



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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

San Diego State-Wyoming Postgame Quotes Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019

Head Coach Rocky Long

Opening Statement:

"I didn't know how (the game) was going to turn out. If anybody's been listening all week, I told you it was going to be a game like that. It was two evenly matched teams that play a similar style of football and I figured it was going to be close like it was, and I didn't know we were going to be down (in the first half). But our players did a great job of hanging in there and showing some character and grit and all those sort of things and kept fighting and eventually they took charge and we won the game."

On decision to go for it on fourth down in Wyoming territory:

"I don't know if that was the smart thing to do or not. We're not here to play analytics. We're here to win football games and I thought we needed to make a fourth-down play to win the game, and it ended up okay, this time. If it doesn't end up alright and you think I shouldn't do that kind of stuff (in the future), you can write bad things about me."

On what was going through his mind watching Agnew during the game-winning touchdown:

"It reminded me of the last game we had at home where he scrambled around and finally found a guy in the end zone and threw it to him for a touchdown. (It) reminded me of the exact same play, except this one made a lot more sense, and gave us a chance to win a lot more than the other one did."

On defense's play and changes in the second half:

"(In the first half) we missed two tackles that added up to over a hundred yards rushing. So, you miss tackles, you give up rushing yards. In the second half, we didn't miss tackles. The guys that were there to make the tackle actually made the tackle. The two big plays they had running the ball in the first half, we had a guy sitting in the hole that missed him. Then, when the quarterback scrambled, we hit him and didn't knock him down. So, it was missing tackles. We did not change one thing on defense in the locker room, if that's what you're asking. We were calling the same defenses that we called in the first half. Our players did a great job of executing them much, much better than they did the first half."

On if he was happy with defense's play in second half:

"No, because (Wyoming) scored in the second half. I'm not happy unless they don't score. I'd be happy if we only gave up field goals. But we had some mental errors in the secondary that gave them a couple touchdown passes. You know, I say that, and then you've got to give them credit, too. Guess what, they have really good coaches, really good coaches. They have really good players. They have 85 scholarships like we do. They are a good football team. So, they are going to make some plays. But we made enough plays tonight to win."

On offense's first half play and what changed in the second half:

"I thought the offense threw the ball well in the first half, and I think that you have to give Ryan (Agnew) credit because he threw the ball pretty well. But you have to give about three receivers a pat on the back for going up and catching contested passes where they were covered pretty well."

A receiver's job is to make a quarterback look good, and we had about three receivers tonight that made our quarterback look really good. That's their job, but we haven't had that around here much in the last five or six years, where we throw it up and our receivers go get it, in a couple critical, critical situations, too. You talk about the fourth-down play; how about Jesse Matthews catching the ball on the fourth down, and they were holding him. They were pulling his jersey, and the officials weren't going to call it."

On health of Juwan Washington and effect of losing Kyree Woods on the defense:

"He (Washington) makes us better. He tells me he's only 97 percent, though. But you can see the talent that he has because you've seen it before. When he's playing well, he helps us. He helps us be a much better football team. The other one that no one seems to talk about is Kyree Woods. You don't know how much we missed Kyree Woods tonight. A guy that was replacing him was the guy that missed the two tackles. There was one touchdown pass thrown on the guy that was replacing him. But there were three plays that they (Wyoming) made tonight, that if Kyree Woods was in the game, they wouldn't have made. So, there are some other injury issues besides just the running back.

On if the offense and defense feed off each other's play:

"I think we feed off each other. Defense plays better if the offense is moving the ball, too. You know, offense did a nice job of controlling the ball and keeping the defense off the field in the second half. I think we fed off each other."

Senior runningback Juwan Washington

On the offense's second half changes:

"Any time we have two teams with the same philosophy, it's going to take some time to get going. We just have to keep doing what we're doing, stay focused and can't get down on bad plays in the first half. We kept fighting and got some things going towards the end. Just got to keep fighting. Some things open up as we keep being physical; holes loosen up here and there and some things that might not be there at the beginning show up, so we just (said to) run it hard."

On team's early deficit and what he said to the team on the sideline to keep them in the game:

"Keep fighting. We've been down before, and we just always keep fighting. Our defense is going to fight hard and we're going to get more opportunities just because they are going to go out there and making stopl."

On his health and if he's close to 100% back from ankle injury:

"I'm close. When I'm out there, I feel good. I'm always 100 percent when I'm out there."

Sophomore tight end Daniel Bellinger

On the offense's second half changes and how it changed the outcome of the game:

"They (Wyoming) are a good team. They are good, physical, and we knew that coming in. We knew we had to fight till the end. As Coach Long said, we had to fight and fight and fight, and at the end I think we fought harder."

On if he had a personal interaction with Agnew before final offensive drive of the game:

"Not personally but he looked at the whole offensive line, everybody on the offense and said, "Let's go and make plays." And that's what we did."

On game-winning touchdown and how he has practiced for it:

"Every day at practice, we go out and work as hard as we can and when it comes down to (a situation like) that, we try to get open and that's exactly what happened."

On what he saw from Agnew in the last two plays that led to his game-winning touchdown catch:

"Well, at practice every day when we get into those situations, I always try to look at his eyes and see where he's looking. We've done it in the past where he rolls out and we try to find open space. The last two plays, he tried to find open space and that's what we did."

On Agnew excelling in difficult situations:

"I feel like he's a smart guy. He sees receivers and know where his people are going to be. In practice, we practice it a bunch. When he sees us open, he makes the play."

Senior linebacker Kyahva Tezino**On defense's second half adjustments:**

"There weren't really adjustments. We just had to play better. That's what Coach Long came in at the half and told us. We've got to play better because the calls are there. We've just got to execute them. That's what we did, and we ended up, I guess, holding them to less than a hundred yards in the second half. It was a great game, and I'm just happy we came out with the win."

On facing a running quarterback:

"With a running quarterback, you never know what could happen because he could just run out the pocket and stop his feet and throw a pass. We've just got to contain, compress the pocket, and make sure he just doesn't get out of the pocket and we've got to just make plays."

On defense's play tonight and if it held up to the hype of their FBS national ranking:

"We don't really worry about stuff like that. We try not to think about where we're ranked. We just go out and play our game. They could have rushed for 300 yards -- the whole goal is to win the game. We'll fix everything on Monday."

Senior defensive lineman Myles Cheatum**On if the defense and offense feed off each other's success:**

"I think we both played off each other. It's definitely a team game. When they are doing well, it helps us. And when we are doing well, it helps them. I think obviously seeing them have some success definitely helped us and I think them seeing us have some success definitely gave them some confidence to play better, as well."

On the Aztec home crowd and if it played an effect on the defense's performance:

"Always. It's always good to have crowd participation. We appreciate everyone that comes out every week. I believe we have one of the best fan bases in our conference and we're really appreciative and when they get going it helps us out a lot."

On facing a running quarterback and the defense's changes in the second half that changed the outcome of the game:

"Going into the game, our coaches did a great job preparing us for what we're going to see. It's simple. Just play better. Give it 100 percent effort and good things will happen for you. It worked out in our favor tonight."

Wyoming head coach Craig Bohl:**Opening statement:**

"First of all, the game was about how Coach Long and I thought it was going to be, a physical game that was going to come down to a series here or there. We're certainly disappointed. I thought our guys played hard, and there's things that we certainly can we can improve on. The margins for winning the game were going to be slim, and also, one of the things we were going to need to do was create some takeaways, and we didn't do that tonight, and they (SDSU) did. It was two classic teams that went out and had a hard-nosed, physical game. We're disappointed we lost. We've got to bounce back next week. I do want to congratulate San Diego State and Coach Long. How they operate their program is top shelf, and it's a pleasure getting in these games and coaching against them."

On what changed in the second half:

"Well, I'm not going to get into tons of specifics, we had some guys go down, but I thought our guys went in there and scrapped and played hard."

On losing Eric Abojel:

"He's a big presence and I don't know how long he's going to be out, but he was having great movement at the point of attack. I appreciate the other guys going in and competing."

On how the game was similar to the Tulsa game:

"That brings back some bad memories there, but I think we have a competitive football team. San Diego State does as well. It was going to come down to a series here or there, and that's how it turned out."

On defense being worn down in the second half:

"I think there was some tackling errors and some loss of containment."

Sophomore running back Xazavien Valladay**On rushing against the number one rush defense in the nation:**

"I mean, honestly, we just stick to what we do. We can just control what we can control, and that's just running the ball."

Redshirt freshman quarterback Sean Chambers**On what made the difference in the game:**

"They made a few more plays than us and they won the ballgame."

On SDSU's rush defense:

"They're as good as advertised. Their front seven and back end are really good. It's a good defense."

On three straight three and outs to start the game:

It was a little frustrating, but we persisted. We knew we could move the ball against these guys.

Senior linebacker Logan Wilson**On possibility of defense tired in the second half:**

"For the most part, being tired is a mentality. We're conditioned really well by our athletic performance staff. It just came down to them making more plays than we did."

On SDSU moving the ball in the second half:

"There were a couple plays they hit on us, and we had a couple of penalties. We hurt ourselves. We shot ourselves in the foot too many times. We can't have penalties like that in close games like today."

--