



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State- Utah State Press Conference Quotes Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019

Head Coach Rocky Long

On increased penalties, lack of discipline throughout the game:

"Well, obviously the special teams' penalties always started us in bad field position, so you have to eliminate those. I haven't seen them on the film. Tomorrow see if they were legit or not, but we'll find out. I think the only real bad penalty we got was a personal foul penalty which is ridiculous. That's a lack of control by one of our players. The rest of them, sometimes on special teams, when you're blocking that stuff happens. Sometimes they call it. Sometimes they don't.

On team's resiliency in second half:

"I was happy that we didn't give up at halftime. I was happy we didn't give up. We tried to get back in the game. We just got back in the game too late. I thought the offense, all day long, didn't get in scoring position and didn't score enough points. If you had told me before the game we're going to hold them to 16 points on defense, I'd tell you we were going to win."

Thoughts on defense's play tonight:

"Not good enough. It's never good enough. We gave up some yards, but somehow kept them to field goals. We gave up some yardage, and when they got in the red zone, we were able to make them kick field goals and that allows you to stay in the game. If those were touchdowns, the game would get out of hand in the first half. I don't know what exactly it would have been, 40-3 or something, I'm just guessing. But for the defense to hold them to field goals kept us in the game. When you play a quarterback as skilled as he is, if you hold him to 16 points, that's not bad."

On fourth quarter offensive changes:

"Well, one of them was we threw a nice pass and caught it, and outran the defense. Then the other one, the quarterback scrambled around forever, no one could tackle him and then he finally finds a guy wide open in the end zone and throw it is to him and we get a touchdown.

Nothing designed. The one where we threw to Smith, that's designed and the receiver made a good play by scoring the touchdown when he caught it. That's one of those freak plays that every once in a while you get lucky and they work."

On quarterback Ryan Agnew's play:

"Like most of our team, very inconsistent. At times we're good, and at times not good at all."

On if Agnew moved out of the pocket too much throughout the game:

"I'll have to watch the film and tell you if he broke it too much. When you have a quarterback that's an athlete like he is, you can't tell him not to, and the times he scrambled around. That got us one of those touchdowns which got us back in the game."

On team's opening drive and what lacked in following drives:

"I don't think in particular. We started the game like we wanted to. We wanted to keep the ball away from them and we wanted to gain yardage

and get first downs and score some points. Too bad it was a field goal and not a touchdown. Everything was going fine until we threw an interception that was run back for a touchdown. Our offense had a loss of confidence. We started the way we wanted and all of a sudden we're playing from behind and it changed.

On what to take from tonight's game into bye week and upcoming Colorado State matchup:

"Well, there's no real positives. I still believe that we can be a good football team. Maybe we were okay tonight, too, because Utah State is pretty good. I don't know how good they are, but they are pretty good. They have got an NFL quarterback, so that's a hard thing to contend with. We lost to a good football team.

But we can be a good football team. We have to get better in a lot of areas, but we can be a good football team."

On Jordan Byrd's injury:

"Yeah, he's got turf toe. So when they tape it exactly right, he can handle it. And if the tape breaks or stretches or something, all of a sudden he can feel his toe. They take him back in there and re-tape his toe and he's okay. I thought it was an ankle when I saw him. He had turf toe before tonight's game. He got it last week."

On things the team will focus on during bye week:

"Try to get better at fundamental things and give some of the young guys a chance to play football. We'll go out there in full pads a couple times and guys that aren't playing for us right now, they will get a feel for actually playing football. That's what they are here for, instead of being on a scout team. They will have fun and everybody will have fun watching them play. We were sloppy -- really sloppy, but obviously we've got to get better at our kicking game. We've got to do some things there so we don't get penalized. We have to be more consistent on offense and score some more points and on defense we've got to cause turnovers. When we cause turnovers, we win. When we don't, we lose."

Senior quarterback Ryan Agnew

On team's resiliency in second half:

"Yeah, I guess the only thing we can kind of take positive from this is we didn't quit. We didn't fold and we had many chances, too. It was really good to see those guys keep fighting and doing everything we could to win the football game."

On final play:

"We had a play drawn up to get something across the middle. I should have stayed in there a little longer and tried to deliver a throw and give the receivers a chance rather than, you know, doing what I did."

On scramble fourth-down play in the fourth quarter:

"It was a miracle at that point. They played a prevent defense and nothing was really open. Just tried to buy enough time. I tried to find an open guy and Kobe made a great play across the field. I was lucky to deliver it to him, and he made a great play on it."

Utah State wide receiver Savon Scarver

On winning a close game:

"It was definitely really important for us to win because we tend to play close games and fold. I feel like we came out and defensively we executed. Offensively, we started off a little slow. We executed getting first downs, but we didn't come out with. Definitely time to get back in the groove and get better."

On his success in tonight's game:

"Honestly, every look I saw out there that the defense was running, I've seen in practice. So when we prepare the right way and we're successful."

On SDSU's defense:

"They are definitely good. It comes down to us having to do our part. We can't think about them. We can't let them dictate what we're doing. We have to be the aggressors, and I feel like we were the aggressors tonight."

On breaking Utah State's losing streak against SDSU:

"It's crazy. I didn't even know that until Monday, Coach Anderson said it. It's crazy. It's time to change the culture around here. We need to start winning the close games; that's going to be the culture. If we get into a close game, we're going to win it."

On how much the culture of the Utah State football team has changed since he started:

"It's changed a lot. My freshman year was really different. We had great players, All-American – stuff like that, but I feel like with the vibe this year, everybody just wants it really bad. It's always a good thing when you have 102 guys that want it. Everybody can play when everybody wants it."

On being a part of the Aggies' deep receiving corps:

"We feel good because we have guys behind us that can come in here and do as good as the starters. It's good to know that we have people that can come in and fill in when we need it. It takes all of us to win a game."