

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Sunday, November 27, 2022
Stanford, California, USA

Coach David Shaw Postgame Media Conference



BYU 35, Stanford 26.

DAVID SHAW: Good morning. First of all, winning and losing always goes on the head coach. That's why they keep head coaching records. People that don't know and don't watch or don't stay up to watch don't understand this football team and the record is not who these guys are.

Out there tonight, I saw guys giving it their all, absolute all. You know, lost Walter Rouse in pregame warmups. Gutted through last week; just couldn't go today.

John Humphreys couldn't go today. We lost two more guys during the course of the game. Our team never batted an eyelash. They fought the entire time.

I couldn't be more proud. Like I said, people on the outside won't understand the connection with these guys, that they have with each other, that we have with the coaching staff. Very proud of the effort tonight.

It wasn't enough. Played a lot better this game, particularly on the offensive side. Our quarterback, as we've seen when he gets protection, he can make some throws. Guys made plays. Can't say enough about Mitch and his transformation to a true running back, picking up pass protection again today, running tough, running physical.

Defensively we just kept having guys come out and more guys go in and play, and they played hard.

But credit to BYU for making more plays than we did.

Just informed the team that I just coached my last game at Stanford. It's been a great 16 years. It really has.

It took a while to get up here because I basically had to hug the entire football team one at a time. This is a decision that was really made this week. Two weeks ago I never would have thought we'd be having this conversation right now. But really, the last three, four days, a lot of prayer, conversations with my wife, Kori, and this one phrase just kept coming to me: It's time. It's time.

This program is in a better position than it looks. The transfer portal will be very, very enticing to a lot of people. There are programs that are already illegally back door recruiting; have been doing it for months. I hope a lot of these guys stay. We'll have guys leave for the NFL, we'll have guys graduate, and we'll have a couple of the older guys make other decisions.

But I think the core of this football team can be very, very good. Can be very good. You saw a lot of them playing out there this year, some as true freshmen, some as sophomores, a lot of really good football players.

Excited to see what they can do in the future. Excited about the conversations that we've had on campus with our administration, with the athletic director Bernard Muir, finding ways to utilize the transfer portal the Stanford way. You have to be active in the transfer portal nowadays to be competitive. Proud of our president, President Tessier-Lavigne, being open to that, conversations with Rick Shaw, dean of admissions, and open to it and finding a way to do it.

We've talked about NIL. We've talked about a lot of things, working to continue to improve our game-day experience here at Stanford. So really proud of those things, those conversations, those initiatives. Proud of the guys we have here. We're not that far away. I'm still saying we. We are not that far away.

That being said, as of right now, there's no desire for me to go coach another team. That's not what this is about. I'm going to spend a lot more time with my family. Got some other things I would love to do. But excited to be home a little bit more, help around a little bit more, then sometime in the future we'll decide what the next opportunity is.

But for now, couldn't be more grateful to the Stanford community, all the players, all the staff and faculty, the other coaches. Just walking around our building, our building is a Hall of Fame. We've got Hall of Fame coaches in every sport, left and right. It's just so exciting to be with that group, and I appreciate that group. Appreciate my family for putting up with this ridiculous profession for a

 . . . when all is said, we're done.®

long time.

Really looking forward to watching this team. Looking forward to spending time at home. We'll really see what's next.

I'll open it up for questions.

Q. What was the final straw for you making this decision? What kind of pushed you over -- you said you made it a couple days ago.

DAVID SHAW: I'm not going to accept the premise of the question. There's no final straw. There's no pushing over the edge. I think most of you know, like I don't come up here and make things up. I don't come up here to mislead you all. I come up here and am pretty straightforward, and I'll continue to do that. And what I told you is the honest truth.

A week ago I wasn't here. Off-season plans, what we're doing, who we're recruiting, how we're going forward. Really was less than a week, and as I sat before Thanksgiving and on Thanksgiving and I prayed about it and I thought about it, I talked to my wife about it, and with every hour it seemed, before Thanksgiving, on Thanksgiving, it even was more cemented in my head. And God's honest truth, that was the phrase that kept coming to me was, it's time.

It's been great. It's been a great run. There are a lot of people that think this program is down. That's what our record says. But I look at the components. I look at the people here, the support that I'm hearing coming from our athletic director, from our university president, the people that are behind the scenes. We're not that far away.

But once again, a week ago, 10 days ago, I was gung-ho to be the person to lead us there, and over the last few days I realized it was time. It was time for me to step aside, time for the next group to come in, and hopefully whoever they hire next wins more games than I do. That would be awesome. I would love that.

Q. Could you touch on the difficulties of adjusting with the evolution of college football and how it changed throughout your career?

DAVID SHAW: Once again, I'll be honest. I'm not going to sidestep the question. It's been difficult, but it's been difficult on everybody. Stanford historically doesn't change quickly. We are methodical. We don't want to change and then change and then change. If we're going to make a change, we're going to look at it, we're going to measure twice and cut once and make sure we're doing the right

thing for the university, the right thing for our students, the right thing for our student-athletes, the right thing for our programs.

There's been a lot of change, and particularly the last two years, two and a half years. Like I said, I've been proud of where these conversations have gone to be competitive in the new landscape. It's been a whirlwind. There are a lot of coaches right now on a lot of teams that are doing really well and going to bowl games, and talked to a lot of guys, and many of them have no idea what's going to happen in the next six months. The words roster management used to mean something for us. Right now, nobody knows what that means. I mean, yeah, you've heard Nick Saban complain about it. You've heard Kirby Smart complain about it. You've heard everybody complain about it. No one knows what's going to happen on their teams in the next six months.

So as slowly as Stanford has changed, we're trying to do it the right way. But everybody in college sports right now, in particular football, college football, a little antsy. The combination of NIL and then the illegal pay for play that people are calling NIL and the transfer portal is a really, really interesting combination that everyone is dealing with.

Q. Just to follow up, is there anything that you personally would like or looking back would have changed sooner maybe just to kind of combat -- not that you knew what the future was because none of us do.

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, no. That's not how I'm wired. I'm a windshield guy. I'm not a rear view mirror guy. What's best is prologue: Shakespeare. But what's past is behind us, and all you can do is learn from it and grow from it. Talking about changing it, it's a waste of time. I don't like to waste time.

Q. How much of your decision is about the things you're talking about now, it's just a much different sport that you're trying to coach in now, and how much of it is just the performance hasn't been what you wanted it to be the last few years?

DAVID SHAW: It doesn't have to be either one of those. I would be wrong to say that to some degree those played into it, but those weren't the main things. The main thing is what I said. Many of you in this room, I recognize some of you that have covered the sport for a while. Head coaching years I think are only second to president years, right? One year is like five. My first nine, honestly, were -- there was a lot of success. It was still hard. Those were long years.

I grew up in the NFL really before I came to college. I was in the NFL two years out of college and nine years in the NFL. The one thing about the NFL is that when the season is over, the season is over. My wife and I would talk, sometimes I could just get -- she would say, you've got time, and I would just sleep. I would just sleep for days. Just days. Then she would say, are you here yet? I would say, no, not yet.

A couple days later she would say, are you back? I'd say, I'm back, and she'd say, I've got a list of things for you to do, because we had an off-season. There's no such thing as an off-season in college football. College coaches, and thankfully there's some common sense in the last six months where we put a dead period in after this last week, because otherwise coaches would be on the road tomorrow or Monday.

As it is right now, we're going to be on the road on Friday. For some it's Friday it's on the road, come back, bowl game, get a couple days off, on the road again, come back, get ready for spring football, and the next break you get is spring break.

16 years of running a program, 16 years of being responsible for everything and everybody catches up to you. I'm not burnt out by any stretch of the imagination. I'm healthy and feel good. But at the same time, 16 years is a long time -- 12 as a head coach, 16 here. I'm so proud of our accomplishments, so proud of our student-athletes, so proud of the guys that have done gone on and done other things in the NFL and outside of the NFL in different walks of life.

But like I said, the phrase just kept coming back to me that gave me peace, which was, it's time.

Q. Any possibility of you working with Stanford athletics in any other capacity? Are there any roles you'd be interested in filling in the future? How do you plan to stay tied to this university that's meant so much to you even though you're no longer in this head coaching capacity?

DAVID SHAW: Well, I'll still continue to give to the Buck/Cardinal club, and I'll be around. Got a great relationship with Bernard Muir, and if he ever needs anything from me, would absolutely love to -- I don't know about a specific role or true capacity. That sounds like employment right now. I'm kind of anti-employment for a little bit.

But I love this place. I love what it stands for. I love how we do what we do. I love the people that are here. This is the place that nurtures and develops people to go out and

change the world. Andrew Luck, he and I were going to a big game function last Thursday. We were just standing outside with Mr. Muir and just looking around, and he just said, I love this place. There's an energy here. There's a desire here to do things, to do special things, the collaboration in every field is special.

I'm an alum. I'm proud of this place. I love this place. Don't plan on moving anytime soon. Kids appreciate that.

But yeah, I don't see a specific role necessarily, but I have so many close relationships here, staff, coaches of other sports. It's one of my favorite things to do, many of you have seen me, is to go to Stanford sporting events. I'm excited to watch our basketballs and volleyballs and soccers. Real excited about the up coming lacrosse season, baseball, softball, tennis. This is a special place. I'll be around.

Q. What will you miss about this job? Obviously it's meant a lot to you and you've done it for so long.

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, that's the easy part. It's people. I just talked about it. This place attracts special people. It took me so long to come up here because here's a three-win team who is just in tears and appreciative of not just me, but what the staff has done with these young men.

Yeah, that was probably the hardest part about the decision. I love going to work every single day. I say this and I've said this at this podium before, certain places that you work and certain people that you work with sometimes that you get to the door and you grab the door handle and you go, okay, here we go, and you walk in. Never happened here in 12 years. Hadn't happened. Just walk in the door every single day, love the staff, both coaches and non-coaches. Love this team, the guys, the personalities, the intelligence, the silliness.

That was the hardest part about this decision, is there were some young players on this team that I really, really wanted to coach. Really, really wanted to finish their arc. Every player has an arc. There's some young guys on this team, especially in the freshmen and sophomore classes that haven't even scratched the surface yet that I think are going to be special.

That was the hard part. But at the same time, it was time.

Q. Do you believe with the changes that are going on in college football, do you believe Stanford can get back to the level that you guys were at in 2010, 2015, '16, '17 range?

DAVID SHAW: Yes.



Q. What will it take to do that?

DAVID SHAW: Growth. And it's not going to be immediate. We've proven that we can recruit at a high level here. We had the best class in the Pac-12 last year after a three-win season. The last decade you could say arguably if we're top two or three in our conference with our academic -- I don't use the word restrictions -- academic standards, and now we may not need 25 or 30 guys from the portal.

Might be the right five. Recruit at a high level as we have, add to the team. If we could have added one more running back, added one more interior defensive lineman, added one more offensive lineman for our depth and a couple other key positions, boy, who knows what would have happened. If we'd have kept our running backs healthy, I firmly believe we'd be going to a bowl game.

But if you can recruit at a high level and add to your team with the right group of players, yeah, we can go compete.

Q. Have you had some time to reflect this week in what are going to be some of the top moments and wins and other things you're going to remember most fondly about the 16 years?

DAVID SHAW: Boy, there's so many. So many. Even a couple in the last few years. I talked to the guys again today about moments. You play this game because you love it. You play this game because you want to win. You play this game because you want to be great, but you also play this game because you can create moments in this sport that you can't create doing anything else.

The moment that we created at Notre Dame this year, special. Those guys are going to remember that forever. National TV, underdogs, winning at Notre Dame. A really good Notre Dame team that people are seeing how good that team is, winning the game, and really controlled the game.

The entire COVID year. If we didn't have Stanford guys on this team, we would have folded. Didn't fold. Got an erroneous positive test. Well, nobody has still been able to tell me exactly what happened, so our quarterback can't play the first game against Oregon. Gets cleared after never really testing positive ever because that test disappeared, and then gets turned loose on Thursday, so misses an entire week of practice.

We go 0-2 with all the COVID stuff and we get kicked out of the county, get kicked out of the state basically, then go on a four-game win streak. It was magical. Insane but

magical.

Pac-12 Championships, Rose Bowl wins, somebody -- I forget all these things, the numbers, but the number of wins against top 10 teams, big-time games, big-time players, coaching a couple college football Hall-of-Famers, coaching a couple guys that I believe will be NFL Hall-of-Famers, too. Coaching a bunch of guys that have gone on to start their own companies.

Multiple guys are doctors now. (Indiscernible) is working down the street as a doctor. There's too many -- I'm just rattling off the top of my head, but there are too many to put in one box, but that's what's special about being here, is you're going to have special players, special human beings. They're going to do great things in the sport and great things outside the sport.

Q. You're very loyal to your assistants and staff members; do you think that maybe there could have been an opportunity to change things along the way even if it was --

DAVID SHAW: Come on, man. You're going to be that guy, huh? Next question.

Q. I was going to ask about the assistants, but in a different way. Talk about how much are you going to maybe miss working with guys like Pritchard, guys like Lance Anderson, these guys you've worked with for so long? How much are you going to miss days where you're scheming stuff with them, talking stuff, planning? How much are you going to miss -- you'll still see them, but different relationship now. How much are you going to miss those connections?

DAVID SHAW: Yeah, that's one of the hardest parts, is that you spend more time preparing than you actually spend time coaching, and watching hours and hours of film and debating and discussing and trying to improve and trying to be better and looking at what you did right, looking at what you did wrong. Those are just great conversations.

That's part of what's really fun about being with the right group of people. Some people believe if you don't have the right record then you have to change those people, but a lot of those people on the staff have National Championship rings. A lot of people on this staff have Pac 12 Championship rings. A lot of people on this staff have coached guys in this building, in this conference that have broken records. I'm not saying this is me, but during 12 years here, we've broken records in every phase of the game: rushing records, passing records, sack records, turnover records, passing, passing defense, field goal distance, return yardage.



We've had two national returners of the year here, should have been three, but they didn't have the award when Chris Owusu was here because he would have won the award, also.

That staff that enjoyed working with every single day, accomplished a lot here.

Q. Is there one word you can use to describe your time here?

DAVID SHAW: Let me mull over that a little bit.

Q. What was Bernard Muir's reaction when you told him? What kind of reaction did he have?

DAVID SHAW: I'll keep that private. Bernard and I have worked really well together over the years and it was a good discussion. It was a good discussion.

Q. Who would you like to see take your place in this role or what kind of person maybe?

DAVID SHAW: I'll keep that to myself, also. Mr. Muir is going to have a lot of people raising their hand for this job. I'll lend any advice I can, but I also trust his process that he'll go through to pick the right leader for this locker room of leaders. That's a big part about being here is you're not just leading people, you're leading a locker room full of future leaders.

As I said earlier, you look at the roster of coaches in this athletic department, it's a special group. You've got to find the right person to come in and lead our football team.

Let me get back to you on that one. We'll have a press conference at some point this week, we'll announce, but yeah, summing up my time here in one word is a tough one. It's a tough one. A lot of great accomplishments, a lot of great people, a lot of great moments that nobody saw.

The influence that my coaches, my staff and myself had on our young people is probably the thing I'm going to be the most proud of, the adults that we turned out of this place and poured into society. Paulson Adebo was here tonight. He's here with the Saints and they play the 49ers tomorrow, and just to see him come by and hug all the coaches and thank us for preparing him for the NFL but then also life, and that's one thing I think this entire staff can be very, very proud of.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

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Coach Kalani Sitake Postgame Media Conference



BYU 35, Stanford 26

KALANI SITAKE: Well, good win. We challenged the guys to do something that we hadn't done yet, so felt good to come here and get a win on the farm.

I thought we obviously had some guys get banged up, but they executed the game plan. Stanford made things difficult for us, and I felt like we could run away with it, but they did a good job powering back. They've got some really good coaches and good players, too. Just thankful that we were able to get this win. Looking forward to the bowl prep.

Funny, the destination really not that important to me or the opponent right now. It's just extending the bowl prep and having extra practices. That's going to be key for our program, especially for our developmental (indiscernible).

Any questions.

Q. Is Jaren done for the season?

KALANI SITAKE: No. I think Jaren is going to be fine for the whole year.

Q. Will he be available for the bowl?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, I think when we were looking at him coming back, I think it was going to be difficult for him to function at a high level, so we made the decision to keep him out. Feel good about it. But he feels good about being able to come back.

Q. Nothing comes easy for you guys; looked like you were dominating and tightened up. Why is that do you think?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, I think you've got to give credit to a lot of guys that played. We ran into Stanford on senior day, on senior night. They obviously wanted to win this game, and knowing that they're not going to a bowl game, I thought they put everything they could put into this game

plan, and we were not able to be dominant on the defensive side.

I thought it was good to be able to stop the run, but with the talent of Tanner McKee, those guys can (indiscernible). That's pretty much what they did, I mean, looking at the amount of times that they threw. Just didn't get enough disruption on the (indiscernible).

But I think for the most part, guys felt good about defending them, making it hard on them. And then just on the offense, guys on offense felt really good about the run game, so just going through that and I didn't complain about it.

Q. (Indiscernible) short yardage situations?

KALANI SITAKE: Well, yeah, we tried a lot of different things and maybe just simple is the way to go. I thought maybe overthought a little bit. Good to get some stuff on film, but we need to start converting those and flipping the conversion our way a little bit more.

Not happy about that, but something to work on for next time. I just like the way Chris and (indiscernible) ran the ball. I thought they made some big plays. I thought there was maybe one missed tackle, one breaking a tackle to spring a big one.

But I think Stanford, they started to play tough on defense and made their tackles, and it was kind of a battle towards the end.

Q. Chris hasn't been a (indiscernible) until really tonight. What kind of changed to make that happen?

KALANI SITAKE: I thought he ran really physical last week. I think the injury and having him be out, I think he's got a little bit of -- taking out his anger on the field, which I'm really good with.

I got one more goal with him, and I thought he played physical, put his head down and move on to -- showed some physical play. I thought the O-line did some good things in run block, and that's why we ran it so many times.



We only threw the ball 12 times. I thought that was good for the run game. I don't think we ever let him run 23 times. I felt like he was getting stronger towards the end. We had some success with guys that can do that.

Q. Is Lopini done for the year?

KALANI SITAKE: He was sick and not able to go so he missed a lot of practice this week due to illness. That was the main reason.

Q. The sequence right before halftime where they hit the field goal, should the clock have started up again?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, I was talking to the refs about it because it didn't seem like they had enough time, but the malfunction of the clock allowed them to get one more 2nd and allowed them to get their kick team ready.

I was looking for an explanation, and from my understanding you're not allowed to do a play with that much time, three seconds or so. I think the malfunction and adding the one second created time for them to get their kick team ready, and I took a time-out.

They were going to start the clock on the whistle and Stanford just snapped the ball at the whistle, so they were going to get a play and just wanted to get a good block in, and in the end the kicker made a kick.

It's just unfortunate the timing and everything, but from what I understood -- and the refs explained it to me, and that's just the malfunction of the clock, so it didn't work in their -- to benefit them this time.

Q. Along those same lines, what was the explanation from the refs on the touchdown grab in the fourth quarter?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, I'm not in the booth and seeing all of it, so from the replays that we saw on the field, it didn't seem like his toe or anything touched. They must have saw something. It happens.

Q. What's the initial insight on Keionte? I saw he got banged up a bit.

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, a lot of guys got banged up, but from what we were seeing, nothing -- Jaren and others, I don't feel like those guys are out for the year.

Q. Does this feel like kind of a positive note for a season that's had a lot of ups and downs? Does it seem like this team is starting to play at its best?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, I felt like we played some moments at our best. My goal is to put 60 minutes together, that we could do that consistently. I think the game plan we were going through, I don't know if we planned on running, how many times to the 55s, but if we need to we can. I like the fact that the guys (indiscernible) the play, and I thought we were able to get some pressure on the quarterback on defense. Thought special teams was clean. Overall a good win.

Like I said, this was something that BYU team (indiscernible) beat Stanford, so these guys did it.

Looking at the year as a whole now, there's a lot of guys that predicted that would happen, and now they're all surprised by it. By what I've seen from the beginning to the end, there's been a lot of progress in the program, a lot of things we know will be better going into this bowl game and to get ready for spring games in 2023, but focus on this bowl game right now.

Q. You mentioned last week wanting to see Jacob Conover throw a little bit more. When he came into the game, was it just by nature how the game played out that he didn't get more throws?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, I don't know that that was the time, but looking at it, Jaren threw it 11 times, so I don't know if he planned on that. I felt like looking at the offensive game plan we just felt like we were really good with the run game and making (indiscernible), so that was the outcome right there.

It doesn't really matter to me. I just want to get the win. I feel like we could have made it a lot easier on ourselves (indiscernible) making plays and trying to stay in it.

Q. What becomes of the schedule for you and the staff and the program between now and when the bowl gets announced next week?

KALANI SITAKE: Yeah, we've got to get back to work. Obviously there's guys that got to heal up, but I think we take advantage of getting back to work and working so the young guys getting better at fundamentals and technique. There's going to be quite a few guys with the redshirt rule that are going to be able to play, and what's holding them out from playing, especially from special teams, is that they just weren't able to practice enough to understand the scheme.

So going into this last -- you'll see a lot of new faces, guys that are going to be here definitely for next year and are committed. (Indiscernible) four games, and there's some

that we've got to hold them out for that, but I feel really good about the guys that are going to be able to play and take the field.

Q. Are you expecting any opt-outs or guys going in the transfer portal? Are you expecting that?

KALANI SITAKE: I haven't heard that from any of the guys. We spend quite a bit of time, especially in the bye week, talking to them, and so I don't anticipate that, but that's kind of the thing.

We'll communicate and talk and then obviously decide what's best for the players and what's best for the team that may happen, I don't know, but I'm not anticipating it right now.

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Jaren Hall Isaac Rex

Postgame Media Conference



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Q. Jaren, first off, obviously you didn't play in the fourth quarter. How are you feeling?

JAREN HALL: Still sore, but precautionary, wanted to get out before anything else happened just to take a look at it. (Indiscernible).

Q. Did you want to play in the fourth quarter or was it coach's decision to kind of play pull you --

JAREN HALL: Mutual. Of course I wanted to, but health is first thing. (Indiscernible) just couldn't do it in the moment.

Q. Kalani said you had X-rays done.

JAREN HALL: Yeah, everything was good.

Q. So you playing in the bowl game, that's still possible?

JAREN HALL: Absolutely.

Q. What was it like to see your offensive line dominate so you didn't have to throw --

JAREN HALL: I mean, we knew we would have to run the ball coming into this game. Couldn't have dreamed of -- that was insane, how well they were moving the line of scrimmage. These guys blocking the edges, of course blocking across, opening up gaps. It was fun to watch. Hand the ball off to Chris (indiscernible) and just seeing it open up is a thing of beauty. Makes my life very easy.

Q. For both of you guys, what was the motivation coming into this game?

ISAAC REX: Not (indiscernible) a Pac 12 team, obviously sort of a good team. BYU has never beat Stanford before, so that was a first. We kind of talked about that, since the

Boise game, like making history with little steps. (Indiscernible) in terms of the rival, and then Utah Tech and then Stanford.

So we've been really motivated since that tough October, and it's been cool to see the team just rally around each other and have a lot of fun.

Q. Isaac, your second touchdown catch. Was that by chance the same play call as where you hurt your ankle against USC?

ISAAC REX: No, it was different. We actually did run that play. But yeah, this week has been crazy because a lot of emotions. You know, like it's the anniversary of (indiscernible). But, man, today went a lot better than last year, so credit to Jaren, credit to the team. It was a fun game.

Q. What were your thoughts going through your head when they did call that team play?

ISAAC REX: I was like, oh, wait, this is the same play. But it was on my corner route. Yeah, it was good defense by the other guy. Yeah, I was like, oh, this is the same play. Hopefully I can get a touchdown. But it's all good.

Q. Jaren, what's causing the short yardage issues for this offense?

JAREN HALL: Just not making plays, not getting yards. You can rush 360 yards and then short yardage, something we definitely need to figure out. Got one game left to do it.

But yeah, just lack of execution (indiscernible) one thing we could point to. But yeah, it's been disappointing.

Q. Isaac, we were having a little fun with Jaren about the rushing effort. What was working so well with the run game?

ISAAC REX: I felt like we were really physical tonight. We obviously had a chip on our shoulder because earlier in the year we weren't running the ball as effectively. The



emphasis for the O-line, for tight ends, for running backs, is let's get that run game going, help Jaren out, help the receivers out, and it worked tonight.

It was a thing of beauty, like Jaren said, watching it unfold. Chris, you could see his jersey after the game just green and red and white all over it. He was killing it tonight. Those guys are warriors, and we wanted to open some holes up for them and make it easy for them.

Q. Jaren, why do you think nothing really came easy for this team this whole year?

JAREN HALL: I just think we're a team that can handle it. You talk about why things happen in life, and I think there's a lot of stuff you learn from it. You talk stuff off the field personally, you talk stuff on the field, I just think we're tough dudes that can get through hard things in life, and it just so happened that the 2022 football season was a tough thing for all of us, so I think there's things we can all learn from that.

But I think we're a team that can handle that. Obviously we came up short in so many ways, but that's life. It makes this win and last week's so good, being able to come back like that and make some positives out of it.

Q. Isaac, this could be potentially the last Power Five team depending on the bowl. Do you think this win is important to the momentum next year or not really?

ISAAC REX: Yeah, I feel like any win is important for the upcoming classes. You want to show the younger guys this is how you do it. You want to send the seniors out the right way. It's important to win. Everything goes better when we win. Yeah, it was awesome tonight.

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