

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 18, 2023
Stanford, California, USA

Coach Troy Taylor Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 15, Cal 27

Q. Hi, coach. Your first year here is the only year you will be in the Pac-12. Is there a weird feeling for you now? And then of course it will be the ACC next year. So how do you feel about your first year in Pac-12, which will be your last, and then the adventure you'll have next year?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, pretty focused on right now, but was in the Pac-12 for quite a while as a player and coach, so very familiar with the conference. Love the conference. Love the teams, what they always brought, great players, great coaches, great universities.

So as I said before, it's really sad that the conference, this is the end. But really happy that Cal along with us will be in the ACC together. We'll be able to maintain an incredible rivalry.

Q. I know you haven't watched the tape, but how would you diagnose the issues with the offense tonight?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, didn't make enough plays. All started with the run game. Been trying to get something going in the run game. They were able to really defend our run and be in two-high safeties, and when they can do that can be very soft in coverage and keep everything in front of them.

It's difficult to create big plays. So it all starts with the run game. They beat us up front. We didn't make enough plays. We certainly had our opportunities.

Q. The performance of Jadyn Ott today, what makes him such a difficult runner to contain?

TROY TAYLOR: Outstanding player. Tough, physical guy. Great agility. Really good. Mendoza, the quarterback, is really good. Played well beyond his years. Really good players on their offense. They do a great job with the scheme as well.

Q. You had Cal backed up in a fourth and eight on their last touchdown drive that they converted, and then a third and foal from the eight. Talk about those plays and the back breaking...

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, those are big plays in the game. You're right, having a fourth and eight and brought some pressure and they were able to protect. He made a great throw on a crossing route, a bang-slash kind of deal, right on the money.

Yeah, you got to get home quickly and can't give guys that much time to throw the ball when you're bringing pressure. Yeah, it was a huge, huge play, no doubt. Fourth and eight. It was one of a few that were important.

Q. Josh Karty had an incredible game. Love to hear what you think about having a player like that that can...

TROY TAYLOR: He's amazing. He really is. He's so consistent. On the first field goal I looked at him like, hey, can you make this. He gave me a nod and comes out and drills it. He's unbelievable. His professionalism, preparation, he'll visualize things for an hour. He has a routine he sticks in to. He'll kick in the NFL for 18 years. He's unbelievable.

Q. How close was Ashton to not playing and then to play the whole game?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, I think at the end -- coming into the day we felt good about it. He felt ready to do it. He played really hard and played well. Tough kid.

But I know he's disappointed, but he did some good things.

Q. Coach, I don't want this to be a situation where you're questioning the referees, but two game-changing plays where Mendoza fumbled. One looked like a fumble six and looked like the Tom Brady situation where they said it's incomplete; the other one they called targeting.

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah.

Q. How disappointing and how gut wrenching were these two plays?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, there are lots of opportunities. Obviously they have a much better view and they replay them, so I'm assuming they made the right calls.

I know it happens really fast, so it's difficult. They're not always going to be right just like we're not always right.

But, yeah, those were definitely pivotal lays. I'm glad the quarterback is okay. That was a pretty physical hit.

Q. What were they emotions like going through the first big game on the Stanford side?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, when you first walk out on the field and see a school you've been affiliated with for a long time it's a little strange. Once the game starts it's kind of all faceless opposition to me. Just numbers and what they're doing defensively and all these things.

It wasn't too strange.

Q. Lost Tristan on the targeting call. Talk about the impact that had.

TROY TAYLOR: He's our rock, you know. Not just on defense, probably the whole team. He's just our emotional leader. He cares so much. Does everything the right way. We can always count on him, so that was a big loss for sure.

Q. Just talk about the play you drew up for Bachmeier for the touchdown. What did you see there?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, we needed a play and ended up getting one-on-one coverage on the inside. We didn't get that a lot, and Ash made a nice throw. He has a really good protection, and then I didn't see the end of the catch. Must have been a fantastic catch.

He has an option on that to take the middle of the field or break it across, and he took it and was a great throw. Really good protection on that play.

Q. You obviously have one more game left in the season. How do you bounce back from an emotional rivalry game?

TROY TAYLOR: Yeah, the way this works is you get whatever, 11, 12, maybe more games, and you treat them all the same way: Incredible preparation and they're all

important. And then hopefully you do well enough in your body of work that you can continue to play.

We're just happy that we got another opportunity to play against another really good football team that will come here. Heck of a challenge, and we'll be ready to go.

Thanks, guys. Go, Card.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports



Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Saturday, November 18, 2023
Stanford, California, USA

Joshua Karty

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 15, Cal 27

Q. Josh, what are your emotions? How you deal with a game where you personally nailed all your kicks and did your job but still lose? What were the emotions where you personally played well but the team comes up short? What's that like?

JOSHUA KARTY: It's a lot of confliction. We were just talking about it among the specs downstairs. You know, all around we had a pretty good game. Field goals, kickoffs, as well as punts; didn't have a single return; 44 yard average punt inside 22.

All around our whole unit had a really good game. It's just tough. One of those things where we have to be proud of what we put out on the field, put out on tape, but at the same time, it hurts to lose.

We're there for our brothers as well after a game like this when we didn't get the outcome we wanted.

Q. Rare bad weather game here at Stanford. Didn't seem to bother you so much. How does that change your approach?

JOSHUA KARTY: Yeah, no, I think it's the first rain game I played in here in my fourth year. It was not so much for me that it makes a difference. More so for the holder and the snapper when the balls are wet. They try and dry them the best they can. Sometimes it's harder to spin the ball for Connor Weselman, my holder.

But he adapted really well, especially for that third kick. Had a great hold; snaps were solid all day.

In extreme if it's super wet then I would have to change my form, change my technique. But it wasn't too bad today with the rain. Obviously -- well, not obviously -- but the field itself is kind of in shambles a little bit this time of year every year being a grass field, so it was pretty sandy and stuff.

But you just got to hope that everything goes well.

Q. Josh, I know you're a humble guy and a team guy. Do you sometimes sit back and say, I'm doing pretty well here. You had that long streak without a miss. Are you someone in the back of your mind looking at the next level?

JOSHUA KARTY: Yeah, of course. The next level is the dream. It's my goal to make it there, whether it's after this year or after next year. But as of right now, I'll focus on Notre Dame for next week.

Then after that, I'll have a decision to make. I'll look at the whole picture of every thing and just get all the advice from all the people closest to me.

Q. Just what's the emotion like in the locker room now? Tough rivalry loss.

JOSHUA KARTY: Yeah, it sucks. You know, we weren't bowl eligible coming into this game, so the Cal rivalry that we have is really, you know, kind of a season-defining moment today.

A lot of us in the locker room -- most of us actually -- we haven't beaten Cal in their time here. I luckily have back in 2020 in the COVID year.

But this rivalry means a lot to our team, to our fan base. You know, it's one of those things where you can have an average season, but if you beat Cal a lot of people will be a lot happier than if you didn't.

It really stings for us. It would have been, you know, really, really nice to have a win in the big game for Coach Taylor in his first season here. Unfortunately didn't go our way today.

Q. Notre Dame next week. Also a legends trophy on the line. You guys won that last year. Do you think after a stinging loss in a big game it helps to have one final game with another trophy on the line? Does that help?

JOSHUA KARTY: Yeah, definitely. The two games we have to end the season, both trophy games, so there is plenty of motivation there. There is the motivation for the trophy, but also just motivation from the guys that we have.

They're very intrinsically motivated in the first place. Doesn't take a whole lot for them to want to work and put in as much effort as they possibly can.

Definitely trying to end on a high note. There is a lot to play for in this game, and we need to keep our heads high and act like that.

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Stanford, California, USA

Ashton Daniels

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 15, Cal 27

Q. Ashton, in general what's the mood of the team after this one?

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, I think you can kind of guess what it is. That's a huge game for us. We couldn't come through. We fell up short plenty of times. Extremely frustrating. Everyone is upset.

At the same time, we know we have to flush it and move on for next week.

Q. Talk about the preparation getting ready to go for this game after being a little banged up.

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, shoutout to the whole training staff. Everyone there, they've done a great job with everyone this year. They did a great job with me this week, you know, making sure that I was healthy and ready to go and braced up and protected.

So, yeah, I was in there a lot making sure that I felt good and that I felt comfortable enough to come out and play tonight.

And I did, so, yeah, huge thanks to them for making that happen.

Q. Ashton, good news is you will be able to go against Cal again; the bad news is will be in a different conference. What is your feeling about this being the last Pac-12 game? And then of course the big game next week against Notre Dame.

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, I mean, there is pros and cons to it. This is a great conference. I've been in it for two years.

Now, on the positive side, I get to play in a conference where, you know, it's a lot of great competition and a lot of teams on the east coast, so I get to go back home a little bit. I know that's how a lot of the guys feel.

So, yeah, we're excited for that. Of course we're upset that we lost our last Pac-12 game.

Then on the flip, we just have to flush it and be prepared for Notre Dame. They're an outstanding team. They're going to come in hungry and we have to be prepared for that. We need to go get a win.

We haven't won a single game at home this year. That's extremely frustrating for us and we know that, so we're going to have a lot of the motivation and fire for next week.

Q. What did you see on that long touchdown to Tiger?

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, they were in the coverage that we were expecting. Tiger had his guy beat right down the middle and I knew that all I had to do is just give him a chance.

He's an outstanding, outstanding receiver and he's extremely young. Extremely impressive that he's going to go out there and make catches like that, and that's built trust and confidence in our relationship, you know, knowing that he can do that and that he's a reliable guy that I can give a chance to and he's going to go make a play.

It's extremely comforting for me, for the whole offense, the coaching staff and all that good stuff.

Q. Just thoughts on Karty's performance even not just tonight and the season, but what does he mean to the team, his leadership, all that stuff?

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, Karty is outstanding. He's the best kicker in the nation, hands down. Shouldn't be up for any kind of vote.

You know, when we pass the 50 yard line we know there is a pretty high chance we're going to come down with some kind of points, whether it be a touchdown or a field goal.

Driving down, you know, I'm certain that even if I can't make a third down conversion, knowing we have a safety blanket like him that's going to go get us three points when



we need it the most.

You guys saw it out there tonight. Outstanding. Lights out. No matter how far, he's going to make the field goal. He's an amazing leader. Special teams did an extremely good job tonight. Unfortunately offense, we couldn't go down and make it happen at times, especially when we had great field position, all this kind of stuff.

Yeah, I'm extremely happy for him and extremely happy to see what he does in the future.

Q. You talked about not winning here at home. Huge win in Colorado and then of course last year you guys won in South Bend. So being that you guys want to defend the home field next week, there is also Notre Dame wants very revenge on you guys. Is that in the back of your minds?

ASHTON DANIELS: Yeah, we know that. Not only is it because of that, but we also know that anybody is going to want to come in here and beat us. You know, I think that we went out last year and had an amazing game.

Yeah, they're going to be pissed off, upset about that, and come out with some fire. They want to finish the season off strong, all this kind of good stuff.

But for us, I think we just have to bear down and get back to what we're used to. Clean up the fundamentals and the small things, and I think once we start tuning those things in, we're going to be an extremely successful team.

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Justin Wilcox

Postgame Media Conference



California Golden Bears 27, Stanford 15

Q. Your reaction to winning the game and remaining Bowl eligible?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Huge win. Obviously for the team goals, but also the Cal community, the players, student body, everybody. I mean, I don't know that there's a better 30 minutes to an hour in the year than when you're able to win the Big Game and retain The Axe. It's just a great feeling and I want the guys to enjoy it. For some of them, it's their first experience in the Big Game and they are understanding how much it means. It's a huge win on many levels.

Q. Can you talk about Fernando, first touchdown in his career, took a big shot and kept coming back?

JUSTIN WILCOX: He's a tough, tough kid. He took a big shot. They did all the tests. He came up. I think Ben Finley did a nice job, we finished that drive with a touchdown. Fernando jogged back up and just ready to go. "I'm going back in the game."

He's a tough kid. He's going to get better and better. He's still growing as a football player, but man, he is a competitor. He's a genuine guy, and he has the respect of his teammates.

Q. Inaudible -- what words best would describe his performance --

JUSTIN WILCOX: Oh, man, it's a big day. Dare you say, big-game hero. He's going to be in the conversation. Trond, from a year ago to right now, has made as big a jump as anybody. He cares deeply about football and the team. He's a competitive guy. It matters to him, and it's great to see a guy like that that puts in all that work.

He walked on from Park City, Utah, walked on, and was not highly recruited by any means, but just goes to show if you commit yourself to it and you have some talent, that you can make this football thing work. So I'm really proud

of him and a bunch of other guys.

Q. Jaydn drove the ball, 36, 37, a lot more than he's ever carried it before. Talk about him being able to handle that?

JUSTIN WILCOX: We knew we wanted to be able to get Jaydn the ball. He was ready for it. He welcomes that. So caught 36 and then -- excuse me, rushed it 36 times and caught a couple I think. You know, he's a talented guy. We want to make sure Jaydn touches the ball.

So when you just look at the number of plays we ran, in about half the time, he's getting it. So he makes a lot of things happen, and again, just went out there and competed like crazy. So really proud of him.

Q. How much does it help Fernando to have someone like that that he can trust?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Yeah, it's big. Fernando, the receivers, the O-line, who really start the whole thing, those guys battled today, too. It was a little sloppy at times for us. First half, especially, we were shooting ourselves in the foot. They kept playing and kept competing. Kind of like how this year has gone. Hasn't always gone our way, but the guys stayed with it and you have a guy like Jaydn, you know if you get him the ball enough, good things are going to happen.

Q. Held Stanford to 300 yards, 15 points --

JUSTIN WILCOX: I thought they played pretty dang well. I don't know if there was any one individual. I think Lu Hearn made some plays on the ball; it was great to see competing one-on-one. We got some pressure on them. Didn't sack them maybe as much. Got a couple opportunities to sack them but they got away from us.

Overall, I thought that group played real well. There weren't many busts. They hit the deep ball on us. We had it matched up. Just a good, fast receiver and the guy threw a good ball. But really other than that, held them to a field goal attempt. They have got an excellent, elite field goal kicker but I was pleased with the effort of the defense, and



the defensive coaches did a great job getting those guys ready.

Q. Fernando on the sideline; what transpired in those five to ten minutes?

JUSTIN WILCOX: The trainers take him and it's totally the trainers' call at that point, doctors. There's a bunch of them that go all their assessments and run the tests they need to run. They are talking with the player. We are not involved in that in any way.

Basically when all those tests are done, the trainer will come and tell us whether the player is available or not. So they came up and said, hey, he's up, and immediately after that, he comes jogging over, it's not lobbying but making it known that he was able to play.

Q. The final -- can you talk about that?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Yeah, this Pac 12 ending, comes up each week. We are going to continue to play the Big Game and we are all thankful for that. It just feels great to come out victorious and keep The Axe. It means so much, just watch the reaction of the people. I've said it for however many years I've been here. The reaction of the fans in the student body and the people who have associated with Cal after the game, there's nothing like it.

Q. What was challenging about tonight?

JUSTIN WILCOX: It's always going to be a challenge in rivalry games. So this is the 12th game. I think 1892 was the first one. There was a few years it wasn't played for different reasons in the early 1900s, and 55 of those 126 have been decided by (indiscernible) so nearly half, all right. So each and every time, it's going to be a battle, and we knew it would be. We knew they are going to fight. They have got good coaches and they have got good schemes and good players. We knew that coming in.

What's most important is what you do during the week to give yourself a chance to come out and play well, and at the same time I want them to learn about the Big Game and the history of it, and so we talk about all of it.

Q. What did you guys do to defend as well as you guys did?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Collective effort: Rushing, covering, playing zone, playing man, playing split safety, playing single safety. We didn't kind of line up and do one thing. Proud of the entire defense and defensive staff.

Again, it's a tough offense. Troy Taylor is a really good

offensive coach, so we knew they would have some issue plays for us, which they did.

But again, I go back to the guys competing and winning some of those one-on-one pass rush coverages. Really talented players, so I'm really proud of our guys for stepping up to the challenge.

Q. Cade Uluave is coming off best Player of the Week. Do you have a sense of when he'll be back?

JUSTIN WILCOX: I don't know yet. We're hopeful he'll be back as soon as possible. He's a good football player. He's around the ball a lot. He tackled. He tips the ball. I think he almost had an interception today. We'll hopefully get Cade back as soon as possible.

Q. Late in the game, early in the fourth quarter, you had fourth and seven, I'm sure you're weighing field goal versus going for it. How was the decision made to go for it?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Yeah, big play. We were kind of at one of those spots on the field where you're in between, whether you're going to kick a field goal, a long field goal, whether you want to go for it.

Punting at that point, it's probably not worth the yardage, and so great job on the offense hanging in there. Great protection, turn getting open. That's a huge play of the game. You're right, that's going to be probably one of the three or four that you circle.

I think we were really in a gray area, and I kind of had a yard line in my mind of where we would kick a field goal. And if we weren't, we were going to go for it. We actually ended up going backwards from the play before, and we ended up going for it and getting it. Great job by the O-line with QB and Turan for making that play.

Q. Can you talk about next week and Bowl eligibility to go to UCLA, and what will that be like?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Well, we've got to carry this momentum. I know the energy is going to be great on Monday. I think we know what's at stake and we know UCLA is going to be a really good team. We have seen them on tape enough. Hell of a coach. We know it's going to be a challenge down there, so we have to have a great week of practice and try to get as many guys healthy as we possibly can and go down there and play our best football. We'll need our best football to win.

Q. How excited are you to be in this position considering you had to win three in a row and now



you've got two of them?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Yeah, I think it speaks to the character of the guys on the team. That was a tough stretch. There were some games that didn't go the way that we probably obviously wanted them to go or felt like they could have gone had we done a few things a little bit better.

But the guys, we kept coaching them and we kind of talking about them all along. We are not going to feel sorry for ourselves. We are going to continue to hold you to high standards, and they did the same of themselves. There was no division offense, defense, special teams, this position, that position. Those guys played together, they compete and they practice and came to meetings, nobody showing up late.

U really appreciate them, and they are the reason. Because every coach would probably tell you the same thing about what you've got to do in order to finish strong, but they are the ones that have done it, and I'm really proud of them for that.

Q. How big a deal would it be if this team got a Bowl bid?

JUSTIN WILCOX: Big deal. Real big deal. That's one of our goals is winning the Bowl game. It also -- I mean, there's a number of reasons. So we are well aware of what's at stake, and I know there's going to be great energy and we've got, like I said before, we've got to go out and play our best football.

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Fernando Mendoza Postgame Media Conference



California Golden Bears 27, Stanford 15

Q. How does it feel to put your hands on The Axe again?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: Felt amazing. I mean, I can't even grasp my words right now because I saw how much it meant to everybody. When you're on that field playing, it just meant more. And for our guys, we wanted it more and so we won and we came out with The Axe.

Now, the only objective, doesn't matter if it was messy or clean but we did it, and I'm extremely proud of our guys.

Q. Your first three TD game in the season and big game for Sean. Can you talk about your connection with him?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: Yeah, so Sean and I have always been great friends. I regard him as one of my best friend. Last year we were on scout team together and through spring ball and fall camp and we were both on the three squad.

We built amazing chemistry together. So when he's out there, I trust that I know what he's going to do, along with all our receivers. Jaydn Ott had an amazing touchdown on a slant and Todge (ph) did his thing and so did Jack Andrews.

Trond is a special player -- inaudible -- and they were putting him in one-on-one coverage the entire game. I thought that was a mistake, no offense to Stanford but I thought that was a little bit of a mistake and we took advantage of that.

Q. Can you talk about what it means as a freshman quarterback to have Jaydn Ott back there and knowing what he can do?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: So Jaydn and I came in together. He was an early enrollee but having that freshman connection and hanging around the same people

and just being great friends, Jaydn is a great guy. I know he gets a lot of media attention but he's a standup guy and standup character off the field and on the field.

So it's a pleasure handing the ball off. When you have such a threat like Jaydn in the backfield it gives us one-on-one opportunities to Trond and to Jaydn and to Todge (ph). It's just amazing to have him in the backfield. He's a huge asset to our team.

Q. In the third quarter, I did not expect to you come back. What transpired for you from the time you got hit to going on the sideline to getting back in the game?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: First of all, what's up. I will say, that play was a poor read by myself. I was too late on the rail route by Jeremiah so I decided to scramble, and I'm not going to lie, it was a hell of a hit. I just kind of -- I mean, almost -- I was upset I let's go off the ball but thankfully and thank God it was targeting. Then I went in the tent and did some special tests (inaudible) -- and so I went back out there and pulled for my teammates, and I always pull for my teammates.

Q. You talked earlier this week about how you knew about the Big Game a little bit when you were in Miami. But last year, kind of I think you used the word "astounded" by how much it meant to people. Now that you've played in it for the first time, how much more do you absorb the history?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: I've got a new adjective for you. Enlightened. I didn't realize how many people want to pick you up after the game. I didn't realize how great it was to see everyone storm on the field and pick you up. That's truly one of the best moments of my life, and I'm just so lucky to share it with my brothers.

And I just can't thank my family, my brothers and O-line and I want to give thanks to God because without Him I wouldn't be here in this position. Just love everybody. Love all of the guys.

Q. I think I saw you being held up on your teammates'

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shoulders with the fans, what was it like from that perspective, seeing pure joy from the student body out there?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: It was amazing. I believe that football and college athletics, as a general, it's a great embodiment of school spirit and I believe that. We'll fight for the school every day of the week, any time, any day and wasn't afraid to show football dominance over Stanford today. That meant a lot to the student body and administration and everyone involved in Berkeley and Cal, so it meant the world to me.

Q. Couple touchdowns, talk about the tight end Trond Grizzell.

FERNANDO MENDOZA: Yeah, Trond, he is a great receiver. He's a vertical threat. So we had a couple shot plays drawn up for him. He took one of -- we called it the spear. He went across the field and kind of bodied it and took it in and scored. That was amazing. All of my other receivers, Jaydn, Todge and Jack, they all had great plays throughout the game. I was really happy I was able to connect to them all.

Q. Stanford gave you a lot of looks up front and in the box. How did that open up the field for you and how did that make running easier?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: It opened up the field for us because we were going tempo and so we knew what they were going to do on our first tempo play and second tempo play. However, especially in third downs, they were showing a lot of pressure.

But I just can't give thanks enough to my O-line. They gave me enough time especially in that crucial fourth down (indiscernible) I believe it was a pretty catch across the middle of the field.

So they gave me a lot of looks, but as a growing young quarterback, I was happy to cross (ph) it through the game, and as the game went on I was able to process that, regurgitate it to Coach Wilcox and Coach Bass and we were able to get it dialed up and then execute it.

Q. What's the team planning on doing to get back to Berkeley?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: What's up? The team is planning on celebrating. This is a great win. However, everybody on the team knows the job is not finished. The job is not done. If we were to beat UCLA, I would be on this podium and I would be crying.

However in the back of my head, I know the job's not finished, we want to go bowling. We want to make the Bowl game. But like I said, this game means more. So everyone is just exhilarated, celebrating in the locker room, having a great time. I'm sure everybody is going to go out and celebrate tonight because we all know that Sunday and Monday is going to come around and we have to be focused and dialed in on UCLA.

Like I said, the coaches talked about it last week, let's burn the boats. It was a ride-or-die game, and if we lost, we wouldn't be bowling. This one was burn the woods. Come over here and burn the woods. The next one is burn the city, so we are going to go to L.A. and burn the city.

Q. Can you talk about what it means to get to a Bowl game, given what you guys have gone through this year?

FERNANDO MENDOZA: Yeah, from going 3-6 to now 5-6, I think that it would mean a lot for a lot of people and it would mean a lot for the program. I know the coaches, they coach us amazingly and they deserve it and the players deserve it. We work our tails off. I can't wait to go to the Rose Bowl next week. I hear the Rose Bowl is a great venue and excited to Bowl with my teammates.

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Jaydn Ott

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JAYDN OTT: It means a lot, and what we preached throughout the week, we got a lot of coaches and players that have been on the other side.

So you know, they kind of like taught us, what's going on over here around Stanford about how they look down upon us and so that just fueled us going into the game and made us want to come out and throw the first punch and not stop.

Q. How do you think you'll feel tomorrow morning?

JAYDN OTT: Tomorrow morning, shoot. We'll see. I'm not going to feel too good, 36 carries, that's a career high. I never even hit 36 in high school but I'm sure I'll be all right.

Q. Obviously every win is a big one but how special is it to win this Big Game again?

JAYDN OTT: I was saying, a lot of people have been part of this game, Eli coming on the field crying real tears. It means a lot and I got to see it last year. I knew coming into this game how much it meant to people. So I'm glad we got to come out on top.

Q. What grade would you give the offensive line this night?

JAYDN OTT: They do their thing every game. I appreciate them. They always look out for me and our quarterback. I gave them an A plus.

Q. That was my question. Stanford defense, what did you see that allowed you guys to be as successful as you were against them today?

JAYDN OTT: We honestly were kicking ourselves. We could have done a lot better against them but I mean, we got the W so that's all that matters.

Q. Fernando took a hit -- when he comes back, did

that give you guys --

JAYDN OTT: We know he's a fighter. I've seen it ever since he got on the campus last year when he was a freshman and we came in together. He's a dog, that's how I would describe him, or a Bear.

But shoot, I knew he was going to come back. It was a nasty, nasty hit like I said, man, he's a Bear.

Q. Talk about the opportunity in front of you now going to UCLA next week.

JAYDN OTT: Say that one more time?

Q. Talk about the opportunity for your team now.

JAYDN OTT: Yeah, we got a chance to go get us some wins so we can make a Bowl game which would be real big. I know the whole team wants it, and like I said earlier, we came out here ready to punch them in the mouth and we just going to the same thing next week.

Q. Your comebacks over the years -- Lynch -- talk about what it's like to carry on that running back --

JAYDN OTT: It's an honor to play at the same school that those guys have played at. In our running back room, we have some of their jerseys hanging up in our running back room. So any time we come into our meetings in the morning, that's kind of like our motivation and that's our standard. So yeah, man, seeing that, like, it prepares us for practice and gets us in the right mindset to want to step up to the plate and do what some of those guys have done.

Q. How big of a deal would it be to get a Bowl game?

JAYDN OTT: Big. We haven't been in one in a while. I don't know the last time we've been to a Bowl game but it would be huge, man. It would be a testament to how hard we've worked this season and this off-season. So yeah, that's on our mind right now is to go 1-0 next week.

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