



**2019 PlayStation Fiesta Bowl**  
**LSU Media Day**  
December 30, 2018



**QUOTES FOR HEAD COACH ED ORGERON, JOE BURROW,**

**MICHAEL DIVINITY, DEVIN WHITE, RASHARD LAWRENCE, FOSTER MOREAU**

**Q. How have your first few days in Arizona gone as you get ready for the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl?**

**COACH ORGERON:** It has been awesome. Players have really enjoyed it. The Fiesta Bowl has been wonderful to our players, a lot of events.

It's kind of funny, a couple of our guys, it's the first time they've seen a mountain. It's the first time they've seen a cactus. A lot of them, first time they've seen a palm tree. A lot of them, first time they've seen the desert. They love to golf. They love the food.

The resort we're staying at is one of the finest in the world. Hospitality has been great. The practice fields have been awesome. This has been a great trip for the LSU Tigers.

We're expecting a great game. Central Florida is an outstanding football team. It is going to be a challenge with the speed and the offense of which they're running, but our guys are ready to go, and we're just really, really excited to be out here in the desert.

**Q. Coach, I asked all the players: What was the highlight of the year for them? And what was the bummer of the year for them in the regular season?**

**COACH ORGERON:** I think the highlight of the year so far has been coming to the Fiesta Bowl. I think this is one of the things that we wanted to do. Beating Georgia at home was a big win for us, got a lot of great highlights. I think that when you look at the last game, the way it went down -- I'm not going to get into that -- but we should have won that football game. Our guys played their hearts out and gave us a chance to have ten wins.

**Q. Coach, I spoke with a lot of the players yesterday and they talked about your passion for the state of Louisiana. What is it about the state and representing it that really kind of speaks to your heart?**

**COACH ORGERON:** Like everything, the state -- we have pride in our state. But we're very unique. There's Cajun people, south Louisiana, there's people in north Louisiana, and I was born and raised Cajun. Then I went to north Louisiana to college, so I'm connected to all of the people in the state of Louisiana. I feel that I represent the people of Louisiana. The governor and I have a great relationship. We want the best for the state of Louisiana.

LSU is the flagship university in the state of Louisiana. Every time the LSU Tigers play, we represent the great state of Louisiana with a lot of pride on the national scene. So I think that this is an enormous job that I have, not only to win football games but to educate our young men and represent the great state of Louisiana. I love doing it every day.



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**Q. What you have seen from the young defensive backs stepping up? And some of the guys like even Tyler Shelvin on the defensive line have to step into bigger roles this week.**

**COACH ORGERON:** The weather is a little cool. I don't think Tyler is going to like this cool weather, for sure. We're very thin on the defensive line. Those guys are going to have to step up. Justin Thomas will have to step up. Those guys are going to have to play and play well.

Terrance Alexander has had a good bowl practice. Kary Vincent, Kary is a good player. Mannie [Netherly] is going to have to step up. And Jontre Kirklin is going to have to play for us. Those guys have practiced well.

But you can never tell how it's going to be until the game comes. I think those guys are going to perform well. But they're going to be challenged. Central Florida is going to make plays. We know that. We're going to have to be patient and we just win the football game. That's going to be the key: Win the football game.

**Q. Coach, one of the things that impresses me about this team is the leadership. To have guys like Lloyd [Cushenberry] and Foster [Moreau], who were signing day adds for the most part be so critical to the team. Does that speak to not only their character but maybe just the value that anyone could have for a football team?**

**COACH ORGERON:** No question. Lloyd -- as you know, Lloyd was committed to South Carolina. He was a late add. He wasn't a highly recruited kid. I remember Jeff Ryan talking about his character and his toughness at Dutchtown High School, could be a leader for us. He's been stellar all year. I think that we gave him the most valuable offensive linemen, along with Damian Lewis.

And I was in the room with Foster Moreau. He left on a Sunday night. We offered him a scholarship. I was an assistant there. We had a scholarship come open on Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning. We offered him a scholarship. Foster is one of our leaders, one of the toughest guys on our football team.

I think that they represent this football team with character and leadership that got us through this season. This is a tough schedule, it was well known, to begin the year. Nobody knew where we were going to go. There was a lot of talk about this and that. We didn't listen to it. Those guys have come through.

We had curfew three nights. It was a very late curfew. Everybody was in early. We've had 100% attendance at curfew; it has been perfect. Our guys are focused on the task at hand when they've had to and enjoyed themselves. I think the leadership of this team has been fantastic.

**Q. People are going to hear from players that they haven't this season. What do you think about the guys that people will be hearing from, and if you have anything to say about them?**

**COACH ORGERON:** Our guys have stepped up, next man up. You'll see a lot of new faces on defense. I think I read where we have six starters that are not going to play. So we're challenged right now on defense.



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Dave Aranda has done a tremendous job. As you know, Dave is one of the best coaches in all of football. We have a tremendous plan. But we're going to have to be able to be steady on offense, move the football. And these guys are going to have to step up and make plays.

**Q. It has been a challenging year in terms of the offensive line. How did you feel about the job of James [Cregg] this season?**

**COACH ORGERON:** James is an excellent coach, an excellent recruiter. I think he's done a fantastic job of going out there and picking out the guys we need on the offensive line. He has jelled an offensive line. There's been many different starting lineups. He's done a tremendous job. We need to get better protection. Obviously he knows that and I know that. I think we will.

**Q. Coach, how do your remarks prior to the game on this Tuesday differ from the regular season in particular to the seniors who will be playing in their last game?**

**COACH ORGERON:** This is a reward. This is a reward for guys that have done a great job for the purple and gold. They come out here, and we don't look at it as their last game. We don't ever talk about that because they're forever Tigers.

I think it will be emotional when we run out there and to be able to see those guys perform at a great bowl, the Fiesta Bowl. This is our first year in a [New Year's] Six bowl. Our guys take pride in that. It's the first time we've come out west. This is a big deal for LSU. This is a big deal for the seniors.

I believe these seniors have built a foundation for a championship program. They showed these younger guys how to work, what's LSU traditions, what's the right way, what's the wrong way. I'm very proud of them.

**Q. My question for you is: On that mentality, what do you expect from guys like [Tyler] Shelvin and what people expect from them in this game?**

**COACH ORGERON:** They better play their butts off. I can tell you that right now. [Justin] Thomas has done very well. He's got his weight down. He's a slim 350 right now. I don't know about last night's meal. He might be a little bit over. I think he's going to have to play. He's going to have to play well.

[Glen] Logan is going to have to play defensive end. Glen is one of our steady performers. He's had an excellent year. He practices very well. He's in good condition. He's going to be challenged, but he can handle it.

**Q. Coach, obviously a serious situation involving two of your players in the shooting. Any update on that, and what was your message to the team?**

**COACH ORGERON:** Like I said, it was a legal matter. It has been handled. Clyde [Edwards-Helaire] and Jared [Small] are two of the most dependable young men on our football team. Great character, young men. When I heard -- first heard the news, I was shocked when I heard the names of the players that was involved. But then when I heard the story, I wasn't. We dealt with it as a team.



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Clyde has had an excellent preparation for the bowl. So has Jared. They're both going to play. There has been no change, as far as I know. These guys, we support them fully, and I expect them to have a great game.

**Q. Coach, Lanard Fournette, did he show you something down the stretch?**

**COACH ORGERON:** Lanard is going to play. Lanard has battled some injuries. He's had a hamstring injury. He hasn't practiced much because of the hamstring. I do believe he's going to be ready to play, but he's missed a lot of bowl practices because of that hamstring. He's come back the last couple of days. He gets in there. He catches the ball in the backfield well. He makes explosive plays. I think next year he will be an excellent back for us.

**Q. When Devin [White] came in, obviously he had done so much as a running back, on linebacker, did you foresee this for him?**

**And second question: Wyatt Miller, one of their players, apparently does a pretty good Ed Orgeron impression. Does that surprise you?**

**COACH ORGERON:** You're talking about Devin converting back to linebacker?

I was in the room when Coach [Les] Miles said we needed some linebackers. I was the one that suggested that. Frank [Wilson] recruited Devin, and I got there right after that. We needed some linebackers, and I talked to Frank. And Frank thought he would be a great linebacker. So I stepped up and suggested to Coach Miles that we move him to linebacker.

I've been a part of some great running backs that moved to linebackers before and they became great players. Devin is one of the best linebackers I've been around. I do believe he's still developing. But one thing about Devin that stands out is that his commitment to the football team, his character, his leadership, his love for LSU and the state of Louisiana. We're proud of him.

**Q. Coach, last year y'all had a solid season, but I think the bowl loss soured everyone for the off-season. How important is a victory not only to finish for recruiting and also the momentum that it gives you the belief that it gives a fan base pushing forward?**

**COACH ORGERON:** We talked about that all week. This sets the tempo. When you win a bowl like we did our first year in Louisville and you come out and you play very well, it sets the tempo for the spring. Everybody's on a positive note. You guys are writing positive things. Recruiting is going well. Everybody's feeling good, everybody's positive.

I've been through it twice now at LSU. I've been on the good side and the bad side. The other way is not an option. It is something that you don't want to go through, the negativity. When you win ten games at LSU, I would say -- to me, you better win ten games at LSU and more. That's what is expected in championships. Anything less than that is unacceptable. I understand that.



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So this is a big game for us. This means a lot to LSU. It means a lot to our program. It means taking the next step, winning a big bowl, our first New Year's Day Six bowl. There will be a lot of things to build on this.

**Q. Coach, over the past two years in the Citrus Bowl, in one instance you dealt with missing players and another instance you dealt with facing a back-up quarterback. In this game, you feel like you'll be doing a bit of both at the same time. Are you able to reflect on that?**

**COACH ORGERON:** I think this is my 35th year of coaching. I do have mentors. I talk to them when different situations come up. I feel that I get enough information. I look at it. I digest it. I don't make a decision right away. I like to sleep on it or maybe call a mentor. Maybe call Pete Carroll, ask him what he thinks about it, how to handle it, and then make a decision.

**Q. How's the preparation going?**

**JOE BURROW:** It's good. Yesterday was good practice for the offense. The day before I was a little sluggish. But we need to have another good day today and build off yesterday.

**Q. Not to get too much in your game plan, but it seems like it might be a good idea for the offense to help the defense in this game. Chew the clock, hang on to the ball. Is that maybe some of the things you guys can do?**

**JOE BURROW:** Obviously there's really good offense, and we have some guys dinged up on defense, some guys not playing, so we're going to have to do a good job on offense as far as keeping control of the ball, staying on the field on third downs, and just keeping drives alive.

**Q. What makes this game important for you guys to finish strong? Top ten, those kinds of things.**

**JOE BURROW:** Biggest thing is just building on a great season that we've had going into the off-season. Winning ten games would be huge for us going into spring ball. We have a lot of players coming back so that would be a great steppingstone for next year.

**Q. Dee Anderson, how good do you think he can be? He seems to arrive at some big moments and then maybe hard to get him as consistent maybe as you guys want. What are your thoughts on him?**

**JOE BURROW:** Dee can be as good as he wants to be. His potential is off the charts. He's really talented. Big strong receiver. I'm looking forward to getting a full off-season with him.

**Q. Did Derek Stingley intercept you at practice?**

**JOE BURROW:** On one-on-ones, he did, yes.

**Q. Is that unusual for a kid who is in high school?**



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**JOE BURROW:** Yeah, I was actually really impressed with him in the three days he was there. I was trying him a lot in two-minute and scout team. He actually made some plays. I was impressed with him.

**Q. Does anybody on this team have a talent outside of football? Anybody do any impressions? Anybody sing?**

**JOE BURROW:** So Bruiser [Garrett Brumfield] is a big conspiracy theory guy. So if you want some conspiracy theories, go to him.

Nick [Brossette] can sing, so go ask Nick to sing. But if you want some good content, go to Garrett [Brumfield].

**Q. Coach [Steve] Ensminger, does he make you laugh?**

**JOE BURROW:** He does make me laugh sometimes, actually, usually in meetings. He'll make fun of one of the guys in the room and everybody will laugh. And then about ten seconds later we'll go back to watching film. Yeah, we try to keep it light in there.

**Q. There's a Steve Ensminger Twitter account. Do you think there's any chance in the world that he is actually sending tweets from that account?**

**JOE BURROW:** I don't think Coach Ensminger knows what Twitter is. Go ask him. He probably has no idea what you're talking about.

**Q. How much of an advantage -- you guys have some good backs yourself. How much of an advantage is that to go against your own guys in practice?**

**MICHAEL DIVINITY:** Going against Clyde [Edwards-Helaire], all those guys, it is great because you've got Clyde, who is shifty. He will stop on a dime. He's short, hard to tackle. Having him is great because we play against backs that are smaller. He brings that to the table to help us.

Nick [Brossette], great running back, running downhill. Just having him, too, helps us, too. A lot of the guys, from the walk-ons and all of those guys, actually help us, too, when it comes to scout team and all those things.

**Q. Scout team, who's been kind of running Darriel Mack, their quarterback? Kind of looks like a Cam Newton-type of player?**

**MICHAEL DIVINITY:** We have a walk-on named Andre [Sale]. He's good. He's been playing -- he can run and throw the ball and everything. He's been doing a great job this week helping us out, especially when we're doing tempo. We have a team session where we run tempo offense. They've been doing a great job.



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**Q. Michael, what is the thought process like going up against a team like UCF that's 25-0 going into this game? Does that impact the mentality?**

**MICHAEL DIVINITY:** It shows that they're hungry. I think they're going to come in with their hands up like it is a fight and they're going to throw the first punch. We just got to treat this game like it is every other game and not treat it like it is smaller or bigger. Go out there and play like Tigers, to be honest.

**Q. They're a team that's been constantly fighting for respect. Last year against Auburn, they were underdogs. Having watched that game at the time, is that what they did against Auburn, impact the mentality of your team and not underestimate a team like UCF?**

**MICHAEL DIVINITY:** I talked to one of the reporters, and he said he wasn't mentally ready. A lot of games you can't -- you have to go into the game mentally focused. You have to have that mindset. And I know one thing, this team, we have our mindset ready. We're not going to get knocked in the face and be like, Whoa. We're going to come out and play like Tigers.

**Q. Seeing Darriel Mack Jr., only three games of tape on him, what's been your biggest takeaway so far?**

**MICHAEL DIVINITY:** The three games we watched, he's a great quarterback. He can run -- he'll pull the ball and run with it. Can throw the ball. Really just that tempo offense is really most of the things we're worried about. The tempo, running the ball. We have to communicate. He's a good quarterback from watching film. He came in and did a great job.

**Q. I know you've had experience lifting a trophy in Arkansas. It is pretty heavy. Does that look pretty heavy?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** It looks pretty heavy, but it is pretty shiny on the top. That's the best thing. I'm going to get a picture with it when I get off this podium. I don't ever lift the trophy. I'm going to touch that trophy when we win.

**Q. Maybe this is flawed, but people around LSU have said some of the motivation would be just not to lose, not to be that Auburn from last year, not to lose to a Group of Five (Power Five) team. Is that valid? Is that something that you thought about?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** No, that's not something I thought about because when you look at them just being a lower opponent, it is really disrespectful because players are good all over the world, no matter what conference they're in. But everybody feels that SEC is the best conference, which I feel that way, too.

We gotta go out there and prove that. They're not going to lay down and roll over because we're the SEC and we're the big boys. We've got players missing. They don't care about none of that. They came here to win a game just like we came here to win a game. The only thing we've got to do is handle our business. The way we've been preparing for this team, we're feeling like we're preparing for the national championship. That's how we do all of our games. This is just the next one, so that's the next one we got to win.



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**Q. They've claimed the national championship, 25 in a row. Is that an accomplishment?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** Oh, yeah, that's a big accomplishment. Who wouldn't want to go 25-0, two years in a row undefeated? I respect them, what they did, but they have another big game, another big test ahead of them. They need to focus on this one because it's going to be a good one.

**Q. This team looks different, right, than just a usual SEC team? Not that that's bad. What do they look like on film?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** They're fast. They make a lot of plays. They try to get a lot of guys in space. That's what any team does. We just have to come with it on defense and offense. I feel like I know what their game plan is going to be. They're going to be running the ball and throwing all night, and we're going to come and get three-and-outs and institute our game.

**Q. People talk about this game being a shoot-out. Is that disrespectful?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** No. I feel like they think they score a lot of points, so we need to score a lot of points to match them. That's their assumption. That's what they believe in. Everybody is entitled to their own belief. As the quarterback of the defense, I know it will be a defensive game, where we'll be getting stops and getting off the field and getting the ball back to our offense so they can score. If anything, it can be a shoot-out with our offense against themselves.

**Q. I always look for you in the post-game. I was telling Bruiser [Garrett Brumfield] the same thing. I look to you guys because you guys are leaders on this team. How have you handled the last couple of weeks? To be honest, there's been some kind of different circumstances and some distractions I've never seen around college football, I guess.**

**DEVIN WHITE:** We've handled everything well. At the end of the day, I think people forget that college football is still human beings and young adults off the field. So things are going to happen. Mistakes are going to be made. It is all about how you overcome them and how your brother picks you up and you stick together as a team.

**Q. Have you seen Clyde [Edwards-Helaire], obviously Jared [Small] rebound and try to put that behind them?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** They've been the same people they've been since I got here, since I met them. Knowing their situation, knowing those guys don't have a criminal background, nothing. They never did anything wrong in their life. They went to a Catholic school in Baton Rouge, one of the nicest schools you can go to, so you know they were raised the right way.



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They know the circumstance they did, but I'm glad those two guys are together and they were able to look out for each other as brothers because that's what you want. Man, I just hated it happened to them, but God doesn't make any mistakes. You can find them running around here right now smiling as always.

**Q. I was there the last two Citrus Bowls. Afterwards, the talk, the vibe around the program, the next few months felt different. One was a win, one was a loss. How does a bowl game provide some momentum?**

**DEVIN WHITE:** It kind of put a stamp on the next year's season. So last year we lost and I kind of credit the loss to the leaders on this team. And then this next season people didn't believe in us. They didn't think we would win as many games. We beat a lot of top teams in the country. They thought our record would be way worse, but then people had to step up and play the game. They can say whatever they want to say. We have to go out there and put the work in and be prepared to play those teams.

**Q. The last regular season loss has lingered?**

**RASHARD LAWRENCE:** It has. Outside the football field, we've talked about it. It was tough. We're going to play hard. It is definitely on our minds.

**Q. From a football perspective and from your perspective, what hit so hard about that loss?**

**RASHARD LAWRENCE:** I think you look at seven overtimes, that's not normal, you know? That's just something that you don't see every day. It would have been different if it was a blowout win or maybe even a double-overtime loss. But when you're constantly going out there in seven overtimes, that's just a difficult game, to know that we lost that game.

**Q. A lot of people are expecting a lot of points in this one. From your perspective, is that almost disrespectful to count you guys out as a defense that would give up the same amount of points to Central Florida?**

**RASHARD LAWRENCE:** Yeah, I think it's disrespectful. I think we have a chance to play our type of football, LSU defense. We've got speed. They've got speed. We match up good with them inside. We've got all of the pieces of the puzzle. We just have to play our football. If we play LSU defense, we'll be just fine.

**Q. What does impress you about Central Florida on the game tape and what's the challenge?**

**RASHARD LAWRENCE:** Speed. They've got speed. Number 30 (Alex Swenson), their running back, I think Number 9 (Adrian Killins, Jr.), they've got another guy, all track guys. They can run. And they can go. So any little crease, any hole they get, they're going to try to score. So we've got to really play our gaps, play technical and bounce them out to guys like Devin [White].

**Q. Some extra stairs this week? You've got to match the pace at some point. They're going to push that. How do you prepare for that?**



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**RASHARD LAWRENCE:** We've been preparing for awhile now. Coach O got it down to where our scout team is running just as fast as they do, if not faster some days. You can't really simulate a game until you get into the game. But once we get the first couple of drives going, we'll see how it is.

**Q. Anything specific on the scout team that kind of helps with that, helps with that speed and simulate them?**

**RASHARD LAWRENCE:** I think our scout team does a great job of simple plays that our offense is running. They do a good job of simulating the blocks and everything. So I think it is really going to help us.

**Q. Last time I saw you, you were celebrating against John Curtis in the Superdome. Can you talk about Louisiana football? Obviously Coach O loves it. He was speaking about it. You being from New Orleans, we've got Rashard [Lawrence], everybody. Can you talk about how this little state breeds these great football teams and players?**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** Everyone is so competitive. Everyone's just so ridiculously competitive. High school football in Louisiana is special. And I don't know what makes it special. It is just because everyone cares so much. There's just so much legacy and tradition that you have in Louisiana football. Iron sharpens iron a lot of the times, obviously. That's an age-old coach saying. But all of these players being so highly competitive with one another, it just makes everyone a lot better players, individually. And it makes teams better, obviously.

So I'm very lucky. I'm very blessed to be from Louisiana and to be a part of that culture and have that tradition flow through my veins. It's a really cool experience. And trying to be from the best Catholic League football down in New Orleans, it's cool. Certainly that moment, winning that state championship, was very special.

**Q. Do you remember the last time LSU played in Phoenix?**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** Played in Phoenix or played in the Fiesta Bowl? Is it in my lifetime?

**Q. It is just a football trivia question.**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** I was terrible at the athletic media questions; I'm not going to lie to you. The last time we played in the Phoenix area?

**Q. The Katrina game, which was supposed to be in Tiger Stadium. They transferred it due to Katrina.**

**FOSTER MOREAU:** That was when I started becoming an LSU fan. I might have seen that game. Who knows. But up until that point, my dad went to UL (University of Louisiana). My mom went to Tulane. There was no LSU in my family at that point. But then Katrina hit, and we moved to Baton Rouge, and that's when I became an LSU fan.