

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Sunday October 4, 2015

David Shaw



COACH SHAW: I can't say enough about our quarterback and the leadership that he's given us. He's playing the best of his career. He's seeing things, he's communicating great, and he's leading the team. The guys are responding to him and making plays for him.

The offensive line is playing extremely well, gelling together, giving holes to our backs and our backs are making plays. Christian McCaffrey, a lot of tough, physical runs today from a guy that's not the biggest guy. But you know what? He's tough and he runs hard. He hits the crease, he has a chance to make a big play.

Can't say enough about Barry J. Sanders. He continues to play, and we put him in there to make plays. He's got a special skill. I said it last week, you put the pressure on Barry, he's going to show it to us repeatedly, and he has. The more he shows us, the more opportunity he gets.

Remound Wright has a knack like very few guys in football. He can find the end zone inside the five-yard line. Those are hard runs with not a lot of space to find. He finds the creases, and Bryce Love also. We continue to mix and match him in there. As a unit, our running back unit, I give Coach Lance Taylor a lot of credit. He's got a lot of guys in that room, and they're tight, put together and cheering for each other. There is no jealousy. It's just a really, really good group of guys, good group of human beings and good football players.

Once again, the offensive line playing well, running game going well, quarterback playing well, receivers popped up made big plays. Produced early and made nice catches. Michael Rector, had two phenomenal plays that he made for us tonight. It's good. It's good.

Some people would say going like this you don't want to take a break. We need this bye. We need this bye. Our quarterback needs to heal. Our offensive line took a lot of shots, running backs, et cetera. Our defensive line is thin and banged up. We need this break.

Once again, a lot of credit to the defensive linemen. We have a lot of guys that played really, really hard against a good offense. It's tough to diagnose. Lance Anderson did a phenomenal job tonight game planning

these guys. It's hard. It's hard. They put up a lot of yards on a lot of people. Our guys played great team defense and hard together. And Blake Martinez once again, all over the field. Brennan Scarlett making big plays for us. Thomas making plays. But as a unit, the biggest thing is as a unit, they were playing hard and playing well.

Q. You just mentioned that Hogan might not be a hundred percent, yet he's completed 90% of his passes. Given that, do you think this offense could still reach a higher ceiling after today?

COACH SHAW: Well, I think the biggest thing with Kevin right now is just his ability to affect the game as a runner. He's doing a great job in the pocket slides, pushing up in the pocket. If we can get that ankle healthy, he becomes a dual-threat that he's been most of his career. So hopefully this ten days off will help to heal.

It's better today than it was a week ago, and hopefully in ten days it's even better.

Q. What did you think of the play of the back-up quarterbacks, in particular the block by Keller Chryst on that running play?

COACH SHAW: Keller, both of our young quarterbacks are big, physical athletes. We saw Ryan Burns hit the ball and made a really nice short run and a tough, physical run. And Keller, you saw him on the scramble, he came back, and that block was phenomenal. He's a good football player. He's a tough kid and he loves plays like that. He's one of those guys that at some point we'll teach him how to slide. He doesn't want to slide. He's a big, physical athlete that loves the game and has a chance to be very good.

Q. With all the chaos that's been happening up and down the conference, it could still happen. It's not over in Boulder quite yet. The Cardinal have remained a constant so far in conference play. What's that say about this team to this point?

COACH SHAW: I talked to the guys earlier about we had our game. We had our one game early in the year where we did not play our best football. So we lost that leeway. We've got to play our best football from here on out. Everybody in our conference can be beaten everybody in our conference can beat anybody in our conference. That's just the Pac-12. We talked about it

from the beginning of the year. Every game is going to be tough, and you've got to be ready for anything.

I wouldn't be surprised if Arizona came out and ran the table the rest of the year. That's just the way that we are and when you get the quarterback healthy and you never know what that team can accomplish. It's the wild west every single week, so you never know.

Q. Do you expect Arizona would have some limitations at quarterback today?

COACH SHAW: Well, I didn't know. I didn't know. Once again, there is the good and bad was that they've been up for so many games. We've been able to see their back-up quarterbacks play in games, but the bad is you don't really see them play the whole game plan just because they're kind of running out the clock. Two big wins and they've been behind a lot by UCLA, so we weren't sure what we were going to get.

They did, I tell you what, they missed some throws but they made some really nice throws. They took advantage of a couple things. Made some nice seam throws back outside. The big thing is trying to grind them as athletes and thankfully we played really good team defense.

Q. Alfieri was really good. He got buzzed but came back in. Scarlett was outstanding. Can you talk about the quickness of those two guys? And it seems like your front seven especially are extremely quick.

COACH SHAW: That's the thing. Going into this you've got a David Parry who is 310 pounds, 308 pounds, you've got Henry Anderson who is 6'6" and 290 pounds, big, physical, imposing guys, and we don't have that size. But we do have speed, we do have quickness, we do have athleticism. And once again, thankfully we have this bye. So those guys made those plays kind of gassed. Joey's been having to play with Kevin Anderson and play a lot more snaps than usual. But once Kevin gets back and we get back into our rotation, those guys can stay fresh. Hopefully in ten days Nate Lohn will be back and we'll keep our defensive line even more fresh.

But absolutely. Joey and I have no idea what his spark rating is, but coming out of high school he had one of the top spark ratings in the nation because he's so explosive, and because he's so athletic.

Brennan Scarlett, we saw him on film before he came here. Just repeatedly high plays. He ran down a really athletic quarterback from the back side which is really tough to do. And he has the athletic ability, but it's also just desire. He wants to get there. And hopefully we can get these guys rested and be better, hopefully, as

the season progresses because we're going to need to be. Our guys know it. Every week the level has to rise. It either goes up or it goes down. You have to play better in ten days than we played today to have a chance to win.

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Christian McCaffrey



Q. Christian, what's been going right offensively since what happened at the UCF game?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: I think, like you said, simple question, and I think it's a simple answer. It's just a matter of execution. Our guys are making plays and that's all it comes down to. Football is a game where if you try to dissect it too much and try to do too much, it doesn't always work for you. You've got to find what works and keep doing it and keep doing it well. And that's something Coach Shaw and all of us always harp on. Do your job and do your job well, and that was the Bill Belichick Patriots thing, and we took that to heart for sure.

Every single play, we've got to strain to do our very, very best. Doesn't matter what the score is or who we're playing. At the end of the day it's about us and if we can execute or not.

Q. The last two games Stanford has rolled up 639 yards on the ground. What's that say about you guys as a running back corps and what's that say about the guys up front getting it done?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: First off, hat's off to those guys up front on the offensive line. It all starts with them. Without them, none of that would be happening. So they've been playing so well, and it's so exciting to see from a running back's perspective.

But that's an exciting number for us. I think it's exciting because there is still a lot more we can do. We'll look at the film and really dissect everything and see what we need to do when we play UCLA. But like I said before, that's an exciting number. But we still have more in the tank.

Q. If this was a statement-type game, I'm not sure if I'm overstating the point a little bit. But if this was a statement type game, what statement do you hope this result sends to the rest of the nation?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: I'm not sure. We really don't focus on that. What we're focused on right now is kind of us and only us. It's something that they talk about all the time. We can only control us. It doesn't matter who we're lining up against week by week. It doesn't matter what the score is, where the game is, when it is. All that matters is all of our guys are going to show up on whatever day we're playing and give it our best shot, and we're going to work our butt off

every single day during practice and do our best to execute to the best of our abilities when it comes game time.

Q. I'm not going to lie, every time I see you and Bryce Love out there on the field my eyebrows perk up and get excited. What's it like when both of you are on the field together?

CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY: It's exciting. Bryce is such an electric player and so fun to watch. I think it's kind of nerve-racking for defenses too when you have two guys in the back field that can make plays. It's something that we definitely want to keep doing more of. Whether it's me, Remound, Barry or Bryce in the back field, there is so much we can do with our guys and it's exciting for us.

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Rich Rodriguez



Q. Was it a tough assignment tonight the way Stanford plays offensively?

RICH RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, somewhat. I'm sure we're undersized, certainly, and that wasn't a good match-up. But that's an excuse. We didn't stop anything they wanted to do. They wanted to throw, they threw. They wanted to run, they ran.

Q. What did you think of Jerrard?

RICH RODRIGUEZ: He competed. He was bothered by a little bit of a hamstring or something because he didn't have the same burst, and I could tell that early on. He tried. He competed well, but we didn't execute well.

Q. It seems like you guys tackled a little bit better than last week.

RICH RODRIGUEZ: We did?

Q. Maybe not?

RICH RODRIGUEZ: From my vantage point I didn't think we got off tackle well at all. But that starts with us as coaches. We're going to evaluate everything. Like I said, I'm going to evaluate my staff, myself, the players. I think you need to do that anyway. We normally do that on the open day, but we don't have one of those, so it's about time for us to regroup in a hurry and see how we can get better.

Q. Did Stanford surprise you in any way?

RICH RODRIGUEZ: Nope.

Q. Did they stack the box defensively?

RICH RODRIGUEZ: No, they played what we thought they'd play.

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Jerrard Randall



Q. Is it a hamstring?

JERRARD RANDALL: Yeah, I've got a bit of a hamstring, but it's an not excuse for the loss. I just didn't do enough to win it.

Q. How do you think you played?

JERRARD RANDALL: I don't think I played that well. I could have done a lot better. I mean, I'm very explosive, I just couldn't explode like I wanted to tonight. If I could, I probably would have scored a lot more points. But it's not an excuse. You've still got to go out and play. As a team, we just didn't play well.

Q. When did the hamstring first start bothering you, earlier this week?

JERRARD RANDALL: I mean, I kind of pulled it last week at the UCLA game. It kind of started bothering me when after that NAU game. I had a couple big runs and kind of tweaked my hamstring a little bit. I think I just need to stretch a little better. That's about it.

Q. You are so explosive and you rely so much on your hammy. To know that you can't get that top gear going, how frustrating is that?

JERRARD RANDALL: It's really frustrating because there is really nothing I can do about it. I just didn't want it to pop again. I didn't want it to be one big play and then I'm out. So I did what I can with the hamstring. I mean, I could have done a lot better. I tried to throw as much as I can, tried to be a better passer, but that didn't work out for me. So I could have thrown the ball a little better, had a couple bad throws. I mean it cost points.

Q. How important are the next two games to getting the season back on track?

JERRARD RANDALL: They're very important because they're Pac-12 games, Pac-12 conference games. So I mean we've just got to come together as a team. We've got to get better. I hope it doesn't get in the way from here. We've just got to reach our peak. We're a good team, we've just got to get it all together. Once we put it all together, then we'll do a lot better.

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Johnny Jackson



Q. So your takeaway, Johnny, from this game?

JOHNNY JACKSON: We didn't play up to our intensity level. We were facing adversity early and felt like we didn't play as hard as we could. That's just something we need to bounce back and get right next week.

Q. What was it that set you guys back early on?

JOHNNY JACKSON: I'm not really sure. It's not just one thing or one person. It's just us as a group collectively. We just didn't finish. I mean we were getting stops early and we couldn't bounce back, and when we did have a positive drive, I felt like offensively we needed to help our defense a lot more. We had a lot of three-and-outs, and our defense was on the field the majority of the time and that's just something we've got to face.

Q. Yeah, they were arm tackling a lot in the second half. They were tired?

JOHNNY JACKSON: Yeah, they were definitely tired. That's on us as an offense. We'll get it corrected next week.

Q. I know you haven't watched the film yet, but to the best of your recollection, was it more Stanford's defense or was it you guys just not clicking?

JOHNNY JACKSON: I don't think it was their defense. I think it was just us not clicking offensively like we should have. We should have executed a lot better. We'll have one good drive and then the next drive will go three-and-out, we can't do that to our defense.

Q. How important are the next two games to getting this season back on track?

JOHNNY JACKSON: Oh, yeah. We look to bounce back next week against Oregon State. They're a good team. Two ranked teams we just lost to, and we just look back to get back on a positive.

Q. How much not having Anu here affect you?

JOHNNY JACKSON: He's a leader. He's a big part of our team, but Jerrard held his own. He was dealing with a hamstring, I think. But it wasn't just him. It was us as an offense collectively. Nobody really clicking like we needed to.

Q. How tough is Stanford to prepare for? They're so different than every other team you've faced.

JOHNNY JACKSON: I don't even think they're that much different than a lot of teams we've faced.

Q. Really?

JOHNNY JACKSON: No, not at all. I mean, offensively they have a pretty good offense. Our offense, I felt like we should have done a lot better, we just weren't clicking. We've seen -- we're running those looks all week in practice against our scouts. We just didn't execute tonight. That's on us.