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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Boise State

Nov. 26, 2021

Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

"Our seniors played on the road and got 11 wins. How they went out and participated in this football game was unbelievable. At halftime, the leadership that we got from that group was something you love as a coach and as part of a team. The defense went out and pitched a shutout in the second half. The offense scored 24 straight. That is exciting. In the kicking game, we missed two field goals. I will talk to Matt [Araiza], and we will get that straightened out, but one thing I can tell you is the kicking game was really good, the coverage on kicks, and Matt punting the ball did a tremendous job. It was not easy, but it is kind of the Aztec way right now. It makes my heart go a little bit, but I am really proud of our players."

On (offensive coordinator) Jeff Hecklinski and the preparation of multiple quarterbacks:

"Jeff Hecklinski just continued to build on the offense. Jeff and (defensive coordinator) Kurt Mattix both got here in the middle of a pandemic and had six practices in spring ball, so it takes a little longer from the offensive standpoint. Jeff has done a really good job. I think the quarterbacks have grown, and I am excited about that. Both (Jordon) Brookshire and (Lucas) Johnson made some timely plays."

On quarterback Lucas Johnson's status:

"With Lucas, it was injury-wise. He wasn't himself. He got banged up, and when you got a guy who is struggling a little bit, maybe the timing is off, who does have an injury, it is not fair to keep him in there."

On preparing quarterback Jordon Brookshire for this game:

"I told him on Monday or Tuesday that we would probably have to count on him on Friday. He understood that he had been preparing very well, and it came to fruition."

On the aggression of the defensive and pass interference calls shifting that aggression:

"When they came in at halftime, the message was play aggressive, have fun. Play aggressive. Do not worry about making mistakes. Sometimes on the deep balls, we do not compete enough. Some of that is them being worried about making a mistake. This crew called one pass interference (PI) on our offense. They could have thrown a couple more not necessarily on us defensively, but they were not going to call PI, you could just tell during the course of the game. They were not going to call it, and if you have that feel, then you have to be a little more aggressive."

On Jesse Matthews' performance on national television:

"Jesse is a competitive guy and he loves to play the game. He has a unique talent. He has great concentration, great hand-eye coordination, and he makes those tough 50/50 receptions. A big part of that is because he is competitive."

San Diego State defensive tackle Jonah Tavai

On second half transition:

"First quarter, we were not really playing Aztec football. We were down, 16-3. Second quarter, our defense piggybacked off the offense and they started getting it rolling. So, we started getting it rolling, went into halftime, and came out saying 'Just play, just play ball.' We have our offense going good, and our defense is going to go out there and do the best that they can. We just told ourselves, and especially our younger ones who were playing, to go out there, have fun and play ball. That's pretty much it."

On three sacks on senior day:

"Never going to complain about them. We had some good coverage in the back, some good blitz from our backers. And obviously, our two (ends) are getting pressure every play too."

San Diego State safety Patrick McMorris

On pressuring Boise State up front:

"Having those defensive linemen get pressure every play gives us time to cover. All we have is three seconds, at most, to cover our guy and we know that they are going to get back there and it is great to just see them get sacks. Especially by Jonah (Tavai), because three sacks on defense is big for us."

On his team's second half performance:

"We went into halftime and the seniors told us to go out there, have fun, play fast, and play for each other."

San Diego State quarterback Jordon Brookshire

On the win given the adversity up until this point:

"Adversity is part of the job, playing sports, any position. It is adversity, hardships, and getting through it, and that is what makes players so good. If everything went well the entire time, who knows how good a player could be, but it is that adversity and fighting through things that makes people better."

On the 9 a.m. PST start:

"I absolutely want to do this again. It is tough playing those late games because you are antsy and you want to go, go, go all day and instead you are waiting around for it. With it being Friday, you are one of the first games on and it is an exciting feeling to get out there and be in the sunshine."

San Diego State wide receiver Jesse Matthews:

On coming back from 16-3 and the adversity of a quarterback change:

"We were ready to go. No matter what we know, we are trusting Jordon. We have seen him do it before, and he has plenty of talent. He has worked with us and we worked with him. There is no quit in us. That is the great thing about this program - the mental toughness. Adversity is going to strike, but it is how you respond to it. We did a great job responding, and I am so proud of Jordon, all the guys on the offense, defense, and special teams. We responded in the right way."

On the senior leadership:

"We have been working at this for 10 months, and even in the offseason, the leadership has been unbelievable. They led by example. They just do all the right things. We have a great group of guys, and we want to win this next game for them. Win 22."

Boise State head coach Andy Avalos

On his team's performance:

"Yeah, there is no question. We need to do a better job. We were doing a great job against the run game but they started to pass more and take shots on those first downs. So, they hit a couple of those and got some momentum going, and they also established some momentum in the air on a couple pass plays; and then we did not capitalize on some third downs. Third down wise, our numbers were not terrible but there were some critical third downs in there that we need to execute and get off the field, but that is on us as coaches and we will do a better job making sure we execute in those situations."

On his postgame message to his team:

"We have done an unbelievable job reestablishing this foundation we have built here. We played an unbelievable team today, and they were better than us today. They finished; they played for four quarters. They were the best team today and that doesn't take away from anything that we have built or anything from what we have grown on. We will have one more opportunity this year. True competitors, they learn from situations like this. They learn from days like this, and they are able to grow forward. We've already done that this year."

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