

Georgia Postgame Quotes

Georgia vs. Tennessee State

Saturday, September 5, 2026 | Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium

Head Coach Kirby Smart

On watching the team compete in the first game...

"First, I was proud of the team to beat the heat. I feel like it didn't phase us. I feel like our fans did a really good job of fighting through the heat. The ones that came and showed up made it fun for the players. They all didn't stay the whole time, but they were certainly loud while they were there, and the ones that stayed had a good time. It cooled off at the end. Our guys worked really hard. I was proud of the way they came out. They should've dominated, and they did.

On the offensive performance...

"We were able to get some easy throws on the perimeter, and when you play some teams, they try to take that away. You block and are physical on the perimeter. It really helps the mentality of your team. I saw a lot of mudita today. Guys were celebrating other guys' plays. It makes me proud when a guy makes a play and everybody celebrates with him, so I was happy for them."

On the defensive performance...

"First, Tennessee State was over-matched on the front. They don't have the size and the speed, so it's hard for them to run the ball. We knew it would be. I thought they did a nice job with their RPOs and short passing game. They were able to get five, six and seven-yard gains, but they couldn't sustain it. Our guys played really hard. We'll find some areas to improve in. We'll certainly get challenged more on the perimeter with the run game, once we play better teams. I was proud of the guys. They were into it and were cheering for each other. When you play those kind of games, you have to take the good with the bad and have to pull for your teammates and celebrate their success, and we had that."

#14 Gunner Stockton | QB | 5th

On the mindset that contributed to consistent offensive production throughout the game...

"Anytime you have an opportunity to come out here and play, your mindset should always be that you want to come out and do everything you can. I though, 'whenever you get a chance, you can't do half of anything.' We did a good job executing today, and definitely some stuff still to cleanup. "

On Nate Fraizer's production today and how he will contribute throughout the season...

" We had a great day and ran the ball hard, so I'm really excited to see where we're going to go."

On Jaden Reddell performance today...

"He is a freak. The first one was insane. Seeing all the work he's put in as well, it's really neat to see all of it pay off. It definitely is a great start, and it is a good first impression."

On biggest takeaway from overall offensive performance...

"I think we executed well; definitely there's stuff we need to clean up. I think everybody did their job, came out here and started fast. At the end of the day, I felt like we played a bunch of guys; that's a great thing."

On Isiah Canion first game with Georgia..

"When [Isiah] has it, he's explosive; he's really fast; he can go get the ball. I told him, 'Oh, this is the first home game. I hope it lives up to your expectations.' He's a great player."

#9 Chris Cole | ILB | Jr.

On Jordan Hall's return after his injury last season...

"As a teammate, it was awesome. I've seen how much hard work he's put in to be able to come back on the field after last year, and I'm definitely grateful he's back."

On playing in such hot temperatures today...

"We dealt with it in scrimmages and practices all week, so we definitely weren't going to let the heat affect us on the field today."

On Kirby's objective for the defense to be more destructive this season...

"I feel like we executed it well, but we obviously have more work to do. This is the first game, so I feel like we can still do so much better even though we did good today."

Tennessee State Postgame Quotes

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Head Coach Reggie Barlow

Opening statement...

"It was fun to get here in Athens and to have an opportunity to compete against UGA. Obviously, there's a lot of respect for Georgia. They've done it the right way. Coach Smart, I've been a fan of his. It's always good to get your guys in this type of environment, to let them see what it looks like, feels like, and to get a chance to go up against top-notch athletes. They all want the opportunity to go pro, and they want the opportunity to play in the SEC. So now you get a firsthand look at what that looks like, feels like, and how fast that game moves. So, we came in here with the right mindset, but unfortunately, it was a little bit too much firepower for us."

On penalty mistakes...

"Obviously, we want to play penalty-free football. We don't want to have pre-snap penalties. So, as you look at this game and wrap your mind around it, you think about those positives that took place. We didn't have penalties; we played some younger guys; Larodney McQueen, Kennedy Jackson, and those guys continue to grow. We are happy to see them get out there and be able to compete against those big old guys that UGA had. Some other guys did some positive things as well. So, we'll look at it; we'll take the positives and give these guys a pat on the back. And then, of course, the stuff that we need to clean up; we'll do that as well."

On the team moving forward...

"We always talk about the 24-hour rule and 48-hour rule. So, it'll give us a chance to get back home. The guys will talk about the plays that they had and might have done well against a top-notch guy. And then there's obviously plays where they didn't do well, but we'll transition from it really quick. We are definitely having to show the film. We want to show that and show the corrections from a mental standpoint, technique standpoint, and physical standpoint. So, all of those things will be talked about. There are plays that they made and they're Georgia. They're bigger, they're stronger, that type of deal. So those are plays where the players made them and then there's a play as well. We made a mistake and they made a play because of that. So, we definitely want to get those plays, get them corrected, and go from there."