



Ohio State Media Day Quotes

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



Cardale Jones, Ohio State University Quarterback

How have you been able to take advantage of this opportunity?

I go back to the preparation. I wouldn't be able to do what I've been doing as an offense and as a unit without the right preparation.

What about your arm strength? Has that been a change for the offense as far as the ability for you to be able to throw the ball down the field?

A little, because we take more shots down the field. But we've been taking shots down the field with Braxton and J.T. as well.

For you guys to not miss a beat with three different quarterbacks, what does that say about Urban Meyer and his coaching ability?

That he has us at competitive excellence at all times. He holds every guy accountable.

Coming into the year as the No. 3 quarterback, how tough was it for you to stay positive and believe you would get an opportunity?

It was very tough. Being a No. 3 and having two guys in front of you performing the way they were, it was tough to stay positive and have the mindset that you are here for a reason. With the help of my teammates and coaches, I got the chance to stick it out.

What are your thoughts on the playoff system?

I love it. It gives a chance for not just two teams, but for four. But this is a system that has grown on us as a team and it's a system that gives one-loss teams a chance.

What is the strangest or craziest moment you've had since taking over the role of starting QB?

Just not being able to walk anywhere and go out in public without someone recognizing me. Someone wanting to take a picture or get an autograph or something like that. I don't mind that, but it's still unreal right now. You really want my autograph? A picture with me?

What stands out about Oregon? What impresses you about them?

What really stands out is that they don't get as much credit as they deserve. When you hear about Oregon - you hear about the offense, you hear about the Heisman Trophy winner. You think about their tempo. Their offense is motivated by their defense, because their defense is out there stopping people. The defense is doing enough to get the offense the ball back and put up points.

What are the nerves like with just 48 hours to game time?

Right now, it's calm, cool, collected. As we get closer to kickoff you'll see guys get more jittery, more antsy. As the game gets going, all that goes away.



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Does this feel different (the shorter turnaround)? More like the regular season?

Definitely. This is more like an away game. We come down a day or two before. Different than the Sugar Bowl where we had five or six days.

What about the travel?

It's a lot of travel, but our coaches and strength guys do an unbelievable job making sure we are rested.

Can you talk about Urban Meyer's approach in the classroom and how he keeps you involved even when you aren't starting?

Coach approaches that making sure that everyone is engaged in meetings. There is no limit on the number of reps you can get in meetings or film. Of course, being a starter, the starter will get 98 percent of the reps in practice. The preparation in the meeting rooms and film study will be the key.

What's the biggest part of taking it from the meeting room to the field?

It's hard to say. For me, that is where the game is won - in the meeting room. In film study. That is where for the quarterback, the game really slows down to study the X's and O's. It helps you understand the defense.

How many snaps were you getting before you were the starter (in practice)?

I would average about 15 snaps. Sometimes he would throw you in during a practice situation (acting as if the starting quarterback went down or had an issue during the game).

What made you want to stick around at Ohio State, even when you weren't playing?

The relationship I developed with not just our coaching staff, but our strength staff in understanding the process and the way. It wasn't like I was the best player as a freshman, that I was the best player after I walked on campus and that I should be playing. I understood there were things I had to work on and that with the help of the coaching staff and strength staff I could be at the point I am at today.

Did you go into your phone yesterday and block anyone?

Oh yeah, I blocked every contact in my phone except for the coaches and my mom, since she is trying to get here today and I wanted to make sure she got here safe. It took me about 40 minutes to block everyone on my phone. The only ones who can still call me are the coaches and my mom. No teammates. I wanted to eliminate as many distractions as possible. I haven't (had a problem), but I just wanted to put that much more into my preparation.