

Capital One Orange Bowl: Florida State vs Michigan

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Charles Kelly

Florida State Seminoles



CHARLES KELLY: I think part of what makes DeMarcus a really good player is -- let me say a great player -- is that he plays with a chip on his shoulder, and most competitive, great players, they do have something that they're playing for. Now, you know, maybe it's because he's not the tallest, maybe it's because he's not the fastest, but at the end of the day, whether it's our business in coaching or your business, it's about being productive, and that's what DeMarcus brings to the table.

But yeah, I think maybe he uses that as a chip on his shoulder.

Q. You're sitting there at 3-2 after that loss to NC State. What was the team's mindset?

CHARLES KELLY: Well, you've got a decision. You either can -- we can get better or we're going to get worse. I think this game is -- you talk about it in generalities, but football is a prime example to tell you the character of people and what kind of mindset they have. It's to come, and you've got a choice every day. You can come to work and get better, or you're either going to get worse. You're not going to stay the same. I think our staff and our players, everybody involved, just said, hey, we're going to develop and we're going to get better, and again, like I mentioned a few minutes ago, the momentum is a big thing in this game. Sometimes we -- there's so many plays that go on in a game that you might not even think about affecting the outcome of a game that just changed momentum. It might be a short-yardage play, it might be the first third down play of the game. There's so many of those plays that happen. But at that point of the season, just taking the small steps, just finding -- Jimbo has a saying: Find a crumb. Just find a crumb and then go to the next step.

Q. You've had a chance to see Michigan's quarterback. What do you see?

CHARLES KELLY: I mean, he's a very big, big body, can really see the field. I think he's very well-coached, knows where he wants to go with the football, doesn't make a lot of mistakes. I think that he probably has a good grasp right now on what they do offensively. I mean, I've mentioned a few minutes ago it's a true pro-style offense. They give you a lot of personnel groupings, a lot of different formations, create different

formations out of those personnel groupings. They've got good players at every position, and he knows how to get them the ball, whether it be in the running game or the passing game or the gadgets that they run. He does a good job of that. He's a very impressive player.

Q. Given his size, how much does his footwork impress you, as well?

CHARLES KELLY: Yeah, people assume because of his size that he's not a runner, and I've always said this about quarterbacks, and I believe this to be the case: It's not just how fast you run, it's how you can avoid that rush and how you can -- I made the point to our coaches not too long ago, when we're rushing four, the pass lanes are so important because you can be -- you don't have to be a 4.4, 40 guy to get a first down or create a big play when you're not in the right pass rush lanes. We have to be very aware of that, and he is, he's very shifty and has very good vision.

Q. (Inaudible.)

CHARLES KELLY: Well, and like I said, they have a lot of those guys. It all starts up front for them. You know, they're very athletic, very big on the offensive line. But they have a lot of tight ends. They have some tight end type guys that they play as fullbacks, and then they have probably a couple of the two best true fullbacks that I've seen in football that like to create -- they like to be physical, and that's a challenge for us is being able to match the physicality of them. They've proven it all year long that they can -- that they play that way. But they're also very talented at their skill position, too. You know, you generate too much towards one specific thing, they've got playmakers at every position that can make plays.

Q. What was your mindset and your approach at that point of the season?

CHARLES KELLY: Well, and it's easy to say this, but it is, you have to make yourself -- you have to control the things you can control, and you can't worry about the things you can't control. What you can control is how hard you work, and you work and your job is to develop players and to develop players within your system. That's the things that we can control.

You know, you go to work every day with that mindset, and you do the best you can to do that. Again, we preach it to our players, so we have to live it ourselves;

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Trey Marshall

Florida State Seminoles

TREY MARSHALL: I never really thought about the bowl game or what bowl game we'd be going to.

Q. Do you feel like you have a little bit of an advantage playing in the stadium beforehand?

TREY MARSHALL: An advantage? A little bit, I guess, because we know what the stadium looks like and how the grass is.

Q. What kind of impact do you think Ermon Lane being out will have for your guys in the secondary?

TREY MARSHALL: I mean, it's a big impact losing a veteran like him because he's a junior, but like how it's been all year, when one is down, it's the next man up.

Q. Are you just kind of used to having to step up and replace somebody at this point?

TREY MARSHALL: Yeah, it seems like every year a DB gets hurt.

Q. Does it help that you've been through the drill a few times? Does that make it easier to replace him?

TREY MARSHALL: Not really. Not necessarily making it any easier, but like I said, we all prepare the same way, so it ain't such a big deal.

Q. How difficult was it to see Derwin go down and go down that early? You're all teammates and support each other. How difficult was that moment?

TREY MARSHALL: I hated it for him because we've been with each other since about -- he saw me in high school my junior year, so for him to get hurt, it hurt me. I didn't want to see that happen.

Q. Was there a guy like a senior or an upperclassman that helped rally from a leadership standpoint, talking to you guys about moving on?

TREY MARSHALL: Yeah, it all started with Coach Kelly, but me, Quez, we talked to the guys and we just brought everybody along. Whatever something wasn't looking good or wasn't looking great.

Q. What was that like in the meeting room? Did you guys just have an open meeting with the rest of the secondary and talk about it?

TREY MARSHALL: No, I talked to the safeties,



knowing that we still had Nate at that time and AJ, so we just started -- me and Nate just started with AJ and bringing him along and just improving on his game.

Q. How have you seen AJ progress? Obviously the Louisville game was very difficult, of course, but then from there, how did he kind of improve and learn to get a grasp of the defense?

TREY MARSHALL: Louisville was his first start, so he can always go up from there, and he's just gotten better all year, every game. He had a great game against NC State. His actions speak for itself.

Q. I've watched your Showtime the entire year and I've absolutely loved it. What was it like as a player to be around that environment where there's cameras everywhere you turn?

TREY MARSHALL: Man, it's different, but we're just doing what we always do. We just be ourselves.

Q. Is it distracting at all?

TREY MARSHALL: Distracting, no, not really, not to me.

Q. What was it like just to watch it back?

TREY MARSHALL: I actually ain't watched all the episodes yet, but when I watch it, I'm pretty sure it's going to be crazy. I watched like the first two, three episodes, and just seeing myself on there and all my teammates, it's so weird.

Q. You must be ripping each other afterwards, like man, you said that?

TREY MARSHALL: Yeah. One of the funniest scenes, Derwin and Bobo got into it at practice. That was the funniest scene.

Q. Why was that?

TREY MARSHALL: Just how they made it look on like Showtime, made it look like it was this big fight, but it really wasn't.

Q. Threw some drama into things?

TREY MARSHALL: Yeah.

Q. I want to ask you about DeMarcus Walker a little bit. From your perspective, what does he do that makes him as hard to stop as he is?

TREY MARSHALL: DeMarcus is probably the hardest

working guy on our team, going all the way back from winter workouts. He probably finished in first every rep.

Q. Sounds like that was something that he maybe after last year decided he was going to get a little more serious about that type of stuff. Do you see a change in him, not that he was not working hard in the past, but kicked it up a notch on two?

TREY MARSHALL: Yeah, that's exactly what he did. He took it to another level to take his game to another level.

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Tarvarus McFadden

Florida State Seminoles



Q. You're sitting there after that loss to UNC, you're sitting there 3-2. What's your mindset after that?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: We just knew that we needed to bounce back. You know, we had to look in the mirror, look at ourselves, and take it into practice and come out stronger.

Q. Did you ever imagine being in the Orange Bowl after that start? Was that in your head at that point?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: Honestly I didn't think we'd be in such a big bowl game, but I knew we'd be somewhere, and just a learning experience, and you've got to grow up from there.

Q. What's been the biggest key to that response down the stretch?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: Like I said, we had to look in the mirror and everybody had to start doing their jobs. We were leaving plays on the field and a lot of mistakes we was making was easily fixable.

Q. What are some talks that you had with your teammates at that point? Is it really encouraging, were you kind of beating yourself up a little bit? How did you communicate with each other?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: You know, it'll never be negative. We just always stayed together, looked in the mirror. We take it on in practice, try to go harder in practice, and like I said, we just had to do the jobs that we had to do.

Q. Michigan's DB was in here and says you're one of the best cornerbacks in the country. Can you imagine getting that kind of acclaim at a bowl game in your first season as a starter?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: No, that's a big compliment from him, and I appreciate that. We've got a football game to play, and we're going to play it on Friday.

Q. How do you credit your improvement this season, to have a season like you did?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: Basically I just had to stay consistent. I've been making plays since the beginning of the season, but I was giving up some plays a couple times, but I just had to get more consistent, like I said. I took it on in practice. I tried to practice harder. I watched more film, I stayed with Coach Kelly, and we

all just stayed together.

Q. When you look at their wide receivers, what stands out most to you about Michigan's wide receivers and kind of the continuity they have with Wilton at quarterback?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: Well, like I said, Michigan is more of a run team, so for guys like that, that still make their plays when they come, we've just got to take our best opportunity that you can. I think they both are great receivers, and me and Quez and whoever else is covering them, we are really looking forward to it.

Q. You guys kind of look over room to room, but as a defensive back looking at what they have, how do you gauge their talent? Is it something that you can appreciate?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: I mean, like we've been going against good receivers all year, so every week we always get a different group of great receivers, and it's just another game and another group of great receivers that we're just going to have to come and play on Friday.

Q. As far as flipping and comparing sets of DB's, you guys versus them, can you kind of appreciate what they've done?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: Yeah, I guess you can appreciate what they've done. They've got a great defense, also. They've gotten them this far, so we're just going to have to wait and see.

Q. What's it like after the season that you've had to kind of come home and cap it with a game here in front of your home fans?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: It's got to be great. I had an up and down season, but I'm starting to get into my own and feel myself coming into these last few games that we've been playing in. I'm just excited to play on Friday, and like you said, coming at home, that makes it even better.

Q. Brian has had a big year. What do you make of his development so quickly?

TARVARUS MCFADDEN: I knew Brian was going to be special. That's why I tried to get him to come here, and I'm glad he chose here. Brian has come a long way. As a freshman he made the best impact in the country, I think. Brian is going to be something special in the

near future.

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Derrick Nnadi

Florida State Seminoles

DERRICK NNADI: First impression, they're a really good team. They're coached well. After watching film, like I said, they're really coached well. They get the job done a lot of times, and they're an impressive football team.

Q. Their head coach has a very big personality. What's the first thing you think you when you hear the name Jim Harbaugh?

DERRICK NNADI: Honestly, I think he's a good coach. He does what he has to do to help his team get motivated to want to win. That's maybe a little bit different about how our coach runs things, but through his way, he gets things done.

Q. I've watched your TV show; what was it like just to have cameras there all the time and then watching it for you guys?

DERRICK NNADI: Honestly, at first, I was a little uncomfortable because it was kind of like -- it made me uncomfortable for a time, but after a while you get used to it.

Q. What's it like watching the -- I assume you guys watch it.

DERRICK NNADI: Uh-huh.

Q. What's it like watching it later and then all of a sudden you see your coach behind the scenes and you see what they're talking about? It must be insightful.

DERRICK NNADI: It is. With some coaches you would expect to say some things, it just be like, whoa. In the episode when it was about the D tackles, I'm just (inaudible).

Q. How do you watch them? Do you get together?

DERRICK NNADI: No, with me and my roommate, we just started out watching them.

Q. It must be freaky.

DERRICK NNADI: It is a little bit.

Q. Is it going to be weird when they're not around next year?

DERRICK NNADI: I mean, I'm used to them being around and I'm used to them not being around. I don't see them that much during the week. It's more like we



see them on the practice field, around campus.

Q. After that loss to UNC you're sitting there 3-2 on the year. What's your mindset after the team's mindset after that?

DERRICK NNADI: Honestly it was a wake-up call, honestly, because it really showed how much we needed to work on, especially understanding, oh, this play where so and so could have made this play, but -- Coach was like -- we needed to realize who we were so we needed to step it up pretty much.

Q. Did you ever imagine at that point that you'd make it back here and be in the Orange Bowl?

DERRICK NNADI: I was hoping. I was really focusing on things we needed to work on and focusing on the next team.

Q. What's been the biggest improvement down the stretch that allowed you to finish the way you did?

DERRICK NNADI: The biggest improvement? I felt we really just united together. I feel like at the beginning of the year we were kind of -- we didn't really know what we could do. We finally got together and started playing like we know how to play, like playing Florida State football.

Q. Y'all lead the nation in sacks. Is that something you pride yourself on as a unit?

DERRICK NNADI: Yeah, it really helps a lot because we've been working on that a lot. Me personally, I've been working on my pass rush the whole summer and spring, and I feel like it really showed.

Q. How much free time have you guys had during the first 24, 36 hours you've been here?

DERRICK NNADI: Free time? We're talking about free time?

Q. Is your day set up so it's very scheduled?

DERRICK NNADI: Yeah, but at the end of the day, when we're done with practice and like Orange Bowl activities, we do have some free time with ourselves just to kick back and relax.

Q. Is that a good thing, to have that kind of schedule during the course of the week or during the course of a day?

DERRICK NNADI: Yeah, you can get all the things you

need to work on, that you have to get done before you can just relax and have fun.

Q. It's like a job pretty much?

DERRICK NNADI: Yeah.

Q. What was yesterday like for your team?

DERRICK NNADI: Wake up, have breakfast, and you go to meetings, have meetings, go to the practice field, practice, come home, get undressed, get something to eat, and then that's that. It was really just Orange Bowl activities, and after that we're done.

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DeMarcus Walker

Florida State Seminoles



Q. (Inaudible.)

DEMARCUS WALKER: It's been very good. I'm very proud of the way we've been building and getting better every single week.

Q. What do you make of Michigan's offense?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Pro-style, a great offensive line, of course. The wide receivers are athletes, especially when they put No. 5 in there, so we have to go out there and just execute.

Q. (Inaudible)?

DEMARCUS WALKER: You don't want to make it too much of an emphasis on him because he still has other great athletes around him, so we're aware of where he's at, but we still play what's called --

Q. Do you feel like it's an advantage playing in the stadium earlier this year?

DEMARCUS WALKER: No, I don't think so. Michigan is a great team. I believe they'll come prepared.

Q. What has changed over two seasons?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Just everybody buying into the system, Coach Lawing most definitely, and just going out there and wanting to make plays.

Q. Do you remember when Coach got here that he spoke about guys (inaudible)?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Yeah, just knowing how to utilize my talent and how to maximize my value, so I'm very pleased with where he played me at. I thank him all the time because my life has changed.

Q. What is it about the system and what he's done with you that has caused you to --

DEMARCUS WALKER: I'm just very comfortable, know how to use my body type. He knows how to utilize my talent. Just stuff that I thought I wasn't able to do, he saw the potential and I've just lived up to that.

Q. What kind of things?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Just moving me inside on third down, how to play a 4 technique, everything.

Q. Did you ever feel like you'd be in a position like this?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Yes, because we got better

throughout the season. We deserved it.

Q. (Inaudible)?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Yeah, at first in the beginning of the year, it was a struggle, but I just knew stuff wasn't going to change, so I had to better my condition, better my eating habits, and just train my body to play 80 to 90 something snaps a game. I would say after the NC State game I was used to playing the whole game.

Q. There's a mental side, too, that you talked about. What exactly went into the physical change?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Just when I knew that stuff was going to change. Coach Lawing needed me out there, so I just adjusted and we were able to produce, just even still playing so many snaps.

Q. Did you pace yourself at the beginning, and by the end you were able to go hard all the time?

DEMARCUS WALKER: No, I never paced myself. It's just last year we had a great rotation between Giorgio Newberry and Ricky Leonard. That was a great rotation. Then the next year I'm thinking the same rotation, but he's like, no, you're playing the whole game. Know what I'm saying? It was a hard transition, but just maturing and just knowing what's at stake, and they're going to be good coming out of it. I was able to make that transition.

Q. Do you see every kind of offense imaginable trying to block people, two guys, three guys? What's the craziest one?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Crap, there was a few games where I had three people on me to make plays, but it's just the heart and drive that I play with, and all the hard work pays off, so I don't care how many guys you put on me, I'm going to still prevail and get to the quarterback.

Q. Even though you've accomplished a lot, you always seem to have a little bit of a chip on your shoulder. Where does that come from?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Just coming from my background and just -- I love proving people wrong. Even though the stats I put up, the times where I take over games, people still doubt. I just smile and just continue working hard because I know that I can control --

Q. Do you kind of like when people doubt you or would you prefer everybody say --

DEMARCUS WALKER: It gets annoying when people doubt me. It gets very annoying.

Q. Has it sunk in yet that this is going to be your last game in a FSU uniform?

DEMARCUS WALKER: No, that's not getting me. I'm going to miss the great memories, but I accomplished everything I wanted in my four-year window, and not too many people can say that. Not only just personal accolades but team goals, winning a National Championship. Not too many people can say I won a National Championship and won two conference championships, so it's very good.

Q. Michigan's quarterback, Speight, he's kind of a master of avoiding sacks. Can you see that on film?

DEMARCUS WALKER: Yeah, he's a great guy, quick feet, has a feel for the pocket, can move around very well. It's going to be a great game.

Q. Michigan said you're good enough to fit in with their defensive line. They said it in a positive way.

DEMARCUS WALKER: I really appreciate that because it takes a real man to say that, and you've got to give credit where credit it due. Not a lot of people are like that nowadays. I've got only positive stuff to say about him, and hopefully one day we'll shake hands, after the game.

it's not about -- you can't get just caught up in results.
Yeah, the results are important, but the results are
going to come by the process of how you do things.
That's the thing that we were most set on was getting
better. Getting better. That's the whole mindset.

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Marquez White

Florida State Seminoles



Q. Marquez, what about Michigan's Wilton Speight, the continuity with the wide receivers, that stands out most for you guys?

MARQUEZ WHITE: Just how physical they are up front. They like to throw the first punch. They like to be ready -- everything they do is kind of downhill and they try to beat you over the top. As far as the quarterback, I think he's a really good player. He's a great game manager. He can make some big-time throws, but I don't think he likes pressure as much, but that's any quarterback. I don't think any quarterback really just prefers that pressure in their face. But I think he's a good player. He does a lot of good things on offense.

Q. The past couple years primarily they developed the passing game, but still a very much kind of relying on the run. How do you guys approach that balance?

MARQUEZ WHITE: Yeah, you know we've got to stop the run first. That's the biggest thing, and then being able to match up with their receivers out wide and guard them and make the plays on the ball when they come to us. The biggest thing for us is not giving up big plays. If we don't give up big plays, we'll put ourselves in position to win the game.

Q. That's something that they've thrived on this year has been passing.

MARQUEZ WHITE: And I feel like that's what we've limited more so towards the last five, six games of the season is I feel like we didn't give up big plays. In the beginning of the season we probably would have been undefeated minus the Louisville game. The Louisville game was kind of crazy. So yeah, just knowing our soundness and putting our eyes in the right spot.

Q. There's probably several areas that can be taken control, but two very capable secondaries. Is that something you think about as far as the secondaries?

MARQUEZ WHITE: Yeah, I actually played AAU basketball with Stripling, with Channing, growing up for three years, so we've got a pretty good relationship. I talked to him a little bit before we came down here. But yeah, they've got a great secondary, we've got a great secondary. Just can't wait to get out there and just compete.

Q. You said you played basketball with Channing?

MARQUEZ WHITE: With Channing, yeah, for three years.

Q. High school ball?

MARQUEZ WHITE: AAU. He's originally from Alabama, and I'm from Alabama, too, so that's how we met. I think neither one of us thought we'd be playing college football at this level. We both wanted to go to the NBA, but God kind of had a different plan for us, and just being here, being in a game as big as this with two great teams with a lot of history, just being able to play the same position, competing against each other now in the draft, it means a lot, and I know -- I expect him to play his best game, and I know he expects me to play my best game.

Q. Who was the better basketball player?

MARQUEZ WHITE: I think I was the better basketball player. He was good. We both played guard. We made a lot of plays with each other.

Q. One of those where you travel around the whole country?

MARQUEZ WHITE: Yeah, one of those, we played with a team out of Georgia.

Q. You mentioned both of you guys thought maybe basketball was in your future. Have you had any communication since you guys have been down here?

MARQUEZ WHITE: Oh, I haven't talked to him, just I think we would say we -- we would link up after the game and we were going to hang out and do something after the game, but right now it's all business. It's kind of no friends on the football field. It's not in a negative way, but that's just how both of us approach the game.

Q. You said you're from the same town in Alabama?

MARQUEZ WHITE: No, we're both from the same state. He's in Opelika, like two hours away.

Q. What change did you see in Tarvarus that made him more consistent?

MARQUEZ WHITE: Yeah, I'm always in his ear. That's like my little brother, just see how the first game was a rough game for him. The first couple games was a

rough game for him, but we all -- the plays that he was getting beat on, he was this close from making a game-changing play. I think it was more so comfortableness for him, just trusting that he could believe in himself that he could make those plays, and now he's -- I think he's the best corner in the nation just being able to play the ball at his size, 6'3", 200, he can run, play the run, play the pass. He's a huge part of our defense, just being able to trust him on the other side and put him on an island just like Coach put me on an island and just seeing how he's matured mentally, being able to play corner, you've got to have confidence. I feel like that's the biggest thing. A lot of corners you don't see the confidence and their season kind of goes downhill. We stuck with it, and I feel like he grew up a lot this season, and he's become a leader on this defense.