

By: Hayden Hundley

Seen by: Mal

Chesney says Barnett will not appear in Boca Raton Bowl due to injury

JMU head coach Bob Chesney had doubts over redshirt sophomore quarterback Alonza Barnett III chances of playing in the [Dukes' bowl game on Dec. 18](#) after limping off the field in JMU's final offensive play against Marshall on Nov. 30.

"Right now it looks like Zo (Alonza) is not going to go and won't be available for the bowl game," Chesney said. "So that's a little bit of a blow to us, but ultimately it's next man up and that's what we have to do is continue to push this thing forward."

Redshirt senior quarterback Dylan Morris posted on his Instagram story Dec. 4 that he had surgery on his throwing arm. Thus, the Dukes have three quarterback options: redshirt junior Billy Atkins, freshman JC Evans, and redshirt sophomore Blake Kendall.

Atkins has the most experience of this group, appearing in 15 games and making one start during his career. He threw one pass for an incompleteness in the Dukes' 38-7 win over Georgia State and was recognized as a senior on JMU's Senior Day.

Atkins has played 17 snaps this season to Evans' seven, but Evans has run five times for 16 yards. He will still be eligible for a redshirt if he plays against Western Kentucky because bowl games don't count toward a player's eligibility.

Chesney also said that senior offensive tackle Tyshawn Wyatt has an "opportunity to possibly get involved in this game."

Wyatt suffered a knee injury against ODU last year which forced him to be sidelined for the entire 2024 season up to this point.

Despite the news about Barnett, Chesney added that the timing of the Dec. 18 kickoff is "perfect" because it allows the Dukes time to recover from injuries without being away from football for too long.

JMU last played on Nov. 30 in a [35-33 double-overtime loss to Marshall](#).

"If it's the 23rd, if it's later than that, you're really in a spot where you start to consider sending them home for a couple days," Chesney said. "This has to be a benefit ... this can't turn into 'let's grind them out' like we would in spring practice ... that's not what this is going to be about."

On the brighter side for the Dukes, Chesney said he thinks graduate linebacker Raymond Scott will return in Boca Raton after missing the last two games. Chesney also updated on [All-Sun](#)

[Belt Second Team](#) redshirt senior linebacker Jacob Dobbs, who's missed the last three games because of a lower body injury — who Chesney is hopeful will return for the bowl game.

“We’ve been saying it for the past couple weeks, we feel like he can come back and would find a way to come back and he’s really in a good spot right now,” Chesney said of Dobbs.

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