

# Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Stanford, California, USA

## Coach Troy Taylor

Postgame Media Conference



Oregon 42, Stanford 6

**Q. Just kind of opening thoughts on this one? How would you evaluate the team's performance overall in this one?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, unbelievable team we played. Really good in all three phases. They're a legitimate team. We knew that coming in. They're well coached, really talented, very explosive. Our guys did some good things and we just got to convert more, you know, in the red zone. Haven't done a great job of that.

But I am proud of how our guys competed. We'll move into the bye week and continue to get better and press towards Colorado.

**Q. Did you get a sense the way those first few drives went field goals weren't going to cut it in this game?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, they're explosive obviously and our defense did a really good job in the first half, but, you know, you put an explosive offense on the field that much, they're going to make plays. They just are.

So we did some good things converting and moving the ball, but just didn't make enough plays, enough big plays down the stretch and in the red zone to make a difference to get some touchdowns early on.

**Q. Last couple weeks you guys have struggled to finish drives a bit.**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah.

**Q. What do you think you need to do to get better, get over the hump?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, you're right, we have struggled to finish drives. I think it's not one thing. I think you could point at every position, and I got to do a better job of having a better plan.

But it's not one thing. You know, we got to be able to run the ball as the field squeezes and there is not as much space. You got to find a way to run the football, and then you got to, if you get one-on-one coverage, you got to make plays.

We have come close. We had one early in the game we almost converted in the end zone. Just didn't make enough of those contested catches in order to really threaten these guys.

**Q. Just talk about the first half; it was a 14-6 game. What did you guys do well to keep it as close as it was?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, I think we converted on some third downs and competed and kept them off the field, right? I don't know what the time of possession was in the first half, but they were on the field, off the field quite a bit.

I think we went maybe three and out on them on the first two drives possibly, and then we had some longer drives.

And then, you know, we just didn't put enough drives together in the second half and they were on the field a lot. You know you're playing with fire when you have a team that's that talented and they get that many opportunities in the second half.

**Q. How is Ashton doing?**

TROY TAYLOR: I think he's going to be okay. He looked good. Just his eye, looking him in the eyes. I didn't talk to anybody, but he said he felt good. Hopefully be okay.

**Q. Was the plan to run Justin that much or just how the game...**

TROY TAYLOR: It was, yeah, it was. They're a talented team. With quarterback runs you get one more in the box to try and out number them.

Did some good things with the Q run, but hopefully won't have to rely too much on that. Going to have to do that sometimes.



**Q. Just talk about where things sit running back-wise, how you're evaluating that position. A lot of different guys moving in and out.**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah. I mean, I think EJ came in at the end and did some really good things. Loved to see him get the ball and make something happen.

Open competition really at every position. That doesn't change. But was happy to see EJ make some plays, break some tackles, and make some people miss.

**Q. You mentioned going into an open week. What's the plan for the next two weeks really?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, yeah, so we'll -- we will evaluate the tape. Kind of a regular day after the game, and then they get Monday off, that's their day off, and then Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday we'll get practices in.

Not a lot of the contact, but we got to get better. We got to continue to press and get better and start working on Colorado.

Obviously Colorado has a game to play next week; we do not. So combination of getting better and getting guys healthy that have been injured and focusing and getting a jump on Colorado.

Then evaluating the things we do well and things that we maybe don't do well. As coaches got to kind of figure out the best plan to give our guys a chance to succeed.

**Q. Talk about that third quarter. They outscored you 21-nothing. What went wrong there?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, I think we didn't maintain -- we weren't on the field enough on offense, and obviously they created some big plays and some chunk plays and we didn't do enough -- good enough job keeping them off the field.

With a team like that -- we did in the first half. They've blown pretty much everybody out in the first half. I was proud of our guys that we were in the game and close. We weren't able to sustain many drives on offense, whether it's making plays at wide receiver, making throws, protecting, running the football, we just were not able to really sustain any drives.

**Q. You kind of already answered my question. Seems like the first half it was intentional to control possession as much as possible.**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah.

**Q. What went well to make that happen the first half?**

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, I think we been pretty good -- outside of the SC game -- pretty good coming out in the first quarter. We just got to be able to sustain that. Our margin against a team like this is going to be slim, margin for victory.

We're going to have to make more plays, take advantage of our opportunities, and clearly we did not do that.

Again, I love this team. I love these guys just because they just continue to compete and give everything and get back the next day and they're ready to compete again. These guys will continue to compete and we'll have our opportunities this year.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

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## Justin Lamson

Postgame Media Conference



Oregon 42, Stanford 6

**Q. I just asked coach this question, final question for him. Seems like you guys did a good job controlling possession in the first half. What do you think you guys did well to control possession and also keep it as close as you guys did in the first half?**

JUSTIN LAMSON: Yeah, I think not making silly mistakes. I mean we were locked in on our assignments and we were moving the ball, and that's what we got to do better job of all around.

I think we did a good job of that in the first half for sure.

**Q. What was the difference then in the second half when you guys had more trouble moving it?**

JUSTIN LAMSON: I mean, I think going into the second we kind of made mental mistakes, and that's kind of been the story all year. It's on the players. We got to do a better job executing our assignments. You saw offsides. You saw some miscommunication with the blocks. I had plenty of mistakes.

So I think that's something we got to clean up. We just can't do that against a good team like Oregon.

**Q. Did you know going in that you would be running this much? What was that like for you?**

JUSTIN LAMSON: We kind of saw that they had some trouble against Texas Tech with the quarterback run game, so we thought it was something we could expand on. It was working, so I think that's why we continued to do it.

So, I mean, it was in the game plan, but it's always in the game plan in this kind of offense for sure.

**Q. Something you guys have done well at times this year is large chunk games, 45-yard, 50-yard completions. Seems like they did a good job containing you guys. What was it about their defense**

**that made that challenging for you guys?**

JUSTIN LAMSON: Yeah, they're a super versatile defense. They showed a lot of different fronts, a lot of different coverages. Their guys are athletic. You've kind of seen it all year, they hold teams to less than 20 points.

So I think we just -- there is a point where we got to end up making big plays. Contested catches; I got to break some tackles; one-on-one. Same thing with everybody, and I'm sure any player would tell you that.

Against a good team like that you kind of got to make those big plays to win the game, and we just didn't do that today.

**Q. Two weeks before the next game. How are you going to take the next two weeks?**

JUSTIN LAMSON: Man, I think it's about getting everybody healthy first of all, kind of game planning for Colorado. We know they're a good team, a very explosive team. You know, just getting right back -- there is one thing about our team, is we work every single day. Whether it's a win or loss we're going to come in. Whether it's a lift, a meeting, we're going to be dialed in.

We are just going to go about our game plan, trust the coaches. They been putting us in good positions. It's on us. We're going to be just fine.

**Q. Just talk about how you would evaluate the offensive line and how you're growing with them and that side of things?**

JUSTIN LAMSON: Yeah, obviously it's a young group. I mean, they've had a lot of stuff thrown at them this year, so I think they're doing just fine. I think we're getting better every single day, and I love those boys.

So we're going to get through this together. Those are my guys. We're going to figure it out.

**Q. Just kind of in general, obviously the time of a bye week is always kind of important. Do you feel like this is a good time for you guys to have a bye, hit reset,**

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**refresh? Talk about the timing of the bye week from your perspective.**

JUSTIN LAMSON: Yeah, I mean -- yeah, kind of middle of the season, so a little bit of a break, mental break and physical break, I would say it's a pretty good time for us. Going into a good game like Colorado, it only helps.

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## Head Coach of Oregon Ducks Dan Lanning Postgame Media Conference



Oregon - 42, Stanford - 6

DAN LANNING: We felt like it was going to be a physical game. It was physical early. Those three and outs early on on offense really hurt us. Right, didn't get a lot of possessions. They did a good job of controlling the clock. But I thought our guys responded. We just had to get through that lull to start.

You know, took care of some penalties. We're able to -- you know, it -- early, they were able to get some runs. They got a lot of runs early in the game. You know, QB runs. Something we knew we were going to see. They took advantage of it. And we were doing a good job with that early. But I think we shut that down later in the game. Overall, I thought our players came to perform today.

### Q. (No microphone.)

DAN LANNING: You know, I think our guys had heightened awareness all day. And there was a couple times I thought he was running free where we didn't cover him great. But the pressure combined with the coverage, I think it -- you know, not being able to get him the ball. We knew 84 -- he's a hell of a player. He's one of the best we'll see in this conference, one of the best we'll face all year. I knew if we handled that and quarterback runs, we'd be in a good position.

### Q. What was the difference between the halves and the fast start versus the slow start? (No microphone.)

DAN LANNING: Yeah, I think ultimately we were kind of hurting ourselves. We were playing behind the chains a little bit on offense. We weren't having sufficient runs. I thought our coaches made some good adjustments in the second half about what runs we like.

They had some good -- they did some schematic changes early in the game, too. Stuff we hadn't seen from them before, we had to adapt to that and be able to adjust our

call sheet based on that. And our players just knew it was the long haul.

We talked about winning the fourth quarter. And we won the fourth quarter. We didn't win it last week. You know, just all those pieces added together, I think it came together at the end for us.

### Q. It seemed like Bo settled in after the first couple of drives. What did you see from him?

DAN LANNING: Yeah, I thought he showed patience, right? If you go in there forcing it -- like I said, they pitched a couple different looks at us. And then when we came out in the second half, they really played the defense they'd been playing all year.

Once they got back to what they had done all year, we had some really good answers for it. And they got us on some funkier stuff they were doing earlier on.

### Q. (No microphone.)

DAN LANNING: Yeah, that's what we talk about when we say strength in numbers, right? Like, we have a guy that's up, ready to play. He's a really quality player. And he competed on some tough throws today and was able to get physical. Had a good blitz at the end there. Was able to get in on third down. So exactly what I expected from him. We brought him here for a purpose and he did a great job.

### Q. Another 100-yard day for Troy. I think every defense knows they have to try to take him away in order to be successful. What is it about him?

DAN LANNING: Well, I think our coaches, one, do a good job of finding ways to move him around to where we can find match-ups. You know, I think our quarterback has a heightened awareness of where he's at. And when we have a change to get it to him, we want to. And then he does a good job finding the ball in the area. And he adjusts to the ball really well.

Certainly, he's a strength of our team. But what's great is we have other strengths around him. So you can't just

dedicate all your time to one player because there's some other players on the field that are going to hurt on the field you if you do that.

**Q. (Question concerning Oregon's approach to their upcoming bye week.) (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: Yeah, we're not going into bye week, we're going into workweek. Right? Our guys know when what our goals are, what we have to accomplish. Right? A lot of other teams are going to relax this week, we're going to get better.

You know, we started exactly how we expected to start. Right? We're about to go play a real opponent. Those guys are playing good ball up north. So we got to bring our best. It's got to be one of our great preparations. We got some really tough teams down the road. So we got to continue to build and play our best ball moving forward.

**Q. (Question concerning a missed field goal.) (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: Yeah, you know, I think our guys knew exactly what we were trying to accomplish. I probably could have called that time-out a little earlier. I let, like, 10 seconds run out the clock there. But you try and make a decision. Are they going to go for it or not? Once you figure out, Hey, they're probably not going to go for it, that's one where I could have called that time-out just a little earlier.

But our guys understood the situation, understood the time and clock. To be able to run the ball at the very end there and get it within a field goal kicked position there, call a time-out, that's really smart. Bucky going down instead of fighting for extra yards -- we talked about being the smartest team in college football, and those are the situations you got to be able to -- you know, Cam's going to make that kick 9 out of 10 times, you know, 99 out of 100 times. And it didn't happen today. That's all right, we're trained for it now.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: Yeah, I don't completely know yet. We'll have to get with the medical staff and figure out exactly where they're at. Like I said, strength in numbers showed up today. We had some other guys that could go in there and contribute.

**Q. What did you see out of Jordan James, especially off that drive where he scored the touchdown?**

DAN LANNING: I love running backs that look for contact.

I love running backs that don't look to just run out of bounds. And Jordan James, when he touches the ball, he looks to score. So he ran hard. He's a physical runner. He's proven to get north and south. I thought he did a good job of that today.

**Q. You said Monday to bring your own juice. How do you feel like you guys did? And what did you think of the crowd that was here that was pretty pro Oregon?**

DAN LANNING: Yeah, I'm so grateful to our fans. It felt like a home game in a lot of ways with the juice that we had from our crowd. You know, when they travel like that, that makes it a special environment for wherever we go. And I have that same expectation for them the rest of the year. Because they certainly made it a great environment for us.

I thought our players came in with the right mentality. We didn't play any music all week at practice, you know, for a reason. And I told the players, Hey, when I hear you singing on the sideline, I know we've done something right, right? So, you know, those guys, they brought the juice.

Again, we didn't start out as fast as we wanted to. A little slow on D at times. Didn't give up a touchdown, right? But a little slow with those three and outs. Once we got through that, we kind of figured it out and settled in.

**Q. You mentioned kind of the work this week and I'm wondering, I guess, last year from this year, did you change anything in handling the bye weeks? (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: Yeah, I mean, we've adjusted some things. But, you know, we have a plan in place. We'll work future opponents. We'll work, certainly, Washington. We got some good teams coming up. So we got to -- and then we've really got to self-scout ourselves. It's time to peel back the layers and figure out, Okay, what do we have to do to be a dominant team moving forward?

**Q. You really set the tone after last week's game. There was so much going into it. A completely different coach. Now, you're entering the bye week. (No microphone.) What do you want the tone -- you talk about working this week. What's the message to the team? (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: Play the game, not the occasion. No difference than any other big games that we've been a part of. We're going to be a part of a lot more. It's about the 20 mile margin consistently. On Monday, we can't go out there and march 60 miles. All right? We're going to march 20 miles and be consistent with our approach. Find

something we can get better at. Aim small, miss small.

We're going to pick small details that we can improve schematically, individually for each person on our team. And then we're going to try to figure out how to take away other teams' strengths.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: Yeah, I mean, he's a big man. He's hard to block, right? We've got -- you talk about differences in teams this year, last year. One thing that we have is we have a front where guys can roll and make an impact. And the thing that makes it really hard to go play quarterback when you got somebody who's on your neck. And he's proven that he can be a guy that's like that.

**Q. How does the level of intensity change from a super high energy game last week against Colorado to a game like this week, and then you got the bye week, and then, obviously, you have a top 10 matchup after the bye week? How does that change?**

DAN LANNING: It's based on the maturity of your team. I think we have a mature team, we have good leaders on this team. And, again, it's about consistency. You can't let your highs get too high and your lows get too low. I think our guys understand the approach. They certainly understand the mission at hand.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

DAN LANNING: I think our guys are tired of doing up downs. That's probably what I would attribute it to. Right? So we'll be doing less.

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## Quarterback of Oregon Ducks Bo Nix

Postgame Media Conference



**Q. Why were you slow out of the gate? Were their plays confusing or unexpected?**

BO NIX: Well, I think the reason we were slow out the gate is because we had six plays in the first quarter. And that really would be all. They weren't doing necessarily anything, you know, we haven't ever seen or like, you know, they didn't reinvent the wheel or anything.

They just -- our plays were set up for some other things. And then we just had to get settled in and we had to find things that worked against what they were doing. And once that happened, we put up a lot of stuff.

**Q. I was just curious what the conversations on the sideline were after and what those conversations were and how confident you were things would get corrected?**

BO NIX: We were extremely confident. We just felt like we just needed to get a first down and then we'd be rolling and that's what happened.

**Q. (Question cornering Troy Franklin.)**

BO NIX: Well, I think it's a credit to those other receivers and tight-ends playing out there. They can't just completely take away him or they'll get hurt by somebody else. And we've shown that over and over and over.

And, you know, Troy's strengths are, you know, really good. He's great in one-on-one situations. He just finds a way, somehow, to make that explosive play in a game and really help himself out with the yardage total. But everybody else, I felt like as receivers and tight-ends, you know, everybody contributed today, everybody played a key role and the ball was just being spit out to a bunch of different people.

**Q. This next week, what do you think is the most important thing for you guys to get out of this?**

BO NIX: I think just, you know, growing as a unit, finding the details that we got to fix. And, you know, going into this next week, making sure that we fix those so that, you know, we don't keep making consistent mistakes.

**Q. (Question concerning Jordan James.)**

BO NIX: Yeah, he did really well. You know, he contributes when his number's called. He's a great, you know, next guy up after Bucky. And, you know, those two guys are, obviously, filling a bigger role now, you know, with Noah's unfortunate circumstance. But, you know, those guys are ready to fill that role and they're really good running backs.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

BO NIX: Well, we've been practicing that play for a while. You know, just heavy play action. I felt like he would pop in the back and that's what happened, the defensive back had blind eyes, he went up and made a heck of a catch. And that's the kind of stuff that Ferg's capable of doing. We just got to find, you know, ways to get him the ball.

**Q. Simple question. How do you think of your overall performance?**

BO NIX: It was solid. I felt like I could have contributed a little bit more early, that way we wouldn't have sputtered. But, you know, obviously, looking back, that's -- you know, hindsight is 20/20. But I felt like just a few of those incompletions, you know, could have either ran or found ways to, you know, either given them a better ball or complete the pass.

But, you know, that's one thing that, you know, one of my goals, is to play extremely efficient and keep the ball off the ground, get the ball to where it's supposed to get to. You know, I felt like I was confident going into the game, and then when they -- you know, as we adjusted, as we got throughout the second quarter and things settled down, you know, I felt like I got my eyes back to where they were supposed to get to.



And, you know, just making sure I was seeing the things the right way and making sure that each play had a life of its own and, you know, go out there and execute it to the best of my ability. You know, obviously, you always -- you miss a few and you want to go back to a few, but fortunately for us, a win's a win. And, you know, 5-0 start is exactly what you prepare for. So I'm not going to complain about that.

**Q. You literally have started more games than any other quarterback in college football. What does this next one mean for you? It's a top 10 matchup, rivalry, the way last year's game went, two Heisman contending quarterbacks. What does this stadium that you're about to be on mean to you?**

BO NIX: Well, I think, you know, it's the most important game because it's the next one. And each, you know, game has a life of its own. Each game, you know, has to be treated like it's the Super Bowl. And, you know, it's a good thing for us that, you know, we can kind of reset with this off-week and go into it, you know, fresh and ready to go.

But I believe they're in the same boat. So, you know, it's going to be an all-out battle, an all-out brawl. Especially after last year. And especially how both teams have started out this year. I'm extremely excited about it. I know they are, too.

But, you know, for us, it's the next thing. It's the next 20 miles of our march. And so, how can we go about it? How can we, you know, do it as efficiently and, you know, as good as we can do it? And this is a big week for us.

Everybody is going to be excited. But you got to keep the main thing the main thing. You got to go out there and play 11 on 11 and you got to execute when your number's called. And, you know, at the end of the day, it's just -- I believe, in games like this, it's who can, you know, execute the longest, who can execute for four quarters. Because it's going to come down to a play or two and, you know, which side is going to make it and it's up to us to put ourselves in positions to make those plays.

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## Wide Receiver of Oregon Ducks Troy Franklin Postgame Media Conference

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**Q. What does it feel like to come home and put together a performance like this, but also your team as well?**

TROY FRANKLIN: It felt pretty good. Got the good win. Came home, got to perform in front of some family and friends. So that was pretty cool.

**Q. Slow start to the game. And then in the second half, you guys really poured it on. What was just the difference between the two halves?**

TROY FRANKLIN: I think it was just the -- you know, those openers are kind of tricky. I think we just kind of got off to a slow start because -- you know, probably good to them, they did their job. But after that, we just kind of -- the message on the sideline was just to stay locked in, you know, stay focused.

We knew we were going to get started somehow. It was just a matter of when it was going to come. But, yeah, it was just to stay focused, locked in. We knew we were going to be rolling soon.

**Q. (Question concerning when Bo Nix was talking on the telephone and also about Troy Franklin's 46-yard touchdown.)**

TROY FRANKLIN: For sure. Well, I really asked him -- I was asking him if he was talking to Coach Lock. And, yeah, I was telling him that they were playing, like, kind of really soft and that the fallouts were there.

And the 46-yard touchdown, kind of just ran my route, executed it. When I stuttered, I guess the corner overlapped Tez I was just wide open on it. You know, so -- yes, sir, just did my job and we executed it.