

September 7, 2013

An interview with:

COACH CARAGHER

COACH CARAGHER: Yeah, we played a team that's a big, physical team, as I said earlier in the week. Three hours and a cloud of dust. They do a good job running the football, and they mix in a few passes here and there, but our guys competed. I liked the way the guys competed. We moved the ball up-and-down the field, unfortunately, sometimes, we didn't capitalize with touchdowns. We got some field goals and turnovers and a turnover or two, but our guys competed.

Defensively, they -- we did our best to come up and fight and be physical. You know, it's a big, physical team we went against.

So my thing, it's not about Stanford. It's about us; it's about San Jose State. It's about us continuing to get better as we continue on during the season. You know, I think I'm proud of the guys. They never quit. They never gave up.

Q. How do you think they played?

COACH CARAGHER: How do I think our guys played?

Q. Yeah.

COACH CARAGHER: I think our guys played good. I think our guys played good. But we need to play better to beat these guys. That's a good team. You know, we just need to continue to get better.

Q. The game plan, obviously we've seen a lot of short passes. Was that because of their pass rush, you know it's going to be tough to have the time to throw the ball deep?

COACH CARAGHER: They did a bend but don't break. They get in there. They're cover

two. They want to jam your receivers. They mix things up and do bring a lot of pressure. Sometimes when they bring more people than we have blockers, we have to throw the ball quickly, so that was sometimes our answer.

We've been pretty good in that, throwing the quick game and mixing it up. So we moved the ball up-and-down the field. We just didn't get to capitalize as much as I would have liked.

Q. Having to settle for field goals instead of touchdowns when you got in the red zone, how much of a difference did that make?

COACH CARAGHER: It's tough. You want to come off a 7, 14, and 21, not 3, 6, and then 13, so that was tough. It's not like we were getting many breaks. I think they had one turnover, a C-Q exchange in the second half, and we had a turnover just coming back. It's unfortunate because I thought we had them on their heels. I thought we had them on their heels and we just turned the ball over.

Unfortunately, after their turnover, we were driving and we turned it over. It's too bad because it would have made it a 27-20 game, I think. It would have been closer at that point.

Q. What did you think you had?

COACH CARAGHER: I think when they turned the ball over to us, we had just scored, and we had gotten to 13. They turned the ball over, and I think there are 27-13, and we're driving down. They called a 15-yard penalty on something, and that backed us up, but, nevertheless, we drove. I think if we scored, it's 27-20. We got ourselves a ballgame, folks. It's just unfortunate.

Q. Late in the first half you had the fourth guy on the field. Did you give any thought to going for it on fourth down there?

COACH CARAGHER: I thought I wanted to get the point. If it's fourth and long, you know, your odds are really go down. You get points

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when you can. I like to go for the fourth down, but I also want to be smart. I roll the dice a lot, and you've just got to make calculated decisions in this. And in the first half, there is a lot of football left to play.

So, to go for it on fourth down as opposed to the late fourth quarter, I don't question that.

Q. How did you feel about the play of your quarterback, David Fales tonight?

COACH CARAGHER: David Fales is a good football player. He hung in there. He's a valiant, valiant warrior. He played hard and did a good job, and he got a good feel for them defensive coverage wise and had them on their heels. I thought David played a good game. It's unfortunate the ball got away and one or two picks, but David played well.

Q. Long-term it's about the Mountain West. So how does this kind of relate to that?

COACH CARAGHER: I told the team, it really is about the Mountain West. If -- this is after the game, not before. I play to win the game. But if we get better and we learn from this and it helps us out in conference play, then great. That's great. It's all about getting better as the season goes along. That's really what it's all about.

So I want to be continuing to improve. There were some things tonight that our guys learned about tackles and angles of tackles and approaches and know where help is coming from, and doing your footwork coming off the ball in protections and blitz adjustments and all those things that's our guys will continue to learn. We were trying to. We tried.

They brought a lot of pressure on us. They're big up front, and they're stout up front. They've got a multiple array of linemen who shuffle in the game, and they're good old, mid-Western football style of play. That's what they do. They run the football.

Q. Looked like you guys came out of the game pretty much healthy. Against a physical team like that, is that up lifting?

COACH CARAGHER: We did. That's a nice element. I told the guys I said a prayer of one of gratitude and thankfulness that we came out healthy in that game. Because any football game, really, not just because we're playing them, but any football game is a physical game. There is a lot of football left to play. One game does not define our

season, but I want to learn from it. I want to learn from it.

Q. This being your first media day. Your whole off-season, it's always positive talk, positive talk. You win your first game. How do you react now that there is a little adversity?

COACH CARAGHER: Yeah, I think I built the guys up. I talked about let's learn from this game what we could have done better. You know, it's important. You can't win them all. I understand that, in life. You've got to be able to learn how to respond and how to bounce back. I think our guys -- it was a tough pill to swallow losing to these guys. It was tough. We came in. We wanted to win. I believed we could win, and, you know, it didn't come out our way, unfortunately.

Q. Do you think you'll face any defense like that in the Mountain West?

COACH CARAGHER: I don't know. I haven't really studied too much those defenses, but they're big. Those guys are big, athletic and up front, that is. I'm sure some of the secondaries will be like their secondary. But the front seven guys are really a good group, they're athletic, they're rangy guys. So they'll probably have a good season.

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San Jose State Postgame Quotes: QB David Fales vs. San Jose State – September 7, 2012 – Stanford Stadium

On the outcome ...

“You can learn a lot from this game, obviously, but overall our effort was good. We didn’t quit. The defense did a good job of just fighting and the offense as well. Losing is tough but there’s definitely a lot to learn from it. There’s some little stuff that we could’ve done differently in the red zone, taken a couple more shots. Couple touchdowns instead of field goals, that makes a different game. We got in the red zone, we just needed to turn it into touchdowns.”

On the San Jose State senior class ...

“We’ve got a lot of seniors and we know how good we are and what we need to do to stay together. We know we’re a good team. Us, as seniors, we need to take control and bring the team together and learn from this game.”

On the Stanford team ...

“They’re a really good team. They’re a big, strong, fast team. It’s Stanford. I feel like we did run with them and we were moving the ball pretty well. Just a couple series here and there that we needed and didn’t get, puts our defense in a tough spot. We’ve just got to watch the film and learn from it.”