

**NO. 21 LIBERTY FLAMES 14 (8-1)**

AT

NC STATE WOLFPACK 15 (6-3)

CARTER-FINLEY STADIUM | SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 2020

Liberty Head Coach Hugh Freeze*Overall thoughts on the game and the blocked field goal...*

"We talked about it on the headsets, and we feel like he (kicker Alex Barbir) earned that right. Obviously, now maybe we should have been more aggressive. We gave ourselves a chance to win it there with him. I have to see the film to see exactly what happened. The kick looked really low. I feel like our kids played their guts out, as hard as they could for us. We, myself, didn't have a good enough plan for them to score enough points. It's not a good feeling. I'm proud of them, though, and the way they fight. I thought our defense played their hearts out and gave us plenty of chances to win the football game."

On what NC State's defense did to make it tough on Liberty's offense...

"They're by far the most athletic team that we've played. They're healthy and got all their kids back. No. 1 (Isaiah Moore), that middle linebacker is a first rounder. He gave us fits all night. I don't know that we blocked him all night. They were very athletic at every position. The gaps on Malik (Willis) closed extremely fast. I thought we had a couple of shot plays, and we won the routes and the ball just hung in the air a lot. His fundamentals were a little jittery, throwing off his back foot some tonight. He hadn't really experienced this type of pressure. He's hurting. I'm hurting because I don't feel like I helped him enough. You go toe-to-toe with a team in the ACC that I think is one of the top three or four talented teams in that group and had a chance to win it. I'm proud of them for that, but it does sting."

On halftime defensive adjustments...

"Scott (Symons) and them had a good plan to stop the stretch, which was the play that was hurting us. They did a heck of of a job, Scott and all of those defensive guys. They did a heck of a job containing this offense and giving our team a good chance to win the game."

On his message to the team after the game...

"Something special is happening here at Liberty and our football program. We have a lot to play for. I hurt for you, I hurt with you. We have a short week to get back on the field and try to get our ninth win and then go play a top-25 team to end the regular season. There's still a lot to play for. Our kids understand that. They'll be ready. We don't like the feeling of losing a game that we feel like we had a chance to win."

On QB Malik Willis' three interceptions...

"The seam route to (DJ) Stubbs, he just overthrew it, threw it high. I don't know if he had pressure in his face or something. He just threw that one high. The one where we had Shedro (Louis) on a double move, I was looking to see if Shedro was winning his route. When I saw he was, I looked at the ball. I don't know if he threw it off his back foot, but it just hung in the air forever. The middle safety got all the way over to get it. It was hung inside too, and that ball's got to be outside. I think the same thing on the other one. We'll have to go study it and see."

Liberty Head Coach Hugh Freeze (Cont.)

On the Liberty offense...

"We did a mixture. Our whole goal was to get to the fourth quarter and have a chance to win it. Fortunately for us, the defense played well enough, and we were able to milk enough clock off of it to get us there. In no way are we really pleased with the way we played offensively. We couldn't run the football. When you can't do that, the defense has a big-time advantage. We couldn't find a way to run it. That made it very difficult on us tonight. Give credit to them soon. It's hard to feel like you had a good plan when you feel like you don't have anything to go to that you can find a way to run it to where you can control more of the game."

On what the Flames can learn from this game...

"You always have an opportunity to learn in wins or losses, probably more in the losses than you do in the win. This will be a great opportunity for us to learn and try to figure out what we can do better next time."