

# Stanford University Football

## Media Conference

Saturday September 12, 2015

### David Shaw



COACH SHAW: So great bounce back win by our guys. First of all, defense played great, really, really well throughout the entire day. Lance Anderson and the defensive staff a lot of credit, they had great preparation, and our guys played hard. Our guys played really hard on defense.

What I love about our defensive persona right now was while the offense early on in the game were still trying to sputter, there was no division on our sidelines. No division on our sidelines. Complete, 100% by the defensive guys supporting the offensive guys. Once we got into a rhythm offensively, it was fun to watch.

We did try to do some different things. Once again, the game plan-wise to get some guys in space. I think you see we've got some speed on this team from Isaiah Brandt-Sims who is going to make that play. He's made that play a bunch in practice. Michael Rector can get behind people, Devon Cajuste and Austin Hooper can play guys as well.

You've got Barry Sanders and Bryce Love, you get those guys out there in space and they can make special things happen. So still took us a while to gain our rhythm. Our guys have a lot of confidence, because we know how to play.

I won't take any, and I'll say it again, I won't take any questions about officiating. I will make one blanket statement that I was very frustrated today. That's all I'm going to say, and I won't talk about officiating besides that.

#### **Q. Even though you don't want to make a judgment on that call, how much did you think your defense got fired up over it?**

COACH SHAW: Which call are you talking about, because there were a few out there?

#### **Q. The targeting on Aziz?**

COACH SHAW: You know what? I think defensively we played really well all night, so I mean our guys were fired up. The biggest thing is our guys up front had to double up. I give a lot of credit to Nate and Owen for coming in and playing and they did a good job. Brennan Scarlett and Solomon Thomas played extremely well and extremely hard. They had to play double duty losing to Harrison last week and losing Aziz in the first half today. They sucked it up. They

played extremely hard. They didn't tap out, and I give them a lot of credit for how well and how hard they played.

#### **Q. As a follow-up to that, do you anticipate doing that same type of approach next week against USC?**

COACH SHAW: Well, we'll get Aziz back, and hopefully we'll have a better rotation, keep our guys fresh. But at the same time, I think we're really smart with what we do with our guys during the course of the week. And if we have a to play a lot of minutes on the defensive line, we'll play a lot of minutes.

But I love the guys that we have there. I love their attitude. And Coach Randy Hart just pushes them. That's all he says is go, go, go, go, go, and that's what those guys did tonight.

#### **Q. I know a lot of the fans are going to be talking about the performance of Bryce Love, the catches and the electricity he brought to the offense. How much is it just a coming-out party for him?**

COACH SHAW: It's been great. It's been great. It was a great job today. He's a mature young man. He's prepared for this time. For those of you who have been here for a while, know there is a way that we do this. We brought Kevin along relatively slow and spoon fed him a little bit. We did the same thing with Ty Montgomery. We did the same thing with Andrew as a true freshman, and that's what we're going to do with Bryce.

The things he can understand and the things he can do, we'll put him out there and let him do it. He's not ready for the entire game plan, but at the same time we're going to pick spots for him both as a primary guy to get the ball but also as a decoy. Because I have guys like I said, him and Chris McCaffrey and Michael Rector and Isaiah Brandt-Sims, we've got guys that can really run. So there are a lot of different things we're going to do with all those guys.

#### **Q. Could you just talk about the flea-flicker and whether you definitely wanted to use it? Was it spur of the moment? What kind of situation were you looking for?**

COACH SHAW: It was in the game plan because this is a team that plays with their safeties tight to the line of

scrimmage and they're very aggressive. You have to set up the flea-flicker by running the ball. We have to slam it up in there, slam it up in there, and with the safeties biting, the key is not the safeties, the key is the corners. When the corners bite and the safeties bite but the corners play deep, you can't call it. We had to wait for the corners to start getting aggressive. Once they started getting aggressive, then we made the call.

**Q. Locks like at the cornerback spot you had Quenton Meeks in there more often than Alexander. Is that something you anticipate happening more often? Are you more clear especially regarding like Meeks and Love what red-shirts you're going to consider burning moving forward?**

COACH SHAW: We played a lot of freshmen today, lot of first and second year players, and that's going to continue. You saw Ben Edwards at the end of the game get a lot of big hits. That's what Ben Edwards does. We think he's going to be special. You saw multiple guys, Meeks made some plays today, missed a couple things today, which is fine. That's going to happen.

Terrence Alexander played a lot for us last year, but he's just a sophomore. We're going to keep rotating him in there. We have a chance to keep rotating guys in there and keep them fresh. We're trying to gain experience early in the year because you get into league play, starting next week with the USC team that's a no-huddle, fast-paced team, and a USC team, an Oregon team, Arizona team, a UCLA team, these are no-huddle teams and you have to rotate your guys to keep them fresh.

That's what we're trying to do early in the year. We have some kids that have some talent and ability, and that's the reason why last year we've taken four DBs in the last couple years because we need them in our conference. These guys can play. They're still young. They have a lot to learn which is why hopefully they don't play a lot in a row. But we'll sprinkle them in a in a couple series, make sure they know what they're doing and put them back in there.

**Q. So when you go with a guy like Meeks like you did today, is that more of a drive by drive decision?**

COACH SHAW: Yeah, and there is a rotation. We moved Terrence Alexander, this is the week he was going to play corner and not play nickel. That gave Meeks a lot of reps back inside, and we may switch it back next week. Put Meeks back outside and maybe drop somebody else down there in nickel.

We're trying to gain experience early in the year because we have some guys with talent, but they're young. So we're going to try to get those guys ready to

play.

**Q. Can we read into your decision to put Crist in instead of Burns toward the end of the game?**

COACH SHAW: By my count they both played. One preemptive strike on a potential question or concern other people have, when the score is tied and you're looking at a 51-yard field goal with a guy who has never hit one 51 yards, you don't kick it, you punt it.

Now when you're up, yeah, you take a shot. If it's at the end of the half like it was there where they don't have time to drive down, that's where you take a shot at the 51-yard field goal. I just want everybody to know there is not something I make up as we go. There is a philosophy here that I didn't come up with. It's been smart football coaching for many years. We're not just going to kick 51-yard or 52-yard field goals with a lot of time on the clock and on-side score. This is a field position game. This is a calculated approach that we have and that will not change.

**Q. It looked like a couple times UCF decided to put eight and nine in the box, did that really change your ideas to open up the offense a little bit?**

COACH SHAW: Well, it allowed us to get some deep shots. Now we have to up our percentage on hitting those. We had a shot at Michael Rector's close coverage. We've got to hit Isaiah, he's got to make that catch with Devon Cajuste down the middle. We got a pass interference call on that one, which is a big play because he had a chance to get down the middle on that one. We had to take another shot with Austin Hooper as well. We didn't get that one completed.

But we've got the guys to take shots deep. But at the same time, like last week, we're not going to do it indiscriminately. We're going to take calculated shots. We hit more today. But last week we took them also. We got back on a couple and we dropped one. We actually dropped one in this one. So I think we've got a good approach. I think we know our team, getting to know our team even better. But I'm excited about the youth and explosive abilities of some of our young guys.

**Q. You guys were pretty balanced in terms of run-pass today, and through Kevin's drive he averaged almost 12 yards an attempt and the run game averaged less than 3. Does that success and lack of success going to form the way you guys game plan moving forward?**

COACH SHAW: No. No, we want to be balanced. We want to be physical up front. We want to run the ball, and I think with the number that attempts we had today, again, we were better than on third down. We sustained more drives than we did a year ago. We're

going to have more plays and more opportunities. I think we're capable of averaging more per rush. I think all of our running backs will continue to play.

I think you get the feel for what we're doing with Christian. It's kind of a lot of a lot. We're going to move him around a lot. Run him between the tackles because he's good and he's broken out a couple times. We'll continue to use Remound, Barry Sanders and Bryce Love in a multitude of ways. I think it's a good group effort by those guys. We've got to get more yards per carry, and without seeing the film, I can't diagnose it right now.

**Q. You talked about previously when things are going good that you guys play fast. Was that your impression today or tonight versus last week? Did you guys look faster to you?**

COACH SHAW: After the first few drives, absolutely. We were by all accounts sluggish for whatever reason last week. We never got it going, and the first drive offensively was great at Northwestern, and then couldn't sustain anything after that.

Today we still sputtered early on and missed a couple things, but our guys stayed positive and then got into a rhythm. Once you get into a rhythm, we're throwing it, we're running it, we feel good. We're mixing it up, and you saw a bunch of different things. You saw the wildcat. You saw us spread people out and go empty. You saw us go big people. I think we have the ability to do a lot of those different things.

So I'm excited about where we are right now. I think we have so much room to improve. So much room to improve. If we can play cleaner, play cleaner we can be even better. That's what our charge is this week. Our charge is execution. I've been looking at a lot of -- went through a lot of my Bill Walsh quotes this week looking at things. So much is on the preparation to play, and that's what we're focusing on. We've got to continue to be really prepared to play so it continues to show up on Saturdays or Fridays or Thursdays. But you know what I mean.

**Q. In the spring you said you needed Christian to do a lot. So what do you need to see from him to continue to have him have a relatively good season?**

COACH SHAW: I think a lot of what you're seeing. He's returning punts, he's returning kicks. He's turning the receivers out, he's playing some single back, he's playing some two back. So we're going to stretch him thin. We're going to stretch him thin and he understands that. All the running backs understand that also. There are going to be times he's gassed and Remound's going to have to go in and run the ball.

Remound did a good job today, Barry J. Sanders came in later in the game and saw what we want to see from Barry. We've got to see that consistently from Barry, and Barry's going to continue to get more carries and more opportunities.

You see what Bryce Love can do. So I think we've got a really good combination of guys. We may not have a guy that carries the ball 30 times in a game. You know, 20 is probably going to be the most. But it's going to spread out, and if we can keep these guys fresh and get them out in space, they can do some special things.

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## Kevin Hogan



### **Q. Can you talk about the difference in your offense from last week?**

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, I think that one of the big things is we executed better today. We were able to move the chains and keep the drives going and that allowed the bigger plays to happen. Last week we weren't very good on third down and kind of stalled, and it doesn't allow you to get into a rhythm.

So I think we were better this week. The big plays are going to come, so it's just a matter moving the chains and keeping the offense going.

### **Q. Kevin, how are you going to describe to your grandkids your career-long 92-yard touchdown pass?**

KEVIN HOGAN: I'll say I threw it 92yards. But, no, Bryce just made me look good. Heck of a run by him.

### **Q. (Indiscernible)?**

KEVIN HOGAN: I mean, yeah, he just has big play written all over him. Smart player too. We're putting a lot on him right now to kind of move around, different formations. But he gets the ball in his hands and something special can happen. He had a couple key first downs, and then obviously the long plays that were the big plays and then the momentum's in our favor.

### **Q. (Indiscernible)?**

KEVIN HOGAN: I mean, it was just getting in the end zone. You never want to allow it to creep in where, oh, wow, we can't get in the end zone. It was almost like breaking the ice. I think everyone kind of settled in after that and felt comfortable.

But it was just a good all-around play. It was a play we needed. We didn't do much offensively before, and it's just one of those plays that you need to kind of get yourself going.

### **Q. (Indiscernible)?**

KEVIN HOGAN: He can do it all. I mean, he is very hard on himself, and that is the sign of a great player that he is so successful and running between the tackles, outside the tackles and catching the ball. He's so hard on himself to be better. But I thought he played a great game in all facets of it. Stinks that he had that punt called back. But, overall, I think that he's going to get more and more comfortable each week. I

think we're just kind of scratching the surface of what he can do.

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday September 13, 2015

## Brennan Scarlett



**Q. Did it feel any different for you this week from last week?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Well, I mean, definitely our defense definitely was better this week, are doing their job, and didn't give up any big plays until the end. So it was good, a good game for us.

**Q. I know the defense likes to pride itself on shutouts. They had two of them at home non-conference last year. On the sidelines is it a little disappointing to see them breakaway?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, definitely wanted to keep that up there, but we'll get it sometime.

**Q. Losing your shutout is the worst thing (Indiscernible)?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: That's right.

**Q. I think it's pretty interesting that you're playing across the Bay this year. So tell me what that's like for you? Does it seem weird?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: You know, originally first coming over here it was a little strange. Definitely because of the rivalry and everything.

**Q. But you obviously picked it because you wanted to go to school here?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, yeah.

**Q. So playing football is a nice way to pay for going to school?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Definitely.

**Q. And you enjoyed it and you're available?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: And the coaches here are great along with the players and everything, so they made the transition as smooth as it could have been.

**Q. Have you enjoyed it so far?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Oh, yeah, I'm loving it.

**Q. Obviously, you're very good at it. Brennan, congratulations on the game. Talk about playing the rest of the game after Aziz was ejected with just you and Solomon Thomas playing basically every snap?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, it's tough, but we expect those type of things. If a man goes down, then we have to be able to pick up his load and carry it the rest

of the way. It was unfortunate that Aziz went out early in the game, but we have to contribute to our hard work and practice and stuff and we were able to finish it out.

**Q. Was that your first fumble recovery?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: I think it might have been.

**Q. In your career?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: I think it might have been. I've had some close fumble recoveries, but it didn't go well for me, so first official.

**Q. So we were having a little conversation about going to school across the Bay rather than football. You felt that having another year of eligibility was worth spending the extra time to play football even though you're in graduate school?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, definitely. My extra year of eligibility allowed me to come here on a scholarship.

**Q. Why did you have the eligibility?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: My junior year I red-shirted. So I had a fifth-year to play. So I played my senior year and got hurt, and was thinking about what I'm going to do educationally because I graduated in the spring of '15, and then I wanted to get my masters. I started looking at Cal, and I eventually looked at Stanford and found the program that I wanted to do.

**Q. How has it been having your brother? I'm sure people ask you a lot about being on a team with him, but is there anything specific that you kind of tell him?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, it's been good.

**Q. What's family dinner like?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: It's been good, especially nights like tonight, game day, having him there on the sideline and talking to me. I go up and talk to him and walking out of the tunnel together, those type of things are really special to me.

**Q. Is it cool to see the excitement like remembering when you had it when you were that age? Is it fun to see that?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, it is cool because it's his first year of college and everything's new and exciting for him. I'm just glad I could be here to watch him go through it.

**Q. What's one important lesson you could impart to him if you could tell him anything after all your years?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: I told him because he's red-shirting right now, coming in as a freshman you always want to play and you want to be the guy. Just to take that as an opportunity to get better and improve. Don't look at the negative, but more so look at the positives, so that's kind of my wisdom I've imparted to him.

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## George O'Leary



COACH O'LEARY: It was the first play, really. He got hit. It was a good play. He got hit, helmet hit his hand, and my understanding is he's out. I don't know what injury it was. I know he was in a splint, but we've got to get the two young freshmen quarterbacks ready to play.

I think he went in there and really did a decent job. But you've got to be able to run the ball and not just throwing action all the time. We'll know more about the injury status when we get back in town and see what's going on from there.

### **Q. Can you tell me about the different skillsets these quarterbacks bring to the table?**

COACH O'LEARY: About the same. The two kids that played are very similar, very similar, both freshmen. One's a red-shirt freshman, a true freshman, very similar. I thought they gave us a lot of different looks secondary-wise, coverage-wise. I thought the kids did a good job of getting the ball at times. At times they didn't. At times they made freshmen mistakes. But overall, give credit to Stanford for clearing things up and putting some pressure on the quarterbacks when they need to do that.

### **Q. How much did you game plan for what you guys wanted to do tonight?**

COACH O'LEARY: I think a lot, a lot. But that's not the reason you lose games. Your defense has got to play well. I thought they played sporadically in the first half. In the second half I was very displeased with just what we did from a lack of tackling to a lack of pressure. Again, I think give credit to Stanford. I thought they made plays when they had to make them.

### **Q. How comfortable are you with these quarterbacks taking snaps straight from under center?**

COACH O'LEARY: Excuse me?

### **Q. How comfortable are you with the quarterbacks taking snaps straight from under center as opposed to shotgun.**

COACH O'LEARY: They were in the shotgun.

### **Q. Did Stanford do anything that surprised you, coach?**

COACH O'LEARY: Not really. Changed up some

coverages. That's about it. Did a nice job mixing some coverages. Overall, I thought they did a nice job. They gave up some plays but they came back to make a big play, which is what it's about.

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday September 13, 2015

## Domenic Spencer



**Q. What do you do when a man goes down?**

DOMENIC SPENCER: To be honest with you, I didn't see it because I was too busy on the sidelines getting corrections for my first drive. When I heard he went down, I went to Bo, next man up. That's what you see, next man up. So there is no letdown. That's how it should be. Next man up, that's what I told them.

**Q. How difficult was it to cover some of those receivers, because there were a lot of situations where you guys were having to cover them?**

DOMENIC SPENCER: They're good football players. They're Division 1 football players just like we're Division 1 football players. We go against our offense every day in practice. They're just like our offense, their receivers and move like our receivers, they're Division 1 receivers. So it wasn't difficult covering them. Really, it's just another day of playing football.

**Q. This is a relatively young team. What do you tell some of those younger guys in a moment like this?**

DOMENIC SPENCER: Like Coach O'Leary told us, watch the film, stay to the film and see what we have to do right. That's our second season. Our second season is over, we have to get ready for our third season which is this Saturday back at home. So we've got to get ready for them and try to end this losing streak.

**Q. Will that be nice for you guys coming home?**

DOMENIC SPENCER: It really doesn't matter to be honest with you. As long as we just -- our job is to win football games. That's our job. We have another opportunity to do that this Saturday, so that's our job to win football games.

**Q. Did the time change affect you guys at all?**

DOMENIC SPENCER: No, ma'am. We're football players. We have no excuse. That doesn't affect us at all.