



Postgame Quotes

Stanford vs. USC | January 7, 2018

Stanford Head Coach Jerod Haase

How does it feel to have your freshman point guard come in and make a big shot like that early in his career at the start of conference play?

“The fact that it went in is special, and it’s an unbelievable moment. Obviously, some luck involved with it going in. I’m more excited and proud about the comeback. Being down, I believe, 15 and much of that time having four freshmen in there leading the charge. I think the big thing is all of those guys are having the belief that we can get it done. As a coach, that’s special. We have a long, long way to go in terms of our development as a team. But, Daejon, it’s pretty neat. During the alma mater he was bragging that he was practicing that shot with Isaac after the shoot-around, and as I talked to Isaac, he said he made a bunch of those shots and Daejon didn’t make any. So I guess he was due for one.”

How do you assess the game in totality?

“It’s hard to analyze it in totality. In totality, I’m excited that the guys believe in what we’re doing. There’s no questioning offense or defense or belief that we can get it done. That’s a huge step for the program. Right now, I’m looking more big-picture in how we’re developing as a program. To answer your question specifically, I was disappointed at times, especially in the first half and even times in the second half that our energy level dipped and our physicality dipped. For us to be really good, we have to be a tough minded, physical team every minute we’re out there. We’re not to that point yet, but I’m certainly excited about the game. There’s a lot of positives to take away from it, but there’s so much progress still to be made with this team.”

What did you say to Reid to get him motivated at half time and how proud of you with how well he shot at the free throw line the last two games?

“He deserves every accolade for the free throws. He’s worked so hard on the free throw line and his jump shot overall. Couldn’t be more impressed there. I did challenge him at halftime. I didn’t think he had the energy and the toughness at the defensive end, and if one of our captains doesn’t have that, how the heck am I supposed to expect anyone else to have it? He responded great. I talked about Dorian the last game, same sort of thing and guys fed off of that. As a captain there’s a big responsibility. When I challenge him in front of the team, there’s an expectation that he responds and he certainly did that tonight.”

Oscar seems to keep making big plays in key moments. Can you talk about what his versatility and his game has meant to you guys over the past two games?

“He has a ton of savvy and a great deal of experience. Playing overseas and playing international basketball, he’s seen a ton of things and been put in a lot of situations, more so than any of the freshmen and probably more than some of the upperclassmen. Because he’s been in a lot of those situations, he has great, great savvy. It doesn’t mean he always gets to the right spot or he might lack effort or lack physicality on a play, but he has a tremendous amount of savvy. With that, he tends to know when to try to block a shot, when to stay down--especially in tight situations. I believe he’s been there before and it’s paying dividends.”

Can you talk about Kezie’s aggressiveness going to the basket, finding ways to get the ball in the basket, and playing with four fouls?

“Playing through four fouls, we didn’t really talk about it with him. I didn’t want him thinking about it or making any adjustments. I wanted him to be aggressive. I would have preferred the last couple of shots that he keep attacking, keep attacking the rim. That’s where we were having success and that’s what we wanted to continue. Having said that, I love the fact that he has the confidence to shoot that basketball. We talk about building a program, that’s a lot better problem to have than guys that shy away from the moments. I think we’re developing a group of players, especially that freshman class that is going to embrace those moments moving forward and not being afraid to fail.”

Would you rather your team not get down 13 or 15 in back-to-back games?

“Yes, we would like to have more consistency and not have the big deficits, certainly. That consistency needs to improve. We’re going on the road now in Pac-12 play for our first road trip and we’re going to have to continue to learn these lessons. We know we’re not going to be able to get 15 point deficits and expect to win. That’s the next brick that needs to go down.”

Freshman Guard Daejon Davis

How much did you practice that shot?

“Not a lot, not a serious amount of work, just occasionally after practice. Everyone on the team pretty much does it. I’ve never seen Reid do it. Pretty much everyone else throws a couple up after practice. Actually, after shootaround I remember having competitions with teammates and managers.”

What was your mindset when Jordan McLaughlin put USC up by two?

“I saw him make the really tough shot, something like this [shooting motion over his shoulder], and all I was thinking was I didn’t know about the college rules, whether or not the clock was going to run or not. So, I looked up and there was still time. I saw 1.7 seconds up on the clock, he threw it, I was trying to let it roll, but I touched the ball, then it bounced real quick and I was like phoo [shooting sound].”

Did you know on the court where you were when you took the shot?

“I knew for sure, I didn’t know how far up I was going to be after shooting it. I knew I was on the left side and I know that it’s a lot easier when I flip it. I know my ball usually curves around this way so give it a chance.”

Did you know it was good?

“I knew it [the shot] had a chance for sure. It’s amazing when things like that happen, especially to bring us back to .500 that was a huge win.”

Senior Forward Reid Travis

What was your impression of the second-half comeback?

“We just locked in on defense, we had a lot of breakdowns in the first half and that’s where you saw Boatwright and some of their point guards get some looks from deep. That’s something we came into the game and wanted to take away. We knew they like to put up a lot of three-point shots and they were getting those. That is easy to create a lead when you got four, five of those shots going down. In the second half, that was our big thing, we had to take away the threes. Once we did that it was about getting the boards. They got a lot of offensive rebounds on us, we just have to board better. With our defense a combination of that helped us dig our way out of that hole.”

What did you think of Daejon’s play?

“He could have done nothing in this game and that would have made up for it. He’s definitely MVP of this game for that. To have the poise and the wherewithal to put it up as fast as he did, you got to give it up to him.”

What is your impression of Daejon’s play thus far in the season?

“I am very happy for him [Davis]. Obviously, people have seen some of the struggles that he had at the start of the season. For me it was always just he needed more game reps. It’s a tough position for him to get put in where he has to take over a team at the collegiate level. Now that he has all of these games under his belt, people are starting to see what type of player he is when he’s confident, so I am definitely happy for him. He puts in the work and the time. He’s a great guy so he deserves moments like this.”

USC Head Coach Andy Enfield

Opening Statement

“Tough way to lose a basketball game. We got a crucial stop defensively, Jordan made a nice move to the basket, scored, only 1.7 seconds left, so you figure you have a pretty good chance of winning at that point, but it happened so fast and the kid made a heck of a shot.”

Have you ever lost on a half-court shot before?

“Never lost like that before, I give the kid from Stanford credit, they made the last play of the game. We made one with 1.7 left and they made one with no time left and it was just an unbelievable shot.”

How did the defense really elevate when Nick Rakocevic was on the floor?

“Nick’s been playing very good basketball, he’s given us a big lift and he’s a very good offensive rebounder. He’s improving his defense and I’m very happy with his development.”

When you got it up to 15, at that point did you feel pretty good about the way you’re playing?

“We were playing very well. In their run, when they came back, we had a couple of crucial turnovers, we missed some very easy shots and they seemed like they made every shot for about a 4-5 minute stretch to really cut the lead down. Stanford is a good team, especially at home. They have good players that can score at every position, we knew they’d be tough to beat, we did have a lead, we were playing well but we had two turnovers in the first half but we had eight in the second half, and I thought that was a key, with a couple of missed shots to allow them to we really stopped ourselves on a few of those possessions and then they were able to score at the other end.”

Does it seem like the game got more physical in the second half?

“Well, we had 13 fouls and Chimezie had four which I thought hurt us, and Nick had four fouls. Reid Travis is a very big strong man, and sometimes you want to be physical, but it’s hard when you’re outweighed by 30-40 pounds and he did a good job of using his body tonight.”