

**NEW
YEAR'S
SIX**



Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Quotes

Michigan Head Coach Jim Harbaugh

On Michigan's approach heading into Bowl Week...

"Our team flew out yesterday and had practice today. I was really impressed that our team picked up right where we left off. When we were in Ann Arbor, we had sound and good practices and had a very good practice today. Always had heard about Atlanta and about the reputation it has for hospitality, but this is at an A plus, plus level from the Peach Bowl and all the incredible volunteers. Just how serious they are about making everything first-class in terms of the accommodations. Mercedes-Benz Stadium is as good as it gets and the people, really, all the volunteers who are working over Christmas. I just have a lot of gratitude to them for working so hard to make this experience good for us."

On their season so far and looking ahead...

"We're looking to go out and finish the 2018 season on a winning note. To do that it'll be against a really good Florida team who's very athletic and really well-coached. Should be a great bowl game."

On how Coach Harbaugh has been juggling the game and Christmas...

Our team really likes being around each other. They enjoy each other's company. We've spent Labor Day together, Thanksgiving, Halloween, we even practiced once on Valentine's Day. That's because we love football. This will be our first Christmas together as a team. But there's been Memorial Day, there's been St. Patrick's Day. This, of course, is a big, major holiday you know. Christmas, that's as big as it gets. It's the big one. Like I said a chance to spend time with our families and with our team family. You know that is just how we look at each other. We're a family. Very much looking forward to Christmas Eve tonight and we'll be together tonight. We have some football meetings and then tomorrow we have meetings and practice in the morning, and then give the guys a good stress to just be together and hang out. And then a nice big Christmas dinner tomorrow evening. We're excited about it."

On his reaction finding out Shea Patterson will be returning...

"It's a big lift. We are excited about it. We have a lot of really good players coming back next year. A lot of good people. A lot of good players and coaches that will be returning next year. You want to win this game for this team and for this season, knowing that it will change. There will be some players who are on the team right now who won't be back next year. A lot of them will. A lot of good ones. We want to start building momentum for next year."

On the Florida Gators...

“They’re just really athletic, quick change in direction, explosive. They get up to top speed really fast. They are long and strong too, up in the defensive line. Athletic at the corners position. Quarterback is doing well. He is doing a terrific job. All those things, the variety of things they do schematically jumps out to me.”

On Shea Patterson’s growth as a quarterback...

He’s been great at getting better at everything. He’s an ascending player. It’s just everything you ask him to do, he’s got the athletic ability to go out and do it. He’s really serious about being good. He’s so focused at practice and he’s the type of player that you can give a coaching point to and he gets it and practices and improves on it.

On who has been stepping up at running back...

Tru Wilson and Christian Turner. He (Turner) has had really, really great weeks of preparation now. So during the bowl game, he’ll see time in this game. It’s pretty neat. He’s from Atlanta, from Buford High School. He’s stepping in nicely.

On Michigan’s first appearance in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl...

“We’re super excited about being in a New Year’s Six bowl game against a top-10 opponent, Florida, and we’re a top-10 opponent so that is going to be a really good matchup. We’re preparing ourselves for a real football fight.”

On what Atlanta means for Coach Harbaugh’s recruiting strategy...

“Atlanta’s been really, really good to us. The quality of football is really high and also the academics are really good in the Atlanta area. So that’s a great combination for us and the University of Michigan.”

On Michigan’s similarities on offense and defense to the Gators...

“Florida has some defensive playmakers on the defensive line. Really good secondary players. Their quarterback is really playing at a high level. They’re athletic and twitched-up, they can move quick and fast. Like I said, a really strong team to the line. That’s what we’re doing. Getting our team prepared for a real football fight on Saturday afternoon.”

On plans for Christmas during Bowl Week...

“We enjoy each other’s company. This will be the first time we have all spent Christmas together. I’m looking forward to it. We’re going to have some meetings and practices, we’re having this Christmas dinner and a chance to spend time with our families and our players’ families. It’s a real family atmosphere on our team. A good opportunity to be thankful and know that we are very blessed. Thankful to be healthy and to be together and to be here at the Peach Bowl and to be here in Atlanta. And I would like to add to that, the hospitality is incredible here. I have heard great things about the hospitality of Atlanta, and it is A, plus, plus.