



**Allstate Sugar Bowl**  
**QB Justin Fields**  
**Post-Game Press Conference**  
January 1, 2021



**Q. I'm just wondering, how are you feeling right now? And what was it that made you stay in the game and why?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** I mean, my body is pretty beat up right now; but, you know, I'm happy. And my teammates are happy. And this is a feeling like no other. So I know my body is going to be hurting tomorrow morning, but it's worth it for this win and for my teammates. So I think that's really what pushed me. I was just thinking all the things that we've sacrificed as a team, that's really what got me through the whole game.

**Q. When you came back into the game after taking the shot to the ribs, at what point did you feel like you were kind of back in the zone or back feeling comfortable again?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** I mean, I feel like I was always in the zone; but, of course, I wasn't really able to run. It would really hurt every time I threw the ball. So I would just, you know, not really worry about that during the play and just deal with the pain after the throw. Of course, when you're in the play and you're going through your reads and stuff like that and you're about to throw the ball, you're not worried about your side hurting. You're just playing football. But, of course, after each and every throw, my ribs hurt for sure.

**Q. I'm wondering what might have been a little more painful for you, the ones where you had to throw the ball down the field to Chris [Olave] and Jameson [Williams] or the one where you really had to put some heat on it to kind of thread the needle there to erupt in the end zone?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** During the throw, I feel like it didn't hurt, it was just afterwards. Really, even throwing ten yards, it would hurt. I mean, it's the game of football we play. I signed up for it, but I'm just glad we got the win.

**Q. What did the doctors actually tell you the extent of the injury? Was it broken or sprained? What was the actual diagnosis?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** They didn't really tell me anything. I took a shot or two and just ran back out there. But it's pretty much my whole right is sore. That's messed up. And a little, my hip. But they didn't really give me a diagnosis at all.

**Q. You guys looked like a completely different team than what we had seen previously this season, and I'm wondering how much that had to do with the fact that you all had circled this game and wanted a rematch with Clemson since last year.**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** Yeah, I just think, everybody doubting us just pushed us a little more. Like I said earlier in the week, I prepared for this game like I've never prepared for a game before. So I think that showed on the field. And I'm just proud of my brothers, proud of my teammates, and proud of the way they played.



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**Q. Coach [Ryan] Day was in just a few moments ago and just said how this win will have a great impact on the program and the people of Ohio, that the young kids will look up to you and say, "I want to be like Justin Fields." How do you see your performance had an impact for the people of Ohio who have gone through a lot this year?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** I mean, Coach Day, he's a great leader, great coach. He treats me like his own son. There could be no other coach I would like to play with in the whole country. He's everything you would want in a coach, everything you would want in a person. And to have him as our leader, it just makes me a better person, makes everybody on our team a better person. And I think everybody on the team can tell you that.

But as far as being a role model to the kids in Ohio, it's really just -- it just shows that anything is possible. And, with God, I just put all my faith and trust in him. So I'm just grateful and I'm blessed.

**Q. You mentioned in the past that -- last year, that the game was swung, not by the game-ending interception, but the targeting call on your teammate last year. Do you think the targeting call this game was a momentum swing? And what does this win mean to you personally?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** No, I don't think this game really had that, you know, of course, turning point. I think, I guess, early on, we were both kind of scoring, going back and forth. But I think just our relentlessness throughout the whole game. I think that's what pushed us through.

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** And I forgot what your second question was.

**Q. What does this win mean to you personally?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** It means a lot. I was really just going out there playing for God and playing for my brothers, not even myself. Coach [Ryan] Day deserves it, everybody in this program deserves it just by the way they handled with everything that happened in 2020. And it's definitely a great way to start 2021. So I'm excited.

**Q. Can you talk a little bit about how you all signaled in the plays during the game this time? It looked like you did a little more traditional huddle as opposed to what we're normally seen throughout the year. So if you could just talk about that a little bit.**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** Yeah, we just didn't want them stealing our signals. And that's pretty much why we huddled up a little bit more than we usually do.

**Q. Was there something you guys saw that got the tight ends open when you were game planning for this game?**



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**JUSTIN FIELDS:** No, not really. I think, throughout the year, I've missed the tight ends a lot on a lot of plays. So it was pretty much just going back to the basics and seeing the plays that they were open on and kind of utilizing those guys. Those are two of the best tight ends in the country, and I'm just glad we finally got to use them.

**Q. We've all watched Chris Olave for a long time. We know how important he is to your team. But getting him back, the motivation that he had for this one, evaluate how great he played tonight and how much more comfortable you are when he's out there.**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** Yeah, I'm very comfortable with Chris out there. Of course, he had a hell of a game. We were just talking about all week how this game can make an ever-lasting impact. And this game controls our legacy.

So we stayed out at practice and threw routes on that one roll-out touchdown. We probably went over that about 20 times in practice one day. So we knew that was a call that we were going to get into the red zone. And we executed it well. So I'm just proud of Chris and the way he played tonight.

**Q. Justin, I'm curious about before the game, obviously there's some focus on the work you had to do. Did you all even know that Alabama won the first game? And I'm just curious your first reaction. You know exactly who they are. You know a lot of the guys, I would imagine. I would imagine that's a fairly exciting opportunity on the 11th. But did you all have any knowledge that they had actually won and how they played?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** No. We were watching the first quarter before we came to the stadium, but I had no idea that they won. It's not really surprising that they won there. They've been playing really well this year. But they have a lot of great athletes and great coaches. So, yeah, I'm just excited to get the opportunity to play them.

**Q. Coach [Ryan] Day said he thought you had a different edge these past couple weeks after some people were criticizing the way you played against Northwestern. Did you feel that in yourself, that you had a different edge these past two weeks?**

**JUSTIN FIELDS:** Yeah, I definitely felt it. I think that game happened for a reason, like I said, early in the week. It just made me prepare more and prepare like I've never prepared before.

I definitely had an edge playing this game and preparing for this game every day at practice. So I'm just, again, proud of my teammates, proud of my coaches and just happy to be here.