



HAWAII DEFENSIVE PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

Friday, Dec. 28, 2007

Session 1

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR GREG MCMACKIN, DL MICHAEL LAFAELE, LB ADAM LEONARD

Opening Statement from Michael Lafaele: "It is very exciting to be here. I have never been to New Orleans before and it is a good experience. We are truly blessed to be here and we are looking forward to a good game."

Opening Statement from Adam Leonard: "I would like to say Aloha to everyone. Being here in New Orleans is a very exciting thing. It is great to see that the city has bounced back from all of the devastation that happened here during Hurricane Katrina. It is really an eye-opener and it helps us to get motivated to see people come together and see the spirit of the 'Big Easy.' It is my first time here also and it is an exciting place to be. I am enjoying the trip so far."

Opening Statement from Greg McMackin: "The people here have been very hospitable. We are somewhat used to that because the people in Hawaii can be the same way. We have been practicing at the Saints facility and the people in that organization have made that a great situation for us. We feel fortunate to be here and we feel very humble to be here."

Question for Greg McMackin – Could you compare Georgia's offense to any teams that you played? "I believe that you can compare their offense to the last five teams that we have played. Obviously, Georgia will be the best team that we will play this year. Philosophically, they are comparable to Fresno State, Boise, and Washington in what they do. They have such great personnel on offense – you have to control the run against them, but they have an excellent quarterback also who can throw the ball. I have known Matthew Stafford since he was being recruited and he is a big time player. If you try to load up on the run he can certainly hurt you with the pass."

Question for Michael Lafaele – Growing up a Hawaii football fan, could you have ever imagined being part of this team playing in the Sugar Bowl? "Before the season began we were thinking about what it would mean to have a perfect season and our dreams have come true. God has truly blessed us. It is a testament to all of our hard work and our great coaching staff."

Question for Adam Leonard – Hawaii has played in big game after big game this season, how exciting has that been and how exciting is it being here with the chance play in another big game and make history? "It has been great motivation for us this season. We are very happy with the situation that we have put ourselves in, but we know we have to finish strong. We are not just satisfied to be here, we know we have to come out and play on January 1."

Question for Adam Leonard – What have your impressions on Georgia's Knowshon Moreno been and are there any comparisons you can make from seeing him on film? "We hear a lot of comparisons to Herschell Walker, but I just see a guy that runs hard. We haven't seen a running back like him all year. He isn't a guy that just does one thing real well; he does numerous things. He can run in-between the tackles and

he has the speed to get to the outside. There isn't a running back we have faced that has all his attributes and can do all the thing he does. He is a great running back."

Question for Michael Lafaale – It seems this team has gone through a process of learning how to win the last several years, could you talk about that process and how that has paid off this year? "It all starts with the coaches. They have instilled in us positive attitudes, teamwork, leadership, and discipline."

Question for Greg McMackin – What is it about your philosophy that instills the belief that you can win? "We try to play a disciplined defense – an aggressive attacking defense. We have a great offense and I love playing along with our offense because they will always give us a chance to win. Hawaii traditionally loves defense. Our kids love to run to the football and love to hit. It is part of the culture; we don't have to teach them to do that. It is a passion."

Question for Greg McMackin – Is having one month off to plan for one game a benefit or would you rather just play the game? "I would rather just play the game, but we are going to do what we do. Our guys have improved every week and they have done that through the year. Right now we are just trying to tighten up. Quite honestly, we just have to go out there and do what we do and do it a little better than the last time we did it."