

COLORADO FOOTBALL / Postgame Notes & Quotes

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Stanford Head Coach Dennis Green

General

"I think it was a hard fought football game. They (Colorado) played hard and well. We're starting to get our defense in gear. We said from the start, if you want to watch us play, watch us in the last four games of the season."

On Stanford's defensive play

"(We) had a lot of tackles for losses. We allowed a couple of big plays, but they're a good team. Good teams have a tendency to make those good plays."

On the closing goal line stand

"The goal line stand was a great one. In my opinion at home (Palo Alto) they don't get that call. I would have to see a goal line shot and I have a hard time believing that in America, with everybody seeing, that somebody did not catch that goal line shot because that was sure great football. I would love to see it because I don't buy it (the call)."

On Stanford's missed opportunities

"Defensively, I think we did some things well, but we hurt ourselves playing against a really physical team by making mistakes. You're only going to be able to do so much against a team like Colorado."

On the play of John Hopkins

"John Hopkins was hot as a fire cracker. He took away number 9 (Pritchard), and number 1 (Bieniemy) from kickoff returns. I guarantee we were just as concerned about them returning the ball as they were about Glyn Milburn returning the ball, and we got a chance to do it. Our running attack was OK at times. I think Glyn is really going to help us. I think there are certain games it (the running game) will show up more than other games. I think he'll (Glyn) be able to do some exciting things."

On the physical play

"I think Colorado is a real fine football team. A team that was ready to play a physical game. We really did play one, and they wanted to play one too. So, obviously everyone enjoyed it."

On Darian Hagan

"We had him on the third down (at the end of the game). We had the right call on. He's a great athlete and he shook the tackle loose. We had him for about a five yard loss. It was just one of those type of games."

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Colorado Players

QB Darian Hagan

"At the end of the game, the offense wasn't nervous. We just dug it up for the big fella."

"Stanford was well coached and played a good game. They had a good secondary. It was good for us to face adversity. We should have passed more. I was confident with my passing."

"On fourth and goal, we prayed and got in." "My reception may have got me an NFL contract."

OG Joe Garten

"We weren't prepared for their defense, and we had to adjust at half. We never got down on ourselves. We knew the defense was playing well, so we had to come out and do the job. We dug in and showed character."

PK Jim Harper

"I didn't hit my kick right. I was kicking for distance instead of accuracy."

P Tom Rouen

"We'll have to see on a film, but I think that we didn't keep our lanes. I should have had more hang time."

LOLB Alfred Williams

"Milburn was the fastest back I ever played against. The halfback sweep with him running outside was tough to stop. He's just super fast."

About the close game:

"Yup, I was surprised. We came in with a 20 1/2 point spread, I don't see how that's possible. They were the same team that almost beat Notre Dame last year, and they played us just as tough."

"No fatigue in these Rocky Mountains."

ROLB Kanavis McGhee

"I played a so-so game. It wasn't one of my greatest. I would have like to make more big plays, but I'm happy with the way the defense played. I did my job, and the defense got the job done."

"A tie would have been difficult to take. To me, it's like no one wins and no one loses. But, I would have taken it as a loss."

About the defensive pressure:

"I feel the defensive line was the main thing. They got a lot of pressure on the quarterback. I also give a lot of credit to the cornerbacks. It was their coverage that gave the defensive line time to get to the quarterback."

LLB Greg Biekert

"They ran a lot of routes in behind us. We expected them to try the short passes. They were just able to find the holes in our zone, but we were able to make the right adjustments from the sideline."

"It wasn't a matter of getting tired. They just did a lot of different things to keep us honest. They were able to dink it in on us."

HB Eric Bieniemy

"They came out and did a lot of different things. Stanford just came out and started playing real tough defense. We regrouped, and said lets get out there and do what we do best. Let's dominate the line of scrimmage, and start putting some points on the board."

"On our home turf, we feel like we don't ever want to be beaten."

OT Mark Vander Poel

"Last year, everyone thought it was a fluke, but this year, everyone will be shooting for us so we won't run over anyone. I can't take anything away from Stanford. They played great."

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Stanford Players

DT Frank Busalacchi

ON THE FOURTH DOWN CALL—"That was just a terrible spot on the fourth down call. The spot was sick, it was ridiculous.

"The key play of the game was Hagan's roll out. I'm proud as hell of this defense. We hadn't practiced what we ran on the goal line, but it worked well for us. The TD was an adjustment call, I personally don't think he got in."

CB Kevin Scott

ON BIENIEMY'S TD—"I hit him low, didn't look like he made it. We had a real good scheme, it just came down to the line and they executed. That's what separates the top 10 teams from the rest.

ON HIS INTERCEPTION—"I manned up, then I saw Hagan waving Pritchard over. I broke off my man, it was a soft throw and an easy pick."

ON POSITIVES FROM LOSS—"CU is the number six team in the country. Sure, we feel a loss, but it has to be a boost. It shows that we can play with anyone in the country."

LB Ron George

ON THE LOSS—"It was a disappointment. We played the best we could, and it came down to the wire. But we came to win, not just to hold on."

ON GOAL LINE STAND—"We knew they would try to stuff it down our throats. That's their style. We also expected something tricky to be thrown in. It was like having a card house crumble, but it's not the end of the world."

QB Jason Palumbis

"I think our offense played pretty well at times. We had a couple of tough turnovers. We had a great drive there at the end. Instead of trying to get the ball in, we got in position for the field goal, which was fine.

ON ROBERTS FUMBLE—"Those things happen. Roberts is a great fullback, he'll just get better each game."

OG Chuck Gillingham

"This team is going to stick it out. The coaches won't let us go in the tank. We're going to go after UCLA tough.

ON THE TEAM MOOD—"Disappointed, definitely. But at the same time, we saw many good things to build on."

RB Glyn Milburn

"We always talk about putting a team away, and from that aspect, that's the main thing we didn't do tonight. I got caught by the punter (sic: it was a cornerback), but it's good that we finally did end up scoring. That's the main thing."

FB Ellery Roberts

"As far as I'm concerned, I didn't do what I needed to do to protect the ball, and that's what it comes down to. I was just carrying the ball, and the next thing I knew, my arm was pulled back and the ball was gone."

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Colorado-Stanford: Postgame Notes

- Glyn Milburn's 73-yard punt return in the first quarter was the longest against a Colorado team since 1987, when Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders (as a sophomore) returned one for a score... ironically, that one went for 73 yards as well.
- The Mike Pritchard-to-Darian Hagan 25-yard pass play was the first reception of Hagan's career, and likewise, the first completion of Pritchard's career. That was the first reception by a CU quarterback since Nov. 20, 1982, when Steve Vogel caught a pass for minus 2 yards in a 33-10 loss at Kansas State.
- The last time CU was scoreless after the first half was in the Orange Bowl (0-0 with Notre Dame at intermission). The last time CU was scoreless during the regular season at halftime was a 7-0 loss at Nebraska in 1988.
- Tonight's attendance of **50,669** was 794 short of a sellout (the tickets that remained were all returned out of Stanford's original allotment of 4,000). It was the second largest opening game crowd in CU history, as the 1972 home opener against California drew 50,751.
- The last time Colorado rallied from a two-score deficit to win was on Nov. 19, 1983. Kansas State took a 14-0 lead on CU, but the Buffs rallied for a 38-21 win. Recently, Colorado rallied from a 13-0 deficit at Colorado State for a 27-23 win in 1988, and from a 14-3 margin at Oklahoma State for a 31-14 victory.
- The first four scoring drives in the game were all five plays or less and all consumed under two minutes.
- The Colorado defense held Stanford to just 104 yards and five first downs following the first quarter.
- Colorado's defense limited Stanford to just 46 net yards on 25 first down plays, or 1.8 per first down play; Colorado's offense averaged 7.9 yards on first down (29 plays for 228 yards).
- Eric Bieniemy's 149-yard game tonight gives him 2,461 yards for his career, which moved him into third place on the all-time CU list. He now trails James Mayberry (2,548) by 87 yards and all-time leader Charlie Davis (2,958) by 497 yards.