



GEORGIA HEAD COACH PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

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GEORGIA HEAD COACH MARK RICHT

Opening Statement: "Practices have gone well. The only slow day of practice was the first practice we had when we arrived here. We woke up early the next morning and practiced again and I felt like that was a much better practice. I think the guys have done a real nice job preparing for this game and the energy level has been very good. The team morale is very good and we are looking forward to playing this game."

How important is it to get off to a quick start in this game? "We certainly hope to start fast. This game is going to be interesting because we really don't know what to expect. When you play Florida every year or when you play Auburn every year you kind of know what you are going to get to a certain degree. We can look at the film and get a feel for what they are going to do, but until you play them you really don't know what you are going up against. I think the same is true for Hawaii – they don't really know for sure what it is going to be like until we start playing. I think the first impressions that are made will be very important for both teams. Hawaii has been behind before and won. We have been behind before and won. I think you have two teams that are used to playing a full 60 minutes of football and never quitting. I think the start is important, but we have a full game to play."

Have there been any violation or suspensions for this game? "At this point, there has been nothing. We did leave one player at home, but that was over a month ago. There is nothing here to report. We have an 11 p.m. curfew tonight and we have meetings up until then."

Can you talk about Hawaii's recruiting efforts and how that has paid off in getting here? "Coach Jones has done a fantastic job. One thing that he has done is let everyone know that he loves Hawaii and that is where he wants to be. That helps a lot when you're coaches, your recruits and their parents know you are serious about staying. They also have an exciting brand of football and they are winning. Opportunities like this certainly help. Bobby Bowden would always tell us winning is the best recruiting you can do. That is what they are doing right now and that recruits pretty well."

What preparations is your team going through tonight and leading up to the game tomorrow? "We have a dinner tonight and following that I will speak to the team. After that we will break down and have some offensive and defensive meetings. We will follow that up with special teams meetings tonight. We will have an optional spiritual gathering after that which a lot of guys will like to go to. We have some more meetings tomorrow morning followed by a mandatory lunch."

Could you talk a bit about the changes in your running game this season? "Our very first game of the year we had two established senior running backs and Knowshon Moreno was our third guy. We still were able to give Knowshon twenty carries in that game. We knew even then at the beginning of the season that he was a very good football player. He had to become more of a work horse for us because of injuries. We have had a number of games this season where Thomas Brown and Knowshon had nearly an identical amount of carries. As exciting as Knowshon has been for us this season, Thomas has been equally impressive for us."

On a national level we hear a lot about Hawaii's Colt Brennan, but we don't hear a lot about Matthew Stafford. Could you talk about his maturation process from last year to this year? "First of all, Matthew's greatest seasons are still ahead of him. He started as a true freshman last season and came in as a highly recruited high school player. He is a very talented player and he is a very strong young player. He played as a true freshman last season and this year he has played behind three freshman linemen. That has changed some of the things we have wanted to do. We hope the next two seasons that we will have enough talent around him to do some real good things. He is going to have to disperse the ball to the playmakers. We give Matthew a lot of responsibility at the line of scrimmage though because he is very intelligent. We have a lot of confidence in him."

How confident are you that your offense can score as much as Hawaii's offense if you have to? "If we are going to win we have to score more points than they are. We just don't know how this game is going to turn out though. We have never played them and we have never really played anyone that has played them. I would imagine that we are a lot different than anyone that they have played. I wish I could predict what is going to happen, but we do believe we can win this game."