

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday, November 29, 2025

Stanford, California, USA

Coach Frank Reich

Postgame Media Conference



Notre Dame 49, Stanford 20

FRANK REICH: Yeah, just want to begin by saying it's been a great year here at Stanford. Want to begin by thanking President Levin and John Donahoe, our new athletic director and of course my good friend Andrew Luck for the opportunity to be here and be the coach at Stanford this year. It's been an incredible experience and, you know, heck of a year.

Feel like we made a lot of progress in a lot of ways. Special group of young men. There are good things ahead for Stanford football. I know that. I can see it. I can see the formation of it. I know under Coach Luck, Andrew Luck and Pritchard there will be amazing things ahead for this team.

I'll open it up if it there.

Q. Kind of building on that, on the team release, we notice you're going to stay on as a senior advisor. What can you tell us about what that role will look like?

FRANK REICH: Appreciate the question. We kind of said we're just going to figure it out as we go. I knew I was going it can a part somehow, some way. I'm too close with Andrew and now this program. Obviously be back home with my family. We'll decide with Andrew and with Coach Pritchard with role that would be.

I look forward to whatever that is. It's not going to be crazy involved. Just more kind of a resource if you will. I'm only a phone call away. Hopefully I'll be able to get out here a few times a year. See how that all plays out.

Q. You talked about the progress that was made this year and how you know there are good things ahead. What makes you say that?

FRANK REICH: Got The Axe back. That's one thing. That's not the only thing. The culture that the players set, the way we did things, the chemistry, the brotherhood in the locker room, the way we practice. You know, we didn't

get as many wins as we wanted but made progress there, too. We got the most important win of all and that was against Cal to get The Axe back.

So there is a lot more wins coming to this program. Trust me on that. I promise you there is a lot more wins coming to this program. A lot of good players here, and Coach Luck and Coach Pritchard will do an amazing job. Two great leaders, and I can't wait to watch.

Q. Just how fun was it to see Charlie come in and have a nice run and cap off that drive with a touchdown?

FRANK REICH: Yeah, it is great. Obviously with his dad being a star player at Notre Dame and then Charlie being a senior, he's just great. Beautiful energy. He's just a class act and really good and talented player.

I was just so happy for him, you know. I obviously spend more time with the quarterbacks, so you get to know those guys a little bit more. He's a joy to coach and was just happy to see him in the game and make the plays that he did. Cap it off with a touchdown pass, that was a great experience. I'm really happy for him.

Q. Marcus Brown, to be able to have the game that he did, talk about that.

FRANK REICH: Not surprised. Marcus is a good player. Happy he showed that tonight. Had several great routes and catches and then good with the ball in his hand after. A couple key first downs to keep drives going.

He's just a nifty little player in the slot. Hard to cover. Happy that he got a chance to shine in that role tonight.

Q. Kind of cliché question, but you guys faced a lot have really, really tough teams this year, tough schedule. Where does Notre Dame rank among the teams you guys have seen this year?

FRANK REICH: Yeah, they're a good football team. You know, but I think we faced someone told me four top 10 teams. It's hard to rank them. They've all been good in



their own way.

Certainly Miami was tough, playing them down there. Their defensive front is outrageous, you know what I mean? So this is a good team. Very well-coached. A lot of respect for Coach Freeman.

Yeah, we played -- BYU; played some good teams. Played some good teams this year. Certainly though for we're keeping the love in the ACC, that's what it's all about. We're keeping the love in the ACC. I'm proud of our conference.

We were sitting there talking to that today at a pre-game meal, bunch of coaches. We were talking about it and talking about just how strong of a conference the ACC is. We were looking at games that ACC top to bottom some of the games that ACC has played against some of the other major conferences and how we've stacked up.

As a conference we are really proud how we stacked up from the top teams, the middle, to the lower teams. When you look at the matchups across the ACC, I think its had an outstanding year.

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Sam Roush

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Notre Dame 49, Stanford 20

Q. For you, just talk about thoughts. You're wearing the shirt, My Last Walk, playing your final game here at Stanford.

SAM ROUSH: Yeah, it's emotional. Had a lot of fun here. Really excited to see Charlie get that touchdown in the fourth quarter. Felt real bad. I got stuck on the three yard line. I was like shoot, he's not got going to get it, but he got in anyway. He didn't need me, which was awesome.

Yeah, I'll miss everybody. You know, it was emotional.

Q. Obviously Elijah Brown had another solid game. Just to be able to get a quarterback who is able to give you that and help you succeed, just talk about him.

SAM ROUSH: Yeah, Elijah is a dog. I'm really excited to watch him play next year and he's awesome. He's awesome. Got a great mindset. Throws the ball real well.

I think he's really poised to have a great year next year. There is lots of up-and-comers that are going to continue to carry this program forward. I wasn't able to experience a ton of success this year -- or a ton of success in my career at Stanford, but this year is the first step forward since I've been here.

I'm really excited for the future of Stanford football.

Q. You will probably be able to better answer this question as you reflect on it more during the holidays and into the new year, but could you touch on what has Frank Reich meant to the program and what did he do so well to help change the trajectory of this program do you feel?

SAM ROUSH: First of all, he's a legendary coach. We're so thankful to have him. He truly was doing this out the goodness of his heart. I don't think he's taken a paycheck. He's just being the interim head coach, doing this as a favor for Coach Luck, and then he said in the locker room

he's not just doing this for Coach Luck, but for us, the 25 seniors that walked today. We really appreciate that.

We were able to get The Axe back. That's going to be one the greatest memories of my time at Stanford.

Q. You mentioned kind of expect better days ahead for the program. What makes you say that? What makes you confident?

SAM ROUSH: Yeah, again, this year is the first kind of step forward in the program that I've experienced since I've been here. You know, obviously not the success we wanted and we were hoping for when you look at the season as a whole, but we fought and battled every game.

We got some good wins. We were able to win at home. We had a winning record at home which is huge when you're starting to build a program.

Seeing some of the young guys starting to come up and progress, I think Benji is going to be one of the best tight ends in the country next year. He's awesome. And he had a pretty good night tonight as well.

But guys like Benji and Elijah, they're up-and-comers and they're really, really going to make an impact next year.

Q. Just touching for on Elijah, talk about his growth from the beginning of the season to now and taking the reins as a starter; where have you seen the most growth from Elijah?

SAM ROUSH: I think his confidence has always been there. He's a really confident quarterback. But just kind of like settling into that starting role, right? He didn't start the season -- didn't begin the season as a starter. As the season progressed we needed him to step up and he's really settled into that role.

I think he's ready to take the reins, and as you saw tonight some of his other games, he really took a hold of the offense. I'm really -- I'm a big believer in Elijah Brown.

Q. What is this Stanford-Notre Dame rivalry mean to

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you and the Stanford community altogether?

SAM ROUSH: It means a lot. Notre Dame is a legendary program. They're awesome. We saw tonight they're a really good team, championship contending team. They got the better of us.

Yeah, it's awesome to have that Legends Trophy and be a part of that rivalry. Don't win them all, but my freshman year we beat them at their place and that was an awesome experience. Yeah, it's a big rivalry. It means a lot.

Q. For you looking ahead here, obviously got NFL Draft, combine stuff to look towards. Obviously a lot of former Stanford players have gone through the same process. How nice is it to be part of a program where guys you play with have gone through the same process so you can look to these guys for advice? How nice is it to have the Stanford connections and network as you look ahead to the next chapter of your career here?

SAM ROUSH: It's great. I'll be signing with an agent that represents -- or has represented a lot of Stanford alums and are part of the same agency. You know, that was huge to kind of have that network to find someone that is represent believe and that I trust because I know the people I trust trust him. Yeah, it's huge.

Obviously walking in the footsteps of giants. There is some great tight ends and players that have come through Stanford, and I'm just happy to be a part of that legacy.

FastScripts by ASAP Sports

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Stanford, California, USA

Marcus Freeman

Postgame Media Conference



Notre Dame 49, Stanford 20

MARCUS FREEMAN: A chance to, as I told them, to earn this year's Legends Trophy. Last year's trophy was earned by last year's team. Proud of the way they did that.

You try to get them to focus on the opportunity they have right now. I know there's a lot of talk on what happens after this, but we couldn't focus on that. We have to focus on this opportunity right now, and they did. They came out and played really, really well.

Obviously didn't finish the game the way we wanted. But got to a point where they got to continue to -- doesn't matter what the score is, got to continue to go out there and play.

So proud of them, how much they've improved from really week one to now, how consistent they're playing. We're going to enjoy this and fly home and figure out what's next for this football team.

Q. Take us into the fourth down, fake punt. What was the play call?

MARCUS FREEMAN: It was something we've been working on for a couple weeks. We knew if we got a certain look, we would check to it. We got the look that we wanted. We checked through it. We executed.

Credit to Coach Biagi, special teams unit, the punt unit. They've been practicing that for quite a while. They executed just like they practiced, really flawlessly. Proud of the way they executed.

It really helped. The game, got to 21-0 out there. Really kind of put this game into a position I think we knew we were pretty much in the driver's seat.

Q. All along it's been focusing on the here and now, don't worry about the rankings. Today a lot of the teams in the top 10 won. What would your message be to the board now?

MARCUS FREEMAN: I mean, (indiscernible) you talk about a team that is probably playing as well as anyone right now, won 10 straight games in a row, I think all of them by double-digits maybe. You want the 12 best teams now. I know you have the conference champions and the Group of 5 highest ranked teams. You talk about who are the best teams now, not week one, but now.

Q. The conversation at halftime with Jeremiyah that you had you were going to go, what went into that?

MARCUS FREEMAN: I told him you know how you feel. I know you're hurting, but you know how you feel. You have to make a decision about what's best for you.

You feel like you can go, that's what is best. I know he wanted to go out there and put on a Heisman Trophy worthy performance. We owed it to him to say, If you feel like you can go, go.

That tells you the type of competitor he is. I know he's hurting. It was safe for him. We wouldn't put him in harm's way. I left that up to him.

Q. As a coach and competitor, what is it like to have these fourth quarters, reserves, what they do mattering to the committee? How do you navigate that?

MARCUS FREEMAN: We were at a point where we felt like we had the game in hand, so you have to make decisions when you're in the game that you believe are best for your team, right? What's best for our team is that moment is you have a chance to get some backups in that might help them improve. You might need those guys this season.

When I know we have a game won, it's more important for me to make decisions that are best for our team, which is going to be getting some younger guys, maybe some backups in, because they'll get valuable reps in that game.

Same thing happened in Pitt, same thing happened versus Syracuse. We're going to put these guys in because it's going to help our team improve when the backups and



third years get some real work.

Q. Can you take us through the whole process with Jeremiyah from going out there to see if he's okay on the field? When he goes back to the locker room, how much are you aware of what's happening there?

MARCUS FREEMAN: I went out there and saw, you could tell he's hurting. I think it's a rib injury. We're going to get it checked out, x-ray it. Went and did that. Came back in, said, Hey, he's going to try to give it a go. He gave it a go. You could tell he was hurting. That was probably close to the end of the half.

Again, I just had a conversation and explained, Hey, if you can help us, this is what is best for the team, you make that decision.

Q. How hard was it this year to focus on what you guys had to do in winning these 10 games in a row but also knowing there's a lot out there College Football Playoff-wise beyond our control?

MARCUS FREEMAN: Personally I don't do those things. Maybe some other people in our program might. It doesn't help us take advantage of the opportunity we have in hand. That's what I kept trying to tell those guys. You have to value what you have. We have this opportunity right now.

It was like this every week. If you don't value what you have, you'll lose it, you'll lose that opportunity. You won't maximize it. If you're not thinking about this opportunity, which we just had, then you're wasting this opportunity you have on things that don't matter, that you don't control. I don't want to say that don't matter, but you don't control.

It's so true to life. If you don't focus on what you have and what you can control, you're not going to maximize that opportunity.

Q. (Question regarding Aneayas.)

MARCUS FREEMAN: It's like every time you go into the game, he's scoring touchdowns, man. He's a guy that's an example of working with what he has, right? You hear me often say work while you wait. He had a small role. Maybe it was a kick returner. If you're the third back, we get to that point.

But he practices and works and waits for his role. All of a sudden when he gets a bigger one, he maximizes it. That doesn't happen by chance. It's because he works his tail off preparing for that opportunity.

Q. With so many teams on the bubble of the College

Football Playoff, what about Notre Dame's résumé sticks out compared to the others?

MARCUS FREEMAN: I'll repeat it for the third time. Just answered it.

We are improving as much as any team in the country, right? We have improved as much as anybody in the country. We're playing as well as anybody in the country. 10 straight wins, double-digit wins.

We have to me, in my opinion, the best player in the country. That's what you want. You want the best teams in the country now, right? Who is the best teams for the Playoffs right now. I truly believe we're one of them.

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Jeremiyah Love

Postgame Media Conference



Notre Dame 49, Stanford 20

Q. (No microphone.)

JEREMIYAH LOVE: I think the guy just fell on my ribs and bruised it. Went to the tent. Felt like I was going to be good, but they wanted to make sure I was good. They took me back to (indiscernible) for the test. Everything came up all right, so... Just a bruise.

I felt good immediately after they looked at me and all that kind of stuff. Just had to build up back my confidence to get hit (indiscernible).

Q. Especially after the first drive, did you think this could be a closing argument for the CFP?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: Yeah, I mean, not really. I wasn't really focused on it. Like, I come into this game focused on making sure that we end the season how we wanted to. Really didn't come into it trying to do anything individually. Just wanted to do the best for my team. The best thing for our team was a win. Wanted to finish off the season the way we wanted to finish it off.

Q. When you look at your body of work now that you're done with the season, what does it say to the people voting for the Heisman?

JEREMIYAH LOVE: I mean, say what I always say. Looking at me, I'm a team player. I want the best for my guys. I'm the type of player that elevates everybody else around me.

I don't really focus on individual things really a lot because at the end of the day I feel like I believe that nothing is done by myself. Everything is a credit to your team, your coaches, stuff like that.

If I'm going to say something, I'm a team-first type of guy and elevate people around me to do better.

Q. (Question regarding Aneyas.)

JEREMIYAH LOVE: He practices hard every single day. He makes sure that he's ready for his opportunity when it comes. Every time his opportunity comes, Aneyas is ready. That just goes to how we're trained, how we got a great coach in Coach Seider and Coach Freeman, Coach Denbrock calling great plays for us.

Aneyas is the type of guy who is always prepared. You obviously see that when he goes out there and breaks off touchdowns, never misses an opportunity. I'm really proud of Aneyas. I think of him as my young guy. I think we're the same age, but...

I love seeing Aneyas and all the other guys perform the way they want to.

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