

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday November 22, 2015

## David Shaw



COACH SHAW: Throughout the week, couldn't get him back in the game. Danny Marx, hopefully he'll be back for next week.

Secondly, our seniors. So proud of those guys. We don't have a guy in the program that's lost the Axe. And that was what we talked about all week. We got -- I got the question throughout the week about guys bouncing back, and I'm telling you, it's Cal week. When it's Cal week, we don't worry about anything else. This is a big game, it is the big game and our guys were phenomenal in practice all week. They really wanted this game.

Cal came in and played well. Quarterback played extremely well. We're not used to losing the time of possession. They kept the ball for a long time. They were very efficient. But give Coach Anderson a lot of credit, keeping the ball in front of us, not giving up touchdowns, giving up field goals in the red zone. That was huge. That was huge.

And offensively, and special teams-wise, has anybody seen a running back -- I'll say this, a football player, better than Christian McCaffrey this year? Tell me. Show him to me. I haven't seen anybody.

We played a lot of night games, which we all talked about. So we had a lot of time to sit and watch football. I have not seen anybody in America like this kid. He's truly, truly special. Kickoff returner, runner, receiver, blocker, he got a couple nice blocks today. The kid's just truly, truly special. And our guys know that and they take a lot of pride in blocking for him down the field because the guy makes special, special plays.

Besides that, Bryce Love, just constantly trying to keep him involved, both as a decoy and with the ball in his hands. Boy was he fast. Just truly a special football player, will continue to grow. He's just a young one, as we call him. He's got a chance to be truly special as well.

Finally, really happy for Brennan Scarlett coming over from Cal, a lot of respect from those guys. It was not a contentious thing. It was very understandable why he came across, no disrespect to Cal. They played hard, he played hard. But also the guys wanted to win this one for him also, because we didn't know where we would be right now on this football team without

Brennan Scarlett. And it was a good game and he carried the Axe off the field. He was so excited. I'm proud of him and proud of our guys.

### **Q. How would you say that your speed with Bryce Love and Christian McCaffrey compares on film to other elite speed teams in the nation?**

COACH SHAW: I think we have got one heck of a four by one team. I think it's truly special. Between Christian, Barry J. Sanders, Michael Rector, Isaiah Brandt-Sims has come in and done some nice things. Has come in and done some real nice things for us also, and Bryce. It's just a good group.

We've talked so much about increasing our speed really for the last six or seven years. To find those guys that can finish plays. We talked a couple years ago about tired of having 20-yard games, we want 50-yard touchdowns.

And Ty Montgomery did that a lot for us the last couple of years. Christian has done that now. Michael Rector has made big plays. Bryce Love, Barry J. Sanders has made big plays. That's one big emphasis for us is we want to be physical, we want to be tough, but we got to be fast. And I think we continue to add to our speed. A couple young guys who are special also once they get a chance to play.

### **Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH SHAW: Absolutely. A couple guys had asked a few weeks ago about whether or not we were going to do that and I tried to be coy because we had been talking about it. Just the fact that having Christian back there, and he's so special knowing that balls are going to get kicked short. So putting Bryce back there with Barry, with Barry, and Remound, so all of our running backs are on the field. So they're all tough guys, they're all great with the ball in their hands, but they're also good blockers.

So here we are with Bryce and Barry and Remound on the field and the ball gets kicked deep and those guys make great blocks. And then Christian just explodes and breaks tackles and does what he does and finishes in the end zone.

So give a lot of credit to Pete Alamar. Something we had been talking about for a while, and I think we'll do

some that have the rest of the way.

**Q. Were you surprised that Cal kicked off to McCaffrey in the final minute of the first half rather than a short kickoff?**

COACH SHAW: Maybe a little bit. There was still a decent enough time and it was a great kick, too. It didn't go in the end zone. So they had a chance, knowing that we weren't going to return it, but if they get us backed up, if they get us three and out, they get the ball back and get a chance to score, get the 2 point -- or not the conversion, sorry, score, kick it and then try another onside kick to try to win the game.

So, it was not a bad decision. It was just a different decision that people were probably expecting. We were, obviously, expecting the kick, but when I saw the time and they kicked it deep it made a lot of sense because it's one thing if you kick it out of the back of the end zone, but now they got a chance to get us inside the 20.

**Q. You didn't blitz Goff very much. What was your strategy, especially without Ronnie Harris back there?**

COACH SHAW: We mixed it up quite a bit. We did blitz a little bit early. He's too smart, he sees it coming, he double counts and changes the protection.

A couples times we still were coming scot free, but he's got that quick release. He got that ball out pretty quickly. We sent our linebackers quite a few times to come after him. And we hit him a few times, but you're talking about a really, really good, talented quarterback and he got the ball out of his hands.

**Q. What were you able to do in the red zone to force them to field goals?**

COACH SHAW: I hate the phrase "bend but don't break." Because it sounds very passive. We're not a passive football team.

But, we want to keep the ball in front of us and not giving up the touchdown passes and trying until late in the game. But trying to keep the ball in front of us and get them to third and six in the red zone. Get them to third and five in the red zone. And not give up the touchdown to make them check the ball down and make them kick field goals. And that's, once again, that's -- it's math. If we can go down and score touchdowns and make them kick field goals, eventually, we're going to win.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH SHAW: I'll tell you exactly what I told the guys down in the locker room. To go 8-1 now, 8-1 in the deepest conference in America. That's nothing to

sneeze at. People can say whatever they want about the four-team playoff and where people are ranked all that stuff is fine. Whatever.

Everyone knows we got the deepest conference in America. And we just went 8-1 and lost a tight one to Oregon, who is also one of the best teams in America. Make no mistake about it.

So, I'm proud of our guys. This is a tough road that we have traveled in our conference, the toughest nine-game schedule in America.

But then again, hey, we got to where we wanted, which is the PAC-12 championship game. We get to put the PAC-12 in a little bit of a box right now and put it up on the shelf for a week and go play a really, really good football team in Notre Dame next week. We got to start getting ready as soon as we wake up tomorrow morning.

**Q. This game was a little different in that you didn't have your usual sort of 50/50 mix of passing and running. What went through your mind to essentially have an all-run game?**

COACH SHAW: Well, we have a lot of plays that are run and pass options. And the run options where we put it in Kevin's hands and he did a great job diagnosing what they were in and we took a couple shots early with Michael Rector, we had a couple things, Devon Cajuste, we did a couple nice things, but when we're running the ball the way that we're running it and they weren't dropping down necessarily, they played a little bit tight, but they weren't dropping eight guys in the box for us to go one and one outside. And the runs were great.

The biggest issue we had was getting them off the field. I thought we had a pretty good run/pass mix until we were running out of clock. But then we crack a big screen pass to Christian, we crack a big run, so we had a lot of big plays, we didn't have a lot of plays. But the bottom line is they finished up in the end zone.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH SHAW: A lot of credit to the entire coaching staff because we recruit regionally, each guy has a different region across the nation and we have recruited very well. We're really deep on the defensive backs, corners and safeties. Duane Akina key in a does a phenomenal job with those guys. So we lose Elijah during the course of the game also, so now our two starting corners are out and Terrence Alexander went out there and played great. Alameen Murphy went out there and played great. Quinton Meeks continues to grow every single week. He's got a chance to be a special football player. Our safeties did a great job keeping those guys organized because

there's a bunch of young guys out there so it was nice to have two fourth-year seniors back there organizing everybody, but those guys went out there and they met the challenge. It's a very, very tough challenge. We didn't get all the interceptions that we wanted to get, didn't get all the sacks we wanted, but we kept the ball in front of us, we didn't give up the big play, our guys played very, very smart, sound football and helped us get to a victory.

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## Christian McCaffrey



### **Q. What does it mean to you to win the Axe, Christian?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Oh, it's a great feeling. Especially for these seniors, we haven't given the Axe up. We knew they did a lot of different stuff with their kick off team.

(No sound.) Those guys got us a great win.

### **Q. Were you surprised that they kicked it off to you in the final minute of the half?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I wasn't expecting -- I always expect the ball. I wasn't expecting it that they were going to do anything. We had kind of scouted them out when they line up deep he was going to kick it to a certain side and we had messed with him a little bit going different directions. But got the ball kind of easy, my job was easy I kind of ran straight. The guys did such a great job blocking.

### **Q. What did you see on the screen pass town, talk us through that.**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Yes, it was kind of a bad look, the D line men didn't rush and Hoge got me the ball and our guard stayed on his block and did an incredible job, allowed me to get some low pad leverage and see open field from there.

### **Q. How did it feel to break the record here in the big game?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: That's a huge honor. Especially a guy like glen million burn who was such an incredible player and an unbelievable person as well. It's a huge honor.

### **Q. You talked about having Barry Sanders' poster on your wall growing up. And potentially breaking his record, does that mean anything to you?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I'm not really focused on all the individual statistics right now or anything like that. If that does happen, great. If not, I'm not focused on that right now. We're just focused on winning this next game. We got a big game against a great opponent next week.

### **Q. Are you surprised with all the speed you have on this team?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Definitely. Definitely. I think that we're kind of a cliché power football team is

what people like to call us and we have so much speed and athleticism on this team, it's fun to see and I think it does surprise a lot of defenses.

### **Q. On the screen pass that you scored on, when you got free, you made some really interesting moves where it looked like you could see out of the corner of your eye where your blocks were coming from an where the tacklers potentially were. I don't often see a guy make those kinds of moves. Is that instinctual or do you have good peripheral vision or is it just reflexes?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Yeah it's very instinctful.

### **Q. You made some really nice moves around those guys.**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Thank you. Football is a lot of instincts and when you get out there, if you think too much, that's when you end up kind of messing up. And making a wrong cut. But when you just allow your football instincts to take control, it makes football a lot of fun.

### **Q. How much does it mean to you and the team to win the North and starting to think about future goals beyond that?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: It's a huge honor. To establish ourselves as the PAC-12 North champions. But we're not satisfied at all. We have a huge game this week, and that's what our tunnel vision is focused on is Notre Dame.

### **Q. Is there any one play that you thought was the most important play of the game?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: There's so many and like I said, football games when you're playing happen so fast and I'll have to check the tape and play it, but I think there's, yeah, there's so many.

### **Q. The kick off return came after they got the score?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: That was a huge play. Because they had just gained some momentum with a field goal and they made it a tight, two score game and I think that took some wind out of them, which was a good play.

### **Q. The next game is the Notre Dame game and the**

**conference championship game lurking in the back of your mind, are you trying to tamp it down, doing it week by week, but now these moments are now here.**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Yeah, I think we're just taking it game by game. We haven't been thinking of a whole lot other than one week. I know we can only control what we can control and that's going back looking at the film, looking at the tape, seeing what we can improve on and going from there. But we really do take each week, week by week.

**Q. Given the history of Notre Dame and the aura around that program. How exciting is it to be playing against them?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: It's very exciting. It's exciting because it's the next game and it's a big game because it's the next game. And that's something that we always focus on as I said before and it will be an exciting football game.

**Q. Did you talk to your dad at all about that game 25 years ago?**

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Briefly I spoke to him about it. But I've seen so many clips of it and everybody talks about it, so it's something that's pretty cool, but it's just to know the history behind it.

# Stanford University Football

## Media Conference

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### Brennan Scarlett



BRENNAN SCARLETT: This game was all about beating Cal and clinching the PAC-12 championship. So that's what we did and we're proud of that.

**Q. What was the first drive like against your former teammates? And what was the postgame kind of handshake period like?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: First drive, it was just, honestly, like any other drive. Didn't really think about knowing them so much as what are they about to run, what plays they're going to run. And especially that first drive, they were marching and we were just trying to get after them. It was all right. The postgame, it was cool. It was good seeing all those guys again. We're all pretty close, so it was great playing them.

**Q. Did you talk to any of the guys before the game?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Not really. Not too much talk. Throughout the week, like, a little bit here and there. Them just wishing me luck and me doing the same to them and kind of saved the adversity for the game.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: It feels great. Been a long time coming for me to win the Axe.

I never played in The Big Game. Obviously, never had the Axe. And to be a part of this team, and contribute to keeping the Axe, it's a huge deal for me.

**Q. You said earlier this week you and the Axe were on the same campus, but it didn't really feel like you'd earned it. How has that changed now?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: I feel like I earned it. I feel like our whole team has earned it this year. It was a tough week of preparation and the game Cal came out and gave us all they had and it was a tough -- they put up a tough game. To just come out of that victorious, it's always, always feels great.

**Q. Did you and your ex-teammates share any words during the game?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: No, here and there talking a little bit. But nothing too crazy. Tried to just stay focused on the task at hand and not get distracted by anything else.

**Q. What does it mean to you to beat your old team in the big game?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: It means a lot. More so it means for me at least being able to be with this Stanford team and train, we trained hard to get to this point in the year and to finally be here is a blessing.

**Q. Are you glad you don't have to tackle Christian McCaffrey?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Oh, yeah, Christian's a hard guy to tackle. I know. I know from experience in fall camp. It's hard to get your hands on him. And seeing what he does out here on Saturdays, he's an amazing player.

**Q. You said last week that this was the first big game that you have gotten to play?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: That's right.

**Q. So just talk to me, was it everything that you expected it to be, was it more?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: No, it was pretty much what I expected it to be. It was a pretty emotional time for me. And even being with my teammates out there was, it was a great feeling. Great feeling to be here.

**Q. You really felt attached to your Stanford teammates, even though it's only been really a few months with them as opposed to the four years you were with your Cal teammates?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah, you know, and that's interesting, but I definitely, these guys here, they have embraced me through this transition process.

**Q. You said that before that they really kind of took you in.**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Yeah. And we work hard every week and so I become pretty close with those guys and I consider them as brothers. So it's great going out there every game with them.

**Q. You didn't have any odd feelings when you went on the field and saw your old friends out there in those uniforms?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: A little bit. It was definitely weird. Because I never played a team where I know everyone. So that's kind of weird.

**Q. And you played on the team?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Exactly. But honestly, during the game, that was all set aside and it was intense in

there. They gave me all I could handle in that and that's what I expected out of them and it was a tough game and just glad we came out on top.

**Q. There was very nice write-up on you in the San Francisco Chronicle. I don't know if you saw that.**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: My mom sends me those, so I'll have to check them out. Thank you. I appreciate that.

**Q. Are you thinking about Notre Dame yet?**

BRENNAN SCARLETT: Well, yeah, now, looking forward. We'll review this film and see how we can improve off of this big game.

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

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## Bryce Love



**Q. How was it playing out there tonight? How much different is it playing in the big game versus the other games?**

BRYCE LOVE: You can definitely tell the change in atmosphere. It's really just exciting. You can tell it's a rivalry. It was just basically everything I thought it would be for sure.

**Q. Now, you have all the seniors have never lost the Axe. So what did it mean for you to be able to play for them and to try to win this game?**

BRYCE LOVE: Definitely it means the world. They definitely stressed throughout the week. It's definitely just go out and play our game and play to the best of our abilities and really just try to keep the Axe home, for sure.

**Q. Well you got a touchdown in this game. Huge, huge game. So just talk to me about that play.**

BRYCE LOVE: Well, we had been running the one of our plays where I was in the slot for awhile, just to set it up. And then just came to it and it was just open. I just hit the hole and ran.

**Q. How are you guys going to prepare for Notre Dame next week?**

BRYCE LOVE: Just really sit down and look at the film. We're going up against a really good team. Look at the film, go through practice, pay attention in reps. Just learn what we can and prepare to the best of our abilities.

**Q. It looked like they were loading up on McCaffrey out there. He had four straight runs and then they break you. Take us through that play, what happened?**

BRYCE LOVE: We had been setting them up with run plays with Christian. And then I went out to the slot and running in the same plays with me out there, just to set it up. And then finally, I came in there and got the reverse called and I just ran in. It was open. I had good lead blocks, Kyle and JG set it up real well.

**Q. True freshman and you're a PAC-12 North champ. How does that feel?**

BRYCE LOVE: Definitely a blessing to be here.

**Q. Beginning of the year, you lost, you guys lost to Northwestern, but here you are. Does that show**

**you one game doesn't make a season. You got to keep on pushing every week?**

BRYCE LOVE: Definitely. We definitely took the loss versus Northwestern, we sat down, looked at the film, we learned from it, and we just wanted to come back and week by week just try to get better and better.

**Q. When do you think the spirit of the rivalry really hit you? Was it leading up to the game or was it something about actually playing?**

BRYCE LOVE: I would say, definitely, a little bit of both. Prior to the game, you definitely see all the tweets. You see the upperclassmen, everybody talking about the big game. Even the title of the game is "The Big Game."

You hear the ringing in the white closet every hour on the hour. And you come out here and play and you see the student section excited. You see the alumni excited. You see Kyle over there excited as well. So it's definitely a little bit of both, I would say.

**Q. Have to ask you about your 40 time, most recent 40 time was?**

BRYCE LOVE: Most recent.

**Q. Did you guys do one before the season?**

BRYCE LOVE: No, they -- we usually do it in the spring and I wasn't able to do that. I would say high 4.3s in there. 4.3, low.

**Q. Do you feel on that touchdown, that was kind of like a 40-yard dash once you hit the sideline, right?**

BRYCE LOVE: Yeah, just hit the hole. It was right there and it was open. So I just wanted to take advantage of it.



# Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday November 21, 2015

## Sonny Dykes



COACH DYKES: We had guys in position. We just didn't make the tackle. Sometimes that happens.

### **Q. (No microphone.)**

COACH DYKES: I thought it started with protection up front. I thought we protected well. That's what always begins for us is for the offensive line. And I thought they gave him a chance to complete passes and get the ball out. It's just one of those -- I thought he performed well. He missed a couple of passes here and there. He dropped a couple of balls here and there. We would like to have, we would liked to have played better.

I told the guys, I thought we played very hard, we just didn't play quite well enough to win and we couldn't overcome some of the things that were out of our control.

### **Q. Would a run game have helped in the red zone?**

COACH DYKES: Yeah, any time you run the ball, it's good. That's a good thing for you. You're winning the line of scrimmage. And when you typically win the line of scrimmage you typically win the game.

So, we ran it okay. I think Trey averaged over six yards a carry, so we ran it good. We ran empty a lot. We thought that was a good set for us. You're not going to get much run in when you don't have a back in the game. We felt like that was a pretty good formation for us. But overall, I thought we ran the ball decent.

### **Q. You converted two red zone chances for touchdowns pretty consistently this year. What was the difference here?**

COACH DYKES: Dropped the ball the first series, missed a throw, one of them Kenny was open in the end zone and we missed him. Maurice dropped a pass early. Just little miscues, that was the kind of difference really for us is we had opportunities to make plays, to give ourselves a chance to win and we just weren't quite good enough tonight there to do it.

### **Q. Was there anything Stanford's secondary was doing to get the receivers out of rhythm?**

COACH DYKES: Not really. No, I thought that we executed pretty well throwing the football. There was some times when we had some guys open, Jared did a good job getting them the ball. I thought that -- overall,

I thought the offense played pretty well. But it came down to not finishing drives.

Again, the penalties killed us. We were moving the ball real good, we converted a third down and they called an offensive pass interference. That really hurt us. Huge. We had five series in the first half and two of them were stopped by penalties.

### **Q. Kenny played just that one snap?**

COACH DYKES: Yeah, he played very few snaps. He's banged up. Yeah, he just didn't play. We thought Laska might play. He didn't feel good in warm up. So he didn't play either. Calfani didn't either, so I don't know. He was going to be very, very limited if he ever got into the game.

### **Q. Any of those field goal attempts in the red zone, did it ever cross your mind to go for it or were you always thinking field goal?**

COACH DYKES: We wanted to get points. We went for it a bunch on fourth down. We went for it early in the game because we felt like we had to. We were trying to play aggressive. But at the same time we didn't want to get -- we didn't want to miss opportunities to get points. We felt like if we could keep getting field goals, that was better than not getting anything.

All of a sudden we looked up in the third quarter and we were back in the ball game. We didn't get a couple of stops we needed to get down the line to give us a chance to win.

But it was -- I thought our guys really played hard. I was proud of how hard we played. I thought -- defensively, I thought we really did a good job containing the passing game. I thought our guys were aggressive, broke on the ball well, made some plays on the ball.

When you have almost 500 yards of offense, against a good defense, it's a little bit frustrating when you score 22 points and don't win the game. But as I said, the penalties really, really hurt us. It killed numerous drives.

### **Q. Is McCaffrey any different in person?**

COACH DYKES: He's obviously good. Even though he's a physical runner. I think I think that's the thing

that, you know, after you play him, he bounces off runs and runs behind his pads very well. It's not hard to see on film either.

**Q. When you sent the offense out on fourth and short and then wound up having to punt it. Usually you said you like going for it when it's fourth and short kind of middle of the field. What was the thinking there?**

COACH DYKES: We went for it, like I said, the first second or second possession of the game. And converted. A lot of it had to do with it was a check with me and if we get a look we like we're going to play and if we don't we'll punt the ball. We lined up, we looked at the look, the look wasn't what we wanted to run a play into, so we punted the ball.

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## Jared Goff



**Q. Five possessions in the red zone, how difficult was that to not score?**

JARED GOFF: Missed opportunity, I think. We normally score in the red zone. Today we didn't. We ended up with a field goal which is still a score but normally we like to punch it in there. For some reason we didn't tonight and they played very well defensively and couldn't punch it in there for whatever reason. But, yeah, it's three scores there could have changed it.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

JARED GOFF: I obviously didn't see it. I saw his hands up high and kind of turned around and so didn't see the end of it, so I don't know.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

JARED GOFF: I don't know. Missed him by about a yard. Missed everything by a yard.

**Q. How much did it hurt not to have Lawler and not to have two of your running backs? Did it change things at all?**

JARED GOFF: Kenny is a great player and Montez is a good player, we would love having them. But today I felt the guys played great. I didn't -- not to say that he's not great, I didn't notice he wasn't out there. Maurice played great. Everybody played great. Obviously it was a great performance by all of them. There was not really a drop off. They played really well. The whole offense, we for the most part of the game we played pretty well and shot ourselves in the foot with a lot of penalties, can't do that. If you want to win. We had eight penalties for 63 yards. That's not going to do too many favors for you. Gave up a couple 15 yarders, too. So it's stuff like that that keeps you from winning.

**Q. The question of field goals is sort of obvious, but the third time you're trailing, did you want to go for a TD there or I mean you have no call, but what was your thinking there going for the third field goal?**

JARED GOFF: I don't have much say on that. I think we made them all, so it's a good decision there. I think it would have made the decision a lot easier if we scored the play before and didn't have to worry about it. But for whatever reason, couldn't punch it in. On the first one, rolled out and threw a very poor ball to Kenny on that quick out he had. Same thing to Tre. Kind of just led him too far up the field. And it's on me.

I need to be better than that in the red zone. If we finish those drives in the red zone, obviously it's a different ball game.

**Q. Does this feel like night and day from you guys against these guys the previous two years?**

JARED GOFF: Like to get the win. It's the same result the last two years, but I think we definitely, like I said, we played better. We definitely played better on all facets of the game. I thought the defense played pretty well and the offense, we made a bunch of yards, we have just couldn't finish drives, like we have been saying. I think, like I said a couple times now, if we finish those drives, it's a different game. But that's credit to them, they're a great team, they're a Top-10 team. They're that for a reason. It's something that we strive to be and keep continuing to work and we can get to that point.

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

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## Hardy Nickerson



**Q. What did you think of your team's tackling today?**

HARDY NICKERSON: They had the long screen pass where we missed a few tackles. We got to get better at that. We got one more game against Arizona State. We got to send the seniors off right on Senior Day, their last day at Memorial Stadium. So we're looking forward to practicing hard this week and getting after it.

**Q. What do you think about the progress that you guys have been making so far?**

HARDY NICKERSON: We made progress since last year, but at the same time, we had some third downs, third and shorts where you got to get off the field. They were extending drives, 12 play drives, controlling the clock, and so any time you get in a situation like that you want to get off the field as fast as possible.

**Q. You heard a lot about McCaffrey. Facing him, what did you think?**

HARDY NICKERSON: Great player. Very patient, waits on his blocks and can explode in his space and make people miss. That kick return too, elusive and can run.

**Q. Was it frustrating that despite all the progress, when you're done it's sort of the same result as the last two years?**

HARDY NICKERSON: Yeah, it always hurts losing, especially when you try to play as hard as you can. Big game, we wanted to get the Axe bad as bad as possible. It hurts. But we got one more game in the regular season and we're looking forward to bouncing back with that.

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday November 22, 2015

## Tre Watson



TRE WATSON: We let it fall short and there was nothing we could do. We got to move on to next week and focus on ASU and get this W.

**Q. Going forward what's kind of going to be your message for your teammates?**

TRE WATSON: Just focus on the little things this week in practice. Everything technical, blocking, from the blocking, the catching, to the can you tell us and just getting downhill and attacking and being more aggressive. Really that's our main thing. We just got to clean up the little things and we'll be able to go out next week and put on a show and get this W.

**Q. Does it make it more frustrating knowing that it's little things that are really getting you?**

TRE WATSON: It hurts. This is a big game and it really hurts. Every game's a big game, honestly, but now we know we can beat one of the best teams and we have been knowing that so now we got to go out and just do our thing and focus on us and stop worrying about all the outside things going on.