

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Stanford, California, USA

Troy Taylor

Postgame Media Conference



UCLA 42, Stanford 7

TROY TAYLOR: All right, hello.

Q. Opening thoughts on this one, how this went for you today?

TROY TAYLOR: Obviously, got off to another slow start. Really, really good football team. You just can't get behind like that.

We were able to obviously come back last week. This week we didn't start well in all three phases. Didn't do enough to get back in the second half.

Q. Penalties on drives in the first half, how do you avoid those sort of mistakes?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, really frustrating. We had a hold on a second and one. Our first drive that was pretty crucial. Then misalignment on a third down that we converted. We're a young team, but still you shouldn't be making those mistakes. You should know.

We got to work on it and continue to drill home how important it is. We work on it a lot. But we got to improve on that 'cause those were two really crucial penalties early in the game that kept putting their offense on the field. Obviously they got some explosive guys.

Q. On the slow starts, what do you need to do?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, eliminate poor penalties. I think early on we knew it was going to be difficult to run the ball. No one's really run the ball against these guys. They're really good up front. We were hoping we would be able to protect, get the ball out quickly, sustain some drives, get some points early on the board, hopefully their D-line would get a little bit tired, and it would be easier to pass protect because they're so explosive. We didn't sustain any drives offensively in the first half early on, then they got out to a big lead.

Q. Ben Yurosek, was he not available at all today?

TROY TAYLOR: He was not available.

Q. Casey Filkins?

TROY TAYLOR: He was dressed. We didn't feel that he was 100%. We didn't want to put him in harm's way, so we decided not to. He's a really good player. Just didn't feel he was fully 100%.

Q. Sometimes coaches will say a week of practice they can kind of tell how prepared their teams are. Did you get a sense this week that you were going to have a game that was this lopsided?

TROY TAYLOR: Well, no. We knew we had a huge challenge. They're really good. So I thought it was a really good, honestly, week of preparation. I thought our guys were focused. I thought they came in Tuesday and had a really good practice. They were locked in.

As I said before, our margin for victory is thin. We got to start out faster. We just have to. We can't put ourselves and give up long drives on offense, three-and-out, give them the ball back down. You start to get some momentum on the other side. It becomes difficult.

No, I didn't. Obviously great team. Hats off to them. But we got to start better.

Q. Anything specifically you could positively build off of from tonight's game?

TROY TAYLOR: I thought they continued to compete in the second half. They didn't stop. They continued to fight, which they've always done. We expect that. That's the expectation.

I thought our protection got a little bit better in the second half, which was good. We need to improve that part of our game.

I'm sure I'll see more things on film. But it doesn't feel like that right now.



Q. Did UCLA's offense attack you any differently than you expected with the change of quarterback?

TROY TAYLOR: Same scheme. Coach Kelly always has done a great job kind of slightly adjusting to the quarterback that he has. But it's the same scheme. They did a really good job.

I thought Gerbers was really poised. I thought they protected him really well. When we did get a little pressure, he did a good job of creating space and keeping his eyes downfield and running for some first downs.

But same scheme.

Q. Justin didn't play very much tonight. Did the game at Colorado give Ashton that separation?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, I mean, competition's always there at every position. But, yeah, Ash did a really good job last week. Not that Justin didn't. The moments that he played I thought were pivotal and key. Ash under some difficult circumstances did some good things. He wasn't perfect. He missed some throws. But he's really composed and continues to fight and compete.

But I do have confidence in both of those guys.

Q. Doesn't get any easier with Washington coming in next week. What is the message to the guys?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, doesn't get easier. Haven't watched a lot of Washington just because of kind of the different teams that we play. But seen them a little bit. They're outstanding. Another great quarterback. Very explosive team. They're playing right now, I think?

Q. They won.

TROY TAYLOR: Undefeated. Great football team. We get another opportunity. Our guys know we play a tough schedule. That's what makes it so rewarding if you do play well and you win a game.

But yeah, we'll lick our wounds and we will be ready to compete and get back after it. We're excited to have an opportunity to play against one of the top teams in the country.

Q. Tiger Bachmeier found the end zone for the first time. What did you see on that touchdown? Talk about his development.

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, Tiger was here in the spring. He

was an early graduate. Right from the beginning he was able to absorb the offense and compete.

He's just a really competitive kid that gives you everything he's got. He's got good hands. He's good in traffic. He does some good things with the ball afterwards.

Yeah, I think it was pressure. Ash was able to deliver the ball. It was a great run after the catch.

Q. Ayomanor led the team in receptions and yards but also had the fumble and offensive PI.

TROY TAYLOR: He definitely made some plays. Looking down here, 13 targets, eight catches.

Yeah, the fumble was disappointing. It was a nice catch, a nice route. You got to put the ball away. He's trying to make something happen. He's trying to get the ball in the end zone.

We've done a pretty good job of taking care of the football. That time we did not. I think we had two turnovers on the day. Turned the ball over a number of times on fourth down, put our defense on a short field. That makes it tough on the defense to defend against a team like that on a short field.

Q. How do you keep drives going?

TROY TAYLOR: It's been something that we've been pretty good at. I think we've been 46% coming into this game on third down. We didn't get it done today.

Starts with me. Got to have a better plan. We knew it would be challenging with how much pressure they bring and how good they were up front. We shot ourselves a couple times on some pickups we could have had.

But, yeah, that was a huge factor in the game. We weren't able to sustain on third down, got off the field quickly. That was a big part of it.

Thanks, guys. Go Card.

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Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Stanford, California, USA

Ashton Daniels

Postgame Media Conference



UCLA 42, Stanford 7

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Ashton Daniels.

Q. Your thoughts on your performance, what you guys could have done better offensively.

ASHTON DANIELS: I'm pretty sure coach came up here and said it. He told us same thing at halftime. We just got to start faster.

I don't really think that the first half we were as competitive as we needed to be. We left a lot of things out there on the field. We got to convert on some of those third downs in the first half. We also have a lot of penalties holding us back when we do make big plays.

Yeah, I mean, it's extremely frustrating, but at the same time if we want to be great, we have to take accountability and be ready to move on to next week.

Q. UCLA has one of the better defenses in the country. Can you talk about what they do so well.

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, their guys up front, they're NFL pass-rushing guys. Both the twins, 11, 12, and 15, they're extremely hard to block. I think throughout the game our guys did a pretty good job of establishing protection. I think we got better and better as the game went on.

But yeah, I mean, if we're not able to establish the run and establish our protection, it makes it really hard on us. So yeah, I mean, I think we had a lot of opportunities. I'm not saying that they weren't a good defense, but I'm giving a lot of props to them. They fly around. They play fast. They're very physical. We knew that coming into the game, but we just didn't take advantage of the things that we needed to.

Q. It seemed last week's game that you kind of maybe separated yourself from Justin. Have you discussed that in practice over the last week? Has Coach Taylor talked to you that you are the No. 1 guy now?

ASHTON DANIELS: No. At the beginning he told us that no matter what, throughout the rest of the season, it's going to stay a fluid competition. I know that. I'm not really worried about who's going to be playing. I think we both know we have a job to do, that's to go out and lead the offense no matter who's playing.

Yeah, we're not worried about that. We don't talk about that. We just go out at practice and work on what we need to work on and then come out on Saturdays and do our thing.

Q. You targeted Tiger and Elic 24 times, 16 catches combined. Talk about the connection you have.

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, it's not necessarily just the connection between us three. I think I have a really good connection with the whole wide receiver room. Those guys do a great job of getting open, all of 'em do. Our coaches do a great job of the schemes that we run to get them open.

I'm starting to build a lot of trust with them, starting to build a lot of trust with our protection. But yeah, when we get our pass game going, I think we're a really dangerous offense. We had sparks of it all throughout the game.

I think if we want to be great and we want to win, we need to be consistent in both the pass and run game. That kind of hurt us tonight. Yeah, I mean, they're great guys. They put in work every single day. I can trust on 'em and I know that they're reliable.

Q. How nice was it to see Tiger score his first career touchdown?

ASHTON DANIELS: I think it was long overdue. I'm extremely proud of him to be that young and to come in in the spring and just put your head down and work. He doesn't really care how young he is. He doesn't care about how old the guys he's going against are. I just know that he's going to come in and put work in every single day. He's done that from the jump.

He's impressed me and the coaching staff. He's gotten



some opportunities throughout the season. I love targeting him. I know that no matter what, he's going to go up and get the ball.

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But yeah, I'm extremely proud of him. It was awesome to see that he got a touchdown today.

Q. Coach Taylor talks about how you're the faster quarterback. Do you think maybe you could help the run game more and take off?

ASHTON DANIELS: Can you say that one more time.

Q. Do you think you could possibly help in the run game more, scramble a little bit more?

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, I think a lot of our big plays, a lot of our chunk plays this weekend, last week, came off the scramble. I think our guys do a great job of getting open downfield when the pocket collapses.

But, I mean, yeah, it's not something that I look forward to doing. I don't want to scramble. I want to sit in the pocket. But sometimes defense brings an extra guy, all this kind of stuff. It ends up working out pretty well. We have guys that get open down the field.

Yeah, I mean, if I need to take off, I will. But at the end of the day it's nothing something I look forward to doing, but yeah.

Q. Talk about Tristan Sinclair, what he brings to the defense.

ASHTON DANIELS: Tristan, ever since I arrived on campus, he's been a guy that I've looked up to, even though he's on the other side of the ball. He's a great leader. People tend to rally around him. I know that no matter what, he's going to go out on the field on Saturday and give it his all.

I was walking off the field at halftime a little down, a little upset, frustrated. He came up to me and said, Hey, like, we're still in this game. You saw what we did last week. Keep your head up, go out there, lead those guys. All that kind of stuff.

Hearing that kind of stuff from a guy that's older and experienced gives me the confidence to go out there and be the leader that I need to be.

But yeah, he's a great player. He's a great dude off the field. Yeah, he's a great teammate to have.

Thank you, guys.



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Gaethan Bernadel Postgame Media Conference



UCLA 42, Stanford 7

THE MODERATOR: Questions for Gaethan Bernadel.

Q. Can you talk about how well Ethan Gerbers played?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: He did a good job of being able to extend the play. Obviously we didn't see him on film. We seen more of 3.

I wouldn't say we weren't prepared for him. I feel like whatever coach calls is perfect sought after and thought of.

But he did a good job extending the play. We came after him a lot tonight. He was able to do a good job standing in the pocket and making the throws he needed to make.

Q. Did you know which quarterback to expect tonight? Were you expecting to see this much of Gerbers?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: We didn't really base our game plan based off of who was coming in the game. You could put whoever at quarterback, but our game plan was going to stay the same.

Like I said, we seen 3 more. We seen 4 come into the game and nothing really changed on the defensive side of the ball.

Q. Second straight game that you guys fell behind really early, halftime shutout. What do you think is going on with the slow starts?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: Coach Taylor talked about it. We have to start fast. We can't be a team that doesn't play well in the first half, then come out second half and start scoring and stopping the offense. We have to start faster. That's one thing we need to do better.

Q. You went down with an injury. Are you good there?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: Yeah, I'm doing better now. I'll

be fine. Thank you.

Q. In terms of stopping offenses like Washington in the future, what do you think you need to improve on the most?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: Coach April, our defensive staff, come up with key points every week. Two of those points that stay on every week is when you're deep, you're deep, and rush lanes. I feel like we need to get to the quarterback more.

We got after him a lot tonight with the pass, sacked him a few times. Stay consistent rushing the quarterback. The deepest man stay deep.

Q. What did you do well to get TFLs?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: Our coaches do a great job of scheming things up. Watch film, talk about it. It's our job to execute it as far as moving the front, as far as running different things they seen on film. Just being able to be prepared and make the adjustments.

Q. You had 10 penalties as a team. What kind adjustments do you need to make to avoid those?

GAETHAN BERNADEL: Just be smarter. You know what I mean? Just be smarter, especially when we have the ball on offense and defense. We're not refs, they call what they want to call. Maybe we don't agree with it. We have to take it out of their hands, play clean, play smart football.

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Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Sunday, October 22, 2023
Stanford, California, USA

Coach Chip Kelly

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 7, UCLA 42

Q. What was your overall take?

CHIP KELLY: I thought it was a good team win. I think both sides, offensively and defensively, really contributed. We generated a pass rush and made that difficult for their offense. That front of ours is difficult to block, so kept them kind of behind.

And then offensively I thought we got off to a good start. As we talk about all the time, especially in conference games, if you win the turnover battle you got an opportunity to win the game. We did not turn it over offensively today. We caused from them. Those are some of the positives.

Q. Made a change of quarterback. When did you make that decision?

CHIP KELLY: At the end of the week. Dante was banged up a little bit the beginning of the week, so Garbs got predominant amount of snaps early in the week, and then just over the course of the week as we looked at it, as we get to the end of week like we always do, where are we? What's our depth? Who can contribute?

So Ethan earned the start this week from a practice standpoint in terms of where we are. I thought Dante came in and did a really nice job. He was really good towards the end of the week too. We're pretty confident in what we have at quarterback right now.

Q. When you say banged up, from what happened in practice? Previous game? Both?

CHIP KELLY: Everything.

Q. Obviously he was struggling. How much did that go into it?

CHIP KELLY: Didn't.

Q. How do you think Ethan played tonight?

CHIP KELLY: I thought Ethan played really well tonight. We've always felt like we have had depth at the quarterback spot. I think Collin Schlee is a really good quarterback. Collin wasn't available today, but we felt like we have always had three kids that can play quality football for us.

So I'm really pleased with Ethan today, but I don't think anything that Ethan did surprised any of us on our staff or players, because we see that on a daily basis.

Q. His ability to scramble the ball, run with the ball, what does that bring to the dimension...

CHIP KELLY: Yeah, same thing. I thought he kept some drives alive, and Dante did too when was in there later. But people are going to may man coverage if they're not going to spy the quarterback, then your quarterback has to be able to make -- if the coverage is tight and you don't have an opportunity to it have an open receiver then you have to use your feet. I think he extended drives for us because he made some critical decisions to take off and go. That was big for us today.

Q. (Regarding being redshirt now.) Did you have a conversation with him about that?

CHIP KELLY: No. Never had a conversation with him.

Q. Where does this leave the quarterback situation going forward?

CHIP KELLY: I think in great shape. Feeling really good about our quarterback situation. We've got a couple really, really good quarterbacks so we're excited.

Q. What will determine who's your starter going forward?

CHIP KELLY: We'll see who is healthy and available at the end of every week like we do every week.

Q. Carson Steele, three touchdowns match his career high. What do you think of his...



CHIP KELLY: Yeah, just tough, hard-nosed, physical runner. Always running behind his pads. Got great body lean. Great balance. Very rarely does the first person knock him down. He's got a great mindset when it comes to running the football.

He's tenacious when he has the ball in his hands. Really productive. We didn't get as much run with him in the second half, but we were trying to get some of those other guys in.

I thought Anthony Adkins did a really nice job with his. TJ had a huge run at the end of the third quarter that looked like Stanford was getting back in the game a little bit. We needed a little momentum back on our side, and TJ hit a big run on a third and long call that popped it for us.

So, again, I think that's another position where we have some depth. Carson has been outstanding all year long and tough, hard nosed, physical again today.

Q. You mentioned Ethan was really critical in extending drives for you guys today, especially on third downs.

CHIP KELLY: Uh-huh.

Q. Just thoughts on the decision making in those scenarios.

CHIP KELLY: Yeah, I thought he did a good job overall. There are some decisions he wants back when we come over to the sideline and we talk about what just transpired on the last drive. I'm sure he would say the same thing, there is one or two.

Overall I thought in every facet he played really well.

Q. How aggressive was the defensive?

CHIP KELLY: Yeah, I mean, our defense has played at a really high level in every game this year I think. We have been really pleased with what those guys can do.

I think there is a front -- our linebackers are playing at an outstanding level right now, and I think the back end is really doing some good things that we were very conscious of their receiver. He had 294 yards in the second half of the game the week before, so we had to know where he was on every play, and I thought our guys did a really nice job.

Caught the one slant, but I thought Devin did a really good job of punching the ball out and turning it into a turnover.

But containing him and containing their passing game, because that's what got them back in the game against Colorado, was critical to us. But it starts with the pass rush, and we got to be close in coverage, and for the most part we were like that throughout the game.

Q. How many times, in your coaching career, have you had more first downs than the other team has had rushing yards?

CHIP KELLY: Is that what happened today?

Q. Yeah.

CHIP KELLY: I didn't know that. What did we have, 32?

Q. They ran for 24 and you had 30-something.

CHIP KELLY: I would say not very often. You know, we had a barn burner with Hofstra once I think in -- that may be the first one I can think of.

Besides that, I'm not sure. I didn't know that. Hofstra was good, too. Hell of a game.

Q. When was that?

CHIP KELLY: I want to say that was probably '96, '97. We had eight turnovers on offense. We were all on offense. Plus eight and won by three. That's a stat. I'll give you a stat. I don't think that's ever happened. When you're plus eight you're going to win, but not by three. We were plus eight and won by three.

That's part of the game. Just sad we're not going to play here again because I love this place. This was a special place, so keep going down memory road when you're here. I've been on the other side of that here, so it's good to win here. It's tough to win here. Good victory for us.

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Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Stanford, California, USA

Ethan Garbers Carson Steele

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 7, UCLA 42

Q. Ethan, what was it like to be back out there after a little time away?

ETHAN GARBERS: Oh, man, it felt great. You know, it's what we do. At the end of the day we're just -- the best thing about football is football, and getting out there and playing and being with the guys that I spend all my time with, it was awesome. Phenomenal.

Q. When did you find out you were going to start?

ETHAN GARBERS: Towards the end of the week. I got the majority of the reps during the week and then just towards the end we made the decision and went full speed with it.

Q. This obviously burns your redshirt. Did you have a conversation with Coach about that?

ETHAN GARBERS: No, we didn't talk about that. I mean, my focus was just on the team and helping the team win any way I can, and that's what the main focus is.

Q. How would you assess your performance? Pretty efficient today. Extended some plays with your feet. Converted a lot of third downs.

ETHAN GARBERS: It is what it is. I mean, there is a lot to improve on. Excited to watch the tape and get back to work and see what we can correct.

Q. Carson, gave your team a 21-nothing lead on your 21st birthday; how special is that?

CARSON STEELE: It's pretty cool. It's awesome how little things like that kind of work. You know, just being able to jump out in front and hold them down, especially our defense holding them, you know, they came off a 30-point underdog last week and end up winning.

So being able to come in and have our defense hold them down and coming out with a big victory.

Q. How did you celebrate, your teammates celebrate your birthday with you? Anything special?

CARSON STEELE: Not really. Kind of wish we did. We were really focused on the game, so -- and we got practice early tomorrow, too, so nothing crazy tonight. Definitely I'll take the win. Take a celebration with that as well.

Q. Did you think about it when it was 21-nothing, that it was his birthday?

ETHAN GARBERS: I was thinking about it, yeah. Some people were telling me some stuff. It was kind of cool to see that.

Q. What was the message at halftime. You guys were up 21 nothing. Obviously Stanford was (indiscernible). What was the message at halftime? Keep the foot on the gas?

ETHAN GARBERS: Yeah, exactly. Like you were saying, they came off a big win last week, being down 30 some points, so just having at that mindset it's a 0-0 game coming in every quarter. Our defense was playing lights out the whole four quarters as well as offense, and that really helped us to keep the mojo and keep us ahead.

Q. Ethan did you talk to Dante before the game? What was your interaction with him?

ETHAN GARBERS: Yeah, we talked briefly, but it was just kind of normal. We support each other in anything we do. I look for his success, he looks for mine. It's a good relationship we have. It's nice to just bounce some ideas or thoughts that you have off on the guy who's pretty much in the same position you are.

So he's been great. He's a great kid and he's a great football player.

Q. (Regarding playing down the road at Cal.)



ETHAN GARBERS: Yeah, no, he's been phenomenal. He's helped me a lot in just managing the game and everything like that. He's been very helpful this year. Will continue to be of help.

Q. Ethan, Sturdivant I think had the lowest targets for the night. You have that little connection and chemistry going with him? Are you looking for him?

ETHAN GARBERS: It's hard not to. That guy stands out. He's a phenomenal football player. He's super fast. He's a great receiver. I mean, that's kind of the quarterback's job, is you got to get the ball in the playmaker's hands and let them do the work.

I might not be looking for him more or he's just open in the progression, it just comes how it comes and they'll get the targets however the progression plays out.

Q. What were those last few weeks for you like being on the sideline waiting, not knowing?

ETHAN GARBERS: Yeah, I mean, there was a lot of times where I just kind of wanted to not really -- kind of quit a little bit, but I had to keep my head straight and keep moving because you never know what can happen. You're always one play, one snap away.

I got to still prepare like I'm the starter every week. That's the mindset I keep going, and it works out.

Q. How has it been with Collin's injury?

ETHAN GARBERS: He's good. I see him briefly here and there during the week, but he's doing good.

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