

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Friday October 16, 2015

David Shaw



DAVID SHAW: Outstanding job tonight. First of all, I commend the staff putting together a really good game plan for our guys. Our guys going out there and playing really well. Playing hard, playing aggressive. Not playing perfectly, of course, but effort makes up for mistakes. That's the way our guys played today.

A lot of credit Mike Bloomgren, to the offensive line. The run game plan was phenomenal, really well executed. High effort, high energy. Execution by our guys on the offensive side.

It's interesting, too, when you start the season the way that we did and not playing well, still learning ourselves and growing and pushing, our guys stayed tight, our guys stayed together. They heard all the things that were said on the offensive side, that we couldn't beat Stanford because we didn't have a big back, we have got a big back in a little body.

He's a heck of a football player, not just a great runner, a great runner, a great receiver, kick off returner, punt returner. Had an outstanding night. His teammates had his back. It was good to see other guys making plays. Austin Hooper had a heck of a game tonight.

I thought Kevin did a great job managing the game plan and getting us some great runs and seeing what they were in defensively.

Great job on third down because we needed those third down conversions, he made those. Defensively, first half we bent a little bit, we didn't break, made some big plays, got some big turnovers.

We talked about getting pick sixes. It's been so long since we got that pick six and it was great to see that by Alijah Holder. He's been playing really well all year. It was great to see him jump that one and take that back to the house.

Give a lot of credit to Ronnie Harris. Played a heck of a game.

Blake Martinez played a heck of a game. Got the wind knocked out of him. We thought it might be worse, but just the wind knocked out of him. No concussion issue at all. He had a little cut under his chin but he was fine. He could go back in the game and play and play well.

Special teams-wise, we got the return game going and absolutely one of our pieces that we have been looking for to get going. Our return game, our guys did a really good job. Questions.

Q. Considering the night that McCaffrey had on national TV here, do you think that he should be in the conversation even more so now for the Heisman Trophy?

DAVID SHAW: Okay.

(Laughter.) Next question. Number one, attitude. Ronnie Harris just passed by a number -- we started training camp last year. We, as coaches, we don't spend time with them so much, we hadn't seen the guy. And I passed by Ronnie and I said, what do you think of the freshman from the summer? And he said, that McCaffrey is different. Just -- he didn't approach the game like a young guy, like a freshman. He had a lot to learn. We pushed him last year, we gave him bits and pieces last year to get him comfortable, build his confidence. But that's his approach to the game. He never gets tired, he wants to learn and grow all the time, he likes to run through tackles, he loves to run the ball between the tackles. He's not one of those guys that just likes to get the ball outside. And he's very versatile. He's become a better pass protector as we needed him to. He's run the ball between the tackles, and he's got great vision and the last piece of the puzzle that we needed to get from him was training camp was patience. Patience with the pullers and to get in the right position and reading those blocks on his routes, half speed behind the line, and once the blocks to get to the defender and he hits the gaps. He's just an outstanding football player and he's just a sophomore.

Q. How would you describe Owusu's catch on the flea flicker and how that play developed?

DAVID SHAW: I get questions all the time about why we do the Wild Cat. Right? We do it for a lot of reasons.

Number one, it's been one of the most efficient parts of our game for four and a half years now. Averages six or seven yards a carry, this year it's averaging even more. That's one of the plays that we have off of it. We did in the Rose Bowl a few years ago against Wisconsin.

We did it at USC, Andrew's last year, threw the ball from -- Andrew threw it to Ty Montgomery, if I remember right. It's one of those plays that you have to have in. If the safeties are dropping down, you have to have that. And Francis -- and I got to commend Francis. He doesn't play a lot, but when he plays he makes big plays. He made a big play at USC, a couple big third down catches the last couple weeks. He plays his role. He goes in and blocks, and he's in the game in critical positions and that catch, I can't describe that catch. I still can't, I still can't -- I don't understand what happened, to be honest. I was looking at my call sheet for the next call because I thought it was incomplete, and the guys were telling me that he caught it. And I said he didn't catch it, it's incomplete. And then it showed up on the board and I -- apparently, I've been told that my facial expression was on TV for many times, and I still feel that way right now. Just a phenomenal catch.

But that's where good teams are good. When guys get chances to make plays and they make them. Second receiver, third running back third tight end, whomever. Guys go out and make plays, whatever their role is they excel at it. And I commend Francis for all he's doing for us on offense and on special teams.

Q. In the first half it didn't seem like you were putting as much pressure on Rosen. And in the second half, considerably more pressure on him. You hurried him, sacked him several times, chased him out of the pocket. What changes did you make at halftime that allowed you to do that?

DAVID SHAW: Not a lot of changes, as much as it was the score. Once -- we're going in halftime with a three or four touchdown lead, the game changes for them. It's harder to keep running the ball. They have to drop back and throw the ball, so our guys up front can pin their ears back and get after the passer.

And all of our guys up front -- once it became that kind of a game, we try to get after them. We try to affect his throws and make him throw it early and hope he holds it and hit him and get him on the ground.

Q. You took a lot of heat after the opener, with the offense in particular?

DAVID SHAW: You noticed that?

Q. Was there something at half of the UCF game, in particular, that was said or an adjustment made that kick started this?

DAVID SHAW: Nope. Nope. I believe 100 percent in doing what you believe in, staying the course. This is a profession nowadays -- I grew up in this profession, it's just different now. It's different. People panic all the

time. Whenever something doesn't happen, people panic. Coaches and players can't panic.

We have won a lot of football games here playing the right way, playing smart football, playing good football, and it's hard for the outside world to understand it. Sometimes you don't play well. Right?

Bottom line, as a coach, you want to make sure that even in games when you don't play our best, we try to find a way to win. That was what was funny about that first game, to me, is that we didn't give ourselves a chance to win. Even though we didn't play well. But it was really having our guys trust the plan, the guys trust the coaches, and the coaches trust the guys, and the guys trust each other. It got to the point where, in basketball terminology, I said it a bunch of times, somebody's got to make the first basket. That's what that flea flicker was at UCF, a great throw by Kevin and some pressure. Great catch by Michael Rector and a great route, and we look the lid off the basket and everybody kind of relaxed. We said, we know what we're doing, we trust our scheme, we trust our guys, we just went back to playing football and having fun doing it. And that's -- I commend the guys for having the maturity, because it was real easy, it was real easy. And for me, I can take the heat. It doesn't bother me. Whatever.

But a lot of those 18 to 22 year olds in that locker room, sometimes they can be affected by all the negativity, because we were bad, we were really bad. And I commend the guys, I commend the seniors, the captains in particular, for rallying the troops and saying, hey, we have been here before, we have played bad before, now let's go play better play well. And we have done that ever since.

Q. Talk about the play of Thomas and the down three shift there where again, they just keep on making plays there.

DAVID SHAW: John Lynch, he's our honorary captain. John had those guys stand up in front part of the team. Those defensive linemen, to commend them for the effort that they're playing with.

For the most part, playing three guys and all these games and those guys just coming back and getting banged up and coming back in the game. I commend our training staff for taking care of these guys.

But what can you say about them? Big hearts, they love each other, they trust each other. They know that the team needs them, so they got to suck it up, they got to fight through. Great to get Nate Lohn back this week. That was just nice to have another guy to rotate in, which helps them.

But I commend Solomon, Brendon and Aziz, just for their work and their effort. And we'll take care of them during the course of the week, make sure they're healthy during the course of the week, because we're going to need them again next week.

Q. Is Kevin Palmer okay?

DAVID SHAW: We'll see. We'll see. We got to get him checked out. I don't think it's that bad. Hopefully he'll be back next week. We'll find out for sure.

Q. One last thing, did you think that the -- that the targeting call was a correct call on the Martinez hit?

DAVID SHAW: I think it was. I think it was. And it's just a rule change.

Back when I played, it was a long time ago, that was common place. That was peel back. You peel back and you get a crack on the guy.

But I think it's a good rule, it's a proper rule, it was applied properly. I don't think there was a lot of upset or discussion about it. It's one of those plays that, when you talk about it, if you show clips like that, you just can't do that any more. A play that we all continue to learn from, because it happens on special teams, on punt returns, you have to watch out for that. You have to go back and shield that guy. You can't go hit him above the neck like that.

Q. Do you think you have evolved at all as coach maybe since the end of last season, maybe since this year started, maybe not X's and O's, but maybe in your demeanor and how you interact with players, how you maybe coach from Sunday to Friday, do you think you have evolved?

DAVID SHAW: Not so much Sunday to Friday, but a little bit. And I said this during the course of the week, that was a great T-shirt going around, everybody seemed to have a lot of fun with it.

But last year when I used to say to guys all the time, don't keep your passion for the team a secret and don't keep your passion for your teammates a secret. And Ronnie Harris last year challenged me to show my passion and show my energy.

And, obviously, that's probably the biggest area of growth for me is to let the guys know that I'm into it too, that I'm enjoying it too, that I can celebrate when they win or when they make a play as well. So, hopefully, that's probably the biggest area of growth for me.

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Christian McCaffrey



CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Felt great. A great win for us on the offense. We put a lot on tape, but definitely still -- there's still some things we can work on.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I did not know until they said it on the loud speaker. But it's cliché, but we had a lot of receivers blocking down field and that's the guys that really made it happen and I'm just happy for them.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Most definitely. Like I said before, we put up 56 points against a good defense and that's something -- definitely we'll celebrate our victories.

But at the same time, I still think we haven't played our best football and we left a lot out there that we can fix and we'll get back to the drawing board and get ready for the Huskies.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No idea. They work. It always kind of depends on the defense and what we see on film and see if it works. We'll see.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: That's awesome. That's definitely a huge honor, but can't do it without the teammates. It's definitely a team victory and team win and I'm thankful for the play of my brothers.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I still am at a loss for words on the catch. I handed it off to Bryce, he pitched it to Hoge, Hoge, bombed one out there. I saw the catch and didn't know what to do. Sprinted to the sideline and just sat down. And I was at a loss for words, kind of like I am now. I couldn't believe that. That was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen in my life.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Exactly like that, that was planned. We knew that was going to happen and so Hoge put it on the money and Francis made the catch.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No. No, he hasn't. No, he hasn't. We go back and forth every once in a while. I

got three brothers too, so we're always competing. But it's definitely a healthy competition, and we like to joke around.

But all my brothers have a lot of size on me, so every time I try to face them, they kind of just look down on me and just embarrass me, but that's okay.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Yeah, I mean definitely. I think I said a lot about our team, a lot about our front seven, our guys up there. They all work hard out there and try to make plays.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: That's a great description. I'll take that. I think that's something just that -- our strength program has really kind of emphasizes is, doesn't matter how big you are, doesn't matter how little or big you are, it's everyone's physical and has a very physical nature at Stanford, so it's something that we definitely want to carry on.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No, no, you will not. No.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Couple like that in high school. That's definitely a lot of fun to go out there and see holes and make plays. It makes football a lot of fun. It makes people scream a lot, but there's still no trophies at the end of that. We got a lot of football left. We got a lot left in the tank and we got to move on and look to next week.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I honestly don't. I have no idea. I don't really -- we just try to do our best to look at the film, see what we can do on tape, and then correct it, and then move on.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No, he definitely gets out. I got three brothers running around. One of my older brothers plays at Duke and two younger brothers in high school. And he's announcing the Bronco's games on the radio. So it's definitely tough for him to get out, but he's been out to a couple this year.

My mom came today, so really thankful that they get out for me and also for my brothers. Just really happy that they can get out.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: It means a lot. That Northwestern loss did something to us that it bonded us together, because we went out there and we didn't play our best, and it showed on the scoreboard, it showed on the film.

A lot of teams fold after a loss like that first game and a lot of people were against us and we remember that. That's something that we hold dear to our hearts. So it continued to push us and it will continue to push us because you can't forget where you come from. So, it's definitely a big part of our team.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No, like I said, I don't focus on that stuff. It's definitely a huge plus, but it's a team game and that's why football is so fun because it takes every single person for sure. I'm sure everybody else will say the same thing.

It's not one guy out there, it's 11 guys doing their job and making things happen. It's a blessing to play with such amazing people.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Most definitely. I think every program around the world wants to drive to be the best they can be and win every single game, but most definitely, last year we had a salty taste in our mouth at the end of the season. Our first game we easily could have folded. But these guys are so amazing, we come to work every single day with a chip on our shoulder, no matter if we're in the National Championship talk or we're 0 and whatever, we're going to come to work each day. And that's why I love these guys so much, just because I really definitely feel something special with them. They're my brothers and I get a little emotional talking about it, because it's definitely something that we love and it's a brotherhood that you don't see a whole lot of schools. So really thankful for those guys and we're going to take it game by game and see what we can do next week.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Definitely a little bit sore. That's what comes with football a little bit of soreness. But soreness is good after a win, so.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I didn't believe what I saw. I was telling him earlier, I handed off to Bryce, he pitched it and Hoge threw a bomb and I saw him hold the ball over the guy's back, but couldn't believe he

caught it. I sprinted off the field and sat down, because I didn't know how to react. That was one of the most amazing things I've ever seen in my life. I couldn't believe what I saw. I had to kind of process it and really couldn't believe I was on the field at that time. And I hope that's on ESPN number one on ESPN for the next month. But, yeah, that was pretty amazing.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I think definitely. Any time you score, whatever the formation is, it's, oh, that was a great play call. But definitely, any time you make a good play, it's a fun thing. You celebrate with your teammates and move on. So that was an unbelievable catch by Francis, so just a lot of fun to be on the field at that same time.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Most definitely, I definitely think he's emotional, but I think that also comes from the team. Our team really -- really, football is an emotional game and it's a shame to let the emotion out of it. You definitely want to be emotional playing this game, to play this game that we love. So I think that this year we definitely focused on playing our game and having fun with our brothers and part of that comes on emotion and I think it's not only rubbed off on the players, but also on all of our coaches, so it's a very fun locker room to be around, a very fun field to play on. I love coming to practice every day and just real blessed that we get to show our emotion, I really thank Coach Shaw for that aspect as well.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I think it's a matter of execution. We have always had the talent, it's just a matter of coming out each week and executing. And that's something that we focused on each day, we don't want to over complicate anything if it's working. And our guys do a great job of executing. We really focus in practice on trying to be perfect. We talk about having a perfect practice, no mental errors. And it's very hard to do, but I think once you really start honing in on that and focusing on those fundamentals you start seeing the big plays happen. The little things always make the big plays happen.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No, luck of the draw. I was just lucky enough to run behind some great offensive linemen and went through some holes and tried to make stuff happen.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: It's a great feeling. It's definitely a great feeling. Definitely it means a lot to me, but I said it a hundred times, I want all thanks to God, the guys up front, who do such an amazing job.

The linemen, people blocking down field, those are the guys that make it ham. Football's a team game and you got to look at it that way and I'm just really thankful to play for an amazing team.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Don't know what to say about it. As I told someone earlier, I was so amazed that I ran off the field, didn't even celebrate. I did not see it. I kind of sat down and took a second to process what was going on. So it was amazing and I'm still in awe, still don't know what to say about it. I'm going to have to re-watch that a thousand times. And that's got to be number one on ESPN for a couple years, but we'll see.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I'm sure as it should be.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Sometimes that stuff just happens. A lot of people ask me, what did you see on this play. I have no idea. I just react to the game. That's what I love about football is you just react. That's kind of what happened.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Definitely it says a lot about our team, a lot about our fans. I just go out there and try to make plays.

Q. (No microphone.)

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: That's a great description. I'll take that. I think that's something that our strength program really kind of emphasizes is doesn't matter how big you are, doesn't matter how little or big you are, it's everyone's physical and we have a very physical nature at Stanford and in our program. So it's something that we definitely want to carry on.

Q. Is Francis ever going to live that catch down?

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: No. No. He will not. No.

Q. Have you had a game like that in high school where you just were almost unstoppable?

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: A couple like that in high school. Definitely a lot of fun to go out there and see holes and make plays. It makes football a lot of fun. Those are the games that people dream of. But there's still no trophy at the end of that. We got a lot left in the tank and we got to move on and look to next week.

Q. Do you remember what your best yardage was in high school?

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: I have no idea. I honestly don't. The one thing Coach Shaw harps on is we don't focus on the stats, we just try to do our best, to look at

the film, see what we can do on tape, and then correct it and move on.

Q. Does your dad come to games or watch them?

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY: Yeah, no he definitely gets out. I got three brothers running around. One of my older brothers plays at Duke and two younger brothers in high school and he's announcing the bronco games on the radio, so it's definitely tough for him to get out. But he's been out to a couple this year. My mom came today, so really thankful every time they get out to watch us.

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Kevin Hogan



KEVIN HOGAN: He just -- I mean, it speaks for itself.

Q. I had already put my head down because I thought it was going to be a flag, an incompleteness, and then I saw that he scored. Was that your reaction too? Did you see that he caught it?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, so, my vantage point was -- first I thought that he was too far down field, and so I tried to take air out of it, because we were running out of field, and I wanted to get it there. And then I thought that it was just going to be a pass interference, but he went up and got it.

Q. He caught the football and the defender, simultaneously?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, it was like a perfect catch. I saw his hands on it, and he maintained control, and I had a perfect view. And I saw that our referee's arms go up, so it was unbelievable.

Q. What did you tell him when you saw him?

KEVIN HOGAN: I was just like, that was incredible. That was probably the greatest play I've ever been a part of.

Q. Is this the best you've seen that offensive line play in your time here? You've had a lot of good blockers and runners. From your perspective, how well is this O line blocking at this point?

KEVIN HOGAN: They're doing a great job. The thing is, they're only going to get better. They have improved each week, and I think three straight 300 yard games or something, whatever it is. And they're getting into a rhythm with Christian. They're setting up blocks, they're setting up lanes for him to cut back. They work together and it's great to see because it makes my job easier.

Q. It never gets boring handing the ball off for 9 or 10 yards?

KEVIN HOGAN: No, it never gets boring.

Q. Watching you on the video up in the booth, you have this little smile on your face all the time, kind of like you're looking right now. Are you just like enjoying yourself on the sidelines?

KEVIN HOGAN: It's a lot of fun. When you're playing well and executing. But at the same time, we're -- we know that we can be better, so we're excited for next

week. We want to be even better than tonight, but it's great to just --

Q. You still look like your eyes are this big and you're super intense.

KEVIN HOGAN: It's nice, because we're succeeding, but each week it could be someone else. Hoop had a couple great catches in the first half, and he didn't catch a ball last week. Guys are making plays and --

Q. Hoop had some great catches, third down catches, huge plays.

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, it's great to see people stepping up and encouraging each other, and it's just selfless football.

Q. You had some big completions on third down early on to keep some drives going. Is it safe to say you're feeling pretty good ankle-wise at this point?

KEVIN HOGAN: I'm feeling good out there. I'm still going to be in the training room a lot. I feel like I have a good thing going with the training staff, and they're getting me out there and getting me healthy. So, hopefully, one of these days I'll be back at 100.

Q. What did you do? Did you twist it? I can't remember what the play looked like?

KEVIN HOGAN: The sack at USC. I sprained it against USC.

Q. (No microphone.)

KEVIN HOGAN: That's fine. That's fine.

Q. How about the team though? I mean, here you are, at this stage of the year, just kind of pounding people in a lot of ways.

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, we're at our goal right now, which is to win every PAC-12 game, and that's our goal at the end of the year. But each game, it comes with winning, but each game only gets bigger, doesn't matter what the team's ranked.

Our next opponent is UW, and they're a great team. Great defense. And we know that we're going to get everything that they have. So, we're already looking forward to them and seeing -- we're going to watch the film tomorrow and Monday and see how it goes.

Q. Kevin, did you get a good look at Francis's catch when he made it or what?

KEVIN HOGAN: I had a great view. Straight down -- I didn't know really know how it was going to go, I thought maybe it was just going to be a PI. We were running out of field and kind of tried to take the air out of it. And I saw the contact, but he just put those big arms around, and he's got huge hands and had a grasp on the ball, and it was just unbelievable that he maintained control to the ground.

But I had a great view of it, and I saw it and thought that he -- it was a touchdown. And saw the ref throw his arms up to confirm it and it was just unbelievable.

Q. Is that the best catch on of one of your passes that you've ever seen?

KEVIN HOGAN: I mean, Francis and Kodi might have to battle that out. They're making me look good though.

Q. How long has that play been in the making? What made you guys call it then and there?

KEVIN HOGAN: So, we have actually had that play in our offense for a long time. I don't know if you guys will remember this, but Andrew and Ty completed it five -- four or five years ago against Southern Cal in the triple overtime game.

We have had it in our offense. It's just the first time that we have run it since, but we ran it yesterday in practice. And just the way that the UCLA safeties had to come up and support the run, we thought that we could get them to bite and get behind them and Francis did the rest, just made a heck of a catch.

Q. There's a lot of season left, but what does it mean to get a win like this against an opponent like UCLA on national television?

KEVIN HOGAN: It's big, but they only get bigger. You don't get trophies for mid-season wins, so we're just going to keep getting better and keep rolling.

Q. Notre Dame is going to be fun.

KEVIN HOGAN: They only get bigger each week.

Q. How has Christian's role grown in this offense since he got on campus. With the kind of game he had tonight, what has that done for the offense in general?

KEVIN HOGAN: He's just an incredible athlete. I wouldn't even call him a football player or running back, he's just an incredible football player. He does everything. He does it well. He's very hard on himself. And then he helps bring the best out of everyone.

He's got a great thing going with the O line right now.

They're really working together and jelling and setting things up, setting the defense up.

And then he can come out of the back field and make any catch. He's one of the best receivers in the country, also. So, he's just a great player, and the sky's the limit for him. He's hungry, and he's only going to get better.

Q. Did you get a good look at the catch?

KEVIN HOGAN: I got a good look.

Q. Every time you see replay is it just --

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, I mean, it's just incredible. I can look at it a million times.

Q. Two refs threw yellow flags on that play. I thought for sure that it was just a PI. I couldn't believe that he caught it.

KEVIN HOGAN: We thought we were going to get the PI. I thought that there was a chance just because he was running, he didn't know where the ball was, and I mean, Francis just made a heck of a play.

Q. Andrew's senior year, he got to call some plays in the Washington game at home. How do you think you would do in a scenario like that? Would you ever take that opportunity?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah, 10 times out of 10.

Q. Have you noticed a change, maybe at halftime, in terms of the offense against UCF? Did it jump start you guys after that game?

KEVIN HOGAN: Yeah. I think that we might have been pressing too hard early on maybe. It was so long ago.

I mean, our -- we're on our way to our goal and that's our goal at the beginning of each season. And honestly, it's a blessing in disguise what happened at the beginning of the season, because you realize how hard it is to win a college football game. You can't take anyone lightly, and not saying that we did, but you have to have everyone on board and on the same page and that's what we started doing, we're just dwelling as a team in all phases.

Q. What do you think the team's been scoring at least 41 points in each of your last four games.

KEVIN HOGAN: Just execution. We're converting third downs, moving the chains and just big play opportunities. You see Christian have a big kick off returns to set up short drives and then just taking advantage of what the, of what's there. We feel like we have a lot of explosive players, so just getting them the ball and letting them do their thing.

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Friday October 16, 2015

Ronnie Harris



RONNIE HARRIS: It's very hard to explain. The way he was just pacing it just seemed like he had something on his mind that was bigger than the game. I just, at that moment, I don't know, something came over me just said, coach, just let it out. If you have just an outburst of passion, you don't know how much energy that gives to us. And he's answered the bell. He's been doing it and he's getting us a lot of, I would say way more ready for these games just by his passion. He has a lot of influence over us, not that he's understanding that more this year, but he's just being himself out there, he's having fun, he's backing up his boys now. And when you have a coach like that, ready to show his passion and eager just to be happy, you're going to work every day.

Q. What are some of the things that he's doing that are different in terms of how emotional he is or how different his demeanor is?

RONNIE HARRIS: I don't think that his demeanor's changing, I just think the way that he's approaching practice, practice and games for that matter is definitely -- we just see him more relaxed. You see him happy year, you see him smiling, you see him just rotating from defense to offense and we just see him like a little bit more pep in his step. Not exactly sure for what reason. Maybe the breakfast he's eating each morning but it's just amazing. And our team is feeding off that and we can't do nothing but just be happy about it.

Q. You're seeing guys really reacts like viscerally react to it, in terms of feeding off his energy.

RONNIE HARRIS: Definitely. I would say so.

Q. That's really interesting. (No microphone.) You see him pregame, to explore something like that kind of get a charge out of that. Are his pregame speeches different. I don't think he's like tipping chairs over or anything but is he more emotional pregame than he's been in the past?

RONNIE HARRIS: I think he's just calmer in the pregame and feel like he's just talking from the heart. And feel like anything that comes from the heart is always just genuine. So when you have that just genuine feeling, like I said, you'll just go to work for that guy any time.

Q. How exciting was this win for you, I mean national television, UCLA, how big was this one?

RONNIE HARRIS: It was a big game, because it was the next game. It felt good to come out here and get that win in front of our fans, for our home fans, and just my team puts in so much effort every single day, every single week of practice and I'm glad that our preparation paid off.

Stanford University Football

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Jim Mora



JIM MORA: The players and coaches, regardless of what's happened in the past, you look at each game as a new challenge, a new opportunity. At least that's what, in my 30 years of coaching, that's what I found to be the case.

Q. Yet this is the level of team that you guys have to beat at some point.

JIM MORA: Yeah.

Q. What leads you to believe that you're closer to getting that done?

JIM MORA: Because we continue to work hard. I don't know that we're closer. We weren't closer tonight, so. I don't remember saying that I was led to believe that we were closer.

Q. No, I was just asking you, was there something

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JIM MORA: No, you said that. But what leads me, I didn't say that I was led to believe it.

Q. My mistake. Is there something you see that leads you --

JIM MORA: Just need to keep working hard. That's all you can do. You go back and look at everything very critically, you look at your self first and then there's no magic formula, you just try to recruit great players, coach them up the best you can, send them out there and let them play the best they can and hope that you can break through.

So, it's a long season, it's a tough game, they're a good team, it's hard to go on the road and throw a pick six and have a kickoff returned for a touchdown and the nine offensive penalties and the 300 yards rushing, those are tough things to overcome. But I'm proud of our guys, you guys don't get to see the inner workings, you don't get to see their attitude and how they are in meetings and they're giving it everything they have got. They're giving everything they got every single day. Everything they have got. Everything. Every day. So that's what you have to ask for. And that's what you have to demand and they do it.

Q. How do you fix things in a season when it's a game like this and it seems like everything is going wrong?

JIM MORA: Well, everything didn't go wrong.

Q. A lot of things went wrong.

JIM MORA: Every game's a new game. That's the great thing about sports is every week you get another opportunity to go out and play again and perform. You do what you do when you win and you do the same thing you do when you win, it's the same things, there's no difference, at least my experience has never been different. If you won, you go back and you self evaluate and you find out what you did well and what you can do better and you apply that moving forward.

When you lose, you do the same thing. You go back and you look and say, what did we do well and what can we do better, and you apply it and you move forward. And that's how you become consistent.

We're a team that's still developing, and we're trying to overcome some things and we're working hard to get that done and I'm proud of those kids and they're attitude and their work ethic and the way they're approaching what and in over coming some obstacles.

Q. You might have addressed this earlier, but your wide receivers seemed to have some issues tonight. The quarterback had the ball right there quite a few times and there were quite a few drops that could have sustained drives. Was that a key problem in your mind tonight?

JIM MORA: No.

Q. It wasn't? Did Stanford show more explosiveness tonight than you've seen in the past?

JIM MORA: No, I think that McCaffrey is a great player and he's a heck of a player. He's, on film, he's the same as he -- maybe a little better in person than on film. He's a heck of a player. Very explosive, very fast, very physical, very powerful, elusive, runs hard. I think he's an impressive young man. Really impressive.

Q. A couple of huge rushing games against you the last three, what do you kind of assess the reason for that is at this point?

JIM MORA: I said this a couple weeks ago, we're trying to, we're trying to -- we came out of camp with a certain personnel group and guys playing in certain spots and feeling really comfortable with it and we're trying to reorganize and get guys comfortable. Sliding some

guys, moving guys around a little bit. We go from Mike to Will, you know, I think on the outside it looks like it's a pretty easy adjustment, but it's not. It's very different. It's very, very different.

So, we were trying to settle in and continue to define things for our guys and help them get comfortable, help them be able to learn the fundamentals and slow the game down and keep it simple without being so simple that you're easy to diagnosis. And we'll keep working on it. That's great thing about these kids is they will keep working on it.

Q. Do you get the sense that it's more, can the other guys learn their roles a little bit better or is there something that needs to change a little bit schematically?

JIM MORA: No, here's what happens. When things aren't going really well, everyone's looking for like a singular reason and there's never a singular reason. It's, it's typically, in my experience, having coached for awhile now, it's, you get into a situation where, on one play it's one thing, on the next play it's another thing.

I go back to when I was in San Francisco and we were starting eight rookies on defense and it was hard to get through a game with a play where all 11 did it right. When they did, they were really good. It was just a level of consistency that has to build through time. And that's lacking right now.

So we're working really hard to keep the same guys in the same spot, doing the same things, so they can find consistency in their technique and their execution. And it's a challenge right now, but it's a challenge that I see them accepting and stepping up and doing -- like I said, they're working their tails off they're giving everything they have got every single day, there's no question about that. So it's been disappointing for them.

Q. Those two third and 13s, how critical was that? It seems like there were a couple of big plays at the beginning?

JIM MORA: That they got on us?

Q. Yeah. That you gave up those two third and 13s?

JIM MORA: That was huge. They're huge. Yeah, they're huge. I thought the first one we were going to get a holding call, which was interesting, the response I got was rather interesting. But we didn't get off the field on third and long and they got to stay on the field. That's been a struggle for us the last couple weeks.

We lost a couple guys tonight, I know you saw that, but Conor went out with a knee and then Alex Redmond went out with a hand and Deon Hollins went out. So

we'll see where they're at.

Q. What's Hollins' injury?

JIM MORA: I'm not positive if it's his ankle or knee or something.

Q. What was your assessment of the penalties tonight?

JIM MORA: I don't know. I'm not going to comment on officials.

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Josh Rosen



Q. Did Stanford surprise you at all today?

JOSH ROSEN: No. They lined up, they did what we thought they would do and they just out executed us.

Q. What did you see on that first interception?

JOSH ROSEN: What was it? Yeah, it was cover four. We had a sort of pretty deep out breaking route. I liked the leverage on it, and they just sat on the sticks. I mean, if we didn't luck out, it would have been a touchdown, but hindsight is 20/20.

He just sat on the sticks, and I under threw it a little bit. But those kind of throws I kind of have to put it really, really high and away. So it will either be a big catch or it will be out of bounds. So, I gotta clean it up.

Q. Was there a certain play where it seemed like the game started to get out of hand?

JOSH ROSEN: Probably. I don't remember. I was a little frustrated that we couldn't score coming out of the first drive in the second half. But other than that, no, nothing I remember particularly.

Q. You guys came out passing a lot more in this game. How much of that was kind of seeing run/pass options and pick and pass a little bit more and how much of it was called?

JOSH ROSEN: A lot of it was called. It was just -- it worked, so we kept going with it.

Q. In terms of the losses that you've had, where does this stand?

JOSH ROSEN: I don't know, it's very frustrating. I really wanted to beat this team. I really wanted to make a statement.