



**Quotes
San Diego State
vs. San José State
November 9, 2013**



Head Coach Rocky Long

Opening Statement

“I thought that both teams played extremely hard. I thought it was a great football game, and we were just able to make some plays in the fourth quarter, enough plays to win the game. I thought it was a great football game and both teams played extremely hard. Both teams made a lot of mistakes, and both teams made a lot of big plays. That’s what people like to watch, and we just happened to come out on the front end this time.”

On overcoming an 11-point second half deficit:

“I don’t think our team ever quits. They’ve proved that all year long. No matter what the situation is, they keep playing and keep playing hard, and tonight they were able to make enough plays to win the game. So we feel a whole lot better about playing hard, but I think they do that every week. They play like that every week and sometimes you make enough plays and sometimes you don’t”

On the Blocked Field Goal:

“I think that was the biggest momentum shift. We ran it back, and then we scored in one play. I think that did change the momentum. I thought that our team really believed that we had a chance to win after the blocked field goal.”

On shutting down the Spartans in the second half:

“I think that the defense played good all night long. I thought the defense played really well. They (San José State) are really good on offense. They have a great quarterback, some great receivers, and some good young running backs. I mean they are really good on offense. I thought our defense played well all night, and then they shut it out at the end which was really good.”

On the kicking game:

“The kicking game was terrible. Almost as bad as it can get except we made two extra points. We work on it all the time, and the players have been working hard. Hopefully they’ll come out of their funk and make some field goals for us.”



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Head Coach Ron Caragher

“San Diego State kept competing and gave great effort. They kept capitalizing on our mistakes. They executed and made plays when it mattered the most and we didn’t. That summarizes the game. We by no means are where we want to be. We need to improve across the board. Our yards were below average. Defensively they did a good job of mixing things up and were effective at stopping the run game. Defensively we started off fast but they sustained long drives. Special teams played okay early on. The blocked field goal looked like a low trajectory. Give them credit for competing.”

On the turning point in the game:

“The blocked field goal was a big momentum swing. We could’ve gone up 18 if we would’ve scored a touchdown. You can’t have a breakdown like that. There shouldn’t be a blocked field goal. Next thing you know, it’s a four point game. Good teams don’t do that. I thought we were a little better than that, and I’m disappointed. I take full responsibility. It’s on me to get the team prepared, to start and finish fast.”

On how the team should respond to the loss:

“The true test of character is how you respond in an adverse situation. So we’ll see how the team responds. It’s definitely frustrating, and I thought it was a game we could’ve won.”

“I wish we would’ve taken advantage of opportunities that we had, and we didn’t. Their defense stopped us, and their offense made plays.”

On what the team needs to work on specifically:

“Need to work on the kicking game to get more leg on those and get that up and get off the field with points. Our passing game, we need to get in sync and our running game wasn’t the type of night we had planned.”

On what he sees as the issues in passing game:

“There are a lot of things, and I have to watch the film. Guys are out there competing and they did a good job of putting on pressure on us. Those things throw off your timing. The run game wasn’t working and that usually takes off pressure. From here, the true test is to see how our team responds. It was a tough loss, but you have to bounce back. I will go back to the drawing board and look forward to bouncing back next week.”

On San Diego State’s defense:

“They’re a unique defense. You don’t see that. We probably won’t see that defense again. They kept us from making some big plays we usually make. Sometimes, the defense that gambles, you can make them pay. We did a few times. It just wasn’t enough to give the knock-out punch to these guys, though. We needed to sustain our pressure. But give them credit, they did a good job.”



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Quarterback David Fales

On why the team lost:

“We had times where we could’ve knocked them out by getting touchdowns instead of field goals. We would’ve won the game. For the most part, there were a lot of good things that we picked up on. It was little plays that we could’ve executed better.”

On how the team should respond to the loss:

“We have to stick together. There are still three games left in the season. It’s tough losing but we just have to stick together and have to get our heads right. This team is very experienced. These seniors have been through a lot and know how to handle adversity.”

On the team’s conference title chances:

“We have to focus on what we can control, and that’s Nevada next week. We have to do little things. There are three big games left, and next week is a big week.”

Linebacker Keith Smith

On when the game changed:

“From the start, there were little plays here and there that someone just didn’t execute, and it started with me. I missed a few tackles I should’ve made, and we just have to stay together and work on our execution.”

On how the team responded after the blocked field goal:

“When there’s a big change in possession, you expect the big plays and unfortunately, we didn’t stop them after that but we told each other to keep our heads up.”

On the disappointment of losing this game:

“It’s terrible. Any loss is hard, especially losing this way. We were in a good position, and it just slipped out of our hands. We have to play four quarters, and we didn’t do that.”

On the play of the defense:

“In the first quarter, there were little plays here and there that fell apart in execution. We didn’t get the plays that we should’ve made.”