



**2018 Cheez-It Bowl**  
**Cal**  
**Post-Game Press Conference**  
December 26, 2018



**COACH WILCOX:** Obviously, we're disappointed in the outcome of the game. We just made too many mistakes during the game to win against a quality opponent like that. More than anything, I'm just really proud of our players and their toughness and their perseverance and through some adverse times and we had it today.

And we as coaches, starting with me, have to give our guys answers in the off-season. But I've really just been honored to play with the group of seniors that have played their last day today, and I wish we could have had a better outcome for them.

It's pretty obvious, I think, when you look at the way the game went, that the -- the interceptions and the turnovers were the difference. And we had our chances a couple times on defense late to get a stop. And they ran the ball a little bit better towards the end, and were able to kick a field goal to win it. It is a good program that we played. We had our chances. We just made too many mistakes.

**Q. You kind of talked about the offensive struggles. What were you kind of seeing tonight from the two Chases [Garbers] [Forrest] tonight that wasn't working for them?**

**COACH WILCOX:** Just some decision-making and, you know, we got to protect the ball better. It's just obvious. I think we all know that. And, you know, love those guys, and we got to help them as coaches. We got to help them at other positions. Everybody's got to be part of it, but we gotta take better care of the ball. They know it, and it's our job to help push this thing forward. And it starts with me.

**Q. Coach, you mentioned that you would need to provide the players answers this off-season. Could you tell us a little bit what the evaluation process is like come postseason now?**

**COACH WILCOX:** Yeah. We do an in-depth analysis on ourselves at every level, every position, everything we're doing, the way we're coaching, teaching, the schematics that we're using, the communication lines, all those things. What do we need to do to improve at every single level of our program? And that's my job to help facilitate that.

And so I know we have some great people on our program. We have to improve. There's areas that we obviously have to get better. And so that will be -- I mean, starting tonight. And there will be a deep dive, and we'll discuss it as a group in January for many, many hours.

**Q. Jaylinn, I know it's kind of hard to look at the good right now, but what was working for you on those interceptions? Was it something you ate for breakfast this morning?**



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**JAYLINN HAWKINS:** Oh, no, no, it was just my defense, man, just the front seven. It's just the communication, everybody communicating, everybody being on point. That's when big plays come, when everybody's doing their job and everybody's playing for each other. We're a family, so whoever gets a pick -- JK [Jordan Kunaszyk] got a pick last night. We all contribute to that, and we all play hard together. And, you know, we're family.

**Q. Jordan, have you ever been part of a game like that, with so many interceptions, so back and forth like that, and what are some of the challenges that come to playing a game like that when it's so back and forth?**

**JORDAN KUNASZYK:** I've been a part of some close games -- I mean, a lot of close games, rather. As a defense, as a team, we're prepared for whatever was thrown at us, whether there was going to be a defensive fight, like it was tonight, or whether it was going to be an offensive shoot-out. We prepare really hard. We practice putting ourselves in these situations. And, unfortunately, we weren't able to come through as a defensive unit when the team needed us to. So I'm just really grateful for this group. I'm grateful for this coaching staff. I'm grateful for so many things. And it's unfortunate that it ended like this, but yeah.

**Q. Coach Wilcox, can you talk about little bit about what Jordan [Kunaszyk] has meant to this team. He's led the team in tackles virtually every game. This is his last game in his career at Cal. What do you think he has in store?**

**COACH WILCOX:** I think he's got an extremely bright future playing football for a while and then whatever else he chooses to do. I get to see Jordan every single day; you get to see him playing the games. And as good a football player as Jordan is, he's an excellent football player, he's a better human being. He's a catalyst for our program. And those guys move our program forward.

I just -- I could sit here for hours and talk about him and what he's meant for our program, and a number of other guys too, but Jordan has worked for everything he's got, never been handed anything along the way. And his demeanor and his work ethic and his attention to detail and how he prepares to help our team in not only practice and meetings, but the locker room and how he acts outside of our building, he's just such a great example for all of our other players and for all of us and what it means to be a Cal football player.

**Q. Coach, I know it can be tough in the moment. I know one of your goals was to win a bowl game. Can you wrap up the season, the strides you guys made, and kind of mix that with the dynamic you're feeling tonight.**



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**COACH WILCOX:** That's a tough one. You're right. Because we put ourselves in a position to win a bowl game against an excellent program. And it hurts. Losing sucks. You get kicked in the guts. And we have to own that. And it is my job to help provide answers for our team. And, you know, it's frustrating when you have those opportunities and you're unable to capitalize like you want to.

And, at the same time, I just have so much -- I'm so thankful for the guys like Jordan [Kunaszyk] and Pat [Laird] -- and [Alex] Funches and [Chris] Palmer and all of these guys that have helped Cal football better itself.

And so I do get a little bit twisted there, but, you know, I think that's part of the last game of the year. I wanted more than anything to finish it right for these guys and for our program, and we just unfortunately didn't take advantage of the opportunity.

**Q. Coach, what went into the decision-making process to keep rolling with Chase Forrest throughout the second half and into overtime?**

**COACH WILCOX:** Yeah, we felt like, after the first half, you have some decisions like that that Chase Garbers made and a couple of balls he obviously would like to have back. We felt like we needed a little bit of a spark. Chase Forrest had practiced really well in the bowl practices, and we wanted to give him a shot. So we did.

Chase Forrest hasn't played much, and that's a tough position to be in. And we knew that, but we felt like we needed a little bit of a spark and he might be able to provide us that. He made a couple of real good throws, and then had a couple that -- again, he made a couple of bad decisions there. But I would rather sit and talk about what Chase Forrest has done for the program off the field that nobody really sees because he's been a guy that's helped us -- helped us along the way in so many different ways.

So I know it crushes him, it kills him. But, in the end, Chase Forrest is a better man because of his time at Cal football, and we're better off for having him even though it didn't turn out that way tonight.

**JORDAN KUNASZYK:** I just want to say something real quick to all the media, to all my coaches, to my teammates, to the donors, to the alumni, really to everybody, to our AD, Mr. [Jim] Knowlton. I'm just very grateful for all that you guys have done for me. It's been my greatest pleasure being a Cal Bear and representing this university. I love this program. It's definitely heading in the right direction. I promise that with the leadership we have. And I am a proud alumni, and I'll forever be a Cal Bear. So thank you, guys, from the bottom of my heart. I'm very grateful for everything you guys have done for me.



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