

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Stanford, California, USA

Coach David Shaw

Postgame Media Conference



Oregon State - 28, Stanford - 27

THE MODERATOR: Opening statement from Coach Shaw.

DAVID SHAW: Thank you. Difficult game. Had a tough game last week. A lot of work this week to get our team ready to play. Commend our players, the way they worked, the way they prepared. Our coaching staff, all the engagement we had with our student-athletes this week to get ready for this game.

What's going to get lost is probably played our best game of the year. Best complete game of the year. A lot of things we've been pushing, harping on, not just the coaches but the student-athletes, players. Got a lot of production from a lot of guys.

Guys played so hard on defense, played so well. Ethan Bonner, three pass breakups down the field. Had an opportunity to finish the game in all three phases. We just didn't do it.

If we got one more first down offensively, we can run the clock down, end the game. Get a good kickoff and cover. At least get them pinned in. Instead, they got too much of a return.

We had an opportunity defensively to put the game away, and we just didn't. It's going to be a rough 24 hours for all of us. We can't afford to spend more than 24 hours on it.

Short week, long plane fight, tough place to play. We got to get ready. Got to take care of the guys in practice this week, make sure we have our legs. I'm not going to just be all sunshine about us playing our best game because the most important thing is we got to finish.

We got a chance to put the game away, but we have to put it away. Going to give the guys some time off, get away from it, get a little bit of a break, come back, get ready to go.

I'll take questions.

Q. Can you take us through the final touchdown for the Beavers, as you saw it.

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, ball went up, we had two guys in the area, and they (Oregon State) came down with it. The ball goes up, we got to be in position, at the corner position. Got to be in a safety position where they're going to take the ball or get the guy down. Didn't do either one of those.

We worked a lot on things like that, and we just didn't make it happen. Did it pretty much the entire game up until that final play. Got to make those plays.

Q. Can you take us through the final offensive drive that ended up as a field goal and the things you were hoping to emphasize?

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, most of it went our way that last drive up until the final couple plays. Second-and-short, thought we had an opportunity to get the first down. Didn't quite get it.

Third down, went to a play that we felt really good about. Didn't get the first down. Wanted to run the clock down a little bit, make sure we were settled on the field goals. That's why we took a timeout as the clock was running down, make sure our guys were ready for the pressure they were going to see. Put the ball through the pipes.

It was a good drive up until the last couple plays, you know? A lot of what we've been emphasizing, finishing the game, finishing runs. Still threw the ball with some success. Tried to go down the field. Got a pass interference penalty. New set of downs. Trying to go back between efficient passes and runs, make sure we keep the clock going, get positive yards and try to put the game away up until that last play.

Q. How do you build on the positives but move on from the negatives that happened in this game?

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, that's been the story of our season thus far. Up until this point, for the last three weeks, the



positives have been sporadic. Tonight the positives were everywhere. That's going to be the trick for a bunch of guys that are 18 to 22 years old, being able to handle the difficulty of a loss when you had the game won, but come right back and still look at those positives and believe in those positives, find a way, some way, shape or form to finish a game with a victory.

That's what's going to be. It's going to be so hard for these guys. Fought so hard the whole game. Guys were gassed. We had to roll guys through to keep guys fresh. Our guys battled the whole night, they really did. So much happened tonight that I'm so proud of coming back off a difficult loss. Shows the character of this football team, character of the guys we had in our locker room. Just got to find a way to finish the last couple minutes.

Q. Talk about Tobin Phillips and his performance tonight. Was he due for a performance like this?

DAVID SHAW: He's been close all year. We have about five guys that have three or four hurries each, quarterback hits, right there. Tonight to me the difference was the initial pressure. We had pressure on the edge, which forces the quarterback to step up. So our guys on the edge, if they don't get him, our guys inside do. Like I said, Tobin has been really, really close. We got nice pressure on the edge from David Bailey, Stephen Herron, Armitage. We have a lot of people that were forcing the quarterback. That's what we expect from that group.

I think that the whole group has been hungry all year. It's really good to see Tobin get rewarded like that.

Q. Difficult start to the season. How do you keep the morale up in the locker room? How do you get them ready for the rest of the season?

DAVID SHAW: These are Stanford guys. We find challenges. Our guys respond to challenges. So right now the challenges abound. Road game against Notre Dame on national TV. Opportunity to turn some things around. The challenge between the ears of looking at the positives from this game. Right now none of them feel the positives.

I'm not going to let us come off the best game we've had so far this year and throw that away because we can build on those positives. There's an opportunity for us to really turn the season around.

So many good things, so many good things. But at the same time we also have to correct the correctables and we have to be able to finish games.

We were in a position we haven't been in this year in our

conference play, which is being in the fourth quarter with a lead. What it takes to put a team away, a team that's going to fight you till the end.

So that's where we have to grow now. It's hard. It's going to be hard for our guys. I'm already picturing how difficult Monday is going to be. We're going to look at the positives, and the guys aren't going to want to look at it. They're going to want to harp on the loss.

There's a delicate balance from my position of making sure we build on our positives and take those into next week, and now really look at it about being how close we are, right?

No one looks at this the way that we do. That Oregon State team worked till the last drive of the game. Really outplayed Utah last week from start to finish. This is a really good football team with a lot of dynamic athletes. We held them down for 58 minutes, 59 minutes.

Know we got to build on these positives and have the mentality of having a lead in the fourth quarter and finishing the game with the lead.

Q. Talk about the performance of Brycen Tremayne, getting the two touchdowns, and how it feels to see him getting back to where he's been before.

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, Brycen is a special, special talent. Those downfield balls, the sideline catches, he's been doing it for three years, just amazing. We just got to give him an opportunity. He and Tanner worked to make sure we are on the same page there. It really showed up tonight.

He has such uncanny body control and ability to make those catches with guys all over him. We're going to need a lot more of that going forward.

But proud to see him coming back from his injury, being back to where he was before.

Q. Did you maybe get a little too conservative at the end? Do you feel you should have been more aggressive? Talk about some of the decisions at the end there.

DAVID SHAW: No. We marched the ball all the way down the field. We took most of the clock. Third down, we ran a play that we really feel strongly about, that we had an opportunity to make.

So I thought we did what we were supposed to do towards the end of the game except that last play. If we got a little



closer and got to a fourth and one and a half, yeah, I'd probably go for it. But we didn't have that opportunity.

I don't think we were conservative all night. I thought we mixed it up. I thought we did a great job. I think Coach Pritchard really pushed on some of those play-action passes, some of the things we worked on over the week, great communication between run and campus and personnel usage.

Tanner made, like, four unbelievable throws, two going to his left, that probably only three guys in college football can make. Like I said, we fought all the way till the end. We were aggressive on both sides of the ball like we wanted to be. We just didn't finish the game.

Q. Do you guys plan on changing anything up in practice this week to stay away from the melancholy of the loss?

DAVID SHAW: If we change anything, it will be what these guys need physically. The last couple weeks, because of the ridiculousness of playing games into middle of the night, all the travel, we've had to shave off some things we did on Monday so the guys have a full 48 hours to recover.

I mean, it's after midnight right now. I don't know that we'll have a single guy getting to bed within the next hour. Finish treatment, getting back to their dorms, getting some food.

That's the big thing, is that playing these really, really late night games, which I have been harping on the last couple weeks, because it's been ridiculous, to get back to our campus at 4:00 in the morning. Now to know that we've got a long plane flight this week, which takes a lot out of you anyway.

So that's what we'll be shaving things off to make sure our guys have the legs they need to come back and fight for a 7:30 p.m. game on the East Coast. That's what we'll do, take care of the guys' bodies.

We'll get them back, they'll come back. We've got great leadership. Monday is going to be tough, but we'll have them back ready to go by Tuesday, I'm sure.

Q. Aside from the last play, the defense, looks like you made some strides and got some stops. Talk about how you felt the defense performed as a whole, what you can continue to build on.

DAVID SHAW: So much effort. That was the key. Effort and execution. They're a good team. They're going to make some plays. They made plays on Utah's defense,

USC's defense. We knew they were going to make some plays.

By and in large I thought we played well. Still don't like the explosive run that happened late in the game. We needed to be in that gap. Like I said, so many things to build on, TFLs, quarterback pressures and sacks, pass deflections. They tried Ethan three times down the field. We did a great job staying with their guys.

It's all about finishing. So we're going to build on those positives, point out those positives, and get the mindset that we got to finish games. We can't play 58, 59 minutes against good football teams. Got to finish the game.

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Brycen Tremayne

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Oregon State - 28, Stanford - 27

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Brycen Tremayne.

Q. Walk us through how you felt your performance went tonight. Two big touchdowns. How good does it feel to be back to your own self again?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: I mean, it feels good, but it's just kind of overwhelmed by the loss. I don't know, there's so many things that we can improve on still as a team, myself included.

But it's good to be back out there in the end zone again, yeah.

Q. How did it feel to be more included in the game plan? You had almost as many catches as you had all season tonight. Anything special leading up to this?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: I think it's just how it worked out. We have so many great receivers on the team between me, Mike, John, Elijah, that any game you know you could be the one that's getting the target, getting the big play. Tonight I was just lucky it was me.

Q. I want to ask about your second touchdown. Looked like you had at least three yards of separation. How did that play unfold?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: Yeah, he was playing off coverage. Might have been around 10 to 12. They were saying on the sideline he might have bit on the bubble that Mike ran. That's just how it worked out. It worked out perfectly.

Q. A lot was made about the importance of getting off to a fast start certainly offensively. That goal was achieved. What were some of the different wrinkles that we saw early on?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: We started fast. The defense got a stop. We went down and scored. We scored first. I

mean, that's what we were talking about all week 'cause minus the Colgate game, we started off 0-7 every game. That 7-0 start, that's what we've been working on. I think it helped us a lot. You saw the explosive plays between Elijah, Mike, me.

I think we still have a lot of room to grow, and I'm excited for the rest of the season still.

Q. From the players' perspective, what does it feel like in the locker room right now? How are you going to move forward?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: Yeah, it's tough. It was a really close game, and it came down to the last seconds. We just got to get back in the film room.

I mean, no one played a perfect game. Everybody can improve somewhere. If we can just improve every week, then it's going to come together at some point.

I'm excited for when it does.

Q. You had a spectacular catch in the end zone. Is that something you and Tanner work on? How is it playing with Tanner?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: Yeah, I feel like me and Tanner have a special chemistry on the go fade ball. I know exactly where he's going to place it every time. He trusts me to go up and get it. That's basically what that is.

From all last year's off-season of work, my senior year, then all this season, me coming back, just trying to get back in the mix. It's just practice.

I trust in him, he trusts in me, so that's what that is.

Q. Your thoughts on the offense as a whole? Looks like you were more in rhythm tonight. Would you agree with that?

BRYCEN TREMAYNE: Definitely. I think that just speaks to starting fast. Guys coming off the sidelines, making good plays, smiling. It speaks to that.



I think we still have so much stuff we can improve on as a team. We got to go back and look at the tape 'cause there's things that everybody, including me, needs to work on. We're ready for that and we're going to get back to work this week.

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Jonathan McGill

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THE MODERATOR: Questions for Jonathan McGill.

Q. Your perspective on the last touchdown for the Beavers, how it happened.

JONATHAN MCGILL: Yeah, we were playing two man. We were in our dime package. Didn't really get a glimpse, honestly, of what happened on the other side.

Just threw a fade. We had some guys in position. They made a better play than we did in that specific situation.

We were holding up in the back end for the majority of the game. Obviously play calling was definitely not the issue or anything like that. In the secondary, we take full responsibility definitely for what happened on that play.

Coach Akina says all the time, if we make a mistake, it's a touchdown. That's the life of a DB, but we'll definitely shake it off and get back to work.

Q. Can you go into what changed between the first and second half on defense.

JONATHAN MCGILL: I mean, I don't think anything really changed. Play calls were the same. What their offense did a little bit different, they tried to break our tendencies, and I felt like they did do that towards the second half. What we were getting from the pistol alignment, running back at home in the first half, was heavy running. Going into the game I think it was 36-4 run on that.

They came out in the second half, came out in that pistol, running back at home. Ended up actually taking more deep vertical shots, throwing the ball more.

In college, coaches are smart, everybody is smart. They try to break tendencies. From a defensive standpoint, obviously we just got to learn how to finish games better,

get takeaways when the opportunity presents itself.

Q. On finishing games, any sense that if you can get one, that can start some positive momentum, propel you in a new trajectory?

JONATHAN MCGILL: Yeah, I think kind of going on that, definitely visualizing, seeing things happen, but actually living it, experiencing it, can create that momentum.

We got guys, a lot of good guys on the team. Seeing Brycen go crazy today was something I love to watch. Seeing Mike make big-time catches. Tobin Phillips having a breakout game, having two sacks.

Guys have seen it, but we need to obviously get the win. That's the most important thing I feel like. As a leader on the team, I can see that feeling of a win definitely turning the trajectory of the season around. That's definitely something we've constantly been trying to fight for these past couple weeks.

Q. For the first time this season it seems like the defense is coming together. What confidence does that give you on the back end when your line is performing that well? How does that allow you to elevate your play?

JONATHAN MCGILL: Yeah, the biggest thing we worked on this upcoming week, a lot of the older guys on the team, some of the leaders on the team, we had a meeting with Coach Anderson. We were being very transparent on what we feel most comfortable playing and Coach Anderson on what he feels most comfortable calling. I felt that was something that was definitely very big for us, kind of coaches and players seeing things the same way.

In terms of defense being confident and DBs being confident, we were talking about it on the sideline, me and Kendall were like, It's really good when you take his first look away (a quarterback) and now he's just running.

That was the biggest thing. We wanted to really establish trust between the defensive backs and everybody else on the team, D-line, trusting linebackers are going to get

things right, safeties trusting the linebackers are going to get things right, the front seven that will hold up against the pass, the back end trusting the front seven they'll hold up against the run.

The biggest thing we wanted to do was play complementary football going into this game. We obviously had spurts of that and stuff like that. But just got to be more consistent and just finish a game. It comes down to three, four minutes left in the game. We just got to make a play.

Q. As the leader of this team, what do you say in the locker room to lift a team after a slow start?

JONATHAN MCGILL: Yeah, that's a tough question, man. That's something that a lot of us on the team are really trying to look at.

You put the work in in the off-season. This was one of the hardest off-seasons we had. You're grinding every day. Practice is as hard as you can make it. But production is where we're lacking.

Seeing those results, like, in real-time is what we're lacking, as well.

Just as a leader on the team, you can't be too emotional with wins and losses. You got to be even-keeled. You got to be at that steady rock where guys can turn to when stuff starts hitting the fan.

I've been trying to pride myself on that, trying not to be too emotional with losses, getting too high with the wins. At the end of the day those guys elect you leader and captain, they're looking to you when times get tough.

The only thing I kind of know how to do is work. That's the biggest thing that we're trying to convey to the guys, just work. Have practice habits, build trust and confidence in yourself that you can go out and perform on Saturday. What we got out there today was what we got in practice. It wasn't anything different. You just get to Saturday and you have to perform.

The work is just going to give you more confidence to go out there and excel.

Q. Road game coming up at Notre Dame. Does it help after a loss to have a big opponent to look to?

JONATHAN MCGILL: Definitely I feel like obviously we want to take everything one week at a time. We have our next opponent in Notre Dame, a big rivalry, a Legends Cup is up for grabs with that game as well.

I feel like going into an away game, going into a hostile territory, leaving early to get accustomed to the time change, I think will definitely be big for us. Obviously we want to get the win. You can definitely start building momentum after that, especially when you start getting hardware, when trophies and such are involved.

Appreciate you guys.

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Jonathan Smith

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Oregon State 28

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JONATHAN SMITH: Obviously you win the game in the fourth quarter despite however you play in the first three and a half (quarters). These guys kept on battling. Really just proud of a few guys. Damien Martinez had some huge carries. Ben did some good things for his first start.

I thought our defense battled throughout the night. But we had a bunch of mistakes on both sides of it and special teams self-inflicted issues that we've got to clean up.

But look, found a way to get it done. Happy for these guys to battle for four quarters.

Q. You've been in the college game for 25 years. Have you ever had game that ended like this?

JONATHAN SMITH: Not a ton of 'em. Not one comes to my mind. I mean, I've been around games where you get the ball with 50-some-odd seconds, you got to drive the field and score. I've been around that, on the good side and bad.

Obviously we made a play to get it done.

Q. What do you feel turned it around in the fourth quarter?

JONATHAN SMITH: Damien Martinez's run. We were moving around, then we got a little bit of a spark. Credit to Stanford, too. We got the score, we needed a stop, they took a bunch off the clock there. We gave them a penalty that extended the drive.

That's what I go back to, we had too many penalties, issues on special teams. Got 10 guys on the field. There's a bunch there. But these guys kept on battling.

Q. (No microphone.)

JONATHAN SMITH: You want to have a good season, you got to find ways to win kind of sloppy, tight, on the road. We found a way to do that.

Q. What did you feel about Ben's performance today?

JONATHAN SMITH: Some things to learn from. But I thought he made some good throws in there. I don't think he forced the ball a bunch. Got us in a lot of the run looks we were asking him to.

Without watching the tape, I was proud of his effort.

Q. What happened with Dylan?

JONATHAN SMITH: Got stepped on or something. They were messing with his fingers. They told me early third quarter he was out for the rest of the game.

Q. (No microphone.)

JONATHAN SMITH: No, we did. Peyton Hogan actually came in and made a nice snap. One time we punted in the fourth, I guess it was the fourth quarter, when we ended up going for two, that was early on where we already missed two kicks more or less because we missed our first one, missed again, but they gave us another crack at it.

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Q. The defensive stops down the stretch to put you in the situation where you had an opportunity to win, how big were those?

JONATHAN SMITH: The guys had some big stops. They also gave up some plays. Give up a post ball for a touchdown when we're in post defense. Needs to be a safety back there.

They did, they had some three-and-outs that gave the offense some opportunities. Again, I thought all three phases kept battling. We're not nearly close to perfect, but found a way to win at the end.

Q. With Damien, obviously earning a bunch of playing

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**time as a true freshman, but hadn't broke free yet.
How do you feel he played?**

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JONATHAN SMITH: He had some creases, man. We've talked about trying to be more explosive in the run game. Had not just a touchdown run but another one that ripped off for good gains. He did some nice things.

Q. What was the plan on the last drive?

JONATHAN SMITH: We wanted to throw a completion for more than 10 yards, which we actually got done even though we stayed inbounds. You're trying to push it further down the field. The last one everyone's going deep. Everyone is running a go route. Tre'Shaun, two-man corners underneath him, corners doesn't have the eyes on the bowl, and Tre'Shaun makes the safety miss.

Q. For a guy like Tre'Shaun who has had issues with the drops...

JONATHAN SMITH: I was happy for him. He's capable of making plays. He should have had another touchdown. Get a holding call on the opposite side of the things.

All those guys, he's an example, it has not gone perfectly, but he sure made a play to win a game.

Q. What did you feel was missing offensively first three quarters?

JONATHAN SMITH: Slow going. We had some runs in there that could move the chains, then we got behind it a couple of times. Kept forcing us to operate in eight, 10, 12 plays. We found ways to get ourselves off the field.

Q. (No microphone.)

JONATHAN SMITH: A little bit. Again, feeling like we could do some things offensively. I think our players were into the idea. Trusted my gut. Yeah, let's do it.

Q. Does it feel like a morale booster after the two losses, to win in that fashion?

JONATHAN SMITH: Yeah, there's no question, winning helps morale. Again, just like we do each week, we watch this tape, there's so much to learn from. We've got to get better. Makes the flight home a whole lot better.

Q. (Question regarding penalties.)

JONATHAN SMITH: Out of our character. We have not been that, unsportsmanlike going like that. That will be addressed tomorrow.

