COLORADO POSTGAME QUOTES
USC vs. Colorado
L.A. Memorial Coliseum – Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016

Colorado Coach Mike MacIntyre
“First of all, it was a gorgeous day to play football with two really good teams. I tip my hat to Clay Helton and USC. They played well and beat us. We left a few things out there and that was our fault, too. Our guys will rebound and we have a big homecoming game vs ASU Saturday and I know our guys are excited for it.

“They played really well defensively and we shot ourselves in the foot. We didn’t play typical CU football. Didn’t play fast. They had a lot to do with it and we had a lot to do with it. We had opportunities to take the game.

“They did a good job of blitzing us some. We missed a few things here and there. They did a good job tipping a few passes. I thought overall they played well. Their secondary played well and they didn’t really let us have a big play.

“We jumped off sides, we flinched the ball, we looked to the wrong side. It’s a couple things in the scoring areas and it really shoots you in the foot. We’ll correct those things and get back out there and be ready to go. Our kids kept fighting and fighting and had an opportunity to win the game but couldn’t get it done.

“Coming in I thought we matched up well against them. In the first half, they pushed us around a little bit but we gathered our momentum and saw what they were trying to do and did a good job and had a chance to make some plays in the second half. Their wide receivers made some excellent plays. They made a couple spectacular plays and if we tip it or they don’t come down with it it’s a different game.

(on TD pass from Bryce Bobo) -- “We had worked on that pass for a while. It set up good for us for what we wanted and it worked really well.”

(on taking the field goal on final drive) -- “It was long yardage. Fourth and 6 or 7. If it was shorter it might have been a different story.”

(on sending the defense out after the field goal) --- “We expect our guys to get that stop. We didn’t play tight enough coverage on a couple of them. You have to tighten your coverage on them. The last play, we’re pressing them and they make a good throw and catch. If they catch it, it’s a first down. I was glad they tried to throw it because that could’ve stopped the clock, it would’ve helped us.”

(on late Darreus Rogers catch over a CU defender)
“I thought he had it picked and he goes over and pulls it down. It was a great play by him. When he threw it I thought it was another pick.”

Colorado QB Steven Montez
“It hurts a lot. The way we came out, we can’t come out like that and expect to win. We started extremely slow and a lot is on me. That’s my fault. I can’t point to anything specific right now but we have to come out faster and put ourselves in a better situation.

“They did a few things we didn’t expect them to do but they did a lot we did expect. We have to capitalize on what we did expect and make plays. It’s a loss and it’s tough right now but we’ll go back Monday and review the film and we still have a ton of season in front of us.

(on leaving the game after a big hit) - “I got the air knocked out of me, couldn’t really breathe. I rested up and got my air back and came back in.”

- “The defense played phenomenally. They really kept us in the game and played absolutely lights out.
- “USC is a good team. We didn’t end up getting in a rhythm today. That’s on us.
- “Today is just a test to see what we have left. It’s a humbling experience. We have a lot of work to do. It will keep us hungry.”

Colorado WR Bryce Bobo
“I think we matched up well with them. Usually at the wide receiver spot we dominate as a team. This time we had a bigger challenge with Adoree’ (Jackson) and Biggee (Iman Marshall). We just have to improve.”

“We got a lot of guys that have a lot of leadership and have a big role on the team. We lost to USC and all we can do now is look to ASU. They’re coming to our city.”

Colorado LB Addison Gillam
“It was our goal to create at least 3 turnovers so to us that was big. We were thinking we would keep getting more.”

(Are losses harder during a season in which they’ve started 4-1, 2-0)
“A loss is a loss. It’s frustrating either way. We have a lot more at stake right now, we all know that.”

Colorado LB Jimmie Gilbert
(on difference defensively in second half) --- “We started tackling.”
(on not being able to stop USC on its final drive after a CU field goal) -- “It’s always frustrating when they put us on the field to do a job and we aren’t able to do it”.

(on coming back for ASU) --- “It’s important every week, win or lose, to come out Monday and try to go 1-0.”
HEAD COACH CLAY HELTON

Opening Statement
"Great team win. All Pac-12 wins seem hard, especially when you turn the ball over like we did today. I have to give great credit and the game ball to our defense. Without them I don’t know if we win that game. It’s hard to win with four turnovers. Offensively the turnovers were an issue, we’ve got to get cleaned up. I’m proud of how we finished. In a 14-14 ballgame with things not going our way and all of a sudden we make an 80-yard drive on offense to go up 21. As fine and executed 4-minute scoring drive as I’ve seen and really a special play by a special player and veteran player in JuJu Smith to make that play. It was a great throw and great catch and to get down I thought was tremendous. Two other plays stood out to me. This one right here [Adoree’ Jackson] is a special as I’ve ever seen. That pick on the sideline, I don’t think I’ve ever seen that before. And Dareus Rogers, someone needed to step up and to make that play and take it away from them I’ve ever seen that. That’s what he does. And Darreus Rogers, someone needed to step up and to make that play and take it away from them totally energized us, might have won that game just with that play.”

On how inspirational this win is for you:
“We were in a hole at 1-3 and this week we started climbing out of the hole. To get our second Pac-12 win puts us in position to continue for next week. We’re in a playoff mentality and every week is like a championship game. It was a very inspirational and needed win for us today.”

On the defense’s pressure on the quarterback:
“Clancy (Pendergast)’s calls have been ultra-aggressive and he is mixing it up extremely nice. I think he is doing a tremendous job. Mixing it up as a play caller I think it’s keeping play callers in check and confusing quarterbacks.”

On his emotions in the game:
“My primary emotion was to stay poised for the team. Don’t get over-emotional. You had a lead 14-0, not playing well next thing you know it’s 14-7 and then 14-all. If you get over-emotional or you start panicking, the team is going to feel that. All the team needs is to go and drive down the field. All we were doing was hurting ourselves. Just go down and make one drive and end this thing. A smart QB and a wideout really finished the game for us. I’m proud of them.”

On Sam Darnold:
“When you have a kid with this instinct and creative ability I don’ think you handcuff him. I told him, drive it like you stole it. You play the game with no fear and he does. There will be mistakes, that’s going to happen with a redshirt freshman, but he’s one of those guys that you don’t make a robot. He does some things that people can’t do, so you let him do it. He’s making good decisions except for the interception. He’s distributing the ball to everybody and going through progressions and reading the entire field. Those are things that don’t happen early. I’m very proud of where he’s at. He’s not a finished product by any means but he’s helping us win football games.”

SAM DARNOLD, QB
On winning the game despite turnovers:
“I hate using this word but the first word that comes to mind is lucky. It’s not luck, you make your own luck. Defense did a great job today. As an offense you’re not going to win a ton of games turning the ball over four times. It’s something we gotta to keep working on in practice.”

On his composure:
“I like to credit my coaches in high school and Pop Warner but I think it comes down to my family and how I’m raised. My parents did a good job keeping me confident and knowing that you just have to be cool with yourself. No matter what anyone else things you just have to control what you can control. You can’t control the past you have to look ahead. In the end you just have to look ahead and take it play after play after that.”

ADOREE’ JACKSON, DB-WR
On his body awareness on his interception:
“I was very aware. Once I jumped in the air, I was just trying to torque my body enough so I could get a foot down. I was thinking about Charles Woodson and how he did it against Michigan State. That’s the whole mindset to make sure I get one foot in.”

On what he feels from the crowd when he plays:
“My whole mentality is just when I touch the ball to get the party started. I see myself as lighter fluid to a barbecue grill. I throw it in there and the party gets started. So I just make sure I do whatever I can to help the offense and whatever I can to make sure the defense gets enough rest.”

On if his Olympic track training helped him with his athletic interception:
“We work on bounding a lot in track and make sure you have control of you body; we work on the hitch technique. You gotta make sure your arms and legs are moving and your core is tight. So I guess you could say those training skills came into play today.”