



Colorado Quotes Head Coach Deion Sanders

#10 Oregon 42, #19 Colorado 6
Saturday, September 23, 2023
Autzen Stadium

Opening Statement

First and foremost, thank the Lord for allowing this to transpire. It was a good old fashioned butt kicking, there's no excuses, no nothing. Their coaches did a heck of a job preparing their team and obviously we didn't. I mean, that was a really good old fashioned butt kicking. We went into the game wanting to dominate several phases. We lost offensively, defensively, as well as special teams. That fake punt kind of got them really rolling and they didn't stop ever since they secured that first down. Well-coached team. Bo Nix played his butt off. Defensively, they presented some things that I guess we just couldn't get around. We couldn't advance the ball rushing or throwing the ball as well. It seemed like they had our number. But hats off to their coaching staff and the head coach, great job and they were truly prepared.

On what the team can take from the loss

"No, you can't wipe the slate clean, you've got to watch the film and evaluate, I'll do that on a plane, but I saw a lot of it live. Just players that weren't in position that didn't do the job that we expected. You evaluate players, you evaluate coaches, you evaluate everything when it's a game of that nature, a game that you had no opportunity to win period. From the kickoff on."

On if the loss helps hammer home necessary adjustments

"No, you don't need to hammer it home, a player knows. I mean, he could fool himself and trick himself, but when he looks in the mirror, he knows what he's looking at. Something like this is, you know people around the country would say this is what they needed to humble themselves. We weren't arrogant or whatever, we were confident people. If our confidence expands your insecurity, that's a problem with you, it's not us. And we expect to do well, we expect to play well. We expect to win every game we step out there. We expect to practice to perfection and go out there and execute the things that we practice, we just didn't do it today. But it's not something that was needed. That is like saying you get in a car wreck or something, 'oh, he needed that.' You don't need that. It's just stupid. This is something that happened and they got the best of us today, that's just it."

On if Oregon did things they weren't prepared for

"No, it's not like we were being tricked. We were saying at one of the TV timeouts that they were going to take a shot and they scored a touchdown. I mean, sometimes your messages just don't translate. You've got to really get on the same page as the youngsters that are out there playing."

On if there was a talent gap

"No, definitely not. If we had a talent gap, we wouldn't be three and one right now. It's not a talent gap, You just got your butt kicked, it just happens sometimes. That's just like a fighter, you just got caught, it happens. It's not a huge talent gap. I just think they played a really concise game. Penalties murdered us. I don't have the statistics, but I'm pretty sure we darn near doubled them in penalties. Usually, we're a really fundamentally sound team. We don't make foolish mistakes and implement danger or harm on ourselves. Position-wise we just kept making mistakes and that's not indicative of who we are."



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On missing Travis Hunter

"Travis is always going to be missed, he's the best football player in college football, how is he not missed? It's just like saying you're writing an article and your pen is missing."

On if he learned anything about his team today

"I'm not going to say that. You don't always have to get your butt kicked to learn, you can win and learn. I mean, it's not something to learn, it's something to glean from. It's not just the kids, the coaches are accountable too, we're all accountable. Let's start with me, we're accountable for this, it's not just the kids."

On if he agrees with Shedeur that was holding the ball too long

"I've got to watch the film. Sometimes he is, sometimes it's calls, sometimes it's blocking. There's a whole lot that goes into that. You really have to watch film to really dictate and understand what transpired on that specific play, a lot goes on in the play."

On his message to the team afterwards

"Get your butt up and let's go. We ain't got time for no pity party, there's nobody walking around the locker room with napkins and tissues. Get your butt up, get on that plane and let's go, we got work to do."

On if it's good to get reps for guys deeper in the depth chart

"No, that means you get your butt kicked. When you start putting guys in at the end, it means you got your butt kicked."

On the touchdown drive

"Well, we had to score, we had some tremendous opportunities all day long, but it seems like we just kept shooting ourselves in the foot. And every time we get something going, here we go with another penalty, and here we go with another holding, here we go with...just something. We've just got to perform better, much better, in every phase, not just offense, defense as well as special teams. We got our butts kicked, again, I reiterate it, in all three phases."

On the special teams play

"There's only two things that happened, the fake punt that they ran and I think they blocked the extra point, how do you block the extra point? I asked (Alejandro) Mata what happened and he said he just pulled his head up, he didn't get the ball up. So he took ownership of that. But come on, man, don't kick yourself. This game is out of reach, don't ponder that. You're a great kicker and you will come in and do some phenomenal things for us this season. And this is the kind of opportunity you have as a coach as a man as a father to lift them up. Don't just shoot them down, you've got to lift them up."



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On the team having a target on their back

"I don't think there is a target on our back. I just think teams are trying to beat me, you're not trying to beat our team. They keep forgetting I'm not playing anymore. I had a great career. I've got a gold jacket, so I'm good. But that's what it really is. I don't think they get any extra satisfaction, it is what it is. And I signed up for it so let's go."

On reiterating the team is a few key players away from where they want to be

"I wasn't lying. I don't say stuff just to say it for a click, contrary to what some may say. Yeah, I keep receipts. But I'm serious. I analyze and I understand what we're up against and what we have and what we need. One thing that I can say, honestly and candidly. You better get me right now. This is the worst we're going to be. You bet get me right now."

On hearing about Dan Lanning's pregame speech

"I've got messengers. God bless it though, man he's a great coach, he did a great job. God bless him, take their shots, they won. I don't shoot, I don't do that, they won."

On balancing tough love

"Well, I think the film is going to speak for itself when they watch the film with their position coaches as an offense and a defense. But singularly you're able to pull some guys aside and pick them up and highlight some of the good things that they did. Everyone didn't play bad, every coach didn't coach bad. We've got some work to do. You better get us right now, because I like what I see. I love it. I know I have on shades, but I can see the future and it looks really good. So I'm excited about it. I really am. Thank you. God bless you all, be safe."

COLORADO BUFFALOES

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



Postgame Quotes

Colorado at Oregon, Sept. 23, 2023, Autzen Stadium, Eugene, Ore.

Colorado Players

Shedeur Sanders, Jr., QB

On the offense

"We just didn't execute well. Missed a couple reads. Just can't continue to take sacks like that."

On the run game

"No, obviously, we're not satisfied whenever we don't put up the numbers and be effective to open up a passing game. But that has a lot to do with just knowing the read keys and stuff like that and just me personally missing reads."

On the message after the game

"Everybody understood what happened, everybody understood what transpired. So let's just get locked back in, let's understand what happened and let's move forward from there."

On if it was an eye-opening game

"It's not eye opening because it's the game of football. If you don't execute then you're gonna lose, if the other team executes and they're gonna win. It's nothing magical or anything they did that was unreal. It was just that we just didn't execute our game plan."

On the team's being prepared from the coaches speeches

"I think each team's players will be fired up. I don't think one coach is gonna fire up players up more than the other because the fired up stuff goes out the window after their first kick."

On not having Travis Hunter

"A lot. Travis is two players for us. But that's not the reason why we didn't win."

On having to be perfect

"No, it's just early on last week, it was an interception and there was a fumble. The slow starts are just self-inflicted wounds. That's all it is. It's not anything that could be different play calls or anything like that. It's just us personally we just got to execute the play that's called."





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Opening Statement:

"Absolutely tremendous job by our crowd today. You talk about what the Autzen experience can be like, and it was beyond phenomenal. It's what I love so much about this place. We have passionate fans, who are more passionate than any other fans in the nation. We were prepared for a battle. It didn't end up being a battle, but I have also been on the other end of this before, too, and I think that team is headed in the right direction. I think Coach [Deion Sanders] is doing a phenomenal job. Obviously, he has brought great enthusiasm and response from his players, and I know that they will bounce back from this. On the same note, I get a little passionate at times, a little excited about what I want to accomplish for our team, and I just want to say I need to humble myself a little bit. This is one game. I am not satisfied, that's just what I told our players. We're about to go play great quarterbacks. We're about to go play great teams moving forward, and it's about how good we can become. It's not really about who we play. It's about Oregon vs. Oregon every week. I felt like this was a complete game, offense and defensive and special teams. Didn't create a takeaway on defense, but had some big plays and were dominant in all three phases. I thought you could watch our team and say they have an identity in all three phases. Preparing for the next one and ready to go back to work for Stanford. I know that they'll be ready. This'll be a road game, I know we didn't play as well on the road earlier this year. It's time for us to show what we can do on the road moving forward."

On his pregame speech:

"I thought they handled it well and I thought they handled their focus well. We do a pregame speech, I guess there was a camera in there this time. That doesn't really change our approach. We'll always have a message for our team. Sometimes it's to get them fired up and sometimes we don't necessarily need the brimstone. There's no speech that wins games, players win games. Our players went out there and they won the game. Our players went out there and executed and our players went out there, and decided to go out there, and make a decision to be poised, focused, and play with their pads. Not with anything else and that's what I'm proud of. Making that decision, it's an 'us' decision, not a 'me' decision."

On the defense playing a complete game:

"It's one game and it's about being consistent in your approach. I'm really pleased with them, I thought they were dialed in. I thought they did a good job of eliminating explosive plays. That's a team that creates a lot of explosive plays. I felt they had a good feel and I thought our coaching staff did a phenomenal job. Certainly, something we can build off of and now it's about can you do that consistently. Can you be consistent in your approach? I think we learned a little about ourselves and patience. There's a value in patience. We were able to apply pressure and able to be disruptive to the quarterback, but it wasn't like we were out there blitzing seven every down. Having some patience, consistency, recognizing formations, and



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having a feel for the game. I thought our coaches and players did a phenomenal job of adjusting. Have to carry that over to each week.”

On the feeling on the win and handing Colorado its first loss:

“I’m not hung up on that. If you’re really about substance, it’s about what’s next for us and our players. I’m glad that we got to put Oregon in the light that Oregon deserves to be in. It’s not about anything else besides our team and getting our team ready to go play and now we have to go get ready for the next one. We don’t need to be the team that’s reading the articles in the newspaper. We don’t need to be the team that’s following Twitter. We weren’t that team this week, so we’re certainly not going to be that team next week. Again, we have to humble ourselves, including myself and our staff, and focus on what’s next.”

On Oregon’s pass rush:

“They haven’t really been a team that has ran the ball, so I think we knew there were going to be pass-rush opportunities. It really speaks to the patience of when we do execute a game, let’s go attack and be on the move. I thought our guys did a good job of that. When they don’t have great balance, it allows you to be more disruptive in the pass-rush game. It allows you to build your games on the front. Moreso for a passing game than a run game. I thought our guys did a good job of executing that.”

On the impression Bo made today:

“We got the best quarterback in the nation. I know that and I can see that. Again, you see all the plays that he throws and the plays he makes with his feet. You don’t see all the checks that he makes. You don’t see all that he does for this team. You don’t see his leadership. He sent a text to me this morning that was impactful for me. That guy shapes me and he makes me a better person. We got that guy on our team, so we’re so blessed to have him.”

On how little the team was talked about coming into this week:

“I don’t care how much anyone talks about us, but if we can find fuel for the fire, we will certainly use it.”

On the statement the defense made today:

“It’s one game. Again, for me, it’s about a consistent approach and can you do that on the road. Can you remove self-inflicted wounds. I think it creates belief when you have a game like that, but I know what we are about to play. We’re going to have some of the best offenses in this conference as we move forward, and you can’t be satisfied with that result.”



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On the new guys on defense (Jordan Burch, Evan Williams and Khyree Jackson):

"You look at our track record, you bring a guy in, they normally can help us, and all those guys have enhanced us. Just as much as they are good players on the field, they are good people. They fit our culture and work tremendously hard. They don't care what the rep count is but when they get an opportunity they take advantage of it, and I think all those guys are tremendous for us and will continue to be."

On Khyree Jackson's growth:

"He has grown. Khyree has the ability to be an elite corner, not just here but at the next level. I'm glad I can coach Khyree. I can tell him this is what he has to improve on, and he owns it and accepts it. There are definitely opportunities for growth moving forward and the more he shapes his game and continues to grow, he can be really special."

On the versatility of the offense and how they can move forward:

"They took great steps today. Our offensive coaches did an awesome job preparing for this one and had great answers. You don't always know what you're going to get from a team, but they were prepared and made some great adjustments to things we thought hurt us in earlier weeks. We worked on some things we wanted to get better at, and I thought that showed up during the game. It's about consistent growth and the next step, but I think they did a good job today."

On why that was the right time for the fake punt:

"Because we've probably ran that thing 47 times in practice and the right time is when they don't think it's coming. We had some momentum, and I believe in our defense, and they've been operating at a high level. I'm not interested in running fake punts when everybody thinks we're going to run a fake punt, you kind of want to hit them when they don't expect it."

On Troy Franklin with his third 100-yard game this season and taking his game to the next level:

"What he can continue to do, is not care about that. I didn't know that. I know Troy is playing well but I didn't know he had three 100-yard receiving (games). My expectation for Troy is that he always can. If you ever want to single cover him, he's a guy you can take advantage of. He has done a good job with yards after catch, and I challenge him to continue to protect the ball and keep playing with great emotion but within his teammates. Troy is special, man. He really is a phenomenal kid. He's hungry, I've seen big strides from him and his preparation and desire to be elite, but certainly not done yet."



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On the momentum Bucky Irving creates:

"That dude is tough, man, that group is tough, their coach is tough. I think that shows up in the way they play. They are a selfless group that I am really proud of."

On fixing penalties:

"It's about what the penalties were. There were a couple that I need to go back and watch the film on first before I have a fair decision on. I have to evaluate those first to make sure. I know our players are conscientious about it and some of them still showed up so we're going to keep coaching it. That doesn't mean we're going to coach it the same way, but we'll continue to address it. I don't know if the play clock ran out, it didn't look like it to me on the field to me on the delay of game, maybe it had, so that's my mistake but there were a couple other ones we weren't sure about. We'll evaluate it and make sure we continue to better that."

On Bo's performance this year vs. last year:

"I am not a big comparison guy, but Bo is operating extremely efficiently. Will (Stein) and him are on the same page. We're sitting in those huddles and Bo called some of those touchdown plays. He's sitting here saying 'what do you guys think about this?'. Great call, let's do that. I am really comfortable with our quarterback, and I know he won't ever let the moment get too big for him, but he's playing at a high level right now."

On Noah Whittington's Injury:

"I don't normally talk about injuries, and I think there's still more to be decided, but I think Noah is going to be down for a little bit, so I need everybody to say prayers for him. He is healthy, he is ok but he's going to be down for a little bit. I need everybody to have Noah in your prayers and that is a tough kid, man. Tough kid that we're really proud of and fortunate to have and there are bright days ahead for Noah. I just don't know that we'll have them here in the next few weeks."

On the play on the line of scrimmage and what it says about the team:

"If you want to have a winning team, a successful team, it starts up front. Every game starts up front and they started up there for us today."