



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**Quotes for Offensive Coordinator Steve Ensminger, Joe Burrow, Foster Moreau, Nick Brossette, Lloyd Cushenberry, Garrett Brumfield**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** I'm pleased what we were able to accomplish this year as an offense. With so many questions going into the season, you know, like I said during the course of the year, and people don't like to hear, we're a young offense. There's not a lot of experience. We didn't know who our starting running back was going to be. We didn't know who our starting right guard was going to be. We didn't know who our go-to receiver -- a lot of our receivers have played, but not extensively. We didn't know who our quarterback was going to be.

So about the only thing we knew was a couple of offensive linemen and tight ends, who they were going to be. So we answered a lot of questions. We answered a lot of questions in the first game; we answered a lot of questions in the course of the season. I think our receivers, even our young receivers, had an outstanding season --

I think both our running backs, Nick [Brossette] and Clyde [Edwards-Helaire] had outstanding seasons for us. Obviously, our quarterback had a good season for us right there. So we answered a lot of questions. We got better during the course of the year. You know, even through the first eight or nine games, we started a different offensive line every week.

We struggled some, yes, but I'm very pleased with how those guys stepped up with the amount of experience that they had coming into the season. And the leadership that we got from these guys at the tables over here and Garrett [Brumfield] and Nick [Brossette] and Foster [Moreau] and Joe [Burrow] was outstanding for us. And I think that's what helped us through a very good season.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** It was a game-to-game deal. You know? There was games that we took in and found our protection and kept the ball in our hands. There was games that we went tempo, you know, went fast and threw the ball more down the field. There was games we felt like we needed to run the football and control the time of possession and everything else. So each game was a different game plan. And, of course, this one is the same way.

**Q. You said the offense got better throughout the season. What ways, in your opinion, did it get better?**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** You know, we answered the question. I'll give you an example. With the Arkansas game, it was a game that we struggled protecting the quarterback. But we answered the game in running the football. We were able to run the football and keep the ball away from their offense and everything else. We were ahead by three scores. They stormed back to score some, and then our offense answered at the end of the game. The Ole Miss game is an example. We were very balanced in that ball game, but we rushed for, I think, 300 yards in that game.



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



So I think, as an offense, with the exception of one game, improved in every phase. And we called the game and we played the game as a team, not just how many points we put on the board and everything else. We played to the strengths of our team, which is basically our defense and what we had to do to win that ball game that week.

**Q. How do you assess the way Joe [Burrow] played and the way he grew throughout the season?**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** It's amazing what he's done, you know, coming in during the summer and learning the offense and everything else and taking it over. And, to be honest with you, we expanded some. We're looking forward to expanding even more, putting more on him, letting him make more checks and letting him -- and he's done a good job with that, it's just can the offense handle it? He can -- some of the other positions couldn't, so we wouldn't always do it every game.

**Q. When you first started with this particular offense and this year for you, what the offense is like now, how much is it similar to what you planned it to be?**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** Really hard to say. You look back to 2016, the major part of our offense now is -- look back in 2016, it was a little bit more I. It was a little bit more two tight ends, two wide; 12, 12 personnel. We didn't have two tight ends this year. Both our tight ends are back -- our tight ends got hurt during the summer, noncontact, just running routes and stuff. And so we didn't have two tight ends.

Austin Moreau played. So we played the whole season with one tight end. We played the whole season with one fullback. I like to be very, very versatile as far as personnel is concerned. I like to change it every other series, at least, if not every other play. But being in the I formation, being able to have two tight ends and 12 personnel, three wide-outs and being four wide-outs and change formations up. The injuries and stuff like that kind of dictated what we could do.

**Q. With those injuries, and it seemed like there were a lot of limitations that hampered what you want to do, how do you work around that?**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** You expand the other personnel. We had a lot more three wides this year than we have been in the past. And we asked a lot of our young receivers to do a lot of things for us. Justin Jefferson kind of answered that for us. We can move him around and get him the football, and he made good plays for us. But it does limit you. I think we were able to get in our goal line set twice this year, you know, to where we actually put two tight ends in the ball game and they line up behind the football. We were -- because of that, short yardage games and the goal line, we were more fast ball. We tried to go fast down there in that area. So that changed the whole complexion of what we needed to do as an offense.



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**Q. You talked about the offensive linemen, different lineup every week. How did that affect things, guys playing different positions, guys who were inexperienced? We can't use this part of the play, but we can use that. How did that affect you week to week?**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** You went in and, you know, it's a short week anyhow. You go in there and you've got to correct everything on Mondays. You kind of install your first and second down plays on Tuesday. You're putting your third down and red zone stuff on Wednesday. And then, to be honest with you, after that, come Thursday, as a staff, office staff, we just take things out that we feel like they could not handle.

And a lot of it is a communication problem in the offensive line. You know, you've got a guy sitting next to you who hasn't played a lot, he's not quite sure. And Garrett's [Brumfield] done a great job of trying to communicate with both sides, line everything up. You got some young kids in there that have never played making mistakes. So we put our game plan in. Come Thursday, we start taking stuff out and minimize what we can't do, particularly up front.

**Q. Both Foster [Moreau] and Lloyd [Cushenberry III] were signing, and they're so critical to this year's team. Could you speak to star rating doesn't equate?**

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR ENSMINGER:** And it doesn't. The problem back then -- it's not back then, even now, your assigning that. It's a head coach's decision on what position you're going to take late. You get down to the last three days and you've got five names on the board, and the head coach is saying, "I want to take a defensive tackle instead of a tight end." The day before, he said, "Hey, we would rather take the tight end before this in the offensive line." so it worked out for them; it doesn't work out for everybody.

**Q. How did the team react to the to the incident with Clyde [Edwards-Helaire] and everything?**

**JOE BURROW:** So you know, I love Clyde. He's a great guy and one of the best guys I've ever been around. Obviously, it was tough being in that situation. I don't really know all the details because it's an ongoing investigation. But what I will say is Clyde is one of the best guys I've ever been around. I love playing with him.

**Q. What do you think your transfer did for you in terms of your stock in the next level?**

**JOE BURROW:** Stock in the next level? I'm sure it increased it because I wasn't really playing at all. I'd like to think that I'm capable of playing at the next level. I think I have to get a lot better before that happens. And I think it was a good building block for the season. And I'm looking forward to the off-season to get better, get healthy, and have a full year, full spring, full summer with these guys.

**Q. Where do you think you need to improve most?**



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**JOE BURROW:** I would say my accuracy was not what it has been this year. I made some throws in some big games that were pretty decent, but just overall consistency in my game.

**Q. How do you approach that during the off-season?**

**JOE BURROW:** It's just throwing every day, working out, working out in the weight room, getting bigger and stronger. Staying in the film room, watching film. It is an off-season, but it's still being a grinder. You can't really take any days off if you want to get to where you want to get to.

**Q. Do you start that right after this game?**

**JOE BURROW:** Absolutely, yeah. I'll probably take a day or two off and get right back in the weight room. Probably won't throw for a month or two just because get the arm healthy. That's what baseball pitchers do. They take a month off, do some arm care, massage, band work. I'll probably do that and get right back to it.

**Q. Who do you emulate?**

**JOE BURROW:** So I think it's hard to kind of emulate your game after somebody because everybody is so different. Guys I've watched in the past, obviously, Tom Brady. And then Drew Brees, I've always watched pretty closely because he's such a short guy and he's made it how many years? Probably 10, 15 years in the league. He's been wildly successful. Had a shoulder surgery, came back from it. So, obviously, he's a grinder and somebody that I would love to be around.

**Q. Have you had a chance to get to know him at all?**

**JOE BURROW:** I have not. I'm hoping I'll get to get down there for a couple practices next year or something and meet those guys. I have not met them, no.

**Q. When did UCF as a program register with you? Was it something that you noticed last year when they were on their run, or is that a program you've been aware of in the past?**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** You know, I was recruited by UCF, recruited a little bit. Liked UCF a little bit. Did a little bit of research on them before I even was in college, back in the Blake Bortles days. You know, they're a good team. They're a good football program. obviously, 25 wins in a row in any sport is obviously hard to come by, especially in a sport where you only have 13 season years -- 13-game seasons.

We're excited to play. I'm especially excited to play them. It's always fun to go against someone that you kind of thought maybe you might go there one day. You know, it's good. It will be fun, and we're excited to play.

**Q. Did you take a visit down to UCF?**



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**FOSTER MOREAU:** No, I didn't. No, I just did a little bit of research, kind of that Twitter recruiting. You know? Twitter recruiting, everyone loves. But, yeah, just got a little bit of history with UCF, not too much. It's just a little bit of history.

**Q. Were you recruited by anyone specifically at UCF or just yourself?**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** I honestly don't think I remember. It was that light. You know, there was some information, some player details, couple of different things, nothing too major.

**Q. I was asking Nick Brossette a little -- Nick a little bit about about coach Oliver Miller and what makes him a special coach. He said his personality and he cares about the player. What are your thoughts about Coach "O" and what makes him special?**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** Obviously, Nick probably couldn't have said it better. I'm sure his answer was super detailed. But his personality is really infectious. I mean, he walks into the room and he fills the room. He's such an incredible guy. He really is. He does so much for our team that not even, really, we see. You know? It's only after being around for a long time and kind of understanding how the program works and getting an understanding of what we need to do to be successful and how -- he does that at such a high rate.

He's a player's coach, and we love him. We just love him. You always know what you're going to get with him. He's just -- he's so great. He really is. He's obviously an incredible recruiter. We're excited to have him. You don't get many coaches that really mesh so well with programs and that the fans love. And we love him and we're blessed to have him.

**Q. How good are you and Clyde [Edwards-Helaire] as a functioning duo?**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** Clyde, he's a really good football player. Both of our games are different, so we feed each other in a good way. So we're just out there just doing our job and just trying to get a win every time we step out on the football field.

**Q. So explain the differences a little bit to me, then, between the two of you.**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** Clyde [Edwards-Helaire] can run routes and everything else. Me, I'm in between the tackles. I go -- I do the dirty work, protection and all that. So I just try to go out there and just win for the football team.

**Q. Your offensive coordinator talked about you guys playing with tempo and how that's kind of helped you guys in certain games. Do you feel the same way?**



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**NICK BROSSETTE:** Yeah, definitely. We try to take advantage of that, playing fast. We always want to start out fast, and that's what sets the tempo for us. But I definitely like our fast pace and our tempo of the game.

**Q. And he mentioned the Georgia game and maybe the Miami game as some game examples of where you guys were successful playing fast.**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** Yeah, and the Auburn game, I would say. We definitely took advantage of it. We just kept it rolling.

**Q. Georgia was the highlight of the season, do you think, if you had to pick one game?**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** Yeah, I think Georgia. I would definitely say Georgia.

**Q. The games you lost, what do you think -- looking back on those, what might have turned the tide?**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** We just have to take care of the little things. We forgot about those. We were right there of winning those games. So we learned from it. And we moved on and we're ready to beat UCF.

**Q. What do you see in them so far, in UCF?**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** They're a really good football team on defense. They're really athletic. They're passing the ball on offense, of course. You know, they're one of the top offenses in the country. So we just have to take advantage of the opportunity.

**Q. I'm sure people are asking you, you know, you're not taking UCF lightly, right?**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** Yeah, they're a really good football team. A 25-game win streak, that tells it all right there. So, yeah, you've got to respect them.

**Q. That's what I would think too. Maybe a while ago, you could take them, are they for real. But I think they're proven.**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** Yeah, I mean, it's hard -- hard to win two years in a row like that and not losing. So my hat is off to them. They're a really good football team.

**Q. I'm guessing you would rather not play in a seven-overtime game.**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** I mean, anything it takes to get the win. It was fun, but it was long.



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**Q. What do you think just about being in that situation where you have to go on and on like that? Did it seem kind of insane at the time, or what was going through your head?**

**NICK BROSSETTE:** During that time, I really didn't think about it. I was just thinking about just going out there and getting the win and just playing for my teammates and just enjoying that moment. But, after, when we went in the locker room, I was devastated because we lost. But I was kind of beat up after the fact.

**Q. First time in Arizona for you?**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** It's a great stadium (State Farm Stadium). I like it so far.

**Q. How has this team handled everything that happened with Clyde [Edwards-Helaire]?**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** We've been handling it.

**Q. How good has this month been -- it hasn't been a month yet, but this time off where you guys can get away from the week-to-week grind of let's prepare for the next opponent. I know you're doing UCF prep, but there is an -- obviously, to retool things on offense. How good has that been?**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** It has been going great. A lot of the technical things, we've fixed. The young guys kind of took this time to really learn more, get more reps, kind of like an extra spring. But this month has been good for us. Just relaxing, not really much school going on, so really just all football and watching films and stuff. More time in the film room, stuff like that.

**Q. Steve [Ensminger] talked about the injuries that you-all had to deal with and the personnel changes on the offensive line throughout the year. How good is it, one, for everyone to heal up? And how much does that affect the offensive line when you're constantly rotating guys in and out?**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** Everything is going to affect us. Early in the season, it kind of affected the chemistry a little bit. But I feel like we're a real resilient group. We have a lot of tough guys. It's been good to get everybody healthy. Everybody had nicks and bruises. It kind of affected us a little bit. But we fought back, kind of got a little more consistent. It's good to be healthy.

**Q. How about UCF? What have you seen from them on film, and anything surprise you?**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** They've got guys that stand out. Up-front, they do a lot of movement. So that's something that, as an offensive line, we have to control. Knowing what they're going to do, when they're going to do it. But they've definitely got guys that stand out and have a solid defense.

**Q. Being the center, you take pride in the team.**



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** Yeah, I take pride in that. A lot of people that know me know I love watching film. I don't do much other than watch football, playing video games. I really -- when I came in, knowing I was going to play center, that's something I really tried to improve on when I was in the game. I feel like I've done that with my time here, especially running from guys, watching them, how they approach the game. I take a lot of pride in that.

**Q. Rewind the clock to that morning when you signed. You were such a late add. Everybody thought you were kind of like, "Well, we'll take this guy." And now you're such a vital part of this team.**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** Once I signed, I didn't really worry about when I signed, when I got the offer, I was the last guy, whatever. But I knew once I signed and once I got here, everybody was in the same boat. If I work, I'll get there one day. That's what my mindset. It didn't really matter to me if I was the last guy. If I put in the work, I knew I could contribute to the team.

**Q. What kind of work does this line need to do? I feel like you guys still aren't there. What do you need to do, not just for this game, but for next season because most of you-all will be back?**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** We've got to keep working, keep improving, the little things. This game, we've got to control their movement. We struggled all this year with people moving, and really just staying under control. I feel like we've been getting better, especially the last month, getting a little more chemistry. We also had a lot of injuries. That's not an excuse, but we had a lot of injuries this year as well. So being more consistent. Make sure -- losing Garrett [Brumfield], a lot of guys coming back. So Really just continue, trying to gain some momentum with this game, continuing on to spring.

**Q. How important is a bowl game win? You were a part of the team last year coming off the bowl loss. It makes for a long off-season.**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** Definitely. It's a bad taste in your mouth when you lose a bowl game. But, hopefully, we don't have to worry about that this year. We'll get our tenth win, and it will be huge going forward. We've got a great recruiting class coming in. Gain some momentum for next year. When we get this win, hopefully, it will give us a little confidence, some momentum.

**Q. You live there. You know what it's like in the off-season. Everybody doubts you; is that right? You win, they're all on your side.**

**LLOYD CUSHENBERRY:** My mindset is whatever you do, people are going to talk. Good, bad, I just kind of don't even focus on it. I do my job on the field. Whatever goes on off the field, fans, whatever, I mean, they're going to talk. Sometimes we win. There will be some times that we lose. They support us, we know that. We're just kind of try to do our jobs, and that's how we approach it.



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



**Q. Do you know some of the guys on UCF that are from Louisiana?**

**GARRETT BRUMFIELD:** Actually, I don't.

**Q. Did you play against them in high school?**

**GARRETT BRUMFIELD:** I could have, but I just maybe didn't know them by name. Something like that, but not right off.

**Q. You talked about Joe being loose. What is this week like for you, your last game with LSU?**

**GARRETT BRUMFIELD:** Of course, it's bittersweet that it's my last game. Just to have been able to play here and to have done the things that I've done within the program. But, like I say, it's a bummer because I don't get to play anymore. But as far as getting off the plane, that mariachi band was the greatest welcome ceremony I've ever been a part of myself. When I saw that we had a mariachi band, I was telling everybody, "Bowl game's over! Wrap everything up. It's time to go back home. Mariachi band, we've seen it all. That's all we needed to see."

**Q. Two weeks ago, you made sure to thank all of the criticism of the offensive line and offense this year because it helped you guys get better. Explain that. What did you mean? How did it help you guys get better?**

**GARRETT BRUMFIELD:** Okay. I'll say this: So, in today's world, we speak shortly sometimes. And people tell me that I ramble and I speak on and on, maybe to clarify what I wanted to say because I had to be really selective the first time. It wasn't that I wanted to poke my chest out, like "we played amazing," because, of course, we can still be better, we still have room to improve.

But that's why I wanted to finish it the way I did. When I said that, you know, we see the criticism, of course. We're humans. We try to block out the noise, but we're humans. You're going to hear things, you're going to see things. Like I said, just being able to take some of that criticism and harness it to begin to right the ship. We understand there's still a ways to go. Even myself, I only have one more game to play, but I'm going to continue to attempt to right the ship, to help the LSU football program improve to the best of my abilities until I no longer play here.

We go out and play football the way that we know we should play football every week, regardless of who we're playing, regardless of how we played the week before, and regardless of how people expect us to play. We are a group, we are a family, and we are the ones who play. We are the ones who coach. We are the ones who tape ankles. And those are the people that we worry about.



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Offensive Press Conference**  
December 28, 2018



Yes, we do hear other things. Yes, the criticism will come. We understand that, but that's a part of life. All I'm saying was that it was cool to have a little something -- you know, we went seven overtimes. Nobody would have expected the LSU offense to go seven overtimes. Nobody would have bet their life savings on that. That was cool. We came up short, we finished second, we understand that.

But people doubted us forever, we can't do a follow-through seven times in a row. Little bit of something was okay, but, like I said, I understand that the world of college football, the stakes are high. Of course we want to win every week. It sucked to lose the game after seven overtimes. But man, we battled through seven overtimes. We never would have done that -- I'm not going to say we never would have done but people wouldn't have expected it.

**Q. How would you evaluate the kinds of ups and downs of the season of this offensive line from September to now?**

**GARRETT BRUMFIELD:** We went through a lot of things. Started the Miami game off. I myself went through injury. We had shuffling guys in and out so there's been a bunch of adversity we've had to overcome. At one part of the season, we started seven or eight different offense lines each week. That's pretty hard to do, you know. It is not easy. We've had to battle through all of these things and just to be able to come out of it and be where we are now on the verge of getting ten wins when people didn't think we would win six games. That says something. People talked about us and said we wouldn't win six games. And to be where we are now, we know we haven't played perfect. Of course, we could play better. We're not oblivious to that. It is not like college football players are here. That's just what we do week in and week out. We try to play football the best that we can.