



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | @AZTECSPR | #GOAZTECS

San Diego State- Nevada Postgame Quotes Saturday, November 9, 2019

Head Coach Rocky Long

Opening Statement:

"I just heard D.J. (Dwayne Johnson Jr.) say we didn't play well. That's an understatement. Whenever a team doesn't play well, obviously they weren't coached very well. Way too many penalties. That's an undisciplined football team and that's my fault. It is amazing that the penalties had a lot to do with us losing the game. They don't always. There's some teams that can get a lot of penalties and still win the game, but obviously the penalties had a huge impact on tonight game.

We go for fourth and about one (yard), and we get it, and then it's called back for a holding penalty and all of a sudden they (Nevada) have great field position. In that situation, we don't keep the ball (offensively) and they have got great field position. Most of the penalties put us in bad field position the whole night, and we didn't overcome it. We didn't play well enough to overcome that.

On choosing to go for a field goal in the fourth quarter:

"It's not an easy call but it's not a bad call. I'd do it again. It worked out just like I thought. Our offense was struggling. They got a couple first downs in that drive, but they were struggling. I thought if we scored, and I had confidence that we would hold them and get the ball back with plenty of time, maybe if we scored it would give us a little momentum in our own mind. It worked out just like I thought it did except offense didn't play worth a darn when they got the ball back.

On Agnew's statement that the offense lost the game for the team:

"I think you lose as a team and win as a team. We've won the last couple games because special teams has helped us out. Now, obviously, it's hard to win football games if you don't score, and our offense is having unbelievable struggles scoring. I don't have the answer or I'd fix it. But obviously they didn't play well and that's coaching."

On how the team can move forward in the next few weeks:

"I think it's a difficult deal. It's all in how resilient the players are. Coaches, and most of us have been around long enough that, stuff like this happens to us and has happened to us before, but it's more about how the players respond to it. Coaches, we'll be there tomorrow and we'll break down the film and we'll grade the film and see what we did right and maybe see what we did that was wrong. We'll present it to the players like we always do.

Then we'll start working for the next game and work on a game plan and we'll try to prepare the players better than we did this last time. It's a lot more how the players respond. I mean, players win games. Coaches don't win games. Players win games. A coach can

lose a game by a bad call. I mean, maybe some people thought that was a bad call to kick the field goal. They are wrong, but maybe they think that.

You know, a coach can lose a game by making a bad call but a coach has never won a football game, ever, ever, ever, as a coach ever won a football game. Players win football games.

So obviously we've got to do a much better job of coaching so our players play much better.

On team's upcoming game and being in control of the West division:

"I didn't know until about two minutes ago that Fresno lost. So misery enjoys company, I guess. I don't know what that saying is. They are probably pretty miserable and we are pretty miserable and we get to play each other next week. One of us will feel much better, and one of us will feel just as bad or worse."

Senior quarterback Ryan Agnew

On impact of penalties on outcome of the game:

"It had a big impact. We had some penalties at crucial times that can't happen. Any time you shoot yourself in the foot, it's hard to come back from all of them. So you can't do that, especially in games like this against an opponent like that. In these circumstances, you can't do stuff like that."

On what decided the outcome of the game:

"Offensively, we lost the game. Defense has been playing great all year. You let up 17 points in a college football game, you should win. Offensively, we have to score more points. Defense has been doing it all year. They played a great game. I'm sure they are going to want to improve on a lot of things, but letting up 17 points in a college football game, you should win that nine times out of ten."

On Coach Long's choice to go for the field goal in the fourth quarter:

"You always have to be ready for any situation, but Coach put on the field goal kicking team. Matt nailed it, so we executed what we wanted to do in that situation."

On the game's final drive:

"Just terrible (play) by me. I missed a couple open guys. Missed (BJ) Busby across the middle. I missed Parker (Houston) on the last play. I should have thrown it earlier. That's all on me. I was wrong with my timing. I've got to make better, more accurate throws. They were good play calls. I just need to execute better."

On similarities to last year in terms of momentum coming into tonight's game:

"You have to know every conference at this time of year, every team wants to win. You can't come half-ass going into a football game. These teams are really good. They were 5-4 before playing and now they are 6-4. They are a really good football team, and we can't take anyone lightly. Offensively we didn't play how we needed to play and that's why we lost."

Junior Aztec Dwayne Johnson Jr.

On what decided the outcome of the game:

"The difference in the game? Penalties coming down was a big part. We just didn't play well. It was nothing special. We just didn't play well."

On how the defense played tonight:

"We didn't play to our expectations. We gave up 17 but our expectation is to not let them score at all. So, we are back to the drawing board tomorrow to prepare for Fresno, getting back to that (mindset), not letting them run the ball. We need to stop the air raid and stop offenses from passing the ball, too."

Nevada Head Coach Jay Norvall**On tonight's win:**

"It is a good feeling because it's been a tough year. We've had a lot of ups and downs, but I think they've helped prepare our players for games like this. We just came in here and we knew we were going to play a tough team and we just talked about not flinching and playing for four quarters- and our kids did that. It was imperfect and we didn't play clean at times. But, we kept fighting and scratching offensively to make something happen."

On the team's mindset towards tonight's game"

"Let's not give them anything. Let's make them earn everything they get.' I was so proud of the way our defense played and how our special teams played as well. They really played hard and didn't give them (SDSU) much in the return game. We played the field position game, which is always big against this team and we were fortunate to come out at the good end."

Nevada wide receiver Elijah Cooks**On his play tonight and his history as a quarterback:**

"I played quarterback growing up. My whole goal throughout college was to throw at least one pass in college and I did that. So, I'm real happy about that. I'm really excited about that. That was fun

On the team's fight throughout the game:

"Oh, yes, no doubt. We knew coming into this game that this game was going to be tough. It's was going to be a fight all four quarters. So, all the stops that defense the defense got and (Daniel Brown) DB's pick was huge in our fight."

-SDSU-