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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Ohio

Aug. 26, 2023

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

“It's great to start the season with a win. It was great to get out there and have another opponent, a little different color jersey. We talked about this being a celebration tonight for all the work they've done since January – in the morning with Coach Hall and in the weight room. We wanted to have a celebration. When you work as hard as these guys do, it's great to see them win. It's great to see them play well. It's not as fun when they don't play well. It's not as fun when we have to do a little better job coaching. Last year, there were three games that we got beat because we didn't finish. That's one of the things we've talked about. We have to finish everything we're doing. We did finish tonight, which is a positive. I don't know if I liked the way we finished, but we got a big work week ahead of us and another opponent. We're going to get out there and go to work.”

On the time of possession battle in the first half in particular:

“We didn't tackle anybody. They ran the ball up and down the field. When you don't stop the run, you let them be too dimensional, and you allow the play action game and throwing the football. Plus they're good players, they're a good football team, and they are a physical football team. We didn't play physically and we didn't play well enough defensively in the first half. There's a lot there that we need to get fixed before Idaho State.

On going for it with six seconds remaining in the first half:

“I'm more inclined to go for it. At times, when you go for it, you are letting your offense know that you believe in them. At the same time, you also let your defense know that you believe in them and that they have your back. I always liked when I was a player a long time ago when we would go for it.

On the defensive substitutions being by design:

“We rotated quite a few guys through, and that's going to be who we are. We don't have those three guys who were dominant a year ago. The guys we do have are relatively new to the program. We're trying to get those guys as many reps as we can.”

San Diego State Tight End Mark Redman

On if the touchdown at the end of the half was the intended play:

“No, it actually wasn't the designed play. Jalen started off making his reads and then came back across. Jalen being able to step up in the pocket and have the O-Line give him time, everything worked out. We were able to get in. Obviously, it didn't work the first time, so we came back around, and we were able to put six on the board.”

On what coach Hoke's confidence in the team means to him:

“I love Hoke's confidence in us. Even that fourth down play late that we didn't get is definitely one that we have to get. But, Coach Hoke always has our back, offensive or defensive side. He's going to have our back, and we are going to have his. We are just going to have to execute to the best of our ability.”

San Diego State Safety Cedarius Barfield

On how hard it was to come back on the field after the called-back interception:

“Marcus Ratcliffe made a great play. Coach Hoke put us in that situation during scrimmages in fall camp – a situation where we make a play on defense, and then we think we're off, but then he'll say ones back up again. It's something that we prepare for.”

On Ohio's turnover margin:

“Ohio's turnover margin is why they were very good and made it to the championship last year. Hats off to them; they played a physical game. Quarterback Kurtis Rourke goes down and CJ Harris came up into the game and still held it down for them.”

Ohio University Head Coach Tim Albin

Opening statement:

We're obviously disappointed this evening. I have to tip my hat to Coach Hoke and his staff, and his football team. They fought hard. It was a good game. We're disappointed with the outcome, of course. We can't have those kinds of mistakes in a tight ballgame. We knew going in that their defense and front seven are really good. We can't have those turnovers. Our team battled to the very end. I really thought coming out of halftime that, we were going to be fine. We've been in those games before, and we just didn't make enough plays at the end to get it done. There's nothing that happened this evening that we cannot correct. The effort is there. The kids are hungry. They're bonded together. We're going to take it one day and one game at a time. We've got to take this one and correct the mistakes. We're very excited about going home in front of the best fans in our conference, and it's going to be a sold-out show, and we're going to have a lot of energy.

On the Ohio Defense:

"Looking at the numbers, they controlled the line of scrimmage. They had the one long run. The defense battled, held them to a field goal, and kept us in the ballgame. The turnover right before halftime was huge. For San Diego State to go down the field and score right before half was a huge momentum thing. I'm really excited with our defense and what I saw. I'm going to tip my hat to their quarterback Jalen Mayden. He made a couple of back to back to back throws in the fourth quarter. He really dropped a couple of balls in there. Mark Redman, their tight end, is a really good player. We knew that going in. At the end of the day, not taking anything away from San Diego State, it came down to our mistakes. They just made a couple more plays than we did. You can't have those turnovers in a game like that."

On facing the San Diego State red zone defense:

They did a nice job of mixing up the coverages, but they stuck to what we saw on film. Their boundary corner is long. He had a couple of really nice deflections as well. I thought CJ Harris threw the ball catchable a couple of times, and Miles Cross made a play. We had a couple of times that we didn't. I'd like to sit here and say that we made mistakes, but San Diego State did a good job on defending the end zone

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