

Stanford Postgame Notes
September 15, 2012 – Stanford Stadium
Start Time: 4:50 p.m. (PT)
Duration: 3:36
Attendance: 50,360

No. 21/16 Stanford (3-0, 1-0 Pac-12) 21
No. 2/3 USC (2-1, 0-1 Pac-12) 14

The Big Lead

- No. 2 USC is the highest ranked opponent Stanford has faced – and defeated – since the 2007 edition of the Trojan squad (also ranked No. 2 in the AP poll) fell in Los Angeles to the Cardinal, 24-23.
- Stanford's last home win against an opponent ranked second in the AP poll was Oct. 30, 1982, when the Cardinal defeated No. 2 Washington, 43-31.
- Stanford held USC to 91 yards of total offense and five first downs in the second half.
- Stanford's defense held USC to 26 net yards rushing on 28 carries, the sixth straight game the Cardinal has held an opponent under 100 total yards rushing.
- Stanford's defense is the first to hold USC QB Matt Barkley without a touchdown pass since a Nov. 20, 2010, matchup against Oregon State.
- Stanford recorded four quarterback sacks and nine tackles for loss on the evening. USC gave up eight sacks total all of last season.

Streaks Continued

- Five consecutive home wins.
- Four consecutive wins over USC (2009-12).
- Three consecutive wins over USC in Pac-12 home openers (2004, 2010 and 2012).
- Five consecutive Pac-12 openers (2008-12).
- Five consecutive Pac-12 home openers (2008-12).
- 11 straight wins in the month of September (2008-12).
- Stanford earned a 3-0 record to start the season for the third straight year. The last time the program registered a trio of consecutive 3-0 starts was 1970-72.
- Bradford M. Freeman Director of Football David Shaw joined Chuck Taylor (1951-52) as the only head coach in Stanford history to start his first two seasons 3-0.
- Six Stanford head coaches have defeated USC in back-to-back seasons before tonight, with the coming during Jim Harbaugh's watch from 2009-10. Along with Shaw, only two coaches downed USC in their first two seasons on the Farm as Clarke Shaughnessy strung together back-to-back wins in 1940-41 and Claude "Tiny" Thornhill beat USC three times from 1933-35.

The Series

- Tonight's game was the 90th meeting between Stanford and USC.
- In a series that dates back to 1905, the Trojans lead the all-time series, 58-29-3. Stanford does not count the 1918 contest won by the Trojans in its series scores, as it was played as part of an unofficial schedule by the Student Army Training Corps Team.
- The Cardinal has won the last four games and five of the last six.
- Tonight's win marks the first time Stanford ever has defeated USC on four consecutive tries.

- Stanford is 10-33-2 at home against the Trojans and has won three of seven matchups at Stanford Stadium since 2000 (five of 14 home contests against USC since 1990).
- **The Early Stages**
- Ty Montgomery returned the opening kickoff 63 yards for the Cardinal.
- Stepfan Taylor broke loose for a 59-yard touchdown run, his 33rd career touchdown which tied him for fourth place on Stanford's all-time list.
- Taylor surpassed 3,000 career rushing yards on his 59-yard touchdown run.
- The Cardinal denied all three of USC's third-down conversion attempts in the first quarter.
- Stanford held USC to just nine rushing yards in the first half, an average of 0.6 per carry.
- The teams combined for four interceptions over a period of nine plays at the end of the half.

For the Record

- Stanford is 6-2 at home against ranked opponents (2-2 vs. top 10) since 2009, including wins over No. 2 USC (2012), No. 7 Oregon (2009), No. 13 Arizona (2010), No. 22 Washington (2011), No. 22 Notre Dame (2011) and No. 24 Washington (2009). The home losses to ranked opponents since 2009 came at the hands of No. 6 Oregon (2011) and No. 11 USC (2009).
- Stanford is 26-3 in its last 29 home games at Stanford Stadium dating back to the final home game of the 2007 season.
- Stanford is now 24-5 over its last 29 regular-season Pac-12 contests (2009-11)
- Tonight marked the 11th time in the series history between Stanford and USC in which both squads are ranked in the AP poll. Stanford is 7-5 in contests when both teams are ranked, including each of the last four affairs (2012, 2011, 2009 and 1992).
- Stanford has compiled a 36-8 record over the last four seasons, finishing 8-5 in 2009, 12-1 in 2010, 11-2 in 2011 and 3-0 in 2012.

Taylor's Tale

- Senior RB Stepfan Taylor figures prominently on many of Stanford's career lists in his senior season. He ranks third on Stanford's all-time career rushing list with 3,108 yards, and tonight became the third player in program history to record over 3,000 rushing yards in a career. Darrin Nelson (1977-78, 80-81) tops the chart with 4,033 yards and Toby Gerhart (2006-09) is second with 3,522 yards.
- Taylor's 30 career rushing touchdowns are third all-time on the Farm.
- Taylor's third quarter touchdown gave him 34 overall for his career, passing Brad Muster and moving into fourth place on Stanford's all-time touchdown list.
- Taylor's 3,108 yards career rushing currently ranks sixth among active rushers in the NCAA. His 561 career carries ranks fourth.
- Taylor's 15 100-yard games rank third on Stanford's all-time career list behind only Gerhart (20) and Nelson (16).
- The 153-yard output by Taylor matched his second-highest career total set last season at Arizona (Sept. 17). Taylor rushed for a career-high 177 yards during last season's Fiesta Bowl.
- Of Taylor's 27 carries against USC, not one yielded negative yardage.

Jump for Josh

- QB Josh Nunes was steady in his third career start by completing 15 of 32 passes for 215 yards.
- Nunes was picked off twice and tallied a pair of touchdown passes.
- Nunes is 3-0 as a starter with 615 passing yards and six touchdowns against three interceptions.

- Nunes was nine of 15 passing for 137 yards and two touchdowns in the second half.
- By comparison, Andrew Luck began his Stanford career with a 2-1 record through three games at 639 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions.