

**October 27, 2012**



## **COACH ROCKY LONG**

### **On the team's performance:**

COACH LONG: I thought we struggled at times. We turned the ball over more in this game than we had in any other single game this year. I don't know that for sure, but I thought the turnovers kept us from scoring a lot more points.

I was really proud of the defense. After all three turnovers, the defense went out and stopped them. They didn't get any points off the turnovers.

I thought the defense played pretty well except one drive where they ran the ball on us too well. They got in second-and-short, third-and-short situations.

I thought the offense really ran the ball well and moved it well, but we kept shooting ourselves in the foot or we would have scored a lot more points.

### **On Adam Dingwell's first start:**

COACH LONG: I thought he did a nice job. I thought he controlled the game. I thought he did well getting us in the right running play with some checks. I thought he threw it pretty well. The one interception was a little bit of a high throw, but it was a tipped ball.

I thought he played really well for his first start.

### **On the mood during the half:**

COACH LONG: The mood at halftime was we had to play better. We were in the lead. As bad as people might think we played, we were in the lead and we did win the game.

Sometimes around here, I don't know why it is, because this team hasn't been bowl eligible this fast in a long time. We've already won six games. It doesn't matter how you win, folks. It doesn't matter how you win. Ask everybody that's lost today if it matters. All those people that lost by three. Ask them if it matters. It doesn't matter how you win.

You win. You ought to be happy you won.

### **On what kept the team from scoring:**

COACH LONG: I think the three turnovers kept us from scoring. I'm positive. I guess I'm not completely positive, but I think we would have scored on all three of those drives. Which eliminated maybe 21 points, which makes the game look a lot closer than it probably was.

I'm betting the statistics show that we dominated the game. Didn't dominate it on the scoreboard, but I bet you (in) the statistics, (we did).

### **On being bowl eligible:**

COACH LONG: Being eligible to go to the third bowl in a row is a record. I guess it's never happened at San Diego State. So that's exciting.

To be honest with you, we still got three games to play. We're going to enjoy the heck out of this victory because I've been around a long time where a team will come off a big win and then not play well the next week and not win. Sometimes you get a little jaded. So we're going to enjoy this win and worry about whoever we play next tomorrow.

### **On whether he was worried about the team not playing well after the big win against Nevada last week:**

COACH LONG: I was really worried about it. I don't think the players worry about that stuff. Coaches do.

### **On Adam Dingwell:**

COACH LONG: I think Adam can be a great starting quarterback. I think it is much harder to be the starting quarterback than it is a guy that comes off the bench in the second quarter. I think there was a lot more pressure on him tonight. He had a lot more knowledge of what he was doing tonight. Sometimes when things don't go quite right for you, you start thinking too much.

I don't think he did that. I think he handled himself, was really under control with some maturity. I think he can be a great starting

quarterback.

**On whether Ryan Katz on the sideline tonight:**

COACH LONG: No. We wanted him to come, but he's in so much pain, he didn't think he could be on the sidelines and stand up that long. If you're on the sidelines, you sit on the bench, guess what, you see nothing. So I imagine he watched it on TV.

**On how Katz's surgery went:**

COACH LONG: Doctor said it went fine. But I think it's quite a long rehab.

**On UNLV running back Tim Cornett success:**

COACH LONG: He had one 75-yard run. Take the 75-yard run out there and see what their average per carry was.

That stuff happens once in a while. They did a great job of blocking us. Our safety missed the tackle and he went for 70 something yards. You add 75 yards on one run to the total, gee whizz.

I don't think they ran the ball very well on us. How many yards did they get total?

**On whether the defense did better in the pass rush tonight:**

I thought we got more heat on the quarterback, yeah.

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