



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS
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San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke:

Opening Statement:

“First, I am really proud of the guys. We didn't start out the game the way we would like to, but they all came together and worried about execution offensively, defensively, and the kicking game. The kicking game was huge. Jordan Byrd and his touchdown was a spark for us as a football team. We played together, we played hard.

Defensively, we'd like to have stopped the last touchdown but as a whole, we did a good job of rushing the passer, we hit the quarterback a few times, and that was their strength.

Offensively, we did a nice job of taking time off the clock and how we handled things. Jalen [Maiden] did a great job. When it was time for him to run the ball, and he thought it was there, he did a great job. When we threw the ball, we threw it well. Jaylon Armstead came in again and gave us some movement on the line of scrimmage.”

On Kurt's ability to adapt the defensive game plan after a 14-0 start:

“The way we started with them being five-for-five on first downs doesn't sit well. The guys defensively just got together. Kurt Mattix was really good as far as making the changes. It's unbelievable how he prepares to call a game. San José changed their tendencies, and it took those two drives for Kurt to then change his game plan.”

On keeping San José to under 30 yards rushing:

“Limiting the rush is always one of our goals for the week. That's one of the things that we started doing after the Boise game; we set goals and parameters and what we want to achieve. One of them is keeping an opponent under 75 or 100 yards. So far, we've done a good job since we started doing that. The other thing is negative plays, tackles for loss, and sacks. We've done a really good job with that. It's been something guys talk about at halftime. When they come in the locker room, “Hey, we need three more sacks, or we need two more PBUs.” You know the players are getting into it when they do that.”

San Diego State Senior Defensive Lineman Jonah Tavai

On pre-game discussion and thoughts on game execution:

“Preparation for every game is key for us. We treat every week as championship week. We did talk about how we're going to be bowl eligible if we win this game, but we were

more engaged in just winning the game. Had a tough loss two weeks ago and the way the team has been stepping back up, coming back, fighting every inch I'm definitely proud of the guys we got on the team."

On what defense discussed after the first two drives and how it helped propel the rest of the game:

"Like I said earlier, the way we prepare we always say adversity is going to strike and the way you face it is what's important. Obviously, nobody wanted to start out 14-0, and the way they started out was really good for them. And really bad for us. Nobody wants that. But we kept fighting back, chipping back, just playing harder and longer than they did and the results just came out in our way."

On if the defensive line standing up during third downs was part of the game plan:

"We have a lot of coaches on our defensive staff that have belief in our pass rushing for our D line and, and just giving us plenty of freedom, as I'm going to call it, sometimes too much. But we're just out there just playing our best, trying to go 100% every play. Whether it confused them or not. We're just trying to play hard."

On what it feels like to pass Cam Thomas for third in sacks:

"We were always competitive when he was here. It's a great feeling. I really had no idea until somebody told me after the game, but we still got season left. We still have a bowl game left. I don't know how much two and one are but I'm going to try for as much as I can. I'm just happy about it."

San Diego State Senior Quarterback Jalen Mayden

On pre-game discussion and thoughts on game execution:

"Same as what he said. I'm definitely proud of how they fought back. Tough loss you know, we didn't finish, and this game was all about once we got up it was just about finishing, so proud of how we bounced back."

On what he did to shake off the interception:

"Really just the guys around me, I come off, you're going to be mad, you know, it's a bad play. But everybody's picking me up and they're saying things like, you'll be back into it or just keep your head up, we got your back. Defense always comes in embracing me and they're like we got your back. It's a long game. There's going to be adversity, just shake back. And that's what I did."

On the 3 touchdown passes and how he dialed in:

"Really just every week the coaches do a good job of making sure I'm comfortable and giving me all the keys pre snap so that I can have post snap success and it kind of just goes from there."

On if he is starting to feel a flow of when to run or hang up the pocket:

“We definitely talked about it this week and I worked on it a little bit more in practice but I'm giving my guys every opportunity they have to get open and if not, then that's when I'm going to take it and run.”

On his relationship with Mekhi Shaw and Mekhi's first touchdown pass:

“He's working his tail off in practice and it's showing. Honestly, I didn't know that was his first touchdown pass until he told me on the sideline. So, I congratulated him and told him the game's not over. We got to finish.”

San José State Head Coach Brent Brennan

Opening Statement:

“Congratulations to San Diego State and Coach Hoke and his staff. They thoroughly outplayed us and that's my fault. And I'm disappointed. I thought we jumped on pretty good to start it and then let a couple of big plays even it up fast, and in the second and third quarter we just had trouble moving the football and we had trouble getting off the field. So, it was a really, really difficult night that way. I got to get back and look at the film and find out, in all three phases, what we are not executing at a level that gives us a chance to play good football. Like I said, that starts with me and so I need to go to work and look at that. Everyone in there is really, really heartbroken. This was an important game for us. We always have great battles with these guys, and tonight, wasn't that. They got after us. And so, like I said, I give them credit. Tip my hat to Coach Hoke and that staff and now we'll get back to work and figure out what we learned and what we have to do to improve.”

On the kickoff return shifting momentum:

“Absolutely. Absolutely. That very, very clearly, changed the whole tide of the game. And to me, we really did not recover, we did not respond well. Like I said, that starts with me. I've got to give us a better understanding of that and when something does not go our way, we have to man up and respond. And we didn't.”

On San Diego State facilities as a model for San Jose Staté:

“Absolutely. I think the best some of the best comparisons that we can draw as a CSU is San Diego State and Fresno. Both those teams have done a good job of being consistently successful programs for a long time. And that's what we want to be. That's what we're fighting to be every day. And I think that when you come down here, and you see this new stadium, and you see the stuff that they've done and the stuff that they've built over the years and the 11 bowl games the last 12 years or whatever it's been, I want to do that. I want to go to a bowl game every year. I want to play for the conference title every year. I want us to be in that kind of situation.”

San José State Junior Quarterback Chevan Cordeiro

On emotions after a loss like this:

“We lost, that's all I care about. It's sickening. It is what it is. They played a good game. They won fair and square. They brought it today. We just got to learn from it. And we still got two more games left. I mean, finish strong.”

On whether it was gameplan or San Diego State just having a great game:

“I feel it might be both. I'm not sure about the game plan situation, I need to watch film and learn from it. I mean, they played a good game. I mean, they did good on offense, and they brought it on defense. They played a solid game and special teams, they brought it. I mean, they played a good team game. I don't know, all we can do is learn from it.”

San José State Senior Linebacker Kyle Harmon

On what was different about facing Jalen Mayden and SDSU offense vs other offenses:

“Yeah, he's a good player. Quarterback is a good player obviously he was a safety before, so you know he's a good athlete. I think they did a good job putting him in space and they made plays and just a few plays here and there that kind of skewed it. I thought our matchups up front were always in our favor as usual. But just a few plays and hats off to them. They're a good team. They made plays. Very well coached. So, hats off to them. They played a really good game and deserved to win tonight.”

On if there were any positives to take away:

“Yeah, I think we had some negative plays, which is good. We never really stopped fighting. So as always, it's always a gut check, when things aren't going your way and some teams just hang their hats and no one ever felt like we did that tonight. And so it just shows a lot of character that we have in our locker room.”