

# Stanford Post-Game Quotes

September 15, 2012 – Stanford Stadium

Game Time: 4:50 p.m. (PT)

Duration: 3:36

Official Attendance: 50,360

**No. 21/16 Stanford (3-0, 1-0) 21**

**No. 2/3 USC (2-1, 0-1) 14**

## Stanford Head Coach David Shaw

### *Opening statement...*

"This was a great team effort and that is what we talked about. First and foremost, Derrick Mason and our defensive staff were phenomenal. We were playing a great team and those guys made some plays, but we tried to make them one dimensional and throw the ball. That sounds crazy to put it in the hands of that quarterback and those receivers, but we knew we could play smart, sound football and keep those receivers in front of us and rally to the ball to make tackles. I can't say enough about our safeties. Our corners played well. When they caught the ball, we got them on the ground.

"I can not say enough about Josh Nunes. He did not play a perfect game and has to play so much better. He made some unbelievable runs, broke tackles. He made some great throws as well. That throw to Zach Ertz was beautiful and Zach had a heck of a game also.

"Our offense line was great, our fullback was back with Ryan Hewitt and then Stepfan Taylor. We were going to keep giving him the ball. He never gets tired, he drags people, he breaks tackles. By one out of town paper, I was called 'the king of hyperbole', but that is why I love talking about him. We typically like to rest him, but when we need him – I told him this two years ago – we are going to put a saddle on him and ride him."

### *On if the defense got stronger as the game went along...*

"That is our game. We work a lot on our conditioning because we want to make the game four quarters. In a tight game in the fourth quarter, we are going to run the ball. We don't have fat guys, we have big guys. Our guys have to play four quarters. In the four minute drill, we have to run the ball and run the ball. With our tight ends, our fullback and our seven offensive lineman sets, we have to be able to run the ball and tonight we did."

### *On why the came after Barkley with a pass rush instead of sitting back in coverage...*

"To be honest, you have to. If you sit back there, the quarterback is too good. Regardless of what happened tonight, that is the best quarterback in the country. If you give him too much time, he will kill you. You have to get after him. Those receivers are really good. We had to mix

it up. Some plays we came after him and some play we sat back. Our secondary made all the tackles.”

*On if they had something to prove...*

“I told the guys that would be a distraction. We don’t play games with something to prove. We come into games to play our game. We can’t play out of our element just because it is USC or someone else. I have been saying it for years, even before I became head coach – ‘this game isn’t about who you play, it is about how you play’. For what we are trying to accomplish here, we can’t be surprised by wins.”

*On the difference between the secondary from the San Jose State game two weeks ago to tonight...*

“We had to grow. We came into the game and didn’t play our best. It wasn’t just me, it was the seniors that challenged the guys that what we saw on film wasn’t us. We talked about our film is our resume. What we put on film is who we are. I still think San Jose State is a good football team, but we didn’t play our best. Since then, we have been better. We have practiced better and we have played better.”

*On being able to win a big game without Andrew Luck...*

“We have talked about not being a flash in the pan. We don’t want to be a team that is known for one victory, we want to be known for victory after victory. We want to be consistent, stacking wins on top of wins.”

*On the mindset of Josh Nunes at halftime...*

“Josh is never rattled. He is a fighter. You don’t see a lot of emotions with him. He doesn’t have ups and downs. Josh is even keeled and is the same when he makes a play as when he doesn’t make a play. One thing that is great about having a quarterback like him is that he can come to the sideline and tell you exactly where everyone was. Even if missed the throw, he knew what to do and will make the play the next time.”

*On Josh Nunes making plays with his feet...*

“Shocking is what it was. Shocking. I would say that if he was right next to me because he is not a runner. He broke tackles tonight and it was just the desire to make plays for his teammates. He is a very selfless individual. He does things for his teammates. He’ll watch the film and wonder who that was to because he doesn’t do that, not even in high school.”

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## **USC Head Coach Lane Kiffin**

### *On the game ...*

"Okay first off – obviously, a lot of credit to that staff and those players. I thought they had a great game plan today. I thought they executed well, I thought their players played with really good discipline too, so hats off to them for another celebration up here for them again. Unfortunately, we were part of it again. Onto us – you know if you turn the ball over like we did, especially in the first half, we were real fortunate to be ahead seven at the half. Unusual to turn it over three times and be in that situation. We knew we didn't play with a lot of discipline today – two critical personal fouls and you can't do that versus a good team on the road. So if you don't run the ball and they're able to run it, even though our defense played pretty well for the most part I thought, we put them out there a lot with the lack of third down conversions. You turn it over the way we did, this is what happens."

### *On variation of schemes up front ...*

"Yeah, like we talked about all week, that's a great front seven. That's one of the best front seven in the country and they showed it today. And they've shown it in general. You go back to last year and then almost all of them coming back. I know [Shayne Skov] returning in there, they're even better than last year. They've been giving a lot of people a lot of problems and today they did us. They did a great job and really got after us. What turns into a pretty young offensive line versus a veteran defensive front – they did a really good job. So, we've got to go back to work. This isn't the end of the world. We'll get back on the plane, go back to work and get better. Get ready for a home conference game next week."

### *On the inefficient running game ...*

"If you make the game one-dimensional like they did today by stopping our run, we really just have the run at the end of the first half. We really just have the gift run there at the end of the first half. If you take that out, we really didn't run the ball at all."

*On missing C Khaled Holmes ...*

"Well, I think that's got nothing to do with Cyrus [Hobbi]. I think anytime you miss what I think is an All-American center who has been there a lot and playing with Matt [Barkley] a lot, he misses a hard game. If there was a game on the schedule you'd pick that you wouldn't want to be missing your senior center, this is it. One – because their nose [guard] is really good; two – because of all the different fronts and all the calls that have to be made up there. I don't care who the backup was. You're going to miss it when you play this team."

*On frustrations with the run game ...*

"Well, I don't know. That's a really good front seven and you know you're going to have to pop a couple in there. Obviously, we kind of went away from it there, figuring at the end of the day if we're not running it real well, let's see if we can throw it and not just run to get nothing. And unfortunately, that put us into what happened there was a lopsided game, and bad third down distances, and we weren't able to come up with some third down conversions."

*On differences in second half ...*

"Yeah, they did a great job. I was shocked. I thought we'd come out in the second half up by seven and I thought we were fortunate to be there. A lot of stuff had not gone our way because of things we had done, and so I thought we'd come out and start rolling. Unfortunately, we didn't and once again, credit to the veteran group over there and a good staff."

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### **Senior ILB Shayne Skov**

*On the team's overall performance...*

"We have a talented bunch. When you have a group of guys like that, 22 guys, they play lights out, they trust one another, they play together like that, it's something special. We came out to play today, and we showed that we could do this, and that the showdown was going to be on the field."

### **Senior RB Stepfan Taylor**

*On coming out offensively against the Trojans...*

"Coach basically told us to trust this game. That's what we did: trust this game. We were going to go down the stretch, going to get tired. We were just going to keep chugging at it."

*On going undefeated against USC...*

"It feels great. I'm grateful. They're a great team. It was a fight. It was another game where it was physical as we would get."

### **Junior QB Josh Nunes**

*On the touchdown pass to Ertz...*

"That was a great route. We knew we had been trying to set up that route for a while, and Zach just ran a great route with great protection. The line did a great job blocking."

*On defeating USC...*

"It feels great. They're a really great program. They have a lot of talented players. It makes it even sweeter. They're in our conference; it's our first conference game. [I grew up in Southern California], and you're either born rooting for USC or UCLA, so it's definitely a great win...It's a big win. It's a great conference, they're a great team, so it's a great win going forward. By no means perfect, but we did a lot of good things today."

**Junior LCB Terrence Brown**

*On defensive changes personally and as a team in the second half...*

"I was trying to do my best the whole game. I don't know. Obviously we made a few more plays in the second half."

**Junior DE Ben Gardner**

*On Stanford's defense...*

"We heard the talk all week about Barkley and Woods, and rightfully so. They're a talented bunch. But we were really confident about playing them all week. We felt good about what we had and the way that guys were practicing. We knew that if we came out there with a lot of energy, played our hardest at every snap, good things would happen."

*On second half adjustments...*

"To tell you the truth, there were no real adjustments. We just stuck to the plan. We had them at fourth down a few times, on some long drives, and we weren't able to get it done on the field. We just stuck to the plan and started to make those plays."

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### **Senior QB Matt Barkley**

*On the loss...*

"They played better football than us."

*On being sacked five times...*

"We were prepared. They played better. They outplayed us."

*On rebounding from the loss...*

"We drop it. You stick together. You learn and go back to playing Trojan football. We gotta just not put the blame on anybody, learn from our mistakes and make sure you bounce back next week."

*On Stanford's secondary...*

"They were playing a lot of cover-2, trying to take away the perimeter so essentially they were double-teaming the outside guys. When we saw them one-on-one they were doing pass interference so they ended up having to double team."

### **Senior S TJ. McDonald**

*On the loss...*

"It is disappointing. You never want to lose, but we put everything we had into it. We just came up short. Stuff like that happens, but you got to rebound. You got to respond. We got a long season left so a lot of football left to be played. We just gotta make sure we keep this feeling in our hearts and the back of our heads and we move forward from here."