

Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl: Texas vs Arizona State

Monday, December 30, 2024

Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Arizona State Sun Devils

Cam Skattebo

Press Conference

CAM SKATTEBO: I'm not too worried. We're going to play our game and play ball and see what happens there.

Q. Will you be up for every play?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. 100 percent. I get tired obviously, but I never want to come off the football field.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. Between my teammates, I'm the same person all the time. You guys might see something else just as a mentality standpoint on the field, but I'm the same person at practice. I'm the same person at the house, on the game field. I think that's what the guys rally behind because I'm always the same.

I obviously have a little bit more juice on game day just to try to push them a little harder, but I think that's the biggest thing they trust me because I stay true to myself during the game, and I don't try to go outside the box and try to push more out of them than I've asked for them in practice or at home.

Q. Do you feel like you're maybe a throwback to a different era, NFL?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. I always talk to my family about I wish I was born 40 years ago.

Q. 40 years?

CAM SKATTEBO: But, yeah. I think back then I would have had a little bit more success. But I don't think you can get more successful than this right now, which is awesome.

Q. (Inaudible)?

CAM SKATTEBO: There's plenty of names I'm sure you



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can think of. I don't have anybody specific.

That's the best part about it. I have the old days and the new days all in one. So that's what I'm blessed with every day that I step on the football field.

Q. Why do you feel you play like that, like old school?

CAM SKATTEBO: Because it's rare, and when you're rare, the eyes are on you and it changes the way people look at you.

Q. Was that always something that you tried to do from a young age?

CAM SKATTEBO: Now that I look back at it as I get older, I think it was just more of getting to the end zone, like I said. I truly believe that there's nobody that can stop me from getting there. So that's why I continue to try to push to get there. And then whatever happens happens.

Q. Did you ever dress up in a uniform with a certain name on your back?

CAM SKATTEBO: It was always the last name of my own. I wore my own costumes to Halloween.

Q. I bet you wore some crazy stuff.

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah, I literally wore my own football stuff to Halloween. I was myself all the time when I was little. 100 percent. Like I literally took my game outfit and I wore it as a kid.

Q. With full pads and everything?

CAM SKATTEBO: Everything.

Q. Eye black?

CAM SKATTEBO: No eye black. I've never been an eye black person. I'm me. So I don't need to put anything on my body that changes who I am.

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Q. What kind of running back do you think you are?

CAM SKATTEBO: I'm versatile, all-around back. I'm my own game. I do my own thing. I bring physicality with versatility, and that's pretty rare in the league.

Q. How would you like to play for the Cowboys?

CAM SKATTEBO: Like I said, I'll play for anyone, whoever wants me. I just want to keep playing the game.

Q. Cam, you're live. What do you want to say to everybody at home?

CAM SKATTEBO: Let's go Devils. Thank you for the support. I can't wait to get back home. Just enjoy, man. We're going to do it for you guys.

Q. What does it mean to do that you really excited the Valley? Yesterday when you guys left Sun Devils stadium, it was incredible to see the crowds out there, wasn't it?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. It was awesome. We had more people yesterday leaving the facility than at tailgate game six last week. So it's nice to have your guys' support.

Q. What do you think of the fact that the odds makers have, once again, named you as the underdogs?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. We've been against the odds all year. We're ready for it. We're going to keep playing our brand of football, and we're excited to see what happens.

Q. Tell us about the last name. What's the heritage?

CAM SKATTEBO: Skattebo is Norwegian. My family is originated in Norway. That's where my father's father is from.

Q. Your grandfather is from Norway?

CAM SKATTEBO: I think maybe third grandparents, like a couple more generations up. They always call me the Norwegian Viking, all the people around. People that know I'm Norwegian. They're like, oh, that makes since, the Vikings.

Q. So you should play for Minnesota?

CAM SKATTEBO: Eh, like I said, anybody.

Q. How about the Arizona Cardinals?

CAM SKATTEBO: That would be awesome, just because

of being around the Valley. I want to play for the NFL. That's who I want to play for. No matter who it is, I'm going to take their support.

Q. Have you heard from scouts or anything at all?

CAM SKATTEBO: I've talked to a couple of them personally just about personal stuff, but nothing about football. They try to keep it professional and kind of just get to know you a little more than just football.

CAM SKATTEBO: Those are also built, but I think those are given from God at an initial standpoint of my life at a young age of six months when I was walking with braces on my legs, super bow-legged. So I think that was something that was given to me from an early age.

CAM SKATTEBO: You see what he does. You see what he wears. You see all that stuff. So I don't got too much to talk about. I come dressed in the morning with shorts and a shirt and my hair all scruffy in the morning. So I don't know where he got that from.

Q. He called you one of the jokesters. How does that play into the chemistry?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. You gotta have fun with the guys. Like Coach Dillingham says, you gotta have more fun working harder than anybody in the country. As long as you're comfortable, the funny side is going to come out, the mean side is going to come out. All your different sides are going to come out, and those guys are going to take what they want out of that, but the fact that he takes it that I'm funny is pretty cool.

Q. Do you see this kid right here? His mom is U of A all the way and he has been U of A all of his life, and then he met you a couple weeks ago and said, "Mom, I want to go to ASU."

CAM SKATTEBO: That's awesome. Yeah, we're switching the people from the dirty T to Forks Up. So that'll be awesome for him, and he's making the right decision in life.

Q. Talked about the ability to compartmentalize. When you're at the field practicing but he wants you all to enjoy. How do you go about that and making sure that you do enjoy stuff away from the field?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. I think just understanding that we're playing a football game and we're not playing the moment. He constantly preaches that to us. So playing the moment is going to get to your head. Playing the football game will not because you've done it from such a



young age. And he tells us that all the time to make sure that we're focused and that this stuff can happen, but this is not the football game. This is not what's going to change how we play. This is what is setting us up to help ourselves in the future.

Q. On that note, the defensive players from Texas, they have studied you forward and backward, some of the best defenders in the entire country. How does that make you feel? Does that affect your game? Do you change anything as a result?

CAM SKATTEBO: Yeah. If they're studying hard, there's a reason. And I have full respect for them because they understand what they're playing against, and that's why I love playing in games like this because they constantly look at me as a threat, and that's something I've always wanted to be. And if I'm a threat on the football game against an SEC team that was the runner up to win their conference, then I think I'm in a pretty good position.

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