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**2015 NCAA Men's College Cup  
No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 8 Stanford  
Dec. 13, 2015 – Sporting Park**

**Stanford Post Game Quotes**

**Stanford Head Coach Jeremy Gunn**

**Opening Statement:**

"It couldn't have gone any better. We looked sharp. We came out on the front foot and got the first goal. We sat back after that and allowed Clemson to play too much. At halftime it was clear that we needed to get after it, keep scoring goals and play our game because that's when we have the most enjoyment and work our best."

**On Clemson play after opening goal:**

"They're trying to score. Our players were working so hard behind the ball. They weren't just trying to keep possession, they were trying to prod and poke and look to go forward to one side. When a shift didn't work, they were switching the ball very well and looking for openings. If they would have been able to continue that throughout the game, we would have just tired and tired and tired. We adjusted well at halftime and said, 'guys, we can't just sit here defending because we are going to be holding on clock watching. We have to go at them and be assertive the rest of the game,' and that's what we ended up doing. It wasn't through lack of trying for Clemson. They were looking to push the game. We just held up. They're in and around the box a number of times in the first half. Our players were in the right place at the right time."

**On Nana-Sinkam and Hillard-Arce:**

"Both Brian and Tomas have been unbelievable. They are the perfect modern centerback. They can win the headers and be assertive and physical, but smooth on the ball. They're very sharp stepping into the forwards. Forwards hate playing against them because they can't get possession and get comfortable. They're always on the front studs stopping them from receiving. If they are playing behind, they are sharp enough to cover up. Shutout against these two amazing attacking teams, they must be doing something right."

**On team's place in history:**

"That's not my position to judge that. On this weekend, we're the best team here and that's all we need to worry about. The goal margins and things like that, doesn't really matter. I've seen some unbelievable college teams. The Wake Forest team was amazing. The Akron team was amazing. Those

two teams were really special, productivity and aesthetically. It shows in how beautiful in the soccer they played. Who knows, maybe we have a little bit more steel.”

#### **On being National Champion:**

“It’s a special thing. It’s a great moment and we are all super excited, but it pales in comparison to the journey we take as a group. You get to see us all celebrating, but the cool thing is the staff that has all worked together so hard. All the support people and the administration, everybody. We get to be with these guys through the recruiting process from when they are 16 all the way through their college careers. That’s the unique and exciting thing. You look at guys who were out there on the field today who were absolute studs. A couple of them when they arrived were just young freshmen, wondering if they’d ever make it. The whole experience, the whole journey is what’s special. Seeing the excitement on their faces is pretty cool as well.”

#### **On attacking:**

“You want to keep going at them, because if you sitting back hanging on then they are going to get excited and keep finding chances. We started the game great. We wanted to get after them and we did; we scored. We were just being too conservative. That being said, Clemson was passing and moving the ball so well. When a team passes like that, it’s tough to be assertive. At halftime, it was a case of we had to get them on the back foot. If we’re playing positive balls forward, their fullbacks were having to go back to goal rather than attacking ours. We wanted to keep pushing them backwards in that situation. If a team sits off from you, you keep it and you move it. We had to keep them on the back foot to avoid them from being happy coming at us.”

#### **On the benefits of having the back-four and midfield play well on the defensive side...**

“It’s unbelievable. Going into the tournament, the thing that I felt good about was the great balance we have, we are a great attacking team, we showed that today and we’ve shown it all season. We are also tremendous at the back, so to win at any sport, you’ve got to be scoring and stopping scoring, you have to have that balance and I think that was really the key for us. Other teams looked unbelievable coming at us through the season, but we were able to withstand onslaughts and really bend and not break. Meanwhile, when we had the ball we were always ready to get after scoring ourselves.”

#### **On junior forward Jordan Morris’ impact on the game...**

“It was awesome, again, everybody wants to critique. You watch (Christiano) Ronaldo and (Lionel) Messi, and they score almost every game, and you guys think it’s easy, but it’s not easy. He has made so much great impact, he is a special player, there is no doubt about it that he is a special soccer player, and he is a special human being as well, he is an absolute joy to watch. There are a lot of styles of teams, some that teammates don’t really care for as much, sometimes there is jealousy and back biting and things like that but with a guy like Jordan, we are in awe of some of the incredible things he does, but we are also so much in support of him because he is such a great guy with the group. He has contributed massively, but also, if he wanted to be an individual he would have gone on to play golf or tennis or something. He loves being a part of a team sport. You look at a lot of those great teams in different sports and they have that togetherness and they have that accountability as a group. With Jordan, he played phenomenally today, but he still heard about it that he needed to work harder at halftime just

like everybody else, and he is not above that. You saw coming out the second half, he rolled his sleeves up and he was fighting just like everybody else. There was a different attitude in the second half. I could go on forever about him.”

**On worrying about team chemistry when Morris was called up to the national team...**

“No, when we met, when coach Klinsmann came and talked, we were thinking it was going to be saying nice things, et cetera, et cetera. But when he said he could take him on the first national trip, he did say thing will happen fast if we do this, and they sure did. So many people get opportunities and they don’t do so well because it is so high of a level, they struggle and somebody else gets a chance. For Jordan, he’s taken his chances and then some... We are going to be missing people for different things at different times. When you have the unbelievable honor of putting the jersey of a national team on, there is nothing that his going to stand in front of that for us. At the professional sport level, the pro clubs can sometimes block their players from going off on national team duty, but that’s never a question for us. The players have handled it well and Jordan has handled it amazingly well. He does his job, he comes back in and he doesn’t want to flaunt it. We were traveling out here and some of the guys had to bring extra suitcases, they had just finished finals and they are going to be dispersing in different directions, he’s got his extra bag and it was a national team bag, and so we were all giving him crap about it and he ends up getting some athletic tape and tapes it up so you can’t see the emblem. He is just that type of a guy. The standards are so high at our university that they bring in the best of the best in every way, and they bring in the best character-wise as well I think. We set a standard super-high for good behavior, because we believe that good people will be good players and successful in life. They are all supportive of each other, when Jordan was getting on the field, we were all cheering the first time he stepped on the field, and then guys were going crazy when he buried a goal against Mexico. We will all continue to support him with whatever he does in the future.”

**Brandon Vincent**

**On tenor of the game:**

“Getting the first goal early is huge for us. We were sitting back, letting them dictate the game to us. In the second half we got that fixed and got on the front studs. They got their chances, they’re a quality team, so you expect that, but we did a good job of holding them back. We kept going after it. Keeping up the intensity and finishing it out strong.”

**On second half mentality:**

“It’s what we’ve done all year. Just keep going and keep fighting. Up, down a goal, whatever the situation, we just keep going and try to get the next goal.”

**On shutout over Tourney:**

“It’s a testament to the back line and the keepers. The front six as well. Everyone doing their job defensively. The front six make it tough on them to get through in the first place, and then when they do, we are there to pick up the scraps and make sure they don’t get a look on goal. If they do, Andy’s there to come up big with the save. Overall, its game planning. Each half, each minute, we are breaking

it down, seeing what we need to work on. Trying to improve every game is huge for us. If we slipped up once, we are going to address it in practice and try to fix it for next game.”

### **Jordan Morris**

#### **On first goal:**

“Whenever we go out we want to score first. Scoring early helps to not only give me confidence, but the rest of the team as well. It was good to get one early.”

#### **On playing at Sporting Park:**

“It’s always nice to know where you’re going to play and know the venue with visualization puposes and stuff like that. You can get accustomed to it. It’s a great facility, so it’s always nice to get a chance to play in places like this.”

#### **On future at Stanford:**

“I’m going to address that later. Right now, it’s all about the team. All about appreciating and celebrating this moment because we’ve worked, so hard as a team to get where we are and come out as champions is amazing. That will all come later, but right now I’m going to celebrate with my brothers up here.”

#### **On where moment ranks in last year:**

“Definitely up there at No. 1. It’s such a cool thing to be able to experience something like this; something bigger than yourself. I get to experience it with all my teammates up here who are just amazing guys who have made the last three years unforgettable. Definitely up there because I get to experience it with these guys.”

### **Ty Thompson**

#### **On handling Clemson passing:**

“They’re a good passing team. We’re ok with them having possession in non-dangerous areas, so if they’re passing around in their defensive third, that’s ok with us. As soon as they start to get in our territory, that’s when we’re on our front studs and ready to step into them hard. There were a couple of times when they were able to get through. They’re good passers, so that’s going to happen once in a while, but we try to break up the play, whenever we can.”

### **Corey Baird**

#### **On assists:**

“We knew they were going to play the high line as a team that likes to push the ball, so we knew there would be spacing behind and times to counter. The first one, Foster gave me an unbelievable layoff and I jabbed at the ball at a flat footed defender and was able to find Verso who gave an unbelievable ball to Jordan. The second one, they were trying to play out where we will step in and when it. When they are in the big open shape, it’s easy to score then.”

### **Eric Verso**

**On handling Clemson passing:**

“They’re a very good passing team. We knew that at points in the game it was going to be tough and that we would have to keep fighting and working and keep our shape. That’s something we’ve trained for, for the past four years. Coach has taught us to keep a tight line, to work hard and be disciplined and keep taking those body punches. We have faith in each other, that we have each other’s back and they aren’t going to break through our line.”

**On goal:**

“I got the ball around midfield and started driving. We had two guys out wide making those runs, which I really appreciate being the wide midfielder. I’m used to making that run. You don’t always get the ball, but it draws the defender away. They had three defenders and the two outside backs had to go with the runners, so it was 1 v. 1. At that point, he didn’t step to me and eventually I got to the box and looked to shape it around the defender. “

**On Goal celebration:**

“Probably not the best look with the sports bra underneath, but I was just so excited in the moment. I had only one goal on the year. I was just so happy that I had finally scored, especially in the final. I wasn’t thinking at that point, just really excited. That was the second yellow of my career, so it was a good time to take it.”