WASHINGTON STATE
FOOTBALL

CALIFORNIA AT NO. 23 WASHINGTON STATE – NOV. 12, 2016
WASHINGTON STATE POSTGAME QUOTES

Head Coach Mike Leach
(On meaningful games)
"We had another hugely meaningful game tonight and we were solely focused on that this week and we need to just have the mental discipline to be solely focused on the next game, next week. If all games aren't important, there aren't going to be any important games, because you're going to be so lousy that none of them are important anymore."

(On play of the defense)
"[California] is a really explosive team and they're going to get big plays on people, and have all year. But, I did think our defense did a real good job playing consistently and then outlasting them. There are points where they had our back against the wall and we managed to fight our way out of it, especially in the first half which was really key to us getting the upper hand. They just hung in there and there were a lot of points in there where it would be easy to get discouraged because [California] got an explosive, and they're really a fast team and they're a very explosive team. If you get on your heels and don't focus on the next play or your job, it's easy to make it even worse. I thought we did a good job focusing on our role and what we needed to do."

(On importance of improvement)
"The idea is to get better and better and better at everything. I think we have and it has definitely paid off in some instances too."

Wide Receiver Gabe Marks
(On breaking the Pac-12 receptions record)
"It's cool. I knew it was going to happen at some point. I had been thinking about it and stuff, I just kind of wanted to do it here because we were at home. It was something I've really been wanting to do for a long time."

(On what it felt like in the moment)
"I wasn't feeling all blushy and stuff; all romantic or anything. It was cool. I appreciated the cheers from the fans and everything and the acknowledgement for it."

(On what the goal is going forward)
"It's about just winning the games now. I've kind of done everything that I can do in my reach. I'll just keep trying to catch touchdowns and put some points up."

(On emergence of the run game)
"It helps a lot. I don't like to admit it sometimes because the run game affects my life. But it has affected my life in a good way now. Back in the day, we'd just run it and nothing would get done, and it was like just don't run it. Just throw me the ball. We'd get more yards if you'd just throw me the ball out here than if we run it. But now, we're averaging 8 yards-a-carry or some crazy stat, and it's hard to deny that type of production, so I just roll with it. Everybody is feeling pretty good after the games and everyone is healthy because we are spreading the ball around and everyone is taking turns carrying the load a little bit. It's a good deal. Balance is good. We've got some good balance right now."

Quarterback Luke Falk
(On throwing the record-breaking pass to Gabe Marks)
"It was awesome. And the fashion that he did it was pretty cool. We would've liked to see Gerard [Wicks] get [the long touchdown run], but we were pretty happy he didn't on that one so Gabe could score and break the record. He's a tremendous player, and really, congrats to him."

(On UW loss and taking over first place in the Pac-12 North)
"I heard it announced in the game and stuff – didn't really think much of it. We've still got a lot of football to play and that doesn't really affect us. We've just really got to focus on getting one week better and keep doing what we've been doing."