

Stanford Postgame Quotes

October 6, 2012 – Stanford Stadium

Game Time: 12:05 p.m. (PT)

Duration: 3:51

Official Attendance: 48,204

No. 18 Stanford (4-1, 2-1) 54 Arizona (3-3, 0-3) 48 OT

RB Stepfan Taylor

On Josh Nunes' leadership and play...

"Being down 14, he kept his poise and drove us down the field. He had a lot of passes those last few drives, and they were converting. We stuck together as a team and had trust in each other. We didn't go out there and start pointing fingers; we're a mature team. We've been in this situation before and we just went out there and executed."

QB Josh Nunes

On his confidence following last week...

"I definitely have confidence now. The guys up front did what they needed to do as well as the guys downfield. I definitely used last week [against Washington] as a stepping stone forward and learned a lot of things to work on. I feel like I did a better job this week, but there are a lot more things we need to correct."

"I think I made a lot of throws that I made this week that I didn't make last week. I definitely applied a few things that I was working on this week in practice. I think that helped out a lot today. Mainly ball position, velocity. Just be more consistent."

TE Levine Toilolo

On how they were able to take advantage of the Arizona defense...

"I think we saw a lot of the cover-one. We always talk about winning one-on-one matchups, whether it's in the run game or the pass game. For me, I just have to run my route. Josh put some great balls up there. I probably should have come down with more of them. We stick with our game plays. Our coaches call some great plays based off of what the defense gives us."

OLB Chase Thomas

On the final play...

"I saw a great defensive line get their hands up. I know they were throwing short all [game]. The defensive line did a good job of getting their hands in the air. I saw it coming right towards me. I was trying to high point it as I was taught. As soon as I grabbed it, I knew I had to hold on to it."

On the troubles of the defense in the second half...

"We have a great brotherhood in our defense. We didn't start blaming each other, we didn't start pointing fingers or anything like that. We knew what we had to fix. There were a bunch of big gaps that we need to correct, but when it counted, our defense went out there and got the ball back for our offense.

"They did a great job of showing run for a long time, keeping the linebackers in the box, watching the backfield, and then pull at the last second and throw a slant route that got there before our linebackers could get to their spots. The offense did a great job of selling run and then dumping it off. We did bite on that and they hit us over the top a couple of times. At the end of the game, we just went back to the basics of our technique, calling some of the base plays out there that we know how to run real effectively. I think that's what got it done."

On what this win means...

"It's huge. It shows that we can face adversity and overcome it. To have that 12-round knockout fight shows that we're a high character team and that we never give up, never quit. I don't think there are a lot of teams out there that can say that."

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Stanford Head Coach David Shaw

On what people learned about QB Josh Nunes ...

"It's not that we learned; it's maybe other people learned that he's a tough kid. He bounces back. He doesn't listen to the noise and he's steady. He's steady and part of the difference between this game and last game was he didn't miss a lot of the easier throws. He made the exact same throws on the deep ball and we just made the plays. And we made the plays today, guys went down there – Jamal-Rashad Patterson and our two tight ends made some huge plays. Drew Terrell down the stretch and once we had that big play component, we can go back to being efficient in the running game and being able to go back and forth between the run and the pass. Josh is just steady. He doesn't go up and he doesn't go down. He stays the same."

On Josh Nunes' maturation as a quarterback ...

"Well, I just think he was able to – one of the big differences was he had 10 first downs last game. We were not able to get into an offensive rhythm. We were not moving the ball. We were able to move the ball a little bit better today and as a quarterback, you get a chance to stay in a rhythm a little bit longer as opposed to going off and coming on, going off and coming on as opposed to staying on the field a little longer. We ran the ball decently, broke a couple but he just played extremely well."

On big defensive plays in the end ...

"It was the difference in the game. When you're in a seesaw battle and going back and forth, the team that gets the stops on defense wins. And we got a big stop in the fourth quarter, which gave us a chance and then, the stop in the red zone in the overtime is the game – that's the game. So, our defense – we put a lot of pressure on those guys because we all have faith in those guys. Those guys came through and played well when we needed them to play well. "

On Josh Nunes' ability to run and calling plays for him to run ...

"Yeah, we he runs like that. If you told me a year ago we'd call multiple runs for Josh Nunes, I'd laugh at you. But, the bottom line is as I said earlier – he's a tough kid. He is a tough kid and he's not afraid of it, he doesn't back down from challenges and we called a couple of runs down there based on their front. And we called a couple of

option plays and ran them in, and his scrambling. The big plays were him scrambling on third downs for first downs – those are huge. Usually, I have a rule. Two first downs a game on the quarterback's legs. We need two first downs a game and he's been able to do that a couple of times this year. "

On the overtime plays and whether he'd take risks ...

"Not at all. Once again, outside of the one missed kick on the field goal, our kicker [Jordan Williamson] is great right now. I mean he's doing extremely well so where the ball started, we're in field goal range. So we're going to run the ball and just try to get closer to kick the field goal. We're not going to put the ball in the air in the situation because, and like I said the last two weeks in particular, our kicker has been money. So, we're going to be a little conservative there, run the ball and then Stepfan [Taylor] broke one out as he's apt to do periodically and ended the game for us."

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Arizona CB Tra'Mayne Bondurant

On the effort by Arizona's defense...

"We fought all game but didn't do enough and there's stuff we need to work on. We fought all game but a couple of mistakes got us."

On covering Stanford's tight ends...

"I think we did a good job on them. If you can be physical that can help you a lot. If you're shorter than them you just have to be physical and fight them. I think we did well enough to stop them but it was tough."

Arizona RB Ka'Deem Carey

On the performance of Arizona's offense...

"We had a great game on both sides of the ball, we just have to find a way to get on top. We need to keep going out there and do what we do best. Stanford's a great team, and I give them credit. They stuck with it, fought back and did what they had to do to win."

On the Arizona offensive line...

"I believe my front line is great. They gave me the holes I needed and I just ran the ball hard. We just go out there and play football and that's our game."

Arizona WR Austin Hill

On the high-scoring game...

"It was a shootout and we knew one play could decide it. Matt Scott played great, took a couple hits to get the ball out and receivers love when quarterbacks do that."

On attacking the Stanford defense...

"Almost every game we try to stretch the field. We have a great set of receivers and Matt Scott's been throwing the ball great. We took advantage of a lot of their secondary miscues, and that helped a lot."

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Arizona Head Coach Rich Rodriguez

On offensive gameplan ...

"Just run the offense. Do what we gotta do to get first downs and score. We knew it'd be a hard time running it, and we didn't run the ball well, but Matt's a stud and he made a lot of great throws, we made some great catches. Just needed to make one more play.

"Like I told the team, they ain't got nothing to be ashamed about. They played their tails off. We need to make one more play. We make one more play at any time in the fourth quarter we end up winning it.

"So came into a tough, against a good team in their place and battled to the end and we've gotta just go back and try to get all the little things better. Anything we can do to get ourselves better in the next two weeks before we play again we're going to try to do."

"We gotta get healthy. We needed an open week about a month ago. I'd like to have four open weeks, as banged up as we are. We'll take what we've got, see if we get a couple guys back, and try to get better at the areas we need to get better at.

"We're thin from the get-go. It's ridiculous how razor thin we are. But whoever's in there is expected to compete and perform and I thought the guys that were in there battled today.

On last eight minutes ...

"We didn't execute on that one when we had the seven point lead with eight minutes to go. They did a nice job. And in overtime it was a tipped ball, that's it.

On decision to run out clock at end of regulation ...

"Field position. Didn't like where we were at...don't want to make a mistake down there.

"We had a couple of dropped interceptions that probably would have made a big difference for us."

On the late fourth down conversion ...

"I see they made a play and we didn't. I mean I don't know what coverage we were in. Looked like they ran a middle dig route which they'd been hurting us all day. I don't know if we were man coverage or some kind of matchup coverage, but that was the big play. Fourth and ten or whatever it was."

On offense in a loss ...

"We've been in some high-scoring games before, it's disappointing, but had the offense made another play at the end we wouldn't have had gone down to the last drive and then making a fourth down conversion."

It's a team deal all the way around – nobody's happy right now and they shouldn't be. But again, I'm proud of their effort, proud of the way they battled, and we just gotta go and try to get better."

On if early season is going as expected ...

"I didn't know what because it's my first time through with these guys. I think the effort's been as good as I hoped. I think there's been some execution problems, but that's not totally unexpected."

"We've won a close one or two and we've lost a couple close ones. Unfortunately the last two have been close losses that had we made a play at the end we would have won."

On 69 passing attempts ...

"Just trying to get a first down, trying to score. I didn't even realize that – that's a lot of throws. He'll be alright, they've got ice for his arm."