



Postgame Quotes

Stanford vs. Arizona State | January 17, 2018

Stanford Head Coach Jerod Haase

Opening statement:

“I thought we really executed the gameplan well. It’s no secret they are an elite three-point shooting team and have the ability to put it on the ground. But we really felt like defending the three-point line was the priority and maybe the first step of that is transition defense. Executing the gameplan is the best way to describe it because we had decent transition defense. Because we were efficient offensively, we were able to get shots most of the time and shots we expected. The guys got back on defense fairly well. I think our transition defense and taking away threes was a big part. We continued to score on the offensive end throughout the game and when they cut into it we stopped them.”

On Josh Sharma:

“Dumb coach didn’t get him enough shots. If he would have told me he wasn’t going to miss today, everything would have gone through him. He was fantastic and his energy was great. He was a rim protector on the defensive end and I don’t even know, he had two blocks, but affected some shots and he did foul a few times. But he was aggressive on the inside and that allowed us to push up on the three-point shooters. So, when they drove, they knew they would have to deal with Josh. And again, he had some fouls there but I thought he was a presence and had a couple blocks.”

On Oscar Da Silva:

“We went zone, I think there was about five and a half minutes left the first time and I think they hit two threes right in a row. Somebody said let’s go to plan C. Plan C was switching some ball screens and putting Oscar into situations where he is going to have to guard perimeter players and he was fantastic with his versatility. You look at guys, the freshman especially, KZ, Daejon and Oscar. Versatility is one of the first adjectives you use to describe them. He showed that defensively and defending the ball.”

On defending Tra Holder:

“KZ started the game on him and played most of the game on him. He was absolutely fantastic. If you look at the box score, KZ did not jump out at you. His numbers, 1-of-8 and that kind of thing. He was phenomenal defensively. A couple mental or physical lapses throughout the game but for the most part his length is a game changer and you know we talked about versatility, he’s about as versatile as you get.”

On the shortened rotation:

“The cohesion is a big part of it. I think that you are getting seven guys out there that are used to each other, understanding where each other is going to be and that experience is going to pay dividends. We didn’t get that until a day before the Cal game, a day before conference season started. Even then we were working through some injuries and things. The more time they’ll get together, the more cohesion you’ll see.”

Looking ahead:

“I’ve been consistent with the message that I believe the team is going to continue to grow, that we have a chance to be a good team. We are still in the process of getting there. We have not arrived, there will not be one message to the team that we’ve arrived. There’s still a ton of work to be done and we’ll watch film and practice hard with an understanding there’s more out there and a ton of improvement to be had.”

Senior Guard Dorian Pickens

On Stanford's defense:

"We were trying to be active on defense. We want to stop teams, get a lot of stops and that gets great offensive possessions for us. Our ability to play great team defense and lock in for one-on-one situations is huge for us. Got to give a lot of credit to the guys who have done a great job so far."

On the history with Arizona State:

"Last year, we didn't beat them in the conference season or Pac-12 Tournament. The older guys from last year had a chip on their shoulder going into this game and we wanted to come out from the jump and compete hard."

Looking ahead:

"It feels great. We are not really looking into the rankings, preseason, or right now. We are looking at one game at a time today and the previous few days where our focus was on Arizona State. Tomorrow, we're going to move on to the next one. We look forward to playing Arizona and taking it one day at a time and not buying too much into all the talk."

On Arizona State:

"They are a great team, they are well-coached, they have a great backcourt and great front court and great guys off the bench. You knew they were going to make their run at some point and they did. For the past couple of games, our ability to respond to adversity and the punches they throw is huge."

Junior Center Josh Sharma

On Stanford's defense:

"We just locked in on defense. We had a lot of breakdowns in the first half. I'm just trying to put emphasis on bringing energy when I get on the floor and focus on doing my job."

On his offensive success:

"It's pretty easy when you have guys like Dorian sucking guys in and finding the open guy. You know missing a couple of shots allowed me to put them back. It's easy when you have teammates that are setting you up and getting you easy looks throughout the game."

On the crowd:

"I think the crowd has been awesome over these last three home games that we've had. They have really been bringing a lot of energy and that's what I try to do on the court is bring energy. So, if I can get the crowd involved at all that's good news for everyone."

On the freshmen contributions:

"I think Daejon has made a great improvement on being a point guard and being a leader on the floor. KZ is just a great basketball player. Oscar has been phenomenal all year. The way he sees the court, the way he moves the ball. He had a couple of big offensive rebounds today, great looks down low. I wouldn't even call them freshman anymore, or rookies. They have been playing like upperclassmen for the last few games and it has been awesome for us."



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Arizona State Head Coach Bobby Hurley

Opening statement

“We're accustomed to being in some of those games where we're trying to erase a deficit. We put a lot of energy into trying to get back into it. We started playing at that level too little, too late. Sometimes all the energy you invest to get back in makes it so you can't kick it over the top.”

“Credit to them -- their inside game was outstanding. Pickens had his normal efficient game--I believe they had 50 points and 26 rebounds at the four and five spots. And their bench -- the two guys they did play went 11 for 11 from the field and out-played out bench significantly.”

“We just gotta get more guys playing well. We have regressed some in league play, and again, we are still searching, and we have to circle the wagons.”

On Tra Holder's shooting struggles

“Yeah, he had an off night, but we need more help, though. Tra has been outstanding all year. We would never have had the record we had if it wasn't for how he has played. He kind of gets a pass; if he's not shooting it well, we need other guys to step up and make plays. It's a long year -- you're going to go through stretches like this. I know Tra will bounce back and find his rhythm again. He's got a lot of pride, he's a winner, and he will figure it out.”

On Stanford's recent play

“We played a team tonight that's played with a lot of confidence, that's won some games in the league, is sitting in a good position. They went through some adversity early in the year, and now they have found their stride. We have done enough, and the teams we have beaten in the nonconference have gone on to show that we are a good team. But now we're just not where we were. I think we can find ourselves again.”

Moving forward

“We've got guys who can put it on the floor, and try and get to the basket, or kick it out to a teammate. So we just have to focus on that offensively -- we can't have empty minutes out there. We need production; we can't get outscored that dramatically in bench points. We lost the paint by a big number, and we have to convert layups.”