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VISITORS POSTGAME QUOTES | STANFORD

USC vs. STANFORD

United Airlines Field at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum | Los Angeles, Calif.

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023

HEAD COACH TROY TAYLOR

Opening Statement:

"We played an incredible football team. They're very well coached, have great talent, just an impressive team. Obviously we didn't play as well as we would have liked, but we have to give them credit - they played a huge part of that. We didn't get off to a great start, but our guys did compete in the second half and I was proud of that. We will learn from this game, we will get better, I promise, we'll be ready to play next week."

On QB Ashton Daniels:

"I think he is going to be ok. He just got banged up a little bit. It just felt like a good opportunity to give Justin a chance to play. He's just a really good player. He's worked really hard and he's had a great camp. So he did some good things."

On the interception:

"We were hoping they were going to be in a little different coverage, so it's not all on him (QB Ashton Daniels). The timing was thrown off, he kind of hurried a little bit, but it is not all on him. The timing of it didn't work out."

On the game feeling out of hand early:

"You know going into the game they are really good, they're talented. So you have to play well early and try to hang around; obviously we didn't do that. So the expectation was to come in and play really well and win the football game, and that didn't happen. They outplayed us. Obviously, it's very frustrating, but I still love this team, I love these guys and how they compete. We have a long season ahead of us and we will continue to get better, and we will improve each week."

On the strengths of the team so far:

"We've obviously had a good start in the first game and played a really good football team, one of the best in the country. So we're still learning about our team. What I do know though, is they're going to compete, they're not going to stop and they're going to continue to get better. We'll be the same as a coaching staff; we'll continue to move forward. Who we are early on in the season hasn't been defined. It's just one game. Obviously we're not at their level, but we will shoot to be there and we will continue to work."

On the success with the running game:

"I don't know that they (USC) are undisciplined. Part of it is based on the game and how they adjust with the lead, so I wouldn't read too much into that. They got a lead and they played with the lead really well. They're a good team and well-rounded."

On the defining characteristics of this rivalry:

"I think these are two incredible institutions that have played football for a long time, both with proud traditions. It's been a good rivalry. I think both sides have been challenged, but it is what it is. Maybe we'll play them someday again."

On CB Collin Wright's performance:

"Collin is a really good player, and he's young too. He's going to continue to improve, he's really competitive. I thought his demeanor was good the entire game. He was in it, he was locked in and he was competing. So we're really excited about a lot of our young players."

On how far USC can go:

"They have amazing talent. There's no doubt they have a great scheme and great coaches. They can definitely challenge, win the conference and go beyond that. From my vantage point, they're very good."

On how Caleb Williams can play out of structure, when things go wrong:

"They're a good team and have really good coaches. It'll be a challenge, but we will be better next week and be ready to play."

On how you get a team to bounce back after a game like this:

“I think he is pretty unique in that way. He’s good in the pocket, it’s not like he’s not, but I think what separates him is he’s hard to get on the ground. When he extends the play, he keeps his eyes up and he’s very accurate. So again, keeping him in the pocket, it’s not a great thing either, because they’ve done a great job of protecting him. He’s got great weapons, but what makes him really special I think is his ability to extend plays. He’s fast and he’s strong.”

On how you get a team to bounce back after a game like this:

“They’re competitors and these guys work really hard. You’re not going to go in the tank over one game. It’s disappointing, they should be disappointed, but we will lick our wounds and wake up tomorrow and get ready for the next week. It’s early in the season and we’re a young team – we knew that, but it doesn’t mean we can’t be a really good team. We’ll continue to work and I can promise you that those guys will not go into the tank, they’ll be ready to roll.”

