



# Postgame Quotes ...

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## **COLORADO INTERIM HEAD COACH KURT ROPER**

### ***General Comments:***

“Obviously you guys were at the game and we didn’t play very well early got behind three scores with turnovers and obviously that changes the game. But I think those guys really fight hard and they competed for the entire game and tried to battle back in it and gave us a shot. I just told those guys after the game is we really appreciate all the sacrifices they make for us as coaches to allow us to coach a game and moving forward it’s a great program and it’s going to do nothing but ascend.

### **On Dropping Coverage:**

“I think they did a good job of mixing up how they were defending the flats and I think he got surprised early on with a couple of changes and coverage post snap and it was effective. I told Steven shoot it happens and its not the first time I’ve been apart of a game where a guy throws two picks for a touchdown. Obviously you’d like it to be your last but you don’t know moving forward. But that’s a good football team and they made some good plays.”

### **On Defensive Coaches:**

“I think Steven and the skies the limit and I think we all can grow. We grow as coaches each year and I think players grow each year. Like I was talking about earlier in the season, the drop back pass game is really where quarterbacks get judged a lot. Where they’re having six-man protections and four out and it’s a challenging thing but I think he can be really good at it.”

### **On Second Half:**

“The first five games was so much fun but you watch the team come together. I think those first five games the way they went and obviously the last seven they couldn’t separate us and those guys kept fighting for each other. They really care about putting on that Colorado uniform and they really care about the guy they’re playing next to and I don’t think they ever stopped believing.

### **On Season Ending Today:**

“It wasn’t fun.”

### **On Reaction Towards Seven Losing Games:**

“I don’t know if ‘stunned’ is the right word, I think football is a really challenging game. It’s a challenging game and there’s changes all the time whether it’s through injury or who you’re playing or where you’re playing, things change in this game. So, obviously we don’t like the way it ended, it’s hard the way it ended, it affects a lot of people the way it ended but it was a fun year to apart of with those guys.”



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## **CALIFORNIA HEAD COACH JUSTIN WILCOX**

### ***On Cal's two INT returns for touchdowns to start game:***

"I'm not sure I've been a part of that. Two huge plays that were the difference in the game. The takeaways in general, the turnover margin was the difference in the game. That was pretty obvious. Elijah really made a great play and it was great disguise on the coverage so everybody was involved. The front, the safeties got the quarterback thinking he had one on one outside and Elijah played it just right, jumped it and scored it. That was big. Ashtyn put in a coverage where he's the robber and played the second window, we call it, and it was the same route they beat us on last year for three huge plays. We call it 2-3 dagger and Ashtyn played it perfect, caught the ball and scored it. It's one thing to know what to do and another thing to be able to go do it against some really good players. A lot of people had a hand in it but both those guys made some huge plays."

### ***On focusing on not looking past Colorado:***

"I didn't even really think about that during the week. It's really a mentality and a focus and an energy that it takes every day in practice and they've done that. It doesn't mean we always play as well as we want but I don't feel like there was any lack of want-to or focus. We didn't play well at times, and we'll address those things, but we found a way to get a win. Colorado's got some good players. They've got good schemes. Defensively, they're good up front. Their front seven made things tough on us. We weren't able to take advantage of some matchups like we wanted to. Offensively, they've got some guys with speed. The running back is a real good player, the quarterback we had a real hard time tackling. And then No. 3 and No. 2 with the things those guys can do. We knew it would be a battle but I felt like the guys were ready to play, excited to play and found a way to get a win."

### ***On the offense's gritty performance:***

"That's kind of where we are right now. It's not always going to be pretty but we took care of the ball. We needed to sustain some drives better. I think we all know that. We have some things that we've got to continue to address and develop the players on our team, help them as much as we possibly can and hold them accountable. But, we took care of the ball and found a way to make some plays that really were the difference. Moe Ways' play in the end zone, the drive at the end of the third and start of the fourth, that drive was big. We've got to keep working with them. It's not where we want to be and they know that but we still found a way to play to our strengths and do the things we need to do to find a way to win. We're going to continue to do that but we're still a work in progress."

### ***On next week's Big Game against Stanford:***

"The feeling is we need to go have an unbelievable week of practice. Stanford's a really good team. We want (The Axe) too. Wanting it and hoping doesn't make it so. We need to go to work and prepare to play well. There will be a lot of emotion in the game. That's how it should be. It's the Big Game. I want our guys to enjoy that but the energy and emotion from the want to is great but you've got to put that into practice. How well can we prepare and ultimately how well can we play on play No. 1, kickoff or kickoff return, and then the next play because that will determine the outcome, not wanting or hoping."



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## CALIFORNIA PLAYERS

**Chase Garbers, QB**

***On defense scoring twice:***

"It's was very exciting, back to back Pick 6's is definitely something the whole team wants to see and its funny actually Vic Wharton actually called the first one out on that third down so there was a laugh on the sideline, but it's great to see the defense make plays like that."

***On rushing:***

"They were doing a great job covering up our receivers and seeing lanes in the pass rush and just taking off and doing what I can with my feet."

***On offense identity:***

"Throughout the entire season we are still trying to find that identity, but I think we saw in that second half what our offense is capable of doing, just like we saw at SC and we just got to keep executing and keep practicing, and those big plays will come. "

***On Moe Ways first CAL touchdown:***

"It was awesome. Moe, since Oregon State has been saying he was going to get me back since he dropped in the end zone, so he got me back tonight. It was awesome to see. Since Moe got here this summer, we knew he was something special and the work through fall camp has paid off as we saw."

**Elijah Hicks, CB & Ashtyn Davis, S**

***On Pick 6:***

"We needed to make a play. I believe it was the first drive of the game, but in practice, we run that play all the time. I was fortunate enough to have my safety to show and like he was in a post and roll over late and make get an awesome opportunity to make a play." - Hicks

***Energy after first two plays:***

"Anytime we get a defensive score it energizes the whole sideline, not just defense offense too. You could feel the energy around everyone."- Davis

"I agree, even in practice, the secondary whenever we doing we are always encouraging offense, whatever position it is, we try to make our energy contagious and making plays like that is the best way to make the energy high."- Hicks

***On staying in the moment:***

"I think having the right mindset all year no matter what our record has been, we've been trying to dominate our opponent no matter who it was and we are prepared to dominate. We left some plays out there, definitely did not play to our standards, but keeping in the right mindset helps." - Davis

"Playing off of that, we have a lot of hungry players, and our coaches do a really great job keeping us motivated."- Hicks

***Thoughts on next week's game:***

"It's tough when we are trying to focus on one game at a time, and people are talking about the Ax and instead of focusing on the full game or the full series just focusing on that play and executing what you need to do: getting your eyes right and just focusing on the smallest thing possible, one at a time." Davis