



Postgame Quotes

Stanford vs. UCLA | January 4, 2018

Stanford Head Coach Jerod Haase

On The Game

“There was a lot of growth tonight, up to that point where times are looking grim with a couple of minutes left. In our Cal game, we did a lot of nice things until the second half, defensively and then late in the game when I looked in their eye, there wasn’t that look back where they think ‘We believe we can get it done’ and that was discouraging as a coach. But tonight, when we got into those situations over and over again, they responded. And not responded by them making the play, but they responded when I looked at them and they gave me something back like ‘Hey we got you coach’ and not every time did we make the correct play, but over and over again we had adversity and we responded.”

“After the Cal game if I had one simple message to the team it was: “everyone talks about adversity, you adjust or you adapt to it, but my phrase to them was “we’re going to attack it, we’re going back at it and we’re going to attack adversity and I think it’s pretty cool because the guys bought into the idea, they attacked practices, and tonight when we had adversity over and over again, I thought they went and attacked it.”

On your experience in coaching in a double overtime game

“Yeah, I probably need to think back, I’ve won some and lost some, but I’ve definitely been in some overtime games. I know I lost a really big one my senior year in college but I’ve certainly been in some overtime games and had some big wins as well.”

On Oscar da Silva’s play tonight

“He has great instincts, it’s been challenging for him, I think as time goes on. He will be able to play effectively at the three spot, the four spot or the five spot throughout his career. We’ve thrown him in the three spot which I think has been challenging for him to try and guard 6-2 guards and try and run from the three spot and think the game. We really threw him out in the deep end and for the most part, he’s responded very well. But as we go through this, and get him a little more minutes at the four or five spot, I mean he’s an elite level passer for a big and has wonderful basketball IQ and his toughness is getting better day-by-day.

“I mean this sincerely, he’s a highly intelligent player, an intelligent person as well. He speaks six different languages so if I can learn five more languages I can speak to him any way I want in the game and he’ll understand me. But those instincts and intelligence definitely come through on the court.”

On coming back from the double-digit deficit

“Nothing I haven’t already talked about. It’s the guys had a belief in something bigger than themselves, greater than themselves when there wasn’t a whole lot to hold onto. And I know that’s a big ideological kind of thing. There’s nothing concrete and maybe we attacked the basket a little more or played without fouling or whatever you want to say, and there was some of that. There was a belief for the first time since I’ve been at Stanford that ‘we can get this done’ and that’s what I’m going to remember from this game.”

On the play of Daejon Davis down the stretch

“He’s going to continue to have ups and downs like all of our guys but he has really grown throughout the year. He’s had some games where he’d and I’d like to forget on an individual basis and he’s had some big time games. But the trend from the start of the middle of the year right now is going well. The more he can and continues to think as a point guard, as a leader, a guy that gets us in the right play at the right time, the right defense at the right time, communicating with everybody, the other stuff is going to fall into place. Where he’s not thinking about ‘how do I get open or how do I get by this guy’ it’s just thinking about “I’m in charge of this team” and as he does that, he loses himself in the game and that’s when the good things tend to happen.”

On the decision not to foul at the end of regulation

“I am disappointed in myself, I do believe in fouling, we had one timeout left, so I could have given the clear instructions and done exactly what I wanted. With five seconds left, they didn’t have any timeouts left. I made the decision instead of giving them an opportunity to draw something up and put us in an awkward situation and lose control of the situation a little bit I decided to let it go. I don’t think anyone was surprised with what happened, with [Aaron] Holiday getting the basketball and shooting the basketball. I have an unbelievable amount of trust in Daejon and Daejon played it well. If I had to do it over again, I’d probably foul, and that’s just my belief system, I believe in fouling.”

On Dorian Pickens’ play

“I really challenged Dorian at halftime, about being a captain and in the first half we didn’t play with tremendous energy. Obviously, we were in the game at halftime and weren’t blown out, but we were out there just playing. I challenged everybody, I really challenged the captains and I really challenged Dorian that it’s not just okay. Especially with his injury and he’s been out so long. In the second half, I could not be more proud of what he did, how he led the team, and I think the guys really responded to him.”

On processing the success and getting ready for USC

“We have one of two options moving forward now. This could be a game we talk about and the guys talk about for the rest of the lives about ‘Hey this was a big win, double overtime, a really exciting time in Maples when we haven’t had a lot of success’ and leave it at that. Or they could talk about how this game being a big time game, a double overtime game against UCLA in Maples that was really an important moment for our team that we took it, and built on it. And I’m going to do everything I possibly can to make sure this wasn’t a flash in the pan. This needs to be a building block moving forward that we can do some special things.”

Senior Forward Dorian Pickens

On the ending playing with mostly freshmen on the court

“It’s huge, I don’t think it’s just to call them kids either. At this point in the season, we have so many guys out they’ve had so much experience and so much maturity from our nonconference schedule. I mean, they played huge. Isaac, Oscar, Daejon all the guys did. Kezie came in and gave great minutes.”

On your mindset heading into the three-pointer he made at the end of regulation

“Just get a shot up, they gave us a great look I just did a pump fake and he jumped, I just wanted to get it up. It felt good.”

On the depth of this team with double overtime

“Unbelievable. With Reid and Mike out at the end, it was me and the young guys. They played phenomenally and really stepped up in a big way.”

On collecting big rebounds

“It’s been a big emphasis for our entire team to have our guards crash the defensive boards. I think that’s been a weak point in some of the games we lost and a strong point in some of the games we’ve won. We definitely wanted to make a point to do that today.”

Freshman Guard Daejon Davis

On the feeling after a big win

“It feels great, it always feels good to win. Our honorary captain talked to us tonight about how winning is intoxicating and it feels so good. We just have fun in the locker room and we’re looking forward to more moments like this. It starts with our preparation in practice. I really feel like practice is where all this is coming from.”

On the winning mentality

“I was confident the whole game, but I just know how hard we worked in practice the last couple of weeks and I knew I could look into everyone’s eye on my team and I knew everyone was engaged and involved in the game. Everyone wanted to win. Our honorary captain also told us a story about how they had UCLA at home and it went to double overtime and they won the game. So all those moments where it kept going to overtime, Coach was just telling us with adversity comes opportunity, so when those adverse moments kicked in, opportunities arise.”

On Oscar da Silva’s play

“He’s great, he’s a great passer, really a phenomenal passer always good at finding guys at the right place and the right time. “You know in positions where they can do things with the basketball where they can score or make a play. I think our nonconference schedule with how tough it was, really helped him. We’re really looking forward to his contributions moving forward.”

On being back on the court

“It feels good to be back on the court. Being away from the game is tough obviously but I really just wanted to take it upon myself to be a leader, lead the young guys through adversity, through the tough times we had in the nonconference schedule. I wanted to lead through tough practices through tough parts of life. As one of the older guys, that’s one of the roles I fill and one of the roles all the captains have to fill. It’s nice to be back on the court and be playing alongside these guys.”



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UCLA Head Coach Steve Alford

On The Game

"It was just atrocious foul shooting, second half in particular, and atrocious defense. I thought we defended in the first half, our efficiency at halftime was 95. In the second half, it was 135. You're not going to win road games defending like that. I told them that you might have nights where the free throw doesn't go in; but the tenacity and the nastiness was not there in the second half.

This team has to learn that's where you win games. We're not the super over-talented offensive team that we were a year ago, so we can't just rely on offense. I think our offensive efficiency was high again tonight. We scored enough--we did enough offensively, even with the bad foul shooting, but we just didn't get any stops in the second half. We were up 12 with 8, 9 minutes to go--it was Michigan revisited. We couldn't close it out, we have to figure that out.

Now we turn around and have to go try again at Cal.

On the foul-outs of Kris Wilkins and G.G. Goloman in overtime:

We had guys foul out, they had guys foul out. Part of defending is not fouling. They had their share of foul-outs, too--Humphrey and Travis both. We couldn't guard Davis. Davis was terrific. Pickens was terrific. First half, Travis was really good, we just didn't have an answer, really, for Pickens and Davis.

On the effort

We've had great effort all year long, it's more of a toughness issue of understanding how hard it is to win on the road, and you can't get up 12-14 points and relax. That's when we have to step on the throat. This team just hasn't learned that yet. Their effort now has to become really tough and nasty, and we haven't been able to figure that out consistently on the road.

Holiday was really good in the second half; he and Tom [Welsh] got hurt in the first half and that didn't help things. Welsh got hurt in practice [hit in the nose], then got hit again right when we started the game tonight. He had to get stitches.