

ETSU-LIMESTONE
SEPT. 2, 2017 – WILLIAM B. GREENE, JR. STADIUM
(JOHNSON CITY, TENN.)
POSTGAME QUOTES

HEAD COACH CARL TORBUSH

OPENING STATEMENT

First of all, the fans, the stadium, the beauty of it all made this a special night. I wish it had been a little bit better weather, but we still had a full house. I'm excited for our fan base. I'm excited for Dr. Noland because he had to go out on a limb to start this program when he did four years ago. There are just so many pluses. To see where we were and where we are now is an absolutely, amazing success story.

I know our people are very, very proud of having this stadium to view a game in, and this is a special night because none of us will ever have it again. This is only brand-new stadium we'll ever play in during our lifetime. So to get a win and see how well we played – especially the first half – was really exciting. We couldn't have played much better in the first half on both sides of the ball. Austin was 13-of-13 at halftime and we did not even give up a third down at conversion on defense. That's about as well as you can play on both sides of the ball.

Our kicking game was outstanding. JJ (Jerman) made that long field goal, Landon Kunak had some strong kickoffs and our kick coverage was truly outstanding. Marion Watson had a good night of punting, so our kicking game was very, very solid.

We know what we have in store for us next week with James Madison. I think it's going to be an exciting time. I told our guys, we're dealing with the national champions who are ranked No. 1 in the country. They have a great coaching staff, as well as really good football players. We have to go up there with the same mentality we did two years ago when we played at Montana State. It'll be a great measuring stick to see where our program is right now and where it needs to be to have a chance to win a national championship, which is what we're playing against.

AUSTIN COMPLETED HIS FIRST 15 PASSES... HAVE YOU SEEN HIM PLAY BETTER THAN HE DID TONIGHT?

No. It's by far the best. I thought he preformed well the entire game. Overall, he made really good decisions and played extremely well. He ran when he needed to run, which gave us another down. I think he only got sacked one time tonight. So overall, the offense performed as well as it could. I was excited to see we had a number of wide receivers make really nice catches and big plays. Obviously, those big plays always get the fans involved in the game, especially like the ones we created tonight.

ON THE PLAY OF HIS DEFENSE

I thought our defense in the first half could not have played any better. Limestone did not convert one third down. I thought we tackled and ran to the ball well. In the second half, I don't think we played as well. Some of that has to do with missed tackles, but again, if we were perfect we wouldn't have much to work on. We will get back to work on Tuesday and continue to get better as a football team.

Our guys should feel good about the win. Limestone is a very solid football team, which we'll see that as the season goes on. They will get some of the teams in their league. They have some talented athletes on both sides of the ball. Their quarterback is really good and he made it difficult on us in the second half. We got some hits on him, but he's a tough player because he kept getting up.

AUSTIN HERINK – REDSHIRT JUNIOR QUARTERBACK
ON OPENING UP THE NEW STADIUM WITH A WIN

We all knew this was a big opportunity for us and we didn't want to mess it up. This is a special stadium, especially to all of us who helped start this program. We wanted to break it in the right way.

ON CONVERTING 15 STRAIGHT PASSES TO START THE GAME. DID YOU KNOW THAT WAS GOING ON?

I felt really comfortable out there. It's is our third year in this offense, and with pretty much all the same guys around me, so I think we all felt really comfortable out there. All the work we've put in this off-season paid off tonight.

HOW MUCH DO YOU PRIDE YOURSELF ON ACCURACY AS A QUARTERBACK WHEN YOU START OUT LIKE YOU DID TONIGHT?

It's something I try to work on. I always feel like I've been an accurate passer, but I always continue to work on my technique and fundamentals.

ON THE OVERALL CHANGES THAT HAVE HAPPENED OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS

I think we've grown a lot and I think one cool thing about us starting this program is we can see growth in a big loop. Normally, when you have an established program, you see a few players get better and better, but we're all getting better together. So you see it on a bigger margin. The mark of an experienced team is how to finish a game. I think we finished that game. I'd like to get another score or two, but I thought we did a really good job tonight.

ANDREW HEYWARD – REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE WIDE RECEIVER
ON SCORING THE FIRST TOUCHDOWN IN THE NEW STADIUM

It felt amazing. It worked out perfect, because it was on the same side as the student section, so I felt all the energy and saw the people standing there when I crossed the end zone. I was just trying to get hype with them.

EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT – THE PASS, AND THE CATCH – HAS IT EVER WORKED OUT THAT PERFECT IN PRACTICE?

It has. Austin (Herink) is a very good quarterback, so everything was in tune. It worked perfect.

ON THE EMOTIONS WHEN THE TEAM RAN OUT ON THE FIELD

It was amazing. We knew we wanted to come out here and protect our field. The crowd was electric and we really appreciate all their support. Limestone is a talented football team, but we needed to set the tone early and get the win tonight.

PAUL HUNTER – SENIOR DEFENSIVE BACK

ON THE DEFENSE SETTING THE TONE

I really think the offense set the tone today and we fed off that. We just had to get stops. Our offense got the ball and scored on the first possession, so we fed off that energy and were focused on getting stops.

ON PLAYING IN FRONT OF A SOLD OUT CROWD

It felt great. The crowd got behind us from the start and to finish it off with the postgame fireworks was really special. Everything was just an amazing experience.

ON HAVING THE NEW STADIUM TO CALL HOME AND TO PLAY IN IT DURING YOUR FINAL YEAR AS A SENIOR

I don't think they broke ground when I first transferred here, so it was is pretty sweet seeing it all come together. Each practice we'd see the stadium being built piece by piece. To see it finally completed and to play a game inside here is really amazing.

LIMESTONE

HEAD COACH MIKE FURREY ON PLAYING ETSU IN ITS BRAND NEW FACILITY

I felt pretty bad for ETSU before the game because of the weather, but the fans came out in and supported this program in impressive fashion. They've done a great job here rebuilding this program, redshirting the team in 2014 and then developing players the last two years. That is a great opponent, and it was a terrific opportunity for our kids and our program to come up here and play. We wish ETSU the best of luck the rest of the year.