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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Fresno State

Oct. 30, 2021

Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

“Number one, it hurts to lose. The players work awfully hard, and you hate it when you lose. We played a good football team in Fresno State. Offensively, they are as good as we will see when you look at our conference. Fresno State and their quarterback Jake Haener were resilient.

In the first half, we did not play very good football. Defensively, though we got better. Fresno was 9 of 18 on third downs. That's 50 percent. We cannot have that happen. We had too many penalties. We had 70 yards with the penalties again. We have to do a lot of things better as coaches. First and foremost, of getting a football team ready and we have a lot of work to do. This one hurts. I told the team if it does not hurt, they should leave the program.”

On the QBs Lucas Johnson and Will Haskell:

“We would like to be better. Both Johnson and Haskell work awfully hard. As we get into tomorrow and Monday, we will have a lot of conversations about it.”

On how the offense lacked flow:

“On offense, we were sporadic with our reactions. Lucas Johnson had a nice drive going and did a nice job. We had some penalties that hurt us, but we were able to move the ball some, and then we got stalled for one reason or another.”

On Fresno State's offensive line and running back Jordan Mims:

“We did not play as well against their line and that means we did not coach as well as we needed to up front. Fresno State is a pretty good football team. It was pretty evenly matched, and they executed.”

On evolving the reliance on passing:

“We have to evolve. We are going to have to play from behind and I have always believed in that. Obviously we've worked on it, but we'll continue to.”

San Diego State Quarterback Lucas Johnson

On Fresno State's defense:

"They came out ready to play and we came out a little flat. Their defense is tough, and I have to do a better job of taking care of the ball and putting our team in better situations. I hurt us tonight. All we can do is work harder next week."

On the offense's improvement in the second half:

"We knew we had to lean on each other if we were going to chip away at the lead. We got some momentum going but then I put the ball on the ground. It falls on my shoulders and I can't let that happen."

San Diego State Defensive End Keshawn Banks

On Fresno State's success converting third downs:

"I don't think it was anything that we didn't prep for during the week. They were getting the ball out quick, and I don't think we played well in the first quarter, especially up front. We gave them way too much time in the pocket and I think that hurt us. We got down 17 and it was hard to come back. They're a good team and we can't spot them points like that."

On Fresno State's quarterback Jake Haener:

"We knew Jake Haener was a great quarterback. He has a great arm and can extend plays when he wants to. We gave him too much time in the pocket and he took advantage."

Fresno State Head Coach Kalen DeBoer

On his team's performance:

"I just got out of the locker room with the guys. It is an awesome atmosphere. It was a huge team win for us tonight, with the defense doing a great job all game long of consistently shutting down the run. I think the physicality we brought right off the bat set the tone. We had some timely turnovers there and got the final touchdown with a great job by the offense. We knew it would be a grind, just with their special teams and how good they are, and everyone wants their punter, but they do a lot of other things well too with their return game; that was a hard-fought battle. I know the score towards the end was a 17-point lead, but everyone watching the game knows we faced a really good football team, and we found a way to keep plugging away."

On the first half:

"I think it was the best defense we have played all season long because we really took away their strengths with running the football and us being able to establish the run consistently and early on. Where they thrive was getting in third-and-long situations; for us to be 50 percent on third downs today, it was not just the third down execution, it is the first and second down that put you in position where our guys can make plays. So, I thought Jake [Haener] did a great job managing that."

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