



**2009 Division I Football Championship  
Villanova 23, Montana 21  
Montana Postgame Press Conference  
Finley Stadium Davenport Field – Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Friday, Dec. 18**



**Head Coach Bobby Hauck**

*Opening statement:*

"First, congratulations to Villanova and to Andy [Talley]. He has worked twenty five years to get one of these. I am happy for him. Certainly, we came down here to try to win the game. It didn't work out. We came up a couple of points short, wished we had won.

*On how did Villanova stop the run:*

"It was what they were doing with their pressure and their structure. Everything they did tonight, in particular early on was geared to stop the run. That is why we threw it like we did throughout the game. We pride ourselves in being able to throw it and run it. We want to run the ball, it's what we do. At the same time, we are not going to beat our heads against the wall if it is not productive we can throw it at any time as well."

*On what did the Big Sky Conference do to prepare you for this run in the playoffs:*

"I don't really think of it in those terms. We have a complete league and so when we get to the playoffs it is no surprise. We have been sitting here the last three years. It is not like we are out matched when we get to the playoffs. We play in a pretty good league and I think our league play prepares us for it pretty well."

*On this year's seniors:*

"They are a great group of guys. Obviously, when you have been with program for awhile, as I have you sit in these kids' living rooms, you know the families. They have been great leaders, a terrific group. They are a special group on and off the field."

*On what Villanova did differently from the first to the second half to slow Marc Mariani down?*

"I think one of the players' earlier said it best. They remained in the safety that way and that is why we were able to hit the post route for the touchdown with a minute or whatever left. They were leaning, tilting the field with one safety that way when they were in a one safety look."

*On getting the second half kickoff:*

"We went three-and-out in the first series. I do not think that we did that all year. We had third and short and we should have converted, but didn't. We had a couple of third downs, one was drop ball. We had on a third and very short that we didn't convert. We kind of mishandled the snap on that. Those are big plays in the game certainly in terms of us keeping the ball. We moved the ball pretty well. We just did not have it enough."

*On winning a couple of close games down the stretch heading into this game:*

"I do not think we had any lack of confidence that we could win this game. We played well at times. We did a lot of things very well. There were a couple of things that we did not do well enough, but I do not think that this team was ever lacking confidence entering this game."

*On the benchmarks you set for the team heading into the season:*

"Our goals are always the same. Some of them are academic and some of them are athletic, but the ultimate goal is to come here and win this game. We are not afraid to talk about it and we need to get here and come out on top. It's a shame that we came up a couple of points short tonight."

*On the speed of Villanova on the field as opposed to seeing them on film:*

"They are about what we thought they were. You do not get here without being pretty good. They are 13-1 and are the No. 2 seed in the playoffs. They are a good football team. We did not have any doubts

about that. As I said, Andy [Tally] has worked awfully long and hard to get that and congratulations to him again.”

*On Chattanooga as a host site:*

“Chattanooga has been a disaster for me personally. In seriousness, everybody here is gracious. They do a nice job and work at it. Everybody here is tremendous.”

*On how you addressed your team after the loss:*

“You tell them you love them. Football teams just go. We have a lot of guys that are getting ready to graduate right now. We may never get back together again as a group, someone will be missing after tonight. We make sure to tell the guys that we care about them and will do anything for them. Just tell them that we are proud of them.”

### **Junior Quarterback Andrew Selle**

*On the plan/difference between moving the ball during the regular season compared to this game:*

“Not a whole lot changed. We didn’t really change anything in our game plan. Give credit to Villanova’s defense. They definitely fought back hard. It’s just a few key plays here and there. Not converting on a third down and that sort of thing halted those drives. We would get something going, then get a little bit down the field and just halt.”

*On coverage around Marc Mariani in the second half:*

“They, from what I saw, it seemed like they were rolling their coverage to Marc. In the first half, we did a lot of quick hitches, quick stops and that kind of thing. They started flying out from underneath us and taking those away to Marc’s side. It took us a little bit to get going, like the play to Jabin [Sambrano], there in the last two minutes or so. They shifted their coverage quite a bit to Marc and left Jabin one-on-one. Jabin made a great play there and it’s just too bad we didn’t have more of that.”

*On finding passes in the first half compared to finding passes in the second half:*

“They obviously went into the locker room at half time and made a few adjustments. They covered twice to try and cover up some of the things we were doing that was successful in the first half. We had to adjust on the fly and change a few things up.”

*On the last touchdown pass:*

“It was just a two vertical, double skins on the front side. You could see the free safety really cheating to the boundary and over to Marc [Mariani], so we knew we had a great matchup outside to Jabin [Sambrano]. I just told the lineman to give me an extra tick, we’re going to try and take a shot here and just put it up. I got rid of it a little earlier than I would have liked, but Jabin made a good play and ran for the touchdown.”

*On Montana’s running game:*

“You have got to give a lot of credit to Villanova’s defense. They’ve been really good against the run all year. We thought we had a good game plan coming in. If they were giving us certain looks we would just go to the pass. They were giving us a lot of those looks early on so we started throwing the ball quite a bit. We were successful through the air and they were giving us what we wanted. They are good against the run.”

### **Senior Wide Receiver Marc Mariani**

*On noticing difference in coverage in the second half:*

“Yes. They obviously made some good halftime adjustments. I think that our offense didn’t make enough plays today. They shifted their coverage, whatever they did, obviously it worked. I can’t really say anymore. I haven’t seen the film. I know I saw a lot more blue in the second half than I did in the first half.”

*On emotions this year compared to last year:*

“This hurts so bad to be sitting here two years in a row with the same sick feeling. It just kills. But I love this team, I love the University of Montana and I owe everything to these players and this coaching staff. This ride has been unbelievable. We wrote a different ending, but this stuff happens sometimes.”

**Senior Safety Shann Schillinger**

*On containing Matt Szczur:*

"We prepared for everything they did. They didn't do anything we haven't seen all year. That's on us as players for not being able to convert when we needed to, especially on some third downs. He's a good player. He was everything we thought and maybe a little more. Give him credit and, obviously, this stings a little bit right now."

*On emotions this year compared to last year:*

"It's kind of hard to say right now. It really hasn't hit me that it's over. You put so much time in with everybody and for it to be over like that is hard to take. We're very disappointed but that's the way it goes."

**Senior Linebacker Shawn Lebsack**

*On Villanova's offensive line:*

"I would say they are probably the best offensive line we've faced all year. They were very physical. They did a good job."

*On the interception in the endzone:*

"[Chris Whitney] just overthrew the running back. I am just deep-middle there. He overthrew the running back and it landed right in my lap so it was pretty easy."

*On your career at Montana:*

"It's been incredible. It's been unbelievable to be a part of this program and a part of such a winning tradition. It's definitely helped shape my life as a person, which definitely makes not coming out on top today sting a little bit more. We really wanted this one, and to not come away with that is pretty tough. All-in-all it was a great experience. I just want to thank all my players and my coaching staff. They are great people, all of them."

*On physical difference between teams played and Villanova:*

"We obviously had a lot of trouble with their reads on the option game. Their quarterback [Chris Whitney] did a great job of riding the ball and making it very difficult on our defensive ends. They did a great job in the option game."