



## **Brian Kelly - Head Coach - Notre Dame**

### **Q. Why did Malik Zaire enter the game? Was DeShone Kizer hurt?**

BRIAN KELLY: No, just felt like we needed to get some momentum back. I thought he could add some momentum. That was a head coaching decision.

### **Q. Obviously you went back to Kizer. On the sideline what are those conversations like with both players?**

BRIAN KELLY: Those are coach-player conversations. I just felt like it was important to try to get some energy back. We lost some energy, and I thought going to Malik would do that, and then just, again, with DeShone's experience, felt like giving him a shot at the end, that would give us our best chance of winning.

### **Q. Is DeShone Kizer your starting quarterback moving forward?**

BRIAN KELLY: I don't think there's really a question about who the starting quarterback is. DeShone is the starting quarterback. Each game is treated as a game in itself. We're trying to win the game. Malik is a really good quarterback. I was looking for a little bit of energy and kind of stem the tide and the flow of the game, but DeShone Kizer is the starting quarterback.

### **Q. You got down to the 8, 2nd and 4, and Kizer went sack, spike, sack. Do you have an automatic? Do you have a hand signal, a fade to the corner of the end zone, or do you want him to spike it in that situation?**

BRIAN KELLY: We felt like we had a play. The next play was what we wanted. We had a fade on, so we got to the play that we wanted.

### **Q. On 4th down?**

BRIAN KELLY: Yes.

### **Q. You have that first half where things really moved well for you overall. Where did this game get away from you?**

BRIAN KELLY: Well, it was 17-10 final, and we had a chance to tie it. I think you guys watched the same game I did, right? You know, we made some mistakes, and we couldn't get the momentum back.

### **Q. You've been trying to search for buttons to push with this team; what's the next one, and do you ever get to a point where you run out of them?**

BRIAN KELLY: No. I mean, this is a bitter pill to swallow, certainly. You know, losing our fifth game now by one possession, everybody is -- I love those kids in there. They had great energy. They wanted to win. They did everything that they knew in terms of what they felt



like they could do to win, and they just came up a little short again.

It's one of those things where you just -- you've got to keep fighting, and we'll get out on the other end of it. It's a tough spot we're in right now, but they're committed. Coaches are committed, and we'll find a way. We'll get through this rough spot.

**Q. After the game, what did the Stanford strength coach say to you that set you off?**

BRIAN KELLY: Bye-bye.

**Q. And that was it?**

BRIAN KELLY: Yeah, bye-bye.

**Q. Could you just kind of give an overall assessment how your defense played today? Statistically they did really well, only gave up eight points in this game.**

BRIAN KELLY: I thought they were solid. We're playing a lot of freshmen back there, so we don't want to expose them in every scenario, so they're learning a lot as we go, right, so we want to minimize big plays, which I think we've done a really good job of keeping the points down. The thing that I wanted to do when we made the change was keep the points down and limit the big plays.

Now, you can't be everything that you want to be defensively with just those two things, but you can keep your football team in what I felt was a good position to win games, and we just haven't been able to do the things that I expected to do to win games.

They're doing what I'm asking them to do.

**Q. Can you talk about Jarron Jones? He played with a ton of energy tonight. Can you talk about what you saw from him tonight and what has resulted in the surge we've seen from him the last couple weeks?**

BRIAN KELLY: You know, he's committed. All these guys want to get through this really tough part of everyone's career I guess you could say, mine included. We're going through a tough spot. But they're committed to wanting to get through this together.

As I've said, for those that have been at our press conferences, their attitude is incredible, their commitment is incredible. I love coaching this group. I can coach them hard and hold them to high standards, and that's what they want. They want to be held to really high standards, even though they're going through a tough period.

They're all bought in. I guess that's the way I would put it.



**Q. Stanford's last drive they were able to get a little bit of success running the ball. Did they make an adjustment? Did you guys wear down a little bit?**

BRIAN KELLY: Probably wore down a little bit. Probably on the field a little bit too much there late, and they found a little bit of success on some toss sweeps that were getting outside and some C gap entries that -- again, I think we probably were on the field a little bit too long.

**Q. Do you regret the decision to go to Malik Zaire?**

BRIAN KELLY: No, absolutely not. I think I made it pretty clear that when you're in the throes of the game, you're trying to get the feel for the temperature of the game, and it just felt like we needed some momentum. Malik is a really good quarterback, and I just felt like at that time he would provide that for us. And it takes 11 guys, you know, to give you momentum, too, but I just thought he would be a catalyst in that situation. But in no way, shape or form would I regret ever going to Malik Zaire.

**Q. You're now 2-5 going into the bye week; what did you say to the guys in the locker room?**

BRIAN KELLY: That's really between us. I mean, here's what I would tell you, that when things aren't going well in the family, you keep it in the family, you know, and we're struggling. But we're going to keep our business in the family, and we're going to work on it together. There's a commitment that I love about this group that really energizes you to do everything you can to get them through this really difficult time.

**Q. With DeShone, what sort of was maybe going wrong for him before you took him out? Was he pressing at all? Was he rusty? Can you put your finger on maybe what was wrong there?**

BRIAN KELLY: You know, I just think we just -- I was just looking for a change up. We didn't score the week before, and of course the weather conditions were awful the week before, and that's not to put anything on DeShone Kizer, but I just was looking for maybe catch some lightning in a bottle.

Malik is a really good quarterback. We really wanted to win, and I wanted to win for our guys, and I thought maybe that change up would get us the energy back that we had lost when Stanford put some points on the board. That was the intent in that situation.

**Q. Was there a moment in the game where you felt the momentum start to shift to Stanford?**

BRIAN KELLY: Of course.

**Q. What was that moment?**



BRIAN KELLY: I don't know. Why don't you answer the question for them. Are you kidding me? Really?

**Q. Was it the safety, one of DeShone's interceptions?**

BRIAN KELLY: Those would be probably two key areas in the game. Certainly wasn't when we were up 10-0.

**Q. The safety, second week in a row there have been snapping problems. What more can you do seven games in?**

BRIAN KELLY: Just keep working on it. Listen, Sam is a great kid. He wants to do it right. He feels terrible. But we'll just keep working at it, and just an unfortunate situation. But like I said, I told the guys, this is the no-apology zone. Nobody needs to apologize to anybody because we're -- it's one of those things where everybody knows where we're at; we're 2-5, and we're going to get reminded of it by everybody in the country about a million times. We're 2-5, I'm 2-5, everybody is 2-5, so no one needs to apologize. What we need to do is coach better and execute better, and that will cure a lot of things.

**David Shaw - Head Coach - Stanford**

DAVID SHAW: Now, it was a heck of a college football game. Emotional, physical, hard-fought on both sides. Both sides made plays. Both sides made mistakes. That's what happens when you're coaching college kids, and both teams, I think, are very talented and have some inexperience. I think both teams are going to be very good in the coming years.

As for our side, defensively we won the game. Lance Anderson did a phenomenal job, the defensive coaching staff, getting turnovers, standing up when we needed them to, pressuring the quarterback pretty much more so than we have outside of one other game this year. Played really well.

Offensively just the inefficiency drives me nuts. Drives me nuts, and we could be so much better. We moved the ball in the first half as well as we have all year, probably better than we have all year, and missed field goal and two turnovers. It's unacceptable, unacceptable.

The quarterback position right now, we did not play well, did not play well. I thought we've been growing. Both guys have been growing and learning each week, and we did not play well this week. That's the bottom line, it's the truth, and both guys can play better.

But for us, the second-half mantra that we continued to say was keep playing hard, good things happen. Just keep playing hard. Don't worry about the last play, don't worry about the mistake you just made, just keep playing hard, and we started to feel it on the sidelines, a feeling we haven't felt for like a month, of confidence and energy and passion. Guys



played hard. They played hard until the end, even when Notre Dame was moving the ball, our guys believed and trusted, and we said, there's no time to be tired. Can't be tired. It's time to play our best football, and thankfully at the end of the game, guys made some plays to finish the game out.

Questions?

**Q. When did you find out that Christian McCaffrey was not going to play and how did you feel Bryce Love did as his replacement?**

DAVID SHAW: Well, all week we knew it was going to be Friday. Christian has nothing to prove to us. He's not one of those guys that needs a ton of reps. If he could get out and run on Friday and go full speed, which we're going to test him, he was going to play. Couldn't do it, just couldn't do it, couldn't get anywhere near it. Now, there's a good shot next week. There's a chance next week. Just couldn't go today.

It would be great to have a bye week, but ours has already passed in our schedule at some point, but that's just not going to happen. He'll be day-to-day again with the tag questionable for next week. But I know with a couple days' rest, we'll be able to check him again probably on Tuesday to see how close he is.

**Q. How about Love?**

DAVID SHAW: Bryce Love, this is the first time we've really been able to see it, and I've been saying it, those that have followed us, what is Bryce Love? Bryce Love is a running back. He's an every-down back. He's a physical runner, he's an explosive runner. He's not a small back by any stretch of the imagination. You see how he runs through tackles, he's physical, he's strong. For a guy who's under six foot, he can push the pile and drive his legs. I'm not surprised at all by the yardage, and probably could have had a few more.

But it doesn't surprise me. We knew what we had in Bryce, and it was just one of those days whenever Christian couldn't play, we were going to get a chance to see him with 20-plus carries, and we saw that tonight, and he did a heck of a job.

**Q. Taboada and Meeks coming back this week, how much of the improved play tonight was just a factor of getting your guys back?**

DAVID SHAW: That's part of it, and we still have a couple more that need to come back David Bright went out and Casey Tucker had to go back in, so every time we get a guy coming back we lose a guy, so we had two guys coming back and losing Christian McCaffrey. It's just been one of those years for us. But Quenton Meeks, Quenton Meeks is a ball hawk. We saw that last year, his true freshman year. He's got great instincts on top of his physical tools. He's long, he's physical, he's smart, and he's got a feel for the ball.



Great to have Taboada back. We put him in a couple situations running the ball and did a great job, and then we needed a big play in the passing game and he came through and made one big play, probably had a chance for another one, but it's just good to have those guys back, a full complement of our players, and at some point hopefully this season we'll have that, but it's good to have guys coming back.

**Q. Did you happen to have time to notice just what Christian was able to contribute on the sidelines tonight?**

DAVID SHAW: Oh, I heard him. I heard him. We talked the other day, and -- he's funny; he said, You know me, Coach, I'm not going to be moping on the sidelines now. I said, I didn't think you would be. He was energetic, he was fired up, he had a smile on his face, he was cheering his guys on, pushing his guys, and that's just what we expect, and it just shows you what kind of a person he is. He's not just a great player, he's a great teammate, and he's so excited for those guys, and he's probably one of the loudest guys in the locker room after the victory. He loves his teammates, and he's passionate for their successes, and hopefully we'll get him back on the field soon.

**Q. You guys were moving the ball but you got down around the 30, 35 four or five times and drives stalled. What changed on that last touchdown drive?**

DAVID SHAW: Bryce Love. You know? And the guys up front. One of our better games up front for the offensive line this season. We had one heck of a drive against UCLA. They played really well against USC, and we've been kind of up and down the last couple weeks, partially because we played against two really good fronts. The Washington front is one of the best in the nation, Washington State I think is very underrated and we had trouble with those guys. They played well tonight. We put the pressure on them. We said, we're going to run the ball, and we need you guys to sustain your blocks and give the guys a lane to run, and they played well. Proud of Coach Bloomgren, the game plan, challenging those guys up front because we needed them to play well, and they did tonight.

**Q. When did you tell Bryce he was going to start and what was his reaction?**

DAVID SHAW: Bryce doesn't react. He always has just like a half smile on his face. He said, okay. I mean, just no surprise. He's a sophomore. He's played in a lot of football games. He knows what his capability is. When Christian is healthy, he's a bit of a complementary back. He would have had more carries by now, but he started off the season injured, and we've been working him back in. Thankfully Christian was able to stay healthy because if it happened three weeks ago, Bryce probably wouldn't have been able to carry this load, but he was healthy and ready to go, and late in the game, I said, you don't have the right to be tired. You can't be tired. He said, Coach, I'm not tired. It was great to see him. Hopefully we



get Christian back and we have -- hopefully we believe one of the best one-two punch running backs, group of running backs in the nation, so hopefully we get to see that going forward.

**Q. What was your reaction when you saw Malik Zaire come in in the second half, and does anything change for you guys defensively depending on what quarterback Notre Dame was playing?**

DAVID SHAW: No, nothing changes for us. Both quarterbacks are capable. Both quarterbacks have strong arms. Both quarterbacks are great athletes. Not good athletes, great athletes, so for both of them we had to be ready for the quarterback run. DeShone Kizer had a heck of a run early in the game, a couple of runs and scrambles in the game, so both of those guys are athletic. We just had to play our defense and try to play as sound as possible.

**Q. 12 tackles for Solomon Thomas tonight. What are your initial thoughts on what he was able to do?**

DAVID SHAW: Great player, shows up when you need him to. That was in the locker room at the end of last game, that was throughout the entire week. His work ethic, I'm so fortunate as a football coach to go out every day and see guys like Christian McCaffrey and Solomon Thomas just work and push themselves, and when your best players are your hardest workers, you always have a chance. Solomon, he challenged the football team, and he responded, and that's what leaders do. Leaders don't just challenge everybody else, they challenge themselves, too, and he came out with the mindset to play his best football game, and he just may have.

**Mike McGlinchey - Sr. - Offensive Line - Notre Dame**

*On the approach of bye week...*

The bye week comes at a good time for us with fall break and it is in right of the middle of the season. We are going to be working hard on our week off.

*On the mental state of the team...*

I think we are going to be fine. We are capable of getting out of the hole we are in. We are all extremely positive. It is a matter of finishing games. We are right there. It is an experience right now that is tough to handle but we are confident that we will get out of the rut for sure and guys are positive about that.

*On the performance on the field...*

It is about going down and executing. We are going to keep our heads up and go back to work because we have a lot of football left to play and this team is fully capable of getting



out of the hole right now. The guys are ready to do that.

### **James Onwualu - Sr. - Linebacker - Notre Dame**

*On the defense's improved performance...*

I think it really comes down to everybody just trying to get better. Every man in this locker room is trying to get better every week, and some guys on the defense have started to play well and it's just continuing to do that.

*Evaluating defensive performance...*

There's always things you can try to fix, but I thought we played tough, we played strong, and I'm proud of the guys I was playing with.

*On the difficulty of going into a bye week with a 2-5 record...*

I mean, it's difficult. I've never been in this position before, and a lot of people in the locker room haven't, but we're just going to keep pushing and working through this adversity.

### **Jarron Jones - Grad Student - Defensive Line - Notre Dame**

*On moving forward in practice...*

Our Tuesdays with our scout team will be harder than any game we play. Just the physicality of it, as much as we hit each other, tackle, emphasize the physicality portion of it, and making sure we master the technique and do our jobs. Just going through these Tuesdays, I just feel like that's going to be harder than any game we play.

*On personal pride and managing teammates...*

Even if we're winning, it's always going to be like that, but, when you're going through a tough time that's when our true character comes out. And through these tough times, nobody has changed, nobody has decided to not care anymore, and I commend all my teammates, especially the young guys, because this is their first year and they have three, at least three years ahead of them.

*On what he wants to leave for the younger players...*

Always buy into the system. You may think that you are going to be this or going to be that, but if you don't buy into the system, you never know what's going to happen. You believe in your teammates, your coaches, and just buy in.

### **Cole Luke - Sr. - Cornerback - Notre Dame**

*On the emotions of the season...*





It's tough. Obviously it's really tough, but like I said, we have a bunch of tough guys.

*On getting back to work without being on the field after a loss...*

Obviously, one of the biggest things that I've learned from having an off game or having to have the taste of a loss in your mouth is that the next week you can go out and erase everything that happened. It's a little difficult because we have a bye week like you said, but it will be good to get off of our feet and relax a little, kind of clear our minds so we can come back.

*On how the team keeps from pointing fingers after a loss...*

It's not who we are, we have a great group of men, and we are a team, collectively as a whole. If the defense does bad the whole team does bad, if the tackle does bad, if the corners do bad, the whole team does bad. And we're such a tight-knit group, and I love it. We're going to stay as a family, as a whole no matter what.

### **Drue Tranquill - Jr. - Safety - Notre Dame**

*On defensive performance ...*

We played well and we are improving. We are making strides. I thought we played pretty sound. We have to limit explosive plays and get the ball back to our offense.

### **Torii Hunter - Sr. - Wide Receiver - Notre Dame**

*On the difficulty of taking a loss going into a bye week...*

It's always tough having a loss going into a bye week because you just can't do anything about it for two weeks. We're just going to try to get off our feet, take a break, let our minds rest and then get back to work.

*On adapting to a change in quarterback mid-game...*

We just trust whoever they put out there, no matter if it's the quarterback position or the receiver position, whoever they put out there is a quality guy and has prepared for their opportunity, so we're behind whoever they put out there.

*On what he must say to his team as a captain at this point...*

We just have to keep looking forward. Don't live in the past and we just have to keep working. I think those guys buy into it because we come out every week and we just try to prepare as hard as we can and the coaches see that, everybody sees that, and that's what we have to keep doing, we just have to keep working harder.

### **Jesse Burkett - Jr. - Offensive Lineman - Stanford**



*On his fumble recovery for a touchdown...*

First off, I'm pretty sure I'm not going to end up with that touchdown because I only had a hand on it. I'm pretty sure it was J.J. Whiteside who ended up falling on the ball. We had a great play drawn up and Bryce really fought for those last few yards. I saw it pop out and just tried to fall on it.

*On the improved run game...*

I feel that personally, I still have a lot of stuff I need to work on and get better from tonight. But tonight, more than usual, we kept shooting ourselves in the foot. On our drives, we'd be driving and then get a penalty or a turnover. We just can't have that kind of stuff. We were driving the ball better, but what matters is the scoreboard so we have to finish in the endzone.

*On the new offensive line with the new starter...*

Casey Tucker came in for us at right tackle and he's played for us before, so we felt real good about the transition. It's just next man up. I feel like he handled that really well, we handled that really well, and we pulled out a win.

### **Solomon Thomas - Jr. - Defensive End - Stanford**

*On what won the game for them...*

Our mentality and how it changed in the second half, we didn't let them score again and the defense scored quick with an amazing play. We all played together as a team, everyone was just worried about doing their job with a lot of effort and we just came through. I'm proud of our guys as they challenged themselves in the second half and came out and executed.

*On whether or not there was more pressure on the defense with McCaffrey's absence...*

Our mentality is next man up. Christian was down, we want to play with Christian's passion and Christian's intensity and Christian's love for the game. We want to honor him in that way. But we just want to keep doing what we're doing. We can't put more pressure on ourselves, we just have to play how we play.