



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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

### **Postgame Football Quotes – Colorado State at San Diego State**

**Dec. 5, 2020**

**Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif.**

#### **San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke**

##### **Opening statement and comments on his seniors:**

"I am pretty proud of our football team and proud of our seniors. We honored our seniors last night and really tried to make it as nice as we could (with the coronavirus pandemic) with messages from their families. Last night was meant something to all of us, but particularly meant a lot to those guys that we were honoring.

"All three phases of the game contributed tonight. We did not play our best game in all three phases but the return game was very good for us and I am really excited about that. (I am) Proud of how the offense played together. Jordan Brookshire did a nice job. In the second half, we played Aztec defense. In the first half, we did not tackle well or leverage the ball the way we (know we) can. (We knew) this was a team that was going to try and run the ball down your throat. In the first half we gave up 108 yards rushing and that is not good enough for San Diego State."

##### **On his special teams' play and Coach Deakin's coaching of the special teams group:**

"Coach Deakin will get a half a game ball because they (Colorado State) got some kickoffs up to midfield. We are very happy (with special teams' performance) and really feel good (about tonight's play). (Doug) Deakin works his tail off. He is one of the better guys in country as a special teams coordinator. That group (special teams) did a good job. When you have got some guys who can do a great job getting north and south, that is what you want (on special teams). We blocked it (the field) all up pretty well."

##### **On the team's seniors and his message to them last night:**

"We talked about how as a program and how as University, (today) we were honoring them for who they are. At the same time, we were honoring their families. They (the seniors) mean an awful lot to us as a staff, and me personally, I always think your seniors are the guys that you coach for and you play for. It was really neat what we did last night and I think it meant something special to them."

#### **San Diego State Safety Dwayne Johnson Jr.**

##### **On the message to the defense at half time after giving up 108 yards in the first half:**

"We got notified of that (how many yards the team had given up) immediately. The message at halftime was that we need to get back to playing Aztec football, which is physical football. (We needed to) be tough and stop the run. Coming out of half, we knew we had one job and that was to keep them (Colorado State) out of the zone.

##### **On the satisfaction of playing seven games so far this season without issues due to COVID-19 within the program:**

"The props definitely go to President De La Torre and Athletic Director John David Wicker and our coach (head coach Brady Hoke). Us as players, we get rules and we need to follow them. Coach (Hoke) did put a lot on the seniors, asking us to try to make sure the team stays together during this hard time. We had to do our part in this pandemic and try to get seven to eight games (by being safe). As a team and as a university, we all did a great job of coming together and getting it done."

### **San Diego State Offensive Lineman Kyle Spaulding**

#### **On the meaning of senior night to him due to the uncertainty surrounding the season:**

"With the uncertainty surrounding this season, it felt really good getting out there for senior night. I was proud of our team for what we did tonight. (What tonight) means to me is not only ending it the right way, but showing the underclassmen the way that it (playing football) needs to be done, creating a legacy for them. We had to show them Aztec football, because they're the ones that take it (after the seniors leave).

### **Colorado State Head Coach Steve Addazio**

#### **Opening statement:**

"Once again, we gave up 14 points. We gave up two big returns - one on a punt return and one on a kickoff return. We knew this was a top team in our conference and we felt to win this game we had to be able to run the ball on offense. We did that. We felt like we had to stop the run on defense. We did that."

#### **On offensive inconsistencies:**

"We were very inconsistent on offense. We had a couple of inopportune sacks in the red zone and threw a couple of interceptions, one at a very critical part of the game. We have got to clean that (type of play on offense) up."

### **CSU running back Marcus McElroy Jr.**

#### **On how his teammates contributed to his two touchdown night:**

"As a team, we pushed forward and all got a little bit of momentum (on offense), and that helped get me the yards I needed to get (to score touchdowns)."

#### **On special teams giving up touchdowns:**

"I spent a decent amount of time doing some special teams (work) when I first got here. I understand it is a tough job and I do not get too frustrated, but at the same time, it does irritate me (that special teams gave up touchdowns). If I am not out there, I cannot control what is going on so it is always tough to stomach (something you cannot control)."

### **CSU defensive lineman Toby McBride**

#### **On stopping SDSU's run game:**

"We really emphasized stopping the run. That (running the ball) is what San Diego State does and that is what they do well. In order to win on defense, we had to stop the run. I am extremely proud of how the defensive line played and how the defense played in general."

#### **On playing tonight without a significant number of his teammates:**

"We have got to find a way to win with what we have got in front of us. No one was really worried about the guys that were out. We are just so grateful to have the opportunity to play this game. The guys that were in needed to step up and make plays. The guys that were out, it is okay, it is not their fault. No one is blaming anyone."

**-SDSU-**