

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Saturday October 24, 2015

David Shaw



COACH SHAW: First of all, I think our guys played really well. Not perfect by any stretch of the imagination. A lot of things we could have done better. But some of it had to do with Washington. Washington is a very, very underrated football team, and I'm not just saying that because we won the game tonight.

If you really watch the game, they're physical. I know Coach Petersen's doing a phenomenal job there. I love the running back. He's got a chance to be really, really special.

Our guys kept fighting. Like I said, we weren't perfect, missed a couple things here offensively, let a couple things go there defensively. But our guys are fighting, they're battling. We talked about being a second-half football team. The second half of football games in the second half of the season. That's where our training shows up, that's where our mentality shows up, and the guys did that tonight.

They played really well, not perfectly, but we're trying to improve every week from here on out.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH SHAW: Absolutely. We talked about it. When you watched film, there is a reason why statistically these guys are really up there in our conference and in the nation. They don't give up a lot of big plays. We were able to get a couple tonight with great efforts by our quarterback and Christian McCaffrey. They don't give up a lot of big plays, so we knew there were going to have to be some eight, nine, ten, 12 play drives. If we want to score, we have to be methodical and systematic and convert on third downs and find a way to create some yardage because they don't give up a whole bunch.

So I give a lot of credit to the mentality of our football team. The maturity of our football team, and knowing that we're not going to rip off 30-yard runs and 50-yard passes play after play after play. It was going to be hard. It was going to be tough sledding. We had to stay with our plan and our guys did a good job.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH SHAW: It's been pretty big, it's been pretty big. And you know, Kevin made that decision, and he of course thought about it for a while and talked to his mom about it. We had one brief conversation about it

before he really wanted to think about it. Bottom line for him was he couldn't imagine not being at Stanford this year. He couldn't imagine not being here with these guys and this team, which once again, it's a very, very selfless way to think of it. It's not just about being a superstar.

He knew what we were going to do. He knew we were going to be balanced. He wasn't coming here to break a whole bunch of passing records. He wanted to come back and play with these guys. This is a really, really good group of guys and football players.

His leadership, I think, has been huge for us. He's been as efficient as any quarterback in college football over the last month and a half. He just really has. Making great decisions, little bit behind that last throw there, taking a shot there, but you really watch him play, and not make a lot of mistakes. He's come up with some really nice balls, given a guy a chance to make some plays.

Then he's back, even with the bad ankle, he's back to being hard to tackle. He broke three a couple times with some nice runs and an extended drive. I couldn't be more proud of where Kevin is right now.

Q. Coach, Garnett and Murphy had a (No microphone) (No microphone)?

COACH SHAW: I think biggest thing is looking at four out of the five in the last recruiting class with Casey Tucker being the one exception. And last year having high aspirations for those guys, and really setting the bar high. I don't think we've reached those aspirations last year. This year with a lot more maturity, Coach Bloomgren has done a phenomenal job with those guys technique-wise and system-wise, as well as getting them and pushing them to reach their potential.

In particular, Garnett and Murphy right now are playing at a high level. Graham Shuler over the last month of the season is playing the best football of his career along with Johnny Caspers. So just talking about those guys from that one class have grown, matured and starting to become what we anticipated them becoming when we recruited this group.

Q. (No microphone) you've won quite a few of them at home now. Actually I think you've got the best

streak in the country. How is playing so many of these types of games here give you an advantage? Is it much different playing at night than during the afternoon?

COACH SHAW: Oh, it's a huge difference. I don't know if it's an advantage or not. I think our guys have played extremely well. Our guys take it seriously whenever we play at the home, no matter what time. We have a really good home record over the last four-plus years.

I think the stadium's also really, really beautiful in the sunlight. But they just tell us what time to play and we show up and play, and our guys have done a really good job.

Q. Another great performance by Christian tonight, 300 more all purpose --

COACH SHAW: It took you guys that long to ask a Christian McCaffrey question?

Q. I know it. I don't know what's taken everybody so long. What more can you say about this young man, and are you ready to start promoting him as a Heisman candidate?

COACH SHAW: I'm at the point where I don't know what else I can say other than watch him. Just watch him. He's so quick; he's so explosive. The little guy never gets tired. He gets pounded, he gets hit, he gets blown up on a kickoff return and we want to sub him and take him out just to see if he's okay, and he comes up with a smile on his face and says, Coach, I'm fine. We put him back out there, and he gets after it again.

I know Barry J. Sanders came in and did a nice job as well. Just the time we really want to sell Christian, but he's special as a runner, as a receiver, as a returner. He's just fun to watch. He's fun to call plays for because we don't have to be perfect. Couple plays tonight weren't blocked perfectly, but he made big runs. So the hype for that award, that's still down the road. That's still down the road.

We're playing on national TV. People are getting a chance to see him play, which is great. But for us and for him, I congratulate him, kind of gave him a little bump on the chest. He said, Coach, we've got next week. It's all about next week. That is the mentality of him and the mentality of this football team.

Q. (No microphone).

COACH SHAW: I wouldn't say a hundred percent, but it's been nice. Last week he had one play where I saw him plant on that leg and drive and finish direction, which was really nice to see. Happened a few more times today. Still a little stiff. The best thing about it, it doesn't hurt anymore. It's not as sore. But usually the

last thing to come back is that explosion, that top speed. I don't know if he's completely back there yet, but he's getting a lot closer. We'll be careful with him this week. Just continue that rehab process until he's back 100%.

Q. You went for fourth down a couple times, converted both times on 4th and short. What was the thinking behind going for the fourth down because obviously it worked out?

COACH SHAW: Well, the big thing that I've said a couple times this year because there have been some dissatisfied customers for me not going for a fourth down, and I've just outed my philosophy, and I'm going to stick to it which is we had a two-score lead with what Remound does. He has a phenomenal knack, as good as anybody I've ever been around with 3rd and short, with our offensive line and the way they're playing, we'll go for it. I feel good.

I feel fine about it being on our own side of the 50 because of the score we had and the way our defense is playing. Now if we're in a 0-0 game or down by one score, I'm not going to do that. I'm going to play field position.

But I trust our guys and believe in our guys and the plan that Coach Bloomberg comes up with. So we get in those positions and we're a two-score lead, somewhere around midfield or plus territory, we're going to go for it.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH SHAW: There is no question. It's all over college football too. I think it's really exemplifying the fact that it's all over college football. One of the national guys I was talking to a couple weeks ago was basically saying, and I kind of agree with him, there is no one true dominant team in college football. There's a lot of good football teams, so if you don't play your best, you have a chance to lose. If you play your best, you have a chance to win week-in and week-out.

The good teams also, they might lose one, but they're going to bounce back. They have to bounce back. That's what happened to us week one, that's what happened to Washington State week one. They came out and played really, really good football the last couple weeks. It should be a really good game.

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Christian McCaffrey



Q. Describe the 50-yard play from the pass to Kevin?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, so we had a crossing route from the wideout, the right wideout, and had a wheel come in, safety rolled up, had a great play fake, and Hogan made a great throw and made my job easy.

Q. Christian, obviously carrying the ball so much, you take a beating out there. Talk about the pounding you take? Coach Shaw was saying you just keep coming back for more. Just talk about that mentality?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, football's a physical game. It's a very physical defense that likes to hit a lot, but I don't go into football games expecting not to get hit. It's a physical game. That's what our strength staff prepares us for is the physicality, and that's kind of what we're built on. So I love that stuff. I love contact. So that's why we all play. I kind of accept it.

Q. Are you a little bit surprised at the season you are having right now?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: No. I mean, not when you've got guys up front doing what they've been doing. It's so fun watching what the O-line does and the tight ends and fullbacks and receivers do. Like I said, I'll say it a thousand times, it's so cliché to give those guys props. But when they go, I go.

Q. People are saying maybe Christian McCaffrey for the Heisman Trophy. Are you hearing those same types of things? Are you thinking about that at all?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: I'm hearing it. Not thinking about it though. Right now we're just worrying about getting in the film room, seeing what we can do better, and becoming 1-0 with this next game.

Q. What things can you do better?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: I can do a lot better. There are definitely some times when I could lower my shoulder and get a few more yards. No one's perfect. But I haven't looked at the film yet. A lot of times games are such a blur. So we'll get back and really try to edit all the stuff that we can edit on Monday and get back in the film room and see what we can learn from this game and move on to next week.

Q. Did it seem like that Northwestern game was a

long, long time ago now?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, that seems a long time ago, you're exactly right. But we haven't forgotten about that. That was a game that's really driven us. One of our strength coaches always tells us never forget where you came from. And that's something that we still have that Chip on our shoulder from that game.

Q. (No microphone)?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: No, we definitely kind of looked in the front windshield. We're not focused on that the all, but we do remember that feeling. It's a bad feeling. So we don't want to have that one again.

Q. Six straight games for 30 points by Stanford. Talk about how well the offense is playing right now?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Yeah, I think like I said before, it all starts with the guys up front. When they're doing their job, it makes our job a lot easier. You've got a quarterback in Kevin Hogan who can demand the field. His physical play is definitely noticed. When he's throwing the ball, he's getting yards with his feet, but he's always getting us to the right play.

He's one of the smartest guys I've ever met on the field. Just some of the stuff he gets us to, that's really what gets us and keeps us going.

Q. Give us a little bit of let's taste what they're going to give us game as opposed to (No microphone)?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Was it?

Q. Yeah, just the whole offense.

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: I think our approach every week is to do our jobs. We watch film on them and see what plays they're going to work, and we do our best to execute them on the field.

Q. (No microphone)?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Oh, I just got hit. It's nothing bad at all.

Q. Hand or the wrist?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: Hand.

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Kevin Hogan



Q. After the Cardinals 31-14 victory to make you bowl eligible after beating the Washington Huskies. Kevin, I know coach always says the first goal of every season is to get bowl eligibility. You do that tonight obviously. Bigger goals ahead for you guys, but what's it mean to get to six wins this early in the season?

KEVIN HOGAN: It means a lot. You cherish all the time that you get to spend with these guys and so we're guaranteed one more game. That's one of our goals is to get bowl eligible and get that extra game. It's not our end goal, but it's a goal along the way.

Q. Two touchdown passes for you. 290 yards through the air. Let's talk about the two touchdown passes. First the 21-yard completion to Hooper, and then the 50-yard play action pass off to Christian McCaffrey?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, so that was a play that we put in this week, the first one to hoop. I executed really well. I kind of put the safety in a bind with a guy coming over the middle and Hoop going over the rail. So just tried to put it on him, and he carried the guy into the end zone. He's a big, physical guy. He wasn't going to be stopped.

Then the other play to Christian, he was wide open. Just tried to float it out there to him. Bryce love had a great pick-up block on that one to stop the wheel from coming up field, and Christian took the rest of it.

Q. What's it like watching Christian?

KEVIN HOGAN: It's awesome. I have the best vantage point on the field. The things he does sometimes I'm like why are you cutting that way? Oh, that's why. He just breaks out and he's just so special. You can split him out wide. You can have him in the backfield running gap scheme, he can run zone, he can do it all. He's a really special player.

Q. Lastly, Coach Shaw left you guys out on the field a couple times on fourth down. You converted both times. What's that say about the confidence he has in you guys?

KEVIN HOGAN: It's awesome to see. I think you can ask anyone on our offense, if you give us four downs, we're going to get ten yards. We dug ourselves a hole a few times. But it was nice to see us getting those opportunities for fourth downs.

Q. Your second carry you became Stanford's all-time leading rushing quarterback. That must be kind of special for you?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, it's cool. I mean, just there's been a lot of great quarterbacks there. Some running quarterbacks too.

Q. Plus a guy named Andrew Luck?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, that's pretty cool. So I'll probably shoot him a text or something, but it's funny. I mean, quarterbacks aren't known for getting rush yards, but just trying to get what I can, and it's a cool thing.

Q. Do you feel now that you're 6-1 and you're going to move up in the rankings, are you glad that you came back for another year?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, absolutely. I mean, what we have here is very special right now. We have a great team. I needed to improve better as a player in a lot of different aspects of my game. I feel like I've gotten better, and it's only -- a lot has to do with the guys around me and helping me get better and be the guy that I can be. So we're all in it together, playing for each other.

We say it every day, if you don't care who gets the credit, it doesn't -- there is (No microphone).

Q. The long pass to Christian, what did you see on that?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, it was kind of a play-action where we fake it into the boundary and had the extra receiver kind of go up in the middle and put the safety in kind of a bind. It's kind of a two on one. He kind of went with the inside guy and Christian was on the rail on the sideline. Just tried to get it to him. Nothing special. Let him do what he does, and he made a guy miss and took it the distance.

Q. As far as Christian's concerned, five straight weeks of 100 yards rushing or more. In the past couple of weeks specifically, so many yards through him. What's been the difference the last couple of weeks?

KEVIN HOGAN: I think we're getting into a rhythm offensively. I think we're hard to predict right now whether we're going to run our pass out of our different

formations and personnel groupings, and it's nice to have. There are so many guys you can put out there and you can run power with Hoop and with Dalton and Greg, and then you can split them out and throw the ball.

Then Christian, he's just so special. The offensive line is really gelling right now, and they work together. I mean, Christian sets up his blocks. The O-line has a good feel for him and what he's going to do, and they set each other up and it's awesome to see.

Q. How has it been playing through injury and being able to come back and be a little more consistent?

KEVIN HOGAN: I mean, this is the first week where I've felt like I could really move around and do something and not really favor it. So I felt pretty good. Just got to stay confident in the pocket and go through my reads. Don't need to get out of it too soon, but it's nice if the play breaks down, I can get out and maybe get a first down.

Q. Could you talk a little more about Christian? Just the way he plays, he's such a relentless guy, he's not that big, but he keeps on coming.

KEVIN HOGAN: He's a leader on this team. Everyone looks to him and just his attitude. I thought he got that first down when he reached his arm, dragged a guy for ten yards on the screen pass. But it's just like those plays that he makes where he's going to keep going driving those legs until he get that's first down or in the end zone. He's just a really special player and he can do it all.

Q. When you saw him open on the sidelines, did you say there is a touchdown?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, I just tried to get it up and down and let him do what he does with the ball. Wasn't anything special on my part. I will give a shout out to Bryce for picking up the blitz on that one and allowing me to get it up as well as the O-line. Just getting the ball into Christian's hands and letting him do what he does.

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Blake Martinez



Q. Talk about the tailback first of all (No microphone).

BLAKE MARTINEZ: Yeah, he's a great running back. He made those moves to kind of get open once again, because we think we had him bottled up in the backfield, and all of a sudden, shift deep, boom, he bounces out and makes a touchdown on one of those plays. Kind of gained those extra yards that we didn't want them to kind of get.

Q. Watching another 300-yard offensive performance by Christian McCaffrey; is this business as usual?

BLAKE MARTINEZ: Yeah, we're kind of expecting it from him now, and we kind of mess with him throughout each day at practice. Kind of those little plays where thought he had a touchdown but didn't, and we're like, dude, come on, what are you doing? You're supposed to score every time. And he kind of obviously him being a competitor gets mad because he wanted to score on those plays, obviously. It's just fun to go back and forth. He's a special guy like everyone's been saying, and he has a bright future.

Q. You have played in every game except one where you've faced a quarterback who hasn't had a lot of experience. Does that detract from your defensive performance do you think, or is that just football?

BLAKE MARTINEZ: No, that's just football. We go out there and kind of have a game plan for whoever he's going to be out for that quarterback spot. Kind of just have a thing where if everyone does their job, we'll make the plays that need to be made.

Q. Were you guys -- was pressuring more a part of this week's game play?

BLAKE MARTINEZ: I feel we had kind of the same game plan we had the past couple weeks where first and second down we had to make sure we knew what was going to come from certain formations, because we had key tendencies whenever they came out with certain stuff. If we could stop them on first and second, our coach is going to let us loose on third down and make the plays that we needed to make.

Q. So you guys had three deflected passes from your front seven. Was that an emphasis this week? What would you attribute that to?

BLAKE MARTINEZ: I think that was just them understanding when they can basically go after the quarterback or at a certain point know when they need to put their hands up. They work a drill each week to work on that. It kind of showed this week how important the drill was.

Q. When you saw Washington's defense out on the field, people were saying that would be the strongest defense you guys would face. Did you think that was true? Did you think they were the toughest defense you guys had seen?

BLAKE MARTINEZ: Yeah, definitely from statistics and everything that we've seen throughout the whole Pac-12 there, definitely a strong defense, holding a lot of great teams. Lowest scoring, and we kind of went out there and knew that we wanted to be the best defense.

Everyone was talking about them all week, all right, Pac-12 offense get against best Pac-12 defense. And we're like hey, what about us? So we went out there with chip on our shoulders and I think we proved a big thing today.

Q. How do you feel about heading up to Coleman with a team that has such a strong air raid offense? Are you going to adjust to that?

BLAKE MARTINEZ: Yeah, I think we'll have certain packages that we'll have for them and stuff where we have more, I guess, DBs and safeties out there to kind of deal with all the passing that they do. I think I saw one game they had 70 pass attempts, which is insane. We just had to be ready for that and know our job like every single week and make the plays.

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday October 24, 2015

Chris Petersen

COACH PETERSEN: Tough game. It was a good football team we played. They executed at a very high level in all three phases. We can't get anything going in the first half offensively, and it just puts too much stress on everybody else. It makes it a very, very hard game. Second half got a little something going, but they're a good team that can answer right away, which they did. Put us back on our heels.

So, yeah, good football team. Down the road, we'll be a good football team, but not tonight.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH PETERSEN: You know, first half was rough in terms of the game is different from practice. The second half kind of settled in a little bit. You can see you can throw the ball, make good throws. I was really proud of him, and glad we left him in there to keep slinging it. Made some good decisions.

We'll analyze the tape and see what exactly he could have done a little better, but it usually starts up front and kind of goes quickly with the quarterback.

Q. Do you think there is going to be a change?

COACH PETERSEN: No, wanted to give a little more time and just see how it goes. We had five runs and they worked. Left him in a little bit. He got a chance to throw a couple good balls.

Q. How limited were you in terms of what you felt you could call offensively with him?

COACH PETERSEN: Well, I think he knows what he's doing, but I think the first game when you're out there against -- it's a good defense. So we want to be fair to him and not just -- we don't want to put our defense in a real bad situation and have an untimely turnover or anything like that. So you're kind of playing that cat and mouse game a little bit.

Q. This is just a brutal stretch of games. You've got to have good quarterback play, and you've got young guys back there. Is there anything you can do except time?

COACH PETERSEN: Well, no. I mean, if they keep working hard, keep practicing. It's not just quarterbacks. You're right. We do have to have good quarterback play and we will get good quarterback play. We get good quarterback play. We just need to be more consistent.

But we've got a young front too. That definitely can lead to some quarterback issues. I think the O-line is doing a decent job of pass blocking. Excuse me, run blocking. I think they're doing some good jobs. We're still a little inconsistent there. At times we come off and we're physical, you can hear it, you can feel it. We keep guys covered up, and you see Myles finding the creases, but I think we make some strides in our pass protection.

Q. How tough was it having some guys banged up on defense, linebackers and secondary?

COACH PETERSEN: It's going to be tough even when you've got all your guys. Then you come in here a little bit shorthanded. But I think you probably talk to every coach in the country, and everybody's going to say the same thing. I mean, it's a hard game. You're Game 7 into it, and you're not going to have all your guys. A lot of guys you do have are playing banged up and sore, and that's just how it goes.

Q. Is there a concern as you go through this schedule at this point where you guys are (No microphone) getting beaten and discouraged?

COACH PETERSEN: I think you've always got to pay attention to that as a coach. I don't care if they're young or old. We do play a brutal, tough schedule. So all we can really worry about is are we getting better? And you see flashes. It's just got to be more consistent. I know this. I know this crew is going to be good.

I can't put the time line on it, but I know it. Part of the deal is we've got to analyze it. We don't have time to feel sorry for ourselves, and we have to play better next week.

Q. When you look at Stanford, that was a physically impressive team. 33 seniors, and 13 (No microphone), do you almost look at what those stats are going to look like in a couple years?

COACH PETERSEN: I've said this: Stanford builds it like you'd like to build it. They've got big, physical guys, they've got old guys, and some of the old guys even on the defensive side they're fairly new faces to the roster, but I think they've played. There's enough guys that have played out there that there's a good blend there, and they play hard. So I think Coach Shaw does a good job of building a program how it feed needs to be built.

Q. You've seen McCaffrey on film. In person was it even more impressive?

COACH PETERSEN: That's a good question. The only reason I say that is because he's so impressive on tape. But I'd say as good as advertised, for sure. He has such quick feet. He's one of those guys that just never crosses his feet over. Those guys are kind of rare, but they're very quick.

So he always plays with great balance. I think what I think that makes him is a very hard guy to tackle. He's not going to go down unless you tackle him. He's so patient with his blocks. You can see when he returns kicks. Most kickoff return guys just try to get the ball and hit it as hard as they can. You can see him. He's patient on kickoff return. He's a really good player.

Q. When you came out in the second half and Marched right down and scored, was that the key point in the game when they came back and matched it?

COACH PETERSEN: That was hard. I think we could have gotten the ball back without a touchdown. I think our guys would have felt better about things. But good football team's are going to answer.

Q. Did you pretty much (No microphone) yesterday?

COACH PETERSEN: We had our mind made up coming in today. Last couple days we were kind of still -- he didn't take a lot of reps during the week. He didn't throw the ball during the week. K.J. and Jeff took the majority. So we just felt it was important to go that direction.

Q. (No microphone) a senior in a game like this? Do you maybe think a little bit differently?

COACH PETERSEN: Yeah, that's a hard question for me to answer. Yeah, I don't know. I still think he'd be pretty dialed in, but I think it's important for K.J. to get some reps. I really do. I think those will pay off down the road. You can't just have one of anything in this game. You just can't. Guys got to be ready to play.

Q. Is there much of a hope that Jake might be back next week?

COACH PETERSEN: Oh, yeah. I think there is a big hope.

Q. (No microphone)?

COACH PETERSEN: I think Kevin's fine. I think he just banged his leg. He's been a little beat up as well. I don't think it's anything new.

Q. Tough loss (No microphone)?

COACH PETERSEN: Well, yeah, we'll put the tape on and we'll find signs of encouragement. Bottom line is these guys get it. There is a scoreboard there for a reason. When that doesn't come out in our favor, they feel it. We all feel it.

The only way to get rid of that feeling is to go out and play better and get a win. I mean, that's the bottom line. So they've been a pretty resilient group. They have I'm encouraged they're going to show up for work tomorrow and we'll play better and get better next Saturday.

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday October 25, 2015

Budda Baker



BUDDA BAKER: We weren't really worried about how many plays we were doing. Every time we were on defense, they tried to get a stop and did a great job of handling the ball and running down the field.

Q. So you guys were without some of your regular guys to start there. What is the mindset when you take the field like that?

BUDDA BAKER: The mindset is next guy in, same person. Whoever we're playing with, the mindset is next guy in, and do what you've got to do.

Q. Thoughts about Christian McCaffrey?

BUDDA BAKER: He's a great back. He read the holes, went slow and hit it. They use him everywhere, passing game, kick return.

Q. Anything different from what you saw on film?

BUDDA BAKER: From Christian?

Q. Yeah.

BUDDA BAKER: I saw on film that he's a great back, a great receiver.

Q. What makes him so hard to stop? I mean, just the size and the way they execute?

BUDDA BAKER: Stanford? Yeah, probably they just don't leave the ball up. They're smart. They've got very smart O-linemen, very smart running backs. They don't fumble. They don't really make mistakes. So you've got to grind with them and try to stop them.