explosive offense coming in here next week, trying to prevent that?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Correct our mistakes. Every conversion they had was because of us, and we can always go in the film room and correct those mistakes.

**Q. What do you think made the pass rush so successful tonight? They came into the game allowing the fewest sacks in the country, I don't know if you**

**knew that. But obviously something worked.**

SHEMAR JAMES: Just staying in your rush lane, staying in your rush lanes and crushing the pocket for the quarterback. Making them step outside of the pocket. That's what we did. We came up with big-time plays and big-time sacks.

**Q. The home crowd seemed to really play a big difference in the game tonight. How much do you think that impacted the outcome of the game especially for you guys defensively?**

SHEMAR JAMES: The crowd, 96,000, they were pretty loud. 90,000. Okay. Yeah, however many. They were very helpful for us. On the third down they got very loud. First and second downs they were very loud, and that was like our 12th man, the 12th man on the field. I appreciate every fan in the stands tonight.

**Q. Last week you talked a little bit about how humbling was that loss and how motivating was it to not let that thing happen again, 49 points, and the way you guys were out of it early.**

SHEMAR JAMES: We kind of knew that that wasn't our brand of football that we played in Texas, and that's kind of why we came out tonight, and we were, like, giving 110 percent. That was a bad taste we had and we got it out of our mouth.

**Q. When Billy gets the vote of confidence and two days later that performance kind of happens, how important was it to kind of validate what he's doing, what you guys are doing, and with the performance like tonight's?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Yes, sir, Coach always preaches to the last whistle. That's what we were doing. We've got a couple more games to go and we're going to play 110 percent the rest of the season, yes, sir.

**Q. What was the key specifically on Nussmeier, because seemed like you had him flustered especially in the first half?**



SHEMAR JAMES: Get after him, make him step out of the pocket and make the throws and that was the game plan.

**Q. 92 plays. 92 plays the defense was out there. Did it feel like 92 plays, and how patient did this defense have to be to just stay the course the whole time?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Yeah, that was a pretty long game. I thought it was like 100 or so. But we just kept fighting. Like I said, Coach Nape and Coach Armstrong and Coach Roberts always preach to the last whistle. That's what we did. I'm extremely proud of the way we finished the way we did.

**Q. You guys have said time and time again, big reason you have stayed together, there's a lot of guys in the locker room you want to play for, especially the seniors. How important it is to keep this thing going, flush this one, in a sense, get ready for next week for Senior Day against Ole Miss?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Like you said, we're a band of players. We say play for the man next to you. That's what we'll continue to do for the rest of the season. Like you said, we have seniors, last year playing football, we want to spend them out with a bang.

**Q. The guys in front of you on the defensive line can help you out. Can you talk about the performance of Tyreek Sapp?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Sapp, my guy Sapp, he played like somebody with their hair on fire. He brings that energy, whether in practice, walk throughs or in the game. I appreciate each of the defensive linemen in front of me.

**Q. What did you think of D.J.'s ability to come back from injury so quickly and perform the way he did?**

SHEMAR JAMES: D.J., he's a dude, for sure. He showed grit tonight. Like you said, coming back from injury probably a week or two early, and he came out and made pretty good throws and commanded the offense and that's what we were kind of missing, I would say, and we're very fortunate to have D.J. on our team.

**Q. Pretty good throws?**

SHEMAR JAMES: I don't want to give him too much credit, (laughter).

**Q. Trying to keep him humble?**

SHEMAR JAMES: Keep him grounded a little bit.

**Q. Did you see the one he made to Badger where he stepped up in the pocket, the one where he stepped in the pocket, set up the touchdown to Ja'Kobi to put you guys ahead for good?**

SHEMAR JAMES: I seen it.

**Q. What you did you think of his cool presence there?**

SHEMAR JAMES: He's just calm under pressure. That speaks a lot considering he's a freshman. He's got two or three more years to go in college. I'm excited to see him grow.

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