

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Stanford, California, USA

Coach Frank Reich

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 30, Boston College 20

Q. Hey, coach, great game tonight. Good win. Just what are your overall thoughts on the game?

FRANK REICH: Fantastic win right after a rough 0-2 start. Coming home, having our home opener, having it be a conference game, just really proud of the team and the way we fought.

The way the game was going, we got off to a pretty good start; then kind of got away from us and we fought back into it. Then I thought we just dominated in the second half in all three phases to make the plays to win the game, so proud of a great team win.

Q. How much did the game change when you get that great goal line stand and a fumble recovery in the end zone?

FRANK REICH: Unbelievable. I mean, what a play. What a play. Just massive. Then if I'm remembering correctly, we make that play and score a few plays later.

Yeah, puts us in position. So that was a really big swing in the game. I mean, defense really played well the whole game, and then offense, you know, I mean, just really the second half the way the O-line played and the way we ran the ball in the second half, and Ben played a good game, made the plays he needed to make; did a good job managing the run game.

Special teams we were excellent. You know, Emmet and the crew made all the kicks and all the points and we needed them all, so it was a great night.

Q. You guys were down in the first half and then were able to really swing it the last five, six minutes of the first half. What was the key to that? The interception was key.

FRANK REICH: Yeah, I mean, the interception and just the continued belief of the guys. They work hard, man. I'm

really happy for all of us. These guys, they've put a lot of work in the whole offseason.

You know, we came into this season with a lot of excitement and belief about the direction we're going to go. To finally get this thing going in the right direction feels good.

We understand it's one game and it's important and it feels great, but we got to get back to work and continue to improve. Going on the road against a good Virginia team and it will be another good challenge.

Q. Obviously the defense just had another great performance. Talk about Collin Wright's pick six, goal line stop, and just everything in between.

FRANK REICH: Yeah, Collin, I'll tell you what, was a little bit injured early on but now he has been back for two games, and, man, has he made a difference. That was a massive play in the game.

Credit to Coach Thompson and Coach April and the whole defensive staff, but really the players. They really -- it was a physical game. It was a really -- we talked about this needed to be physical, and especially on defense. The way we would do it on offense would be to run the ball.

So, yeah, just a credit to those guys on defense. Such a good game.

Q. What was the mood like in the locker room right now? Especially what was Andrew like in there?

FRANK REICH: Yeah, the mood was pretty special. You know, I wondered what that was going to feel like. It was better than I even thought it was going to be. Just seeing -- just feeling the satisfaction and the joy of the hard work and just although it's just temporary, you know, it's just one game, it's just one night, that's what we talked about.

You win some, you lose some, and we got learn from both. We got to keep getting better. When you love football and you love the guys you're playing alongside and you love to go to practice and do the whole deal, it makes it a special



environment, and I think that's what we have.

Q. How do you feel about the way your offensive line played tonight, especially after the injury?

FRANK REICH: Yeah, it was tough. We made a switch and then Fattig got hurt and lost him. The guys didn't flinch. You know, we moved some things around guys fought hard. Running backs ran hard. We just wore them down.

We talked about we were going to try to stay patient in the run game and try it wear them down, be a physical game, and what they did.

Q. Boston College was missing their two top starting corners. I expected, okay, they're going to come out and throw a little bit more. You guys stayed pretty run-dominant. Was that game plan going in, or did the way Michael was running just kind of say, just keep riding him?

FRANK REICH: We wanted to mix it up. We knew their corners were down. We made the big play early on so we said, okay, they went to -- they were playing man coverage at the beginning. That's what they like to play. Then we hit the big play and they start going a little bit more zone.

We get to the run and we were running it decent of the not great. But we were running it descent. Then there was a point, I forget when it was when, I said to the offensive staff, I'm going to start calling a few more passes. We got to challenge these guys in the secondary.

So we called a few and had a drive where I think it went okay. But then we were still able to get back to the run. I think that was a good night for us. I think we got to continue to get better in the pass game.

But I thought Ben played really well. You know, getting the two big plays is a big deal, and there are some things we can clean up, but proud of the way the offense played.

Q. Coach, just wondering how you thought Ben Gulbranson played just a bounce-back game, and how that affects the QB situation for the future?

FRANK REICH: Yeah, big deal. Very happy for Ben. He works really, really hard. I love the whole quarterback room. I'm in there a fair amount. Ben has worked really hard and means a lot him.

This is a great shot in the arm, not just for him and his confidence, but for us as an offense. As I said, he made the plays that he needed to make and then he managed

the game the way he needed to manage the game.

I just could feel his confidence on the sideline. We would be on the sideline getting ready for the next play, and the way he was talking to the offense, I could just feel he was at a good spot.

So it was a good step.

Q. Just talk about what you got out of Micah Ford tonight.

FRANK REICH: I mean, he's a complete back. Runs hard. He's fast. He just keeps pounding. Hard to tackle. You know, that whole running back room, it's like the whole team, but that room is a great room. Micah is a great dude. Just a ten out of ten person.

He works so stinking hard. The way he worked in spring ball and training camp and how hard he worked, I'm glad to see it paying off for him. He deserves it.

Q. So obviously the win tonight is huge. How do you think that affects the motivation or does it even affect the game plan for next week in Virginia?

FRANK REICH: Listen, I'm not going to lie, it feels good. But we have to -- it has to be short-lived. Just like when you lose it has to be short-lived.

We're guaranteed 12 opportunities, and in order to make the most of each one, for better or worse, when it's over, you got tonight and since it's a night game, not very long celebrate this one. We got to get ready to travel across the country and play a team that's won two -- couple really good games.

So it'll be a good challenge. We need to enjoy this tonight and I'm sure they'll enjoy it for a few minutes tomorrow morning. Man, then we got to make the corrections. Win a game like this, as great as it was, I promise there will be a lot of corrections that need to be made and opportunities for us to get better.

Q. How much does a win like this establish your identity, what this team needs to do?

FRANK REICH: Yeah, it does. What I loved about it the most is it was a complete team win. I've been around some good team wins. This is up there with the best team wins I've been around.

Really just the way the game went and the big plays that -- you know, the touchdown the defense made, the goal line stop they made, but then the way the offense sealed the



deal running the you ball in the second half and in the fourth quarter, making every kick.

It was just a complete team win.

Q. How huge was it to finally get Sam Roush? First couple games didn't do a whole lot. This time he has a huge touchdown. Talk about how huge it was to get him going and the impact that made.

FRANK REICH: Yeah, great play by Sam. I knew once he got -- nobody's going catch that guy. He's fast. Nobody is going to bring him down. I was real happy for him.

You know, he's a big time leader on this team, and he's the ultimate teammate, leader, and he's just really, really good football player.

So fun to get him that big play. We need to continue to find ways to get him the ball and feature him, give him opportunities to continue to be a big part of the offense.

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Stanford University Football

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Collin Wright

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 30, Boston College 20

Q. Collin, talk about the pick six you had. What did you see on that play?

COLLIN WRIGHT: Awesome. It's a look we got all week in practice. Our coaches did a great job getting us in those looks. Same formation we saw on film all week they came out in, so I kind of knew what play was, anticipated, tried to tell my guys it was coming.

And then obviously didn't think the quarterback was going to throw it but he threw it I was a great position, and did a good job finishing the play.

So awesome, exciting.

Q. You kind of been battling injuries earlier in the year. To be able to come out here and not only have a big time play but just a big time game, talk about what that means for you.

COLLIN WRIGHT: It's awesome. I think especially not winning the first two was a big challenge for us, and knowing we're coming back home in front of our fans, everybody's friends and family coming out to this game was definitely important.

Just wanted to change the narrative obviously. We know what people are saying about us, so for us we came back every day and worked hard, didn't listen to all the BS, and then just came out to here and played to our standard.

So definitely excited and definitely looking forward to the rest of the season.

Q. Obviously the pick six was a huge play. How hyped did you guys get making that goal line stand, and then they fumble into the end zone? How happy were you guys?

COLLIN WRIGHT: It was awesome. It was a big emphasis this week, winning the third quarter. There are a

lot of areas of improvement from our first two games. Those type things just change the momentum in the game. We had our D-line eating to the back end eating. It was a great all-around team effort.

Obviously big stop. Those points probably would've changed the trajectory of the game. We just take pride in ourselves being as dominant as we can, so we enjoyed it.

Q. Just talk about what it's like being in front of your fans for the first time this season, just what it means to play in a home atmosphere.

COLLIN WRIGHT: It's awesome. All of us definitely enjoy not having to get back on the plane, especially this week. It was great energy tonight. We appreciate all the fans who were loud on third down for us and cheering us on. A lot of success coming, so we appreciate everybody coming out and supporting us.

Q. Scored 21 points off turnovers tonight; is that part of your identity right now, a ball hawking type approach?

COLLIN WRIGHT: 100%. It's the name of the game. We take pride in getting turnovers. It's a big emphasis every day in practice. Since spring ball, since camp, we want three turnovers a practice and three turnovers a game, so we accomplished that as a defense.

Obviously we just appreciate our coaches for putting us in all those great situations, making practice hard for us so we get to the game and it's easier and find a way to get the ball out.

Q. Mentioned you tuned out the noise a little bit about what people are thinking about Stanford football. How quickly did you guys maybe try to dust yourself off after the BYU game? Was that hard to do after that loss?

COLLIN WRIGHT: Not necessarily. It's early in the year and we know all we can do is take one day and one rep at a time. For us, we keep getting back to the basics and fundamentals and making practice hard.

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For us, we just know what we can do as team, and for us we have to do that -- those things day in and day out and can't listen to the noise.

Definitely was a great day.

Q. You guys were still able to apply the pressure in terms of getting TFLs and sacks. What was the key to you guys collectively kind of making up for his absence out there tonight?

COLLIN WRIGHT: Practice. I'll keep saying it: practice was a huge emphasis and obviously guys came to play, guys were hungry. It's just great to see it come together. Being very good in the secondary, very good up front, a lot of great defense, and as everybody knows, great defense always wins games.

We take pride in that.

Thank you, Go Card.

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Ben Gulbranson

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 30, Boston College 20

Q. First of all, just a bounceback game today. Talk about your performance tonight.

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, I think it was an ultimate team win out there: special teams, defense, offense, offensive line, backs, receivers, tight ends, catching the ball and making plays in space. Yeah, just really proud of the way we played tonight.

Q. Just talk about that particular pass you had to Roush for a touchdown. What was the call and the drop there? Talk about that.

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, we were running the ball well and we called one of our movements off it. Sam did a great job getting open and then finishing the run. He's a special player and he can make a lot of guys miss after the catch. Really just proud of the way he played and excited for him.

Q. What was your approach coming into this game, just what you wanted to do offensively and just from the passing standpoint?

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, I think our offense, we want to play complementary football and we want to play fast and play physical. Yeah, I want to complete the ball out there and get the ball in the other guy's hands and let them go make plays and get us in the right runs and let the O-line and the backs work.

Q. The long touchdown pass, you know, I think it was throw to the 50 yard line or sideline, takes it to the house. How much did that help you maybe relax a little bit and settle into the game?

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, I think that was a big momentum shift for us there in that game. Just everybody involved in that play, popping for a big one right before the half, I think that was huge for us carrying us into the second half.

Q. 30 points tonight, which is more than the first two games combined. Just how electric is this offense becoming?

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, we're just playing complementary football, and also helps when defense gets a touchdown. Love to see that. They're playing their asses off over there, so glad we could help them out.

Q. Talk about what you got out of Micah Ford in this one.

BEN GULBRANSON: Micah Ford?

Q. Yeah.

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, one of the hardest workers on our team and obviously I wouldn't want to tackle him. He's a hell of a player. Hard worker. Gets after it in the meeting and weight room and it shows out on the field.

Q. Collin was just in here and talking about changing the narrative and tuning out noise. Do you feel individually you had something to prove tonight?

BEN GULBRANSON: I would wouldn't say -- I like playing football and I was just going to keep believing in my process. I felt like offensively we kind of found something late against BYU, and it felt good to carry it out here. Really happy for this unit tonight.

Q. What was that that you found out in that game?

BEN GULBRANSON: I think just getting some rhythm against a great defense and a great team overall, and in a tough environment. To be able to just get that rolling in a life atmosphere and bringing it to this game was really good for us.

Q. Bryce Farrell had another big game tonight. What do you guys feel is the connection is and how has that been working?

BEN GULBRANSON: Yeah, another old guy on the team.



Obviously one of the fastest guys out there. Great hands.
Just a great playmaker for us. Really happy with the way
he's playing out there and happy for him.

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Stanford, California, USA

Micah Ford

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford 30, Boston College 20

Q. Just first of all, talk about the amazing win and amazing performance tonight.

MICAH FORD: Yeah, I'm just happy the guys got it done, especially in the home opener. Fans showed out. Crew showed out. Everybody showed out. Just to get it done feels amazing.

Q. For you, did you feel that as the game went on the defense was kind of wearing down more? Seems like that was what was happening.

MICAH FORD: I felt it all throughout the week. The defense had a great week of preparation; so did the offense. Just to put it all together, get the W, feels amazing, like I said before.

Q. Just talk about how strong this running back room is. I feel like you guys have so many options to go. Just talk about that room.

MICAH FORD: Yeah, this is a really deep running back room. No matter who is out there you know they're going to get the job done. That's important, because running back is a physical position and you're going to need about four or five guys to be able to go out there and get the job done and we have that.

Definitely can count on the running back room.

Q. Right before you went on that long one you guys had had -- that defense held up and made that stand. Were you still riding the high on that off the defensive stand they made when you broke loose on the long one?

MICAH FORD: Yeah, for sure. I just felt the will in the Boston College defense, that they didn't really want any part of it anymore. Just to go out there and execute, take advantage of that. Lineman did a great job. You'll see on that play the line did a great job getting up to the second

level and I just finished the play.

Q. Running was pretty hard in the first half there. Were you guys confident that you could wear them down and break some runs in the second half?

MICAH FORD: Yeah, you know, it's always going to be hard I feel like running the ball at first just because you got to get a feel of what the defense is doing and trying to counter that; we did just that.

Coach made great calls in the second half to put us in position to break the long ones.

Q. What does a win like this do for you guys? Obviously first couple weeks were really tough for this team.

MICAH FORD: Yeah.

Q. What does this win do for you guys?

MICAH FORD: It definitely gives us a little boost of confidence, you know, going on to (indiscernible) nobody wants to go. It sucks. Just to get it done at home, like I said, gives us that confidence we need.

We still need to go back to the drawing board. We play a great team next week, Virginia, so we got to get it right.

Q. Just what's the key to keep the energy up as a running back when perhaps they know they're going to give you the ball, it's kind of coming?

MICAH FORD: Just trust in your preparation. All throughout the week ran the ball very well. Just trusting what the culture are doing, trusting the play call, trusting everything, and just playing to play by play.

Q. What's the game plan for Virginia next week?

MICAH FORD: I'm not sure. We'll take care of that tomorrow. Probably want to enjoy the win a little bit more and then start preparing for Virginia tomorrow.



Q. Just talk about the huge 75-yard run. You had it set up and you finished the drive. Just talk about what you saw on that run and were you disappointed it wasn't a one-play drive?

MICAH FORD: Yeah, definitely disappointed I couldn't get that done. Yeah, I just saw we got a good kick-out block and I had a -- I knew I had to break the safety tackle and that's what I did. I think just looking back kind of slowed me down. Just trust my speed and just be able to get it done.

We'll break one of those and finish it next time for sure.

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Stanford, California, USA

Boston College

Coach Bill O'Brien

Postgame Media Conference



Stanford - 30, Boston College - 20

Q. Coach, up 17-6 there at the end of the half, chance to make it 20 or 24. What did you see in that last few minutes? Just take me through that.

BILL O'BRIEN: 17-6, I don't know. I have to go watch the film. There's a lot to watch. We had the ball -- we had our chances. We came away with field goals instead of touchdowns or turned the ball over on the 1 yard line.

We have to go back and we have to figure it out. We're not a very good football team right now so hopefully we can get better and we can work hard to improve during the bye week. I'm not going to go through -- I don't know exactly what you're talking about.

Q. Any thought to going for it on fourth down late there in instead of the punt?

BILL O'BRIEN: I did -- we went for it on fourth-and-goal from the 1. That was the one time we went for it. I think on that fourth down, I think there was 7 minutes to go in the game. Is that right? About seven.

Q. A little over seven minutes to go, yeah.

BILL O'BRIEN: It wasn't a distance that I think was conducive to going for it at that point in time. I felt we could get the ball back, which I was wrong. You can write that I was wrong and I should have gone for it.

Q. What's the key to finding consistency offensively?

BILL O'BRIEN: I have no idea. I have no clue. I'll try hard to figure it out.

Q. Dylan threw his first interception today. Wondering what you talked to him about after he threw it. Looked like maybe it brought him back down to earth a little bit after a great start to his career.

BILL O'BRIEN: Brought him down to earth. He threw an interception and moved on to the next play. He didn't need to be brought back down to earth. He's a very good kid. He's an awesome kid. He's a consistent kid. He did not need to be brought back down to earth. I can promise you that. Like I said, we're not a good football team right now. Print that, write that, we're going to work hard to be better. Hopefully we'll improve. We've got a long way to go.

Q. You mentioned in the offseason that this team kind of needs to learn how to not lose before they learn how to win.

BILL O'BRIEN: Right.

Q. Is this one of those games, as a coaching staff, where do you go from here?

BILL O'BRIEN: This is such coach speak, I hate even saying it. I just told the team, we're all in it together. We were terrible tonight. We've got to coach better. It starts with us, starts with me. That will lead to better play. We've got to figure a lot of things out.

We've got to figure out how to stop the run, we've got to figure out how to run the ball. And you're exactly right, we have a chance to go up in the game, we fumble the ball.

Not only -- even if we get stopped there, it's still a 99-yard drive that they have to perform, right? We've got them backed up. But we don't. So it's a touchback.

We fumble a snap or there was a bad snap and then we throw an interception. Some false starts, batted balls. Can't stop the run, don't fit the gaps correctly. Just really some bad football. That's coaching.

We've got a good coaching staff. I believe in the coaching staff, but we did not do a good job tonight, and we have to do a much better job coaching.

Q. Just comment on the explosive play Stanford was able to get off those two turnovers deep in Stanford territory?



BILL O'BRIEN: It was terrible. The one run we gave up, and then the bootleg where we cut a guy loose. It was just bad communication. The run was, you didn't fit the run right. And it was kind of a problem during the week. We took care of it.

I felt we had a good practice on Wednesday and Thursday on that type of run but it showed up again. We've got a long way to go.

But you're right, hard to explain. But we've got to coach it better. We've got to figure out what we can do. There's a lot of season left.

I told the team -- I'll tell you exactly what I told the team -- everybody has a choice. You want to be here, don't want to be here, make your choice. We're only in the third game of the second year of our program, our program. And it's basically been a little bit up and down, .500 football. And so we're going to work hard to get it better and see where it goes.

Q. Obviously a unique type of road trip for you guys, one that a lot of guys probably haven't made that trip before. Not to give you a spot to make excuses; I know you probably won't. But just talk about how that is something that is hard to balance with the body clock and that weird travel for some of these guys they haven't really done that yet in their career.

BILL O'BRIEN: I thought we handled it well. I understand the question. I really did, I thought we handled it the right way. We got off the plane, went to San Jose State, had a really good walk-through felt good about it. After dinner, went right to bed.

So I don't think that's any excuse whatsoever for what we saw on the field tonight. And again, like I'll say this, like, it's not like in these games that we lose; it's very rare for us, I don't think we've ever really been blown out.

So that's why, like, Max's question about bad football, we've got to coach it better. We've got to eliminate bad football so we can win close games, because we'll be in a lot of close games, and we can't win on the road. We haven't won on the road since Florida State. We've got a long way to go. We just keep fighting. That's only choice we have is to keep working, figure things out. We're going to keep working to figure things out.

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