



Ohio State Media Day Quotes

Ohio State vs. Oregon
Saturday, January 10, 2015
Playoff Fan Central, Dallas, Texas



Michael Bennett, Ohio State University, Defensive Line

On Urban Meyer's biggest stamp on the program

If you just look at the history of these three years he has been here and the whole culmination of it is the greatest stamp. He goes 12-0 his first year here, which is a lot bigger of a deal because you got to get those guys to trust their head coach. The next year we go to the Big Ten championship, almost make it to the National Championship and lose the Big Ten championship. Then this year we are at the National Championship. Every year he has gotten better and better and he has been able to get guys to buy in what he is teaching.

On if there is instant credibility with a coach like Urban Meyer when joining a school

When he came in, the first thing he said was the 'plan is infallible and if you follow the plan that I have in place, it is going to work'.

On comparing Alabama and Oregon

I don't know if you can say who is the better team between Alabama and Oregon because they are so different. I think we beat a great team and I think we have to play another great team. You can't really compare the two because they are so different.

On what it means to him on being at the National Championship

It feels great to be here. Just getting to the hotel yesterday was just incredible because we are here now – it is real – we are going to play for the National Championship on Monday. Knowing we are one of the top two best teams in the nation is very gratifying because of what we have been through as a team.

On the Oregon offense and its tempo

They do not as much tempo as everyone says they do, but when they do it, it is really fast. They try and take advantage of guys when they are looking over to the sideline not knowing what the call is or getting mad at each other for giving up a big play. If they see a defensive lineman with his hands on his hips, they going to go tempo to keep you off balance and keep you guessing and not let you get lined up. They know when to use their tempo and they use it very, very well.

On how tough it is to get up again for a game after an emotional win over Alabama

I do not think it is tough to get excited for this game – it is the National Championship. We are playing another great team and I do not think there will be any emotional let off or anything like that coming into this game. We prepared just like we prepare for these other games and we are excited for it and ready for it.



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On what it will take to beat Oregon

The biggest thing is getting lined up. No matter what the situation, you get lined up and you get the call and you put your hand in the ground. Against Alabama, they kind of took their time and had a lot more opportunities to scheme against them or gather yourself and get ready for the next play. While with Oregon, whether you are ready or not, you need to focus on the next play and put your hand in the ground.

On practicing against a similar offense every day at Ohio State

It helps a little bit and you get the general idea of it. Our offense is so much more based just on downhill runs than Oregon's offense is. They do try to put those downhill runs in there, but they do a lot more stretching of the ball and a lot more deep shots. I think maybe now we do a lot more deep shots. They are really trying to get the ball down field and run on the perimeter.

On if it was a surprise Cardale Jones had this much success so quickly

I was not necessarily surprised he had success, but that was a lot of success in his first game and then a lot more in his second. Cardale is really capable and he showed that. Everybody knew he could throw the ball and everybody knew he was a good decision maker so we were sure he would be able to run the offense. But he really came in and lit it up for us.

On Oregon's style of play

Most of Oregon's games are really close in the third quarter. Then you hit mid-third quarter through the fourth and Oregon is just throwing up points. I think that has to do with wearing the defenses down and their defense able to hold onto it. They know in the stretch they are in better shape than the teams they are playing and they keep going to trying to wear them down and hurry it up in the second half. The biggest thing for us is mental toughness and physical toughness and just being able to say the third quarter or the fourth quarter we just need to take care of business to the end.

On the matchup between the Ohio State defensive line and Oregon's offensive line

I think we have a very fast and quick defensive line and we are well suited for Oregon's offensive line because of how fast they are. Coach Johnson has taught us a lot of techniques throughout the year and we have a very good, technical d-line. I think we are ready for the challenge.