

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Friday August 31, 2018

Rocky Long Postgame

SAN DIEGO STATE INTERVIEWS

Stanford 31, San Diego State - 10

Q. What was your overall takeaway on this game sitting here right now? What's the main thing you take away from it?

COACH LONG: That they had a receiver we couldn't cover. Otherwise we played just as good as they did.

Q. You pretty much owned the first half. Then the second half, they started throwing the ball?

COACH LONG: They owned the first half?

Q. No, you guys pretty much owned the first half, I thought.

COACH LONG: I thought it was pretty much equal at the end of the half. I thought it was pretty equal. If we don't intercept the pass and fumble it back to them we go into halftime ahead.

Q. Are you happy with your defense's play on Bryce Love?

COACH LONG: Well, whenever you take a chance to slow a running back down you isolate your DBs in one-on-one situations. So they happened to have a couple of really good receivers out there that if you scheme it up so they have a hard time running the ball, you gotta have some DBs make plays.

Q. Did you think Stanford was picking on the inexperience of your cornerbacks?

COACH LONG: I don't know if I think that's where our experience is on defense. No, I think we made them throw it. Whether they wanted to or not, we made them throw it.

Q. The way you guys came out early on, seemed like it was going to be a battle back and forth. How much of it was getting Juwan going? Seemed like after a couple of carries he got a rhythm.

COACH LONG: No, I think our offense ran the ball okay. Didn't protect the quarterback worth a darn, but they ran the ball okay. But whenever you lose a game it's both sides of the ball. You got a chance -- you still got a chance to go and win the game if you can make them fourth and one.



We're supposed to be a running game. You're supposed to make a fourth and one, which we didn't. And then you have to count on your DBs to make a play every once in a while, which we didn't.

Q. Despite the loss, are you still encouraged with Juwan's performance? A career high against a team like Stanford.

COACH LONG: I think we've got potential, but you're never happy when you lose.

Q. Seemed ironic in a way that what could have been your biggest potential defensive play in the second quarter turned into theirs.

COACH LONG: I think that was obviously the biggest momentum shift in the game. We stop them, intercept the pass, then fumble it right back to them. Then they throw it over one of our cornerbacks for a touchdown when we should be running the clock out. All of a sudden they score and I think completely eliminated any momentum we had.

Q. Even if you just knock it down, fourth down (indiscernible).

COACH LONG: No, I don't think they would have been. I think it was like a 50-yard pass or something like that.

Q. What made it so tough to stop the receiver, Arcega-Whiteside? Was it speed, size? What do you think?

COACH LONG: You said it. Speed and size. He's just as fast as we are. And he's bigger than we are.

Q. He's been making those plays for a couple years.

COACH LONG: He made those plays at the end of last year, too. All you have to do is watch the last five games of the season and he did that. The only games they lost was when they got outscored.

Q. What do you draw from this game going forward?

COACH LONG: We've got some potential. We've got some potential to play well. Obviously our secondary has got to get better. But we ran the ball pretty well on a very good defensive team, and I thought they struggled running the ball against us. Those are all positive signs.

Q. Did they surprise you with anything they did offensively or defensively?

COACH LONG: Yeah, they did a little bit. I mean, we expected more fullbacks in the game that we didn't get. It was three tight ends and it was what we call full personnel -- two tight ends and three tight end formations. Obviously coming in the game we practiced with a fullback back there most of the time, and there wasn't a fullback back there very often.

So that was something -- but it didn't make any difference. And they're smart. Didn't make any difference in the run game. You just used the tight end as a fullback and they couldn't run it anyway. But what they have is four good receivers out there that are giants and we're not very big in the secondary.

Even their tight ends can catch the ball and run and they're 6'5" and 6'6" and we're covering them with 6-foot tough guys. So that's smart.

Q. What was the mood at halftime like? Did you tell your guys that you had more momentum coming in, or do you kind of down (indiscernible) you guys gave up an opportunity?

COACH LONG: I think if we don't fumble the ball back after the interception we'll have a lot of momentum. I think since the last play of the half is a long throw for a touchdown that kind of ruins your momentum going in at halftime.

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Kyahva Tezino

Juwan Washington

Postgame

SAN DIEGO STATE INTERVIEWS

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Q. How did you feel about your team's effort in this game today? You guys really dominated in the first half, seemed like, and then they kind of broke through and made some changes, looked like.

What was your view of what happened?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: We just gotta come out with the same intensity, keep it throughout the whole game. They came out and played a really good game. We have to do better throughout the season. We're not going to stay the same. We've gotta get better throughout the whole year and keep the intensity the whole game.

Q. Did you intentionally target Love today, because you (inaudible) stopped him cold. You had, like, ten times as much yardage as Love did?

KYAHVA TEZINO: We just took pride in what we do and that was to stop the run. We felt like we had to come in and be the more physical team. We felt we were going to be a good team. As you guys could see we came out the first quarter and hit them in the mouth. But we gotta finish it. The second quarter we came out, they made some changes and we just gotta step up and make plays.

Q. You mean in the second half?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: In the second half.

Q. You guys really dominated the first half. The score was almost even in the first half. Did Stanford surprise you at all in something they did? Seemed like your defense you absolutely had it figured out?

KYAHVA TEZINO: On the defensive side, they didn't surprise us at all. We knew it was going to be a dogfight. We knew they was going to run it; they knew we was going to run it. We just, second half, like I said, they started passing the ball. And No. 19 is a good player. He went up and started getting them. We just gotta come out second half and be better than our first half.



Q. 27 was too short to cover 19. He just didn't have the height. He jumped, he just got outjumped a couple times.

KYAHVA TEZINO: He's going to make a lot of plays for us. He's going to be a good player by the time we finish the season. It's not a height thing. It's just No. 19 is making plays. We've got to make plays in the future. That's all there is to it.

Q. He was right there with him every time. It was a contest every time.

KYAHVA TEZINO: That's football. You're going to win some. Lose some. Keep playing. Not going to give up on him. He's going to make a lot of plays.

Q. One, he tripped and fell down. He fell down.

KYAHVA TEZINO: That's just football.

Q. What's your big takeaways, each of you, from the game today that you can take into next week's game?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: For me it's just that finish -- finish how we start. That's the biggest thing.

Q. Who do you play next week?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: We play Sacramento state next week.

Q. You guys are going to be good.

JUWAN WASHINGTON: We just gotta start how we finish. That's our biggest thing. As you guys can see we are a young team, but we have experience. And we have guys that is ready to go. We just gotta come out and play our best to our abilities in the second half, obviously.

KYAHVA TEZINO: Another thing is -- things you can take away from tonight, we made a lot of good plays also. We didn't win this game, but there's a lot of good things we can take away from.

Q. The game was a lot closer than the score.

KYAHVA TEZINO: You can take a lot of good things away from this, and we can build on that and it will help us in the future. Not just a negative day for all of us. We're going to go out there --

Q. It's the first game.

KYAHVA TEZINO: Watch film and correct. That's all

we're going to do is just get better.

Q. Everybody needed to tune up, right?

KYAHVA TEZINO: Just improve every week.

Q. Juwan, do you feel you (inaudible)?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: Yeah, you know, started off slow a little bit. I was trying to get a feel for the rhythm of the game, getting back full speed, and just trusting my vision and my holes and stuff and just follow behind my O line. Once I started doing that it picked up a little bit.

Q. (Inaudible)?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: Yeah, I talked to him before the game, just trust my ability and just go behind the big guys and follow behind them. I kind of got used to doing it.

Q. After that first run, did you feel like you got in a groove (indiscernible)?

JUWAN WASHINGTON: Yeah, just more of a rhythm thing. Once you get comfortable, I just felt a little more comfortable as drives were going on and it just helped out a lot. And those guys start being physical up front. You just gotta keep it going.

Q. Kyahva, how surprised were you (inaudible) because it seems like (inaudible)? What you guys did, how surprised were you with K.J.'s performance?

KYAHVA TEZINO: I'm from LA; he's a local guy from California. I already knew about him. I already knew he could pass. I knew he was a high recruit coming out of high school. I knew about him. I told the whole team about him. We all knew.

But that's not what we expected him to come in and do. We expected him (inaudible) Heisman hopeful, and that's what we focused on. And obviously we did what we had to do. They made some changes second half and they started letting him swing the ball. We just gotta go up and make plays. We gotta make plays.

Q. (Inaudible) passing game or how did you feel about?

KYAHVA TEZINO: Not really because it's just one-on-one -- what you saw. Our corner has to make a play and their receiver has to make a play. It's just really one-on-one backside.

That might have been it. Maybe the corners was thinking, okay, we need to be more into the run. But they just had to make a play. Not just the defense as a whole; we have to come in and start how we finish a game.

Q. You got that big play, the interception late in the second quarter. (Inaudible) was that a momentum change?

KYAHVA TEZINO: I think that had a big deal with it. But in football you go against adversity. We've just got to let that go, just go back out there and do what we do.

Q. What made it so tough for you all to stop Arcega-Whiteside? He seemed to get it going. He had those three touchdowns. What did you need to do to stop that guy in particular?

KYAHVA TEZINO: That guy is a good player. I wouldn't be surprised if he would go high in the draft probably this year. We just have to get our corners more experience. As you know they were picking on our inexperienced guy, Kyree Woods. And then we put in Barcoo. They were picking on him the majority of the time. And they did it.

He was the youngest. They wouldn't go on the wrong side. They found a weakness, I guess, in our defense and he was just -- he was just lacking experience.

Q. What can you take away, just playing a tough opponent like Stanford? You can build on that, you can only get better from here.

KYAHVA TEZINO: We can build a lot.

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David Shaw

Postgame

Stanford - 31, San Diego State - 10

COACH SHAW: Couple things off the bat. Tough, hard-fought game. Two very physical football teams.

We wanted to establish the run, which never really got going. That's a credit to San Diego State. They were good all last year. They were good this year, so far this year, game one.

A lot of blitzing and stunting. We tried to stay with them as long as we could. And in doing so they left obviously JJ Arcega-Whiteside, in particular, one-on-one. So we came back at halftime and said, okay, let's just stop being stubborn; let's go take advantage of it.

And he kind of saw that at the end of the first half and then into the second half. So everyone will talk about Bryce's lack of yardage. Bryce doesn't care. We won the game.

Bryce is a great football player. So I want to say that he missed one pickup, the rest of his blitz pickups were phenomenal.

He's a team player and a good football player. K.J. Costello, I thought he played well. I thought he played well. Not perfect, but I thought he played well. Once we figured out what the game plan was going to be. Of course he was game. He ended the season last year as the top downfield passer in America and probably going to start off this year about the same.

Did a great job managing the pocket. Not every pocket is going to be clean with as many blitzes as they were sending. They got to him a couple times. Couple times he had to make throws with guys in their faces. That's what big-time quarterbacks do.

We think the ceiling is extremely high for K.J. and we're going to keep pushing him. Keep pushing him to improve, get better every single week, like we would the rest of the football team. We thought our offensive line in the run game, a lot of stuff in there. A lot of stuff in there, a couple creases, some that almost went -- can't say enough about their pass pro.

Might be the most blitzes as we've seen in one football



game. For our quarterback to push up the pocket most of the time and find some big plays down the field to our guys is a credit to Coach Carberry and the offensive staff for putting together a good protection game plan that allowed us to do that.

Can't say enough about how hard and physical San Diego State played. They didn't make it easy. It was difficult. We talked about it this morning. And anybody that expected this game to be easy shouldn't have shown up.

It's going to be hard. It's going to be physical. It's going to be won in the second half. That's exactly what we talked about. We sent something out social media wise early on, just want to mention it in this room, that throughout the year our guys are going to wear two ribbons on the back of their helmets.

A yellow ribbon for sarcoma awareness and a lime green ribbon as well for lymphoma, with the thought that anybody that watches a Stanford football game that's going through a tough time dealing with cancer maybe gets a little jolt. Maybe gets a little, you know, little peace. A little pump up. To know that we're thinking about them. We're trying to raise awareness for them. Proud of our guys for agreeing to do that.

Questions?

Q. Was wondering, is maybe one of the biggest general positive takeaways on offense tonight that completely lose the run game but there's enough talent in the passing game to still score 31 against a team that's probably going to go to a bowl game this season?

COACH SHAW: Yes. Tavita Pritchard once again did an outstanding job today. Game planning and then us talking through the passing game what looks good.

We talked about it during the course of the game as much as we wanted it to be as balanced as we could be and establish the run we also needed a game like this. We needed a game to put on film. Told the guys we can't talk anymore. It's about playing. And we needed a game to where if someone is going to play with all those guys in the box show what we can do outside. We have all the confidence in the world about our quarterback and our receiving corps and our tight

ends. We think it's one of the best groups in the nation.

Part of it got shown tonight. And people tried to take JJ away, great, Trenton is going to have a great game. You saw Colby Parkinson make plays, and Kaden Smith made some plays tonight. Got a great group of receivers that are still coming along. That's the goal to be as balanced as possible. If someone wants to take away a part of our game, great. We shift our focus and we find a way to take advantage of that.

Q. Coach, how much of the problems with your running game tonight were due to the fact you had a redshirt freshman at center and new people at left guard?

COACH SHAW: That wasn't the problem. The problem was they're really good and they dedicated themselves. Like I said it's the most blitzes we maybe have ever seen in my 12 years here in one game. Constant. We call it a cross dog where one linebacker goes the other way and the other linebacker goes the other way then two guys off one edge with everybody slanting and then linebacker that walks up like he's over the center and then scrapes either side to blitz, just it was constant pressure, constant movement, hard to really get a hold on guys. And we got to the point we're saying okay this is the game they want to play great we'll shift the focus and we'll go down the field and that's what we did.

Q. What's it say about Trent Irwin, the play, the interception late in the first half and he hustles back, forces the fumble, three plays later you guys get a touchdown?

COACH SHAW: Probably the play of the game, honestly. The play Trenton made, ball is deflected, intercepted. And Trenton is, underestimated speed. He took off full speed coming back there. He saw the ball. He got it out and he got on it and it was a fight down there. And it's not pretty at the bottom of those piles fighting for the ball.

He did exactly what we work on. Exactly what we teach and preach, which is getting to that fetal position and rake the ball away roll over on your side protect the ball that's exactly what he did. Got the ball back and went down and scored.

Q. Can you talk about the defense once again, it was kind of a rough first quarter and then once again really settled in and held San Diego State down?

COACH SHAW: I believe Lance Anderson's probably the most underestimated defensive coordinator in America. We had a rough first quarter. We had them a couple times. They got out of danger. They had a

long drive. After that we pretty much snuffed them out. Great job against the run against a team that's dedicated to running the football. Granted, their running back got a lot of touches and a lot of carries and got over a hundred yards. But our guys were stout. Our guys were physical. Made them earn it. A couple of long runs squeaked out there but the rest of the time I think our guys were great. I thought we played well up front with a bunch of young defensive linemen. Gained experience as the game went on. Linebackers were outstanding.

I thought you saw where Bobby Okereke is, that speed and explosion. Sean Barton made plays. Great to see Mustafa Branch go in there, make some plays also. Great to see Joey Alfieri on a third down use that speed and explosion, get around the edge and sack the football. That's what we talked about. That's what we want we want our guys to play fast and physical and I think as our young defensive line continues to grow I think we're going to get better and better.

Q. You mentioned trying to take advantage of when JJ was on one and one coverage. Can you describe how K.J. and JJ work together on some of those plays where he's in single coverage but it's not like he's wide open, how he ends up making those plays?

COACH SHAW: Without giving away any trade secrets, the bottom line is if it's one-on-one, we're going to give him a shot to make a play. And there's one time during the course of the game where K.J. overshot him by about two yards. And we talked a lot about JJ making sure he stays keeps running and K.J. giving him a chance to make a play. As long as he can see the relationship we don't care if the DB is inside or outside. If it's single coverage, great. If it's double coverage, great, then we go someplace else. Which happened a couple times in the second half, right, where we had JJ inside, had a guy over the top. Threw the ball back outside went to Colby in the middle. Threw the ball inside to Trent.

Just being able to see where the safeties are, that's where K.J. has really grown, sees what defenses are trying to do. And finds the matchups and relationships. Saw him come off the number one a couple of times, find the tight ends over the middle, find a check down here or there. I thought he played really well.

Q. Jovan walked off the field looking a little banged up at one point in the game. Can you update his status. And anyone else who stood out as getting particularly banged up?

COACH SHAW: I'm pretty sure Jovan went back out there. Got banged up. Got cleared. Went back there.

Connor Wedington came off also. We got to get him checked out. I don't know if it's not too bad or if it's bad. He didn't seem to think so. He wasn't in a lot of pain. We'll get him checked out.

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K.J. Costello

Postgame



Q. How great is it to have Arcega-Whiteside out there at the other end?

K.J. COSTELLO: It's awesome. You saw it out there. We still missed a couple. This definitely was a first-game-type feeling, a lot of things we want to clean up.

But at the end of the day we slowed things down late -- or early late in the second quarter in terms of really seeing what they were doing, and we're finding relationships and putting the ball where they needed to be. And we're having great communication on the side line. I liked it a lot.

Q. With Trenton's play to force the fumble, first, I don't think he's going to flip over to DB, but can you talk about how important that play was?

K.J. COSTELLO: I've nicknamed him Mr. Reliable in every facet of the game. It was a big play. I was ready to light that guy up if he got past Trent. But Trent was right there. And I mean that's just an effort guy. The guy works harder than anybody else I've ever seen.

He's out there an hour before everybody else. In fact, he's catching Jugs. And he starts his activation an hour before that. The guy's a workhorse and he deserves a lot of credit. And I'm excited to see what he has to do this year.

Q. We've talked about and Coach Long talked about how much San Diego State blitzed tonight. He said maybe the most he's seen from any team he's seen in 12 years. From your perspective, the challenge of dealing with that?

K.J. COSTELLO: Rocky Long, he's been doing it for a long time; he knows what he's doing. They wanted to heat us up and they want to stop the run game. They wanted to heat us up and force us to get the ball out of our hands, get me to get a little sped up on my clock. That was clearly their goal.

I think once we settled in we countered that. Hats off to Drew Dalman, did a hell of a job getting us in the right protection. And then Nate leading that line. Nate, he's a vet out there, (indiscernible) doing unbelievable stuff.

And we had Fobs (phonetic) out there doing some really good stuff as well with Devery. We gotta get a lot

better on a lot of little things, but it was a solid game at the end of the day.

Q. Your talking point coming into this year was emotionless decisions when you're in the pocket. How would you grade yourself in that category tonight?

K.J. COSTELLO: I'm going to have to go back and watch the tape. I'd say my decision-making is right about a B-minus, C-plus. There were certain times where I didn't see exactly what I wanted especially early on.

But in terms of decision-making, I feel like I did pretty well. I'm still missing throws that I want to go back and make. But at the end of the day that's what first games are for.

Q. At this point how confident are you in those two-point conversion fades to JJ? Doesn't seem like much of a surprise at this point?

K.J. COSTELLO: Yeah, you got JJ. I Colby right there in the slot. And I got Kaden backside. I'm going to take whatever they're going to give me at the end of the day. But, once again, something we work countless, countless hours on and the season.

But at the end of the day we've got to be able to do both. We've got to be able to do -- we've got to be able to run the ball and pass the ball. We've got to work play-action outside. We've got to do all kinds of things.

At the end of the day we ended up taking what the defense gave us and we'll get back to the drawing board in a couple of days and see what we need to do going forward.

Q. How important is JJ (inaudible) down field?

K.J. COSTELLO: It's very important. It's no secret. Bryce is the best running back in the country. We all believe it. And they clearly did tonight.

There was times I came to the line there was 11 guys coming down hill, ready to go. Light 'em up. And being able to counter that is what you have to do to be a good offense. And once we settled in we were able to do that.

Q. How much trust do you have in JJ? And when

he's covered (inaudible)?

K.J. COSTELLO: Yeah, I mean it's a combination of trust and feel. There's not a lot of wideouts that I've come across that have his knack and ability to position themselves properly countless, countless times in between the corner, outside the corner, sometimes slipping inside but still staying wide away from the safety. He's a basketball player; he's taking the ball off the rim.

We do want to develop certain things, taking guys more vertical and not necessarily having to always go to the jump ball. But I'm excited to work on that going forward.

Q. (Indiscernible) where he doesn't look open but he can still get to the ball? Is that something that he had to learn last year a little bit?

K.J. COSTELLO: I think he got a good feel for that last year. I think going week-to-week as teams start to bring pressure I pride myself a lot in the offseason to work through progressions.

We've got a lot of weapons. We've got Colby doing great things, Kaden doing great things. So if I don't really like the front side, I want to be able to work through my progression. Again, in those one-on-one type scenarios, when they looked covered, we're kind of feeling that, throwing them open and that's what we've got to do.

Q. After the first two, were you surprised he was still single covered on the third one?

K.J. COSTELLO: Coach Shaw alluded to it, they brought a lot of pressure, and when you bring that kind of pressure you can't double on the perimeter, especially outside.

Q. (Indiscernible) take me through the play with that Trenton Irwin made right before halftime from your perspective.

K.J. COSTELLO: You have to remind me which one?

Q. The one that was intercepted --

K.J. COSTELLO: Oh, yeah, got you. The D end got a pretty good jump (inaudible). He timed up the jump really well. I was throwing a basic, a little in route, and he timed it really well, tipped it up in the air, and I thought I saw the guys go up. And played out perfect for them.

Once again, I was ready to let that guy feel me a little bit, but Trent did an unbelievable job. He's a workhorse going to give everything he's got for this team.

Q. Seemed from there started to go more (inaudible) what was your assessment overall?

K.J. COSTELLO: I think things slowed down for us right in that first, second quarter. I think the safety was huge. Kind of switched the momentum. Take a little bit off our shoulders. Defense played great tonight. They put us in good field position multiple times to get the ball rolling. Started off pretty well. No points, long drives, no points. But later in that game really started to slow things down get on the same page.

Q. What's on your plate this year (inaudible)?

K.J. COSTELLO: Do my job. Lead this team. I want them to understand our plan week by week exactly what we need to do and I want to go out.