SYRACUSE HEAD COACH DINO BABERS

Opening Statement:
“Obviously extremely disappointed about the outcome of the game. I think the young men did play hard, obviously, the score did not indicate that. But in that locker room, we have a bunch of guys that are hurting along with a bunch of coaches and a bunch of other people that are members of the family. We have to find something to hang our hat on heading into this break. We have to dig deep and find something out about ourselves and hope we bring something to the surface that we can be proud of the next time we step on the football field.”

On maintaining and reestablishing the “Ohana” and family values of the program heading into the bye:
“We’re going to always do that, that’s something we are not going to get away from, but as we go into this bye we are constantly working and looking to get better. We are constantly looking for new players that want to contribute. Going into a bye off of a loss like this is difficult, I’m not going to sit up here and try to paint it a different way. We are going to really find something out about ourselves, and as iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another, and we are going to need all the men in the family to keep everyone sharp. (This way) we can have the opportunity to be the best that we can be coming into this bye.”

On “what happened” to the defense after a strong start to the game:
“(The defense) just got tired of hitting Dillon and his backup. Those play action passes they just break your back, when you’re in man coverage, I would imagine we were in man coverage, I have to check the tape. When you play a running game like that you’re normally in a lot of man and to have somebody scot free like that when you have two sets of eyes watching him is disappointing. We’ll go back, we’ll check the tape, and we’ll figure out what happened, but obviously it wasn’t very good.”

On rotation of defensive front to counter the rushing attack:
“The best analogy I can give you is when you go into a big fight there are going to be big fighters on one side and big fighters on the other side. You want the biggest guys to go after the biggest guys and hope that the small guys will handle the small guys. The starters are the best guys to go after a guy like Dillon. When you start going into twos and threes, and we did rotate a lot of people, when they hit him it’s just not the same. He just mashes through them and they’re not ready for that kind of impact, it’s a heavyweight going against a welterweight. You can only keep your guys out there when they’re fresh, putting a tired guy out there to hit those two backs is not smart. They went as long as they could and if you watch the game there were guys tapping, and when a guy tapped we got him out right away and got him water on the sideline, but as soon as they had the opportunity to get back, we pushed them back out there because they’re the best we have.”

On Jawhar Jordan’s game and plans for the rest of the season:
“Jawhar is still learning our offense and we have to make sure we can keep him in a position where he can still redshirt. He is one of the fastest guys on the football team and he really hasn’t gone through all of our training yet. So as we get him bigger and stronger lifting weights and with the food program, he is going to be a guy that hopefully down the road is going to be an explosive player who can make big plays for us.”

On halftime message to team:
“Private message as always. It’s tough going into halftime with a score like that, but we just wanted to make sure that they came out and played with the same energy and the same toughness. I thought they did that, but
the score doesn’t indicate that. Obviously there came a point in the game where the game was over and you needed to get some guys out because we still have three more games to play. “

On defensive performance this year:
“I don’t know if I want to say the word discouraging, that is one of the strengths of our team. It was our strength against their strength and their offense running the ball is really good. Those deep balls down the field obviously did not help because even though they are one dimensional, it sort of made them two dimensional by having deep touchdown passes. We are what we are and we win as a team and lose as a team.”

On “big picture assessment”:
“I don’t know if I can give you an honest response to that. I have to take more time and I have to reflect on that, I really do if you want an honest answer because I really don’t want to just shoot something off like that. You know there is things that are happening that obviously did not happen in our favor. There’s injuries, but everyone has injuries. There are a lot of bad breaks that you could talk about, but they’re just bad breaks and nobody really wants to hear them. We are 3-6 football team with three left to play and we need to find a way to win the next one.

TOMMY DEVITO, REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE, QUARTERBACK

On seeing the game slip away in the second quarter:
“It’s frustrating, but at the same time it all comes down to the little details, the small things. Penalties hurt us, especially in the red zone. In the first half we were able to move the football a lot better. In the second half we had to try to put up more points, so we weren’t able to run our offense as effectively as we wanted to, but at the end of the day we have to finish better. We started off better this game, but we didn’t finish well.”

On seeing Rex Culpepper get in the game:
“It’s awesome to see your teammates get out there. That’s one of the best feelings. I mean, you guys know everything that he’s been through. To physically see it, to see him go from that state to get back to where he was and even better physically and mentally. Throughout the summers and the workouts and the practices, to see him fight through all that adversity and to be able to come out on the field and still be able to play the game that he loves, I think that’s something very special and something that I cherish.”

On getting booed by the fans
“It’s not a great feeling, of course, to have people boo you. But at the same time, we just have to remember that it’s us on the field, we can only control what we can control, and to worry about what we can do physically on the field as players.”

On what the offense can build on to finish the season:
“I wouldn’t say there is just one thing. Of course, as I said, everything comes down to small details. I think that this game compared to our last couple games on offense was a lot better. We’re fixing those smaller details that we saw on film, so I think that this bye week and this extra week to prepare, we’ll learn from these mistakes when we go back to watch the film. I think that we can be growing a lot more mentally. Physically, we’ve got to get in the training room to help everybody get back healthy and 100%, but I think this bye week’s going to help a lot of people more mentally.”

ANDREW ARMSTRONG, SENIOR, LINEBACKER

On Boston College finding success with play-action plays:
“At the end of the day, it just comes down to us doing our job. What we really need to do is limit the big plays. On the first drive of the game, we made them go the long way and they ran the ball and we held them to three points. That’s what we needed to do throughout the rest of the game, just not allow big plays. We just didn’t get that done today.”

On getting booed by the fans:
“I apologize to the fans for letting them down. We feel the same heartache that they do, probably even worse. We’re super hard on ourselves. No one likes to lose, we don’t like to lose. The fans that stay, that’s awesome
and we’re very appreciative for the people that have stayed with us, thick and thin. We apologize to the fans and we have got to be better, and we’re doing our best out there.”

**On keeping a positive attitude:**

“Obviously, we’re not happy about how the season is going, but you can only control what you can control. Every day at practice, when we watch film and how we prepare our bodies for the game. We’ve got to stay together, and that’s the only thing we have at the end of the day: each other. We’ve got to keep a positive mindset. We’ve got three games guaranteed left, and we’re going to give it all we have. I know that all of the seniors are going to do the same thing. We just have to stay together and block out that negative noise.”

**Evan Foster, Senior, Defensive Back**

**On keeping a positive attitude despite not meeting expectations:**

“We can’t worry about what happened last season. We’re a different team. Just gotta get that out of our head. What’s happening right now is our team, we’ve got to stay together, lock in, and just continue to keep on going forward and never take any steps back. We’ve just got to lock in for these next three games to get the job done.”

**On Boston College’s success in the running game:**

“Anytime a team continues to keep on running the ball, you get comfortable fitting up stuff. Sometimes, we blow a coverage here and there and we’ve just got to be more focused and key in on our man and continue to just do our jobs.”

**On seeing the game slip away in the second quarter:**

“It’s a team effort. Everybody’s got to do their jobs. You’ve got to create a complete game. Just continue to do our jobs and lock in.”

**On seeing Rex Culpepper get in the game:**

A: “With Rex, no matter what’s going on, down or up, he’s always up. He’s continued to do his job and it was great to see him out there.”
OPENING STATEMENT:
“Proud of the way our kids played today. Played with great toughness, great passion, great resolve. We knew we were coming into play here in the Dome, which I know as well as anybody is a very difficult place to play. We were able to do some fabulous things on the field, had to overcome some adversity early, had a couple turnovers early, which is very uncharacteristic of us. We had to rebound and overcome that, and I think that spoke to the resolve our team had. We went out and set a school record for rushing. AJ Dillon broke the all-time rushing and scoring record. 691 yards of offense. I thought we played really tough, physical football and responded. On defense we made some great stops and some great plays, harassed the quarterback, made some plays in the back end, really tackled well at times and I thought we made some real improvement on defense. I am most pleased that our team responded to a challenge. Came here on the road against a very exclusive Syracuse team. I thought we just came out and did an unbelievable job. This is the most points scored in a BC vs. Syracuse game. It was a good day, something we can build on, something we can really grow with here at BC. Every week is a new week, like a lot of people in the country, you get to this time of the year, you are dinged up. But, if you can get a team to play as hard as our team played today you have to be real proud of them. We can enjoy this, but get ready to move on to next week. Happy to answer any questions.”

On what he saw in Syracuse’s defense and how to exploit it:
“We feel very confident about our run game. We have an outstanding offensive line, two really good backs that are active and a great group of tight ends. One thing I forgot to mention was, we felt like we needed to have some balance in our attack. Now it got skewed because of the way it went today. I thought Dennis Grosel did an unforgettable job. He had great poise today. He threw the ball very well, both in the drop back game and in the play action game. We had a couple of those play actions go for touchdowns. I thought he played well and took a step forward and had some growth. We feel like we can run the football, no matter what. We have two big horses, a really good offensive line and we were going to come in here and establish that part of our football team.”

On keeping the game in control early:
“We are trying to develop on defense right now. I say this a lot of times, we are on the roller coaster over there. You see progress, then sometimes it looks like we are taking a step back, then you see some progress. I think that’s all about developing a young group of players that do not have a lot of experience. I also think that last week we caught a buzz saw, we saw the number one team in the country, in all likelihood, at home on a Saturday night at their place. That is not an excuse we should have played better than that, but I am just telling you we played an elite football team and sometimes things can roll on you. Just like here today some things can roll on you. I am just saying that I am looking forward to getting to Tuesday practice and get ready for Florida State. There’s learning moments everywhere.”

On injuries at the tight end position:
“We have to go back and look at the film and see who is coming back and who we are not getting back and just go from there. That’s our job. You roll with the hand that you’re dealt and you just keep moving forward. I believe that nobody is too significantly hurt, but this time of year you have to have some good fortune sometimes that rolls with you, sometimes it does not. But here is what I know, next week’s game is coming like a freight train. So, we are just going to have to figure it out.”

On the running backs carrying the offensive load:
“AJ is having his best year. His leadership, his mindset, his approach to the game is completely different now. Obviously, he is a third year player, he’s had some adversity with some injuries last year. You know you are looking at a guy who is having a positive impact on that whole room. So, now David Bailey is starting to come into his own recently. That is what happens when you start getting really good players. That happened in our secondary when we had Justin Simmons, he set a bar in our secondary then we went on a run of some really outstanding players that are currently in the NFL. We are in that run right now in our backfield. We have a young man right now named Patrick Garlow, we were going to put him in today, but I did not want to take another game away from him on the redshirt deal for five or six carries. We couldn’t be more excited about him. Then we have Travis Leavy who helped us beat Virginia Tech at tailback a year ago. That room is a really
good room. And Benny Glines is in that room, who took a bunch of reps at tailback this week, but he got hurt today so we did not get to see him. That’s a really good room and I think AJ has done a really nice job setting the course for that room. And that’s going to be a good room moving forward.”

A.J. DILLON, JUNIOR, RUNNINGBACK

On taking on more pressure because of injury woes:
“It’s rivalry week, this game goes back a long way so we knew they (Syracuse) were going to bring it. It’s just a part of the game of football, you try to stay healthy for as long as you can but when someone goes down the next person up has to step up.”

On the offensive line:
“I said at the beginning of the year that our offensive line has come together tremendously. They open up so many holes and so many opportunities for David (Bailey) and me. My job is to just go find those holes.”

On preparing for the Syracuse defense and being able to exploit them:
“They’re a strong defense and they came to play. They hit me in the mouth a couple of times, David too. They’re a tough group and we know that. It wasn’t so much about Syracuse, it was more about how can we go out there and perform at the highest level we can.”

DENNIS GROSEL, REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE, QUARTERBACK

On the play action plays that went for long TDs:
“Well they were two different plays. With the run game working so well, they (Syracuse) were loading the box and coming down hard. So we knew we just had to run a few more times before that opens something up. It’s a testament to the run game.

On playing with injury woes:
“Well the tight ends are very critical and a key piece in our offense so to not have those guys hurts. But Coach Leonard does a great job getting all of the guys in the room ready to go. The veterans, Hunter (Long) and Jake (Burt) do a great job getting the young guys ready to go and ready to play each snap. We need everyone in that position room to be ready, especially when we’re low and they stepped up and played great.”