



2018 Cheez-It Bowl
Cal
Team Arrival Press Conference
December 23, 2018



Q. Coach, welcome to Arizona. How's it feel to be here?

COACH WILCOX: It feels great. I know everybody is really excited. The hospitality has been awesome. I've had a chance to be a part of this bowl. This is the fourth time in either the Fiesta or the Insight and now the Cheez-It Bowl. So we're excited to be here.

It is great for our program. It's great for our players and our fans to have the opportunity to play against a team like TCU. We really appreciate it.

Q. What's the mood of the guys right now?

COACH WILCOX: They're fired up. A little early morning, so they're rolling in and going to get a nap. And then we've got a run-through this afternoon. But their energy level has been extremely high, and I know they're all really excited to be here.

Q. You guys are here for a couple of days before the game. Are you going to celebrate Christmas together, or what are you guys going to do?

COACH WILCOX: Absolutely. We have some plans for Christmas together. I think this will be a year that they look back on for decades to come and remember this Christmas because we're going to get a chance to spend it together. It's a very special time.

Q. Talk about the game itself. How do you prepare for TCU? What are your thoughts on this matchup?

COACH WILCOX: Well, since Coach Patterson has been there, they've been one of the best programs in the country. We have a ton of respect for them. They've got great athletes on both sides of the ball. They're really well-coached. We know it will be a battle. So we'll have to play our best game to win.

Q. Last thing, and probably most important question, what is your favorite flavor of Cheez-Its?

COACH WILCOX: I didn't realize there is the variety. I've been doing my research here in the last couple of weeks. I've been educated on the varieties. I don't know if I have one yet. I'm kind of an original type of guy, so I think it is the original Cheez-It, but we'll see. Maybe throughout the week I'll find a new and improved favorite flavor.

Q. Holidays, you guys obviously will spend it together. How do you make sure the guys stay focused after all that's going on?



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COACH WILCOX: They're a really level-headed group. They've been that way this whole season, and I know they appreciate being here. I want them to enjoy this experience. It is a reward, but we also understand what we're here to do. It's about preparation and handling our business and making sure we're prepared to play as good as we can play because that's what it is going to take to win the game, and that's priority number one.

Q. How has the Fiesta Bowl and Cheez-It folks been treating you?

COACH WILCOX: Unbelievable. I've actually met a few of them before with some prior experiences here, and it's always been unbelievable. Just the hospitality of the Yellow Jackets and how they make you feel once you step on the premises. So I think our players are now starting to feel that. It is just -- the welcome is overwhelming, which is really cool. It is great to be back and see some of those familiar faces, and I know we sure appreciate them.

Q. When you and your team first heard Cheez-It Bowl, what did you guys think?

COACH WILCOX: First thing I do is kind of educate them on the background. It started back when it was the Copper Bowl. Sponsors change from year to year. That's part of the bowl game, how the bowl games work.

They were excited. As soon as we got the call, I ran into the team room. We had a team meeting. They were all sitting there waiting. There was a lot of noise when they found out where we were going, who we were playing. So I know they all appreciate it. We appreciate the program, and it is a great step for us.