



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS
5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | #GOAZTECS

Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Air Force

Nov. 26, 2022

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening Statement:

“It was a tough game because of the guys who played their last home game here in front of fans, family, and loved ones. That is always hard to come to grips with. The positive is that we have one more game, and we'll find out in a week about which bowl game that will be.

I'm proud of these guys because of how they prepare, how they play, and their physicalness. The first thing [Air Force Head Coach] Calhoun said was, “You guys always beat us up. You're always so physical on our guys, but that goes both ways.

Obviously, we'd like to score more points and have more rushing yards. We'd like to take the first drive that they had. When you play triple option teams, that first drive is always a little bit of a problem because of the speed that you've tried to mimic in practice, it never is there. I thought our guys handled it. We talked about it, they came off the field. They played their butts off. We're disappointed obviously. We'd love for every senior to win their last game, but that doesn't happen.”

On how the leadership of the senior class:

“They've had a lot on their plate, and they've learned a lot, going to Carson and wearing masks. All of that has taught them to be resilient and tough.”

On Air Force's defense and on playing safety Kyron White:

“It's a different defense when you play triple-option football. Against New Mexico, there were threats of triple-option. Air Force is hardcore – Navy, Army triple-option. At the end of the New Mexico game, Kyron came in and played Aztec and he had about three hits late that game that were really encouraging. It just so happened that because of his speed and his physicalness we thought we could use him as a boundary backer, and it went pretty well.”

San Diego State Senior Defensive Lineman Jonah Tavai

On holding Air Force to 13 points:

“Hats off to our defense. Like Coach said, you can never mimic them in practice or walkthroughs. So that first drive is how you get used to it. That first drive a lot of teams get down but I'm happy our guys stepped up. We had a starting linebacker out, so we had some young linebackers in that haven't played too much, stepping in really good. We had another linebacker come out with a little ankle injury and to come into one of these games is a little hard. The way that we finished that game and the way we played throughout the game, I am really proud of our defense.”

San Diego State Senior Offensive Lineman Alama Uluave

On the past year:

"For me, it's been amazing. I'm an Aztec for life. I love San Diego. I love San Diego State. Having to go through all those issues with building a stadium and playing in Carson really makes you appreciate a home stadium. This game wasn't only just for our seniors, but also for the past two classes, who didn't have the chance to end their careers off in San Diego. We wish we could have come up with a W but sadly that wasn't the case. San Diego showed up tonight and I'll be forever grateful. I'm forever grateful for the coaching staff that have come and gone and made me the player and the man I am today. I couldn't have had any of the experiences I've had here anywhere else. I'm very grateful that I'm here and stuck out my five years here."

On the team's struggles tonight:

"Air Force came out to play, hats off to the Air Force defense. They made adjustments that other teams didn't, and they really brought it to us today. We weren't as clean and crisp as we usually are. We weren't rushing around the ball very well. That makes us very one dimensional and not a very good offense. Honestly the defense played their butts off today."

Air Force Head Coach Troy Calhoun

On the first drive:

"We were in a trap and had a good guard pull. There was a little bit of daylight, and he was able to go for it."

On hesitancy going to Brad Roberts so many times:

"Obviously not right. I mean, he's been that way the last two years. And he certainly was again tonight because it was hard. The quality of bodies that they have, how physical they are. I mean, every time we play this game, we get a good number of guys that are really dinged and bruised, and it happened again tonight. To lose two starting offensive lineman, Wesley Ndago and Kaleb Holcomb. That's a credit too, they're so old, they're so big, they're so powerful. They tend to win a bunch of those collisions."

On the key to the defense:

"One, I thought we played the run really, really well. And we were able to create some down and distance situations where we could kind of pin our ears back and go. It was primarily one-on-one rushes, we mixed in a few games, but not many. It was more of a one-on-one pass rush and once in a while bringing in a fifth."

On the individual effort:

"It would be interesting to see if you went and checked, this group of seniors, these guys have overachieved the whole time and it'd be interesting to see if you went in the history of Service Academy football, and I don't have in front of me how many times a class has won at least nine games in three different years. Maybe it's happened a bunch, I don't know. For these guys to be able to do that in a regular season, will it take another 140 years? Or however long it's been? I don't know but they've done it."

Air Force Senior Running Back Brad Roberts

On the start of the game:

"Our offensive line created a giant hole up the middle. I think both safeties were flown with our pitch back so it was a pretty open hole and I got what I could."

On doubt playing with a hurt hand:

“Not really, a little bit at the beginning of the week, but my strength started to improve, and the swelling started to go down.”

On having 35 carries:

“Trainers got me right. I'm there Sunday, Monday, every single day leading up to the game and I'm there for a couple hours every single day and they're getting me right, whatever bumps, bruises I have. In practice, the coaches are making sure to limit some of my reps, just preparing me for the game.”

On getting yards against San Diego State:

“I knew the yards were going to be extremely hard, we talked about it all week. They have a great defensive front, and they play us really well usually. The first half was incredible, but you could see as the game went on, they really buckled down. Yards were hard to come by, but our offensive line did a great job and really helped me out.”

Air Force Junior Strong Safety, Jayden Goodwin

On shutting down SDSU offense:

“We're very sound upfront and sound in our gaps. We played a little bit more cover zero in those run situations which was a great play call as well. We kept everybody's eyes clean, but it was really the pressure by the defensive line and those front seven up there putting pressure on the quarterback.”

On good tackling:

“I don't think we missed very many tackles. Everyone was tackling great tonight. We played good Air Force football tonight and it showed.”

On his 4th quarter pick:

“Feels great, especially away in a different crowd and a different environment. Just to know you can perform anywhere. It's all the same game of football no matter the stadium, no matter what city you're in. We're always going to be Air Force.”

On beating SDSU:

“Oh, yeah, it was very special. I think they won the last nine that we've played them because we've been harping on that all week. It was great to be part of the pattern and break that pattern and be a part of the team and actually beat them.”

On upcoming bowl game:

“We are just going to get in the weight room, we're going to squat, bench, power clean. Just keep focusing on us, it doesn't really matter who we play as long as we're us, we're going to be just fine.”