

Stanford University Football Media Conference

Saturday October 8, 2016

David Shaw

Postgame

Washington State - 42, Stanford - 16

COACH SHAW: So that was not what we wanted to happen, of course, out there today. We did not play well, and for every positive, we had a negative, and that's not the sign of a good football team. It's not the sign of a Stanford football team.

So we've got to go back and watch this film. We've got to find some things that we can correct. We have to make sure that we're trying to put our guys in a position to be successful.

The bottom line for us right now is we can't overcome the negative plays and mistakes that we make. When someone else makes a mistake, our opponents make a mistake, we're not doing a good job of taking advantage of that.

The pick six tonight was phenomenal by Frank Buncom. But the other miscues that happen during the course of the game, Washington State had a couple miscues, we didn't take advantage of those. Now, that's I understand what's going to be said for the next 48 hours. That's fine. I can take it. Bottom line for me is in the first half we missed two field goals, missed two touchdown passes. Came out in the third quarter, missed another touchdown pass. Later in the game missed another touchdown pass.

So we've got to hit those opportunities. You know, it's not just one of those. We've got to hit multiple. If those things are there, we've got to hit them, and that's on us as a staff to make sure that we are working on these things and getting them right. That's on us as players to make sure we're making the plays we're capable of making. We're not going to change the offense. We're not going to change what we do. We had opportunities and we did not connect, we did not make those.

Third different combination on the offensive line tonight, and we'll see what we do next week. We still had too much pressure on the quarterback and not enough lanes to run in to get positive yards in our running game. Before we can get explosive plays in the running game, we've got to get positive yards in the running game. We've got to get our runners to and from the line of scrimmage.



McCaffrey did get banged up, but there was no reason to put him in late in the game. We just left him out. We'll see how he is during the course of the week. Don't ask the question, I don't have any answers for you.

Biggest thing for us, first half we had the chance to make this a game. We had a chance to go into halftime, if not with the lead, at least very close. Honestly, should have had the lead if we make the plays that we're capable of making. But once again, that's on us as coach and players to play much better, to make the plays that we're capable of making. That's it.

Q. 2.3 yards per carry rushing. This is a very unusual for Stanford. Is this offensive line -- obviously you had a slight change, you had change at left tackle, but with the two guys this week, is this offensive line capable of creating the normal Stanford running game now against top-flight Pac-12 competition?

COACH SHAW: We are a work in progress up front right now. And I didn't think at this point in the season that I would be saying that, but that's just where we are. Whether it's due to injury or new guys up there, different guys up there, first live game action for some of them this season, which is not an excuse. We've got to make sure we're finding the right combination of guys. And Coach Mike Bloomgren has done a phenomenal job every year here, and we've got to find out who those next five are that are going to play the majority for us and find out what they do well and what they can do consistently. Because our combination of backs, you know, they're as good as anybody in the country, and we've got to give them a chance to make plays.

So we'll continue to look at it and continue to try to find the best way to first of all be efficient and then have a chance to be explosive.

Q. If I could follow up, how would you assess Ryan Burns' play, and is he still firmly your starting quarterback?

COACH SHAW: I thought Ryan -- Ryan has done an admirable job. The team fought. The team fought. We'll continue to with Ryan and continue to look at

Keller. I think Keller did some things well tonight and some things not so well.

Q. You guys had six first down runs in the first half that got you seven yards. How long into a game do you go before you start to consider that the stuff that you do so well isn't working on that night?

COACH SHAW: Well, we didn't run the same run every single time, so we're trying different things against a very good front that we had trouble with last year. Which two guys are in the NFL right now. We had trouble with those guys last year as well.

Good combination of guys up front physically for them, and a tough scheme. We were able to be bailed out last year by our quarterback on a couple of really big runs. We were able to make some plays on the defensive side and get interceptions and make a crucial field goal.

We got two interceptions tonight and turned them into seven points, and that was it. We missed two field goals and we were inefficient running the ball, inefficient on third down, and at times decent throwing the ball, and at times inefficient throwing the ball. Inefficiency is not a sign of a good football team, and that's what we aspire to be. We've got to be good before we're great. We've got to be good first, and that's what we're working on trying to be.

Q. Is it fair to say that there might be some competition for those starting five offensive line positions moving forward?

COACH SHAW: I'm not saying that. You can say that if you want to.

Q. What did you think of the call on Justin Reid? You've been very big about these targeting calls. I was just wondering what you felt about that particular one.

COACH SHAW: It was a good call. It's a call you have to make. It's quarterback scrambling, quarterback sliding. Now, from the replay, the contact was minimal with his helmet, but there was contact. We don't ask the officials to just judge degree. We don't ask them to judge intent. There was contact above the neck when the quarterback was sliding, so you've got to call it.

Justin feels terrible. Was not -- of course, not trying to hurt the guy, not trying to hit the guy. First contact was with his shoulder, but there was contact on the head. So I understand it. It's unfortunate because we've got a really good player who is really starting to come into his own. Missed some playing time there. But we understand it and we embrace the rules that protect players.

Q. Talk about the play of Luke Falk. 357 yards passing, four touchdowns.

COACH SHAW: He's a good football player. We talked about Luke last year. He has been highly underrated because of the great quarterback play that's been in this conference. But all the guy has done is complete a lot of passes for a lot of yards. He's that veteran quarterback that's seen every blitz, and you can't rattle him. He sees things coming, he gets rid of the ball. We were able to hurry him and rush him more this year than we did last year. Hit him, attacked him a couple times, got in his face. Forced intentional grounding.

You know, so I think we did as much as you could to a veteran quarterback. But you're not going to rattle this kid. He's a good football player that's going to be playing on Sunday.

Q. Did you think that Burns' issues missing open receivers down field was because he couldn't get comfortable in the pocket? He was getting hit a lot. Did you sense that it was a comfort thing with him or something else?

COACH SHAW: No, I did not.

You guys usually have follow-up questions. My follow-up answer to my answer was there were a couple times, now, he had to throw the ball before he should have. Now, that's not feeling the rush, that's just trying to get the ball in your hands so you don't take another sack. So twice I know, off the top of my head, he would have loved to have waited another split second for the guy to get open, but he had to get rid of the ball because there's pressure.

Q. Coach, can you tell me about the difficulties you guys had protecting Burns? He's been sacked ten times in the past two games.

COACH SHAW: I'm sorry, what is your question?

Q. Can you tell me a little bit about what's to account for the difficulties protecting Burns? He's been sacked ten times in the past two games.

COACH SHAW: You've just given me a stat I don't have an answer for.

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Dallas Lloyd

Postgame

Washington State - 42, Stanford - 16

Q. Dallas, how tough was it to try to contain Luke Falk and all the receivers that they have.

DALLAS LLOYD: He's very talented, very polished quarterback. And when you play against a team that throws the ball 70-plus times a game, you know that they're going to have a guy that can manage the game very well, make good reads and take care of the ball. So he's a very polished passer. And they have playmakers at wide receiver.

You know, I think the biggest thing for us was where we're at in the season right now is we feel like we have so much potential and we're just not giving up to it.

And not taking anything away from Washington State. They came and they outplayed us. They beat us. They won the game. But I feel like right now we're beating ourselves. Each guy on our team is determined to take it upon himself to look in the mirror and say: You know what? I need to be better. I need to study more during the week. I need to work harder because my coaches, my teammates, my family, but mostly my teammates are counting on me.

You know, I thought the offense did well. They do what they always do. They have kind of the same package that they do against everybody because it's so efficient and it works so well. They spread the ball around to so many different guys. When you have your nickels and safeties outside of the box and backers outside of the box covering receivers, they like to run the ball because the box is light. We don't have very many people in there.

So I think we all need to kind of look at ourselves in the mirror and move on. I'm confident our team will do that.

Q. Is this team shellshocked at this point after these two games?

DALLAS LLOYD: I think we just need to take a deep breath, you know, and get back to where we were in training camp or even the first few weeks of the season, and just, you know, we just need to believe in ourselves.



We have so much talent, we have so many playmakers, so many great players. But the main thing is you can't just tell yourself we have playmakers. You need to go out and continue to work, and earn it and prove it every single week. Because tonight's game is over, and we have another game in a week. So there's no time to really feel bad for yourself or to feel bad for the team or to point fingers. The defense to the offense, offense to the defense. We just all know we need to improve.

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Saturday October 8, 2016

Mike Leach

Postgame

Washington State - 42, Stanford - 16

Q. Defensively, what were you able to do to control the line against them?

COACH LEACH: Defensively? You know, first thing we played, the simple answer is we had good pad level and we played hard all day. And that's the biggest thing with Stanford with them overloading and overlapping with a back the quality of McCaffrey, everybody's got to be precise.

I'm sure we weren't perfect, but we were precise a lot. So I felt like we played really hard on the D-line. I don't know if I can think of a position that we played harder on this game than the D-line. Because they were disruptive all day and were going to give us a run in the pass ball.

Q. Your thoughts on the defense getting those initial three-and-outs and allowing the offense to sort of find its rhythm?

COACH LEACH: I thought that was huge. I thought it was really big. Stanford's such a strong, physical team and they can make things happen very quickly just because they move you around.

As we got in sync on offense, I thought we were better up front offensively. I thought we did a pretty good job keeping them off balance. Once they're -- they're smart, clever guys, but once they're off balance, we had to continue to keep them off balance because they sorted out a little quicker than some.

Q. It seemed like the team showed some mental toughness in terms of scoring after those false starts, scoring after the (indiscernible scoring on the offensive line after doing some shuffling. Is that what you saw from this crew?

COACH LEACH: Well, we did have some timely scores, and that's good. There are times when you get somebody in a tough situation, capitalizing on that is important, and I did think we did a good job of that offensively early in the games on defense to keep that thing to a draw until we got in sync. And then, well, second half I thought the most important series of the game -- I have a cough -- the important series of the game for us was that opening drive offensively in the third quarter and then the opening defensive series.



Q. (Indiscernible) false starts at all?

COACH LEACH: I don't think so. I don't think so. It's not the loudest stadium. I do think they have the loudest PA system here, which I think's interesting because last year when we played they had a series of complaints about our PA system. Theirs is definitely louder than ours. Maybe we'll talk to their PA guy and get ours even louder. But it was loud and it sounded good.

I thought they played good music too. I mean, some of the music I could do without, but I thought Stanford has great taste in music. Who had have thank it?

Q. That first drive of the third quarter, River had some really good catches. He hasn't really had a game like this before. What's getting him there right now?

COACH LEACH: His head's clear. He just focuses on his job, not a lot of extra stuff. He's a guy that can play really well when he just focuses on his job and not a bunch of extras, not this, not that, because sometimes he's real quick to think of a bunch of what ifs, and if he allows those to cloud in there, all of a sudden it slows everything out.

Q. How did (indiscernible) play this game?

COACH LEACH: I thought for the most part, I thought it was really good. I thought it was really good -- well, obviously the first interception was bad, but he got hit. He's picking himself up off the ground, so I don't know what else he could do on that. He floated that ball on 3rd and 20, which we could have drained that. I mean, if we hit that guy, we convert that thing. So then they pick that.

I didn't like those two plays. I thought he did a really good job holding the offense and everybody together as we got the same from Marks down the field. And controlled the first half. Thought he did a good job finishing the game using the clock and just running the unit. Keeping track of him, you know.

Q. Last year you guys had (indiscernible) is there something about a program learning how to beat up a team and put it away early?

COACH LEACH: Well, against these guys that's easier said than done, but you try to do the best you can. But

I think the focus when you're down, everybody kind of focuses in a little when they're down. But having the discipline to focus when you're up, I think we gave away the last two games with regard to that.

Q. (Indiscernible) the first couple games of the year?

COACH LEACH: I do, yeah, Yep.

Q. Not that there's any tape or anything on it, but any (Indiscernible) when he came in?

COACH LEACH: I thought he played well. I thought he played really well. Yeah, I thought he played really well.

Q. How were you guys able to get things on track after the way you played the last couple of weeks?

COACH LEACH: How hard was it?

Q. How have you done it?

COACH LEACH: Just hard work and everybody working hard and pulling together. Everybody working hard and pulling together. Also, I think there's a point where everybody's got to be brutally honest with each other, coaches and players, what everybody's doing. Because coaches and players as well, I don't think we were as focused as we could have been. I don't think we coached details as well as coaches as we could have. I don't think we absorbed details as well as players as we could have. Just focusing.

The quick answer is everybody focused on doing their job. Just do your job, and do it over and over. This is just practice. Hell with that. We don't care if it's just practice. You do it now. Then if we don't do a good job doing our job, then coaches step in.

But now we're to the point where players are stepping in, so it elevates the whole thing because everybody's committed not just to doing their job, but everybody doing their job together, and I think that's been helpful, and we certainly have to keep track of that next week as we play UCLA.

Q. How valuable is it to have those three backs putting down (indiscernible) early for your offense?

COACH LEACH: I think it was important. I think it was definitely important. It kept them honest. That's something historically we haven't been able to do against a front like this or a team, is keep them honest. And they try to get you one dimensional. You know, but, you know, we tried to get a little out of people touching the ball because that's part of what's important to us.

Q. Between the backs and the defensive line play that you were talking about earlier, do you feel this

is kind of evolving into one of your schemes here at Washington State?

COACH LEACH: I don't view balance as number of runs. I view balance as contributions by all the skill positions. So to achieve balance is to make sure all of the skilled positions are contributing to the offensive effort, whether it's through the air or on the ground. I'd have to add it up. I need to add it up.

Stanford University Football

Media Conference

Sunday October 9, 2016

Luke Falk

Cody O'Donnell

Postgame

Washington State - 42, Stanford - 16

Q. (Indiscernible)?

LUKE FALK: Pretty hard to beat him out right now, but on the whole we played pretty well, especially started off a little slow. It was an offense that we picked it up and got rolling. It starts with them up front, and as soon as they get going, we get going as well.

Q. How much does it ease your mind that the defense is going through now?

LUKE FALK: Oh, it's great. Because it's like nothing really happened. Start the game off with the pick, and not the best circumstance. But they hold, and it's basically like we're starting the game over again. That really gives us a lot of confidence knowing that the defense is going to be playing hard.

Q. (Indiscernible) what do you think about that?

LUKE FALK: I don't know. It triggered something in me today. But you remember (Indiscernible).

CODY O'DONNELL: Knocked some sense into you.

Q. (Indiscernible)?

LUKE FALK: Yeah, I mean, it was a football play. It took me out of whatever, but I was fine. Came back in and then just common play.

Q. How fun is it for you to score on that drive with the two penalties and then you went out the way you did?

LUKE FALK: I mean, you don't score every drive, but that was a key situation in the game, and it wasn't going our way against (indiscernible) down there. Had a few (indiscernible), but I think our guys did a nice job and just battled for whoever is playing in the next play. Really just focused on doing our job. It was a great testament of how this team's playing. Just played next play and just beat them to the punch.

Q. Does this seem like an offensive lineman's game? You just noted this is going to be a trench battle?

CODY O'DONNELL: It's always going to be a trench battle. It's what football is, the big guys up front kind of



taking over the game. We get better when we get a chance to do their thing when we get rolling.

Q. So when it's two and a half, three quarters and all of a sudden you guys start winning, can you sense that happening at the line of scrimmage?

CODY O'DONNELL: I mean, yeah. You just get to feel things out, things about your opponent. You just get a feel more for the game. I mean, yeah, you can, but also you can't really put them down. You've got to keep going, do your job.

Q. Cody, we heard a lot about Stanford's game. What did you see on the ground? (Indiscernible) what was that match-up like?

CODY O'DONNELL: I don't know. They seemed pretty physical. They came and they hit. Like they hit people. But, you know, they seem physical, just about as physical as everyone else we played.

Q. Luke, are teams covering (indiscernible) differently this year?

LUKE FALK: A little bit. I guess he's more of a power and stuff, but I don't think they're doing anything too drastic. I think in the first few games they had a key on (indiscernible), but we've got a lot of weapons on our offense. But if we can just go through our reads and get it into play, we've got a lot of weapons out there. But he's a great player.

Q. Luke, was Dallas that much more today?

LUKE FALK: He was hot. There are some where he was covered, but I just felt comfortable with him and just threw it up there and made a nice play. That catch in the end zone was incredible. He was just -- he was hot, and just kept feeding it to him tonight.

Q. For this team, you've been putting up a lot of points for a while. But not only the offensive line but the defensive line, and think really imposing your will against the past two opponents. What does that bring this program mentality-wise going into the season?

CODY O'DONNELL: We expect that every game. So when we don't get it, it's kind of a letdown. But we're expecting (indiscernible) to go out there and just score a lot of points with the offense as it is. So Leach expects it out of us, and we expect it out of ourselves.