



## **SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**

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### **San Diego State Football Press Conference Quotes**

**Oct. 31, 2023**

**San Diego, Calif.**

#### **Head Coach Brady Hoke**

##### **Opening Statement:**

"Thanks for coming. A few things we've been doing... we've got to get better, we know that. Our guys worked their tails off. For some of you who come out, I think you see that, and the coaches are coaching hard. We have to continue to be resilient in everything we do, and stay together as a group and as a team. There's things that we've gotten better at, but I don't think the consistency that we need to have is where we want to have it. We've had great competition again. Two bye weeks is unusual and I don't know if they're good or bad. I've said that before, but I think we got a lot accomplished. We continue to work towards execution in all three phases, and we're building the mental toughness with guys. We've had 15 new starters this year, that's a little different, but there were some older guys who played and we have to continue to push for progress towards how we want to play football. During the bye week, you self-assess and those things, I think the one thing is the competition that we had last week and we've continued to have. We know that we have four games that are guaranteed, we're going to play for our seniors and then hopefully we can keep one game at a time and do the job as far as getting bowl eligible. Competition is out there at every position, and some guys have responded, and as we go through it, we'll know a little bit more. Homecoming this weekend, that's awesome. We want to represent Aztec nation to its fullest and play for our seniors."

##### **On the alleged regression of Mayden's quarterback play:**

"Well, if you look at regression, I would disagree a little bit with you. We had a game and didn't play very well. It didn't play very well offensively, but played pretty good the week before at Hawaii. We just have to have consistency in what we're doing. I know every one of those players. I know how hard they work. And I know how hard the coaches are working."

##### **On issues in the Nevada game:**

"Just consistency. We block a play up pretty good, and then run the same play and not block up as well. We run a route pretty good, and then just not having the consistency that you need to have. Defensively, they played a pretty good football game, and I think the one thing that we've got to do a better job at is creating turnovers. We have not been consistent enough. We were earlier, but we have not been consistent enough at getting the ball back for the offense. You know the turnover margins have been against us in a couple of losses obviously. We got to do a better job there."

**On if the offense has been too conservative:**

"I don't think so. I think when we assess our game plan, you always have to look at what you do well And within that, you've got to do what you do well against a game plan against a defense and offense or in the kicking game. The one place that's been pretty positive is the kicking game, and that's something that we have got to keep going.

**On if practices or preparations have changed around the team:**

"Oh, yeah. We were in as a staff a little bit more, we went out recruiting a little earlier than the last time, but we stayed in and had a little bit of different practices, a little more physical."

**On whether changes are potentially going to be made at various positions:**

"There are a few positions that we will continue to evaluate. So yes, that is happening. We'll talk about that at some point."

**On facing Utah State next:**

"Same record, two teams that have been fighting. They score 35 points a game. They're a good football team. They have two quarterbacks, I can't tell you who's going to play this week, but, offensively they're a good football team, and defensively, they force a lot of turnovers. Their turnover margin is really high. So, from that standpoint, they're a good football team. We have to play better than we have, and we will."

**On the similarities of Utah State's quarterbacks:**

"They're pretty similar. They're both, within the offense, they do a good job. They both can run, yes. Are they runners? Not as much, though. They'll find some places and get up in the pocket, and they scramble. We always go through how many scrambles a guy has when we look at tape. I don't know that number, but it's not like some other guys have had."

**On issues on the defensive side:**

"To me, we haven't tackled as well. I think I've said that about every week. Besides if we would have done this last week, we tackled well. I think that's part of it, and that's leverage as much as anything else, and I think we ought to be a little better upfront getting off blocks."

**On issues with rushing the passer:**

"You can bring more, but when you bring more, which is what I think we've tried to do a little bit, you play a lot of man coverage. There are some pretty good skill players in this league. I tell you, there's three of them on this team. I think one's got ten touchdowns, one's got eight and then six I think. I mean they're a good group of skilled guys on offense."

**On the importance of making a bowl game:**

"You can say, and people do say, it's nice for the players depending on where you go and travel and all that. It's part of the experience of playing major college football, and I think that's important for the guys who play here at San Diego State."

**Senior offensive lineman Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson and senior safety Cedarious Barfield:****Crenshaw-Dickson on the effort and work in practice:**

"We came out ready to work. It was a competition week last week, so as an offense we know we should have had a better performance in the Nevada game. It was an embarrassing scene for the offense, but coming out last week, we came out competing a lot with the defense.

**Crenshaw-Dickson on the main issues from the Nevada game:**

"Not being able to run the ball was one of our biggest issues. We didn't have that many rushing yards, and then protecting the quarterback. We gave up one sack, but we have to be able to protect him 100% always and get the ball downfield with our running backs."

**Barfield on the state of the players following the loss:**

"We're very competitive guys. We had a lot of goals coming into the season. We had a pretty good fall camp. We thought we had a very great team. And then the record doesn't show what we kind of wanted. We've got to channel that into the next game, kind of play with an edge. It starts with practice. We had a great day of practice, so we get to take every snap, and practice a little harder with every period we have."

**Barfield on the issues on the defensive side of the ball:**

"It just felt like a lack of attention to detail. I wouldn't blame any of the young guys. When you look at the big plays that we did give up, it was more missed assignments on our part: people not being in the right position, or not getting the right calls and everything like that. So, I wouldn't say it's more of a physical thing because we have the guys that can play football and feel as though it's more lack of knowing what to do and how to do it. When you look at the older guys in the past years, it's those guys that knew what they're doing every assignment. It comes with experience, but that's kind of the older guy's job to make sure everyone knows and is on the right page."

**Barfield on sitting on the loss over the bye week:**

"Yeah like you said, after a loss you want to get over it by playing that next week and getting a win and stuff. So, sitting on it isn't the best feeling because you want to get that out of your system, but you have to think about it for another week sort of thing because that is your most recent game that you put out there. It's another thing where you do have to look past it, we have a game this week that kind of blew over so now we're just focused on Utah State and continuing with the season."

**Crenshaw-Dickson on the intensity in practice throughout the bye week:**

"Well, offensively we definitely came out competing a lot more, as there is competition at every position on the offensive side. And then competition not only there but competition against our defense making each other better on the field."

**Barfield on the offensive challenges Utah State poses:**

"They're a great offense averaging about 35 points a game over 400 yards. They have two quarterbacks that can play very well. They have three receivers with five plus touchdowns. I think one of them, Royals, is like top two in the country with 10 touchdowns. They have a great running game and Utah State, it's kind of a different type of offense, they spread you out from the receivers line all the way towards the sideline. It's always a fun match when we play them. Going back to 2021 they kind of gave us a whooping, and then even before then, we went over there to Utah State and it was a great competitive game. At every position they have a lot of ballplayers. So, it's going to be fun, a lot of pressure on the DBs as well but that's the kind of game that we like to play."

**Barfield on whether the defensive game plan changes depending on which quarterback starts:**

No, I wouldn't say so, because they're kind of the same quarterback. One's a little taller, but they run the same offense when both of them are in."

**Barfield on the importance to the seniors of playing in a bowl game:**

"It means a lot because we do say we still have something to play for, and then also for the seniors that are in the other room, just wanting to send us off the right way, and also just to uphold the past Aztecs. Having 13 Straight bowl games is something that we're very competitive about. Like I said before, we don't want to be the first team to let those guys down as well. To carry that on into next year for the future Aztecs to keep going, so yeah it means a lot."

**Crenshaw-Dickson on how the coaches have handled the adversity with the players:**

"Offensively, the entire offensive coaching staff has handled it pretty well. Fixing our mistakes coming out next week and being ready to work. You know, week by week, there's a lot of things that we have to work on, especially watching the film game by game. So they have been coming out working."

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