



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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### **SDSU Football vs Sacramento State – Postgame Quotes September 8, 2018**

#### **San Diego State Head Coach Rocky Long**

##### **Opening statement:**

"You've got to give them a lot of credit. I thought coming in that they had a really good football team and they came in and played very, very well. We struggled a lot on offense moving the ball, especially early on. Got a little bit of it going late in the game but we struggled on our offense to move the ball, which I did not anticipate. On defense, I thought they had a couple great wide receivers, and the quarterback's pretty good, so I thought we'd give up some passing yardage. I didn't think we'd give up an 80-yarder, especially when the guy was double covered. For all those that want that double coverage, he was double covered with the corner and the safety, and he still caught an 80-yarder. But on the positive note, if you look at history, there's a lot of FCS teams that have beat Division I teams in the past, even here. So I give our kids credit for being tough enough and hanging in there long enough to find a way to win the game and that's the ultimate goal is to win, and guess what, we won."

##### **Can you talk about the penalties? You had eight penalties for 53 yards. How much, if any improvement, did you see from last week?**

"How many did we have last week? I think that's about half. So we made improvement. I mean, I don't know, what did we have last week, 12? We had 12 and they declined one, so we had 12 penalties. So we're making improvement."

##### **What's the prognosis of Christian Chapman?**

"Doctor wouldn't tell me. Said that he doesn't know for sure. He's going to wait until he gets an MRI tomorrow, and after he reads the MRI, he'll know exactly what's up. So he was positive. I mean, he didn't act like he was -- it's over, he's done. He didn't act like that. He says he's out for a couple weeks for sure, but I'm not sure what's wrong in there and we'll find out tomorrow when we get the MRI."

##### **Are you disappointed about the nature of the hit?**

"No, not at all. I don't think it was on purpose. I don't think their kid was trying to hurt Christian. He got cut on a block and he was scrambling on all fours trying to make a play. Now, that is a rule that you can't tackle quarterbacks down there by the knee, but I don't think he even thought about that. I think he was scrambling off a cut block trying to make a play and if I thought it was on purpose, I'd tell you. But it wasn't on purpose."

### **How would you assess the two freshmen?**

"Well, I'm going to give our kids some credit. We didn't play very good. We're not a very good football team right now. We didn't play right now. And usually when you don't play very good and things are negative out there, and things are going wrong, there's a lot of teams in this world that give in and lose. We didn't give in. We lost our starting quarterback and didn't give in. That's a pretty good sign for the kind of character that we have on our team. It's not a good sign on how we played because we haven't played very well. But there's a lot of football teams that would have been in that situation, where you're not playing very well and you lose your starting quarterback, that would have tanked it. I would say 50 percent of the teams in that situation would have tanked it, and our kids did not."

### **What does it say about Ryan, doing the job that he did?**

"I think all backup quarterbacks are -- they are trained that way, but I think that's also in their minds. I mean, he gets probably a third of the reps in practice, so he's preparing himself, all the time, to play. You know and in fall camp, he got a lot of work and he got a lot of would work in scrimmages and stuff. I think he was ready to play. It's nice when a guy can come in and play pretty well, though, when he's called upon. That was pretty good."

### **How good is it to have Juwan?**

"Well, I didn't realize until I saw the stats how many times he carried the ball. That's good. I mean, obviously he had a lot to do with us winning the game. Now, you can go negatively; I didn't think we blocked worth a darn up front. I didn't think the offensive line played very well. Either that or their defensive line played lights out. Normally that means it's halfway in mean: Their defensive line played almost lights out and we didn't play real well on offense, in the offensive line, or he would have not -- he would have got those yards with fewer carries."

### **What did you think of the passing game?**

"I thought we threw and caught the ball pretty well, other than the one that bounced off Kahale's hands and they intercepted it. That should have been a 15- or 20-yard gain right there, too, because earlier in the game, he made some unbelievable good catches. That one bounced off and they scored right after that, too. And those kinds of turnovers -- and I'm disappointed, we haven't had a turnover yet, I don't think. Our defense hasn't caused a turnover yet and turnovers are huge momentum shifts. And so you see a guy out there open for a 15-yard gain and he'd probably get another ten after he caught it, and all of a sudden it bounces off his hands and they intercept it. That was kind of, you know, a little momentum swing right there."

**Was the passing fairly early a function of them stacking up on defense or had you guys kind of planned --**

"No, I think it was a reaction to the lack of productivity in the running game. You know, now we threw some balls on first down, too, because play-action pass helps you on first down, 1st and 10. We had some guys open. Ryan did a nice job. Christian had one knocked down and slammed it to the ground, or that one would have been intercepted, too. No, some of the early throws on first down and second and four, those are just part of the game plan to back them off a little bit."

**If Christian is out for an extended period, how do things change with Ryan?**

"Ryan's a little faster. So when he scrambles, won't get caught as often, but it won't change the offense at all."

**Are you comfortable -- Christian has become so good at not making a mistake, are you comfortable with Ryan's decision --**

"Well, what I saw tonight, I was until the one throw. I mean, he threw it to the defensive guy. The defensive guy was standing there. He threw it to him but other than that, I thought he made some really good decisions. And you think that with reps and continued support from coaches, that sooner or later, he'll get better at that. He'll see those guys more often and not throw it to the other team."

**How quickly can a team rally around a quarterback?**

"Pretty quickly. They did it tonight. That's just the way the game is. We all feel sorry for Christian because he's a good guy and a good player and has won a lot of games for us. But when one guy goes down, someone else has to step up. Nobody's going to feel sorry for you now."

**Talk a little about their receiving core, big play out of some young guys.**

"Well, I think the quarterbacks threw the ball well, too. I think they got open. I think the quarterbacks threw the ball well. Now, there was three or four catches out there that were outstanding catches. I mean, Kahale (Warring) made at least one, maybe two. Ethan (Dedeaux) made a couple outstanding catches, especially one right on the fourth and nine play. Now, I guess it was interference and we would have got the first down, anyway, but that was a pretty nice catch, and he made a couple nice catches, too. Early in the game, which could have broke the game wide open, Fred Trevillion had a pass that was going to be about a 70-yard touchdown pass and dropped it. It's funny how the game goes. Momentum shifts like that. I mean, if he goes 70 yards for a touchdown, there's no telling what happens in that game. But since he didn't and he dropped it, and then we had to punt the ball, all of a sudden they got a second life or a second breath. You complete that one and it might not be close. But the thing that we did is we didn't give in. There's a whole bunch of football teams in that situation would have given in."

**Just talk about the secondaries in terms of not giving up as many big plays.**

"Other than the one that we had them double covered and the corner was getting beat and the safety that was supposed to be over the top fell down, other than that one? They played better."

**The 61-yard bomb from Thompson -- other than that, do you think you did a good job containing the receivers?**

"I thought we did okay. Just okay. I didn't think we got enough pressure on the quarterback and I don't know why we got pressure at the end that we weren't getting earlier in the game. Maybe they got tired. Maybe they got tired or maybe we wore them out a little bit because the two or three sacks we got right at the end of the game, we were running those same defenses early in the game and we weren't getting them on the ground but we were getting them on the ground late. That's a good coaching point. Maybe we ought to rush that hard all the time."

**Going off what you said about the O-line, can you give the status of Dominic Gudino?**

"He got hurt in practice. He hurt his ankle in practice. Missed the first three days of practice. Practiced on Thursday. He should be okay. He should be okay by Monday. He missed most of practice last week with a bad ankle. He twisted it and got stepped on."

**Noble Hall came out in the fourth quarter?**

"He dislocated his wrist and the doctors say that they got to check him out to see how serious it is. I mean, they had to pop it back in, so I will guess it's pretty serious."

**San Diego State Junior Quarterback Ryan Agnew & Junior Linebacker Kyahva Tezino**

**What did you think when Christian went down?**

RYAN AGNEW: "It was really unfortunate to see Christian go down. You never want to see that, especially one of your best friends, the guys you look up to. But you had to come in there. You had to make plays. I wouldn't be able to do it out the offensive line, receivers, tight ends, receivers, running backs. I owe it all to those guys; if it wasn't for those guys, I wouldn't have had the night I had."

**You got a pass play called on your first play. Do you think that's a good call to get rid of any butterflies you might've had?**

RYAN AGNEW: "Yeah, that was awesome. You know, they trusted me with a little roll-out, a little dunk to Ethan. Ran a great route. I was able to get it to him, so that got my confidence right from the get-go, which was awesome."

**Most difficult thing about being called in?**

RYAN AGNEW: "Most difficult thing, you know, it's the big stage at this point. You've got to go out there; there's a lot of people watching, but you've got to shut all that out as quick as possible and get down to business because all ten guys on the offense are looking at you, and you can't be scared."

**What are your thoughts going forward if the injury to Christian is severe enough to keep him out?**

RYAN AGNEW: "My thoughts going forward, my hat's off to Christian. He's one of the best quarterbacks we've seen at San Diego State, you know, all-time wins. At this point, you've just got to take it day-by-day. Hope he's healthy as

much as possible, but if not, you've just got to trust your teammates and then just fall behind the O-Line because we have a great O-Line."

**You completed two balls for 35 yards, but only to be negated by penalties. Did it feel good, knowing you could complete those deep balls or frustrating that you guys were -- the plays were negated by penalties?**

RYAN AGNEW: "Right when you complete it, you're thinking, awesome, and you turn around and hear the whistle and see the flag, and it's pretty frustrating. We shot ourselves in the foot a couple times tonight but kept bouncing back, kept bouncing back and eventually prevailed."

**Kyahva, getting that sack on fourth down, how good did it feel to pretty much seal the game?**

KYAHVA TEZINO: "First off, they are an absolutely good team. They came out ready to play, and your question, I just wanted to make a play for the team. I knew it was fourth down. Somebody had to make a play and I just put it upon myself that I had to make it."

**What did you see on that play?**

KYAHVA TEZINO: "Honestly, it flashed so fast, I just remember sacking the quarterback."

**What are you looking for on the play that was called? Do you know you're rushing into the backfield no matter what or waiting on what you see?**

KYAHVA TEZINO: "That play right there, I'm just trying to get to the quarterback and make a sack, and I did it. You know, the rest is history from now."

**What in particular did their offense do that made them a challenge?**

KYAHVA TEZINO: "We knew what they were going to come in and do, like last week. You know, we started fast and we didn't finish. This week we started slow and we finished. We just have to come in and put all the pieces together and we're going to be a good team after that. We just have to come in, start fast and finish fast."

**Ryan, do you feel like from a passing game standpoint, do you feel like you all took a little bit of a step forward tonight? Quite a few different receivers got the ball. What's your assessment?**

RYAN AGNEW: "You know, obviously everyone knows San Diego State is a great running team and that's what we want to pride ourselves on. We want to be the most physical team. But if a team comes out and plays very well, which Sacramento State did, and they said, you know, you're going to have to throw the ball on us, we have to be order to answer that call. I believe we answered it. We knew we had to get that ground game going; it's going to make it a lot easier to throw the football. But it was good to see a step in the right direction on that side."

**How much improvement did you see from week one to week two on the defensive side?**

KYAHVA TEZINO: "On defensive side, we're improving. We're improving slowly. That's just the thing; we have to keep improving and create turnovers and we have to get sacks. We have to do everything that the defense is

supposed to do. We had a rough night. We were just mentally tough, tougher than them, but they came out ready to play. They hit us in the mouth and we just came back in the second half and responded."

### **San Diego State Junior Running Back Juwan Washington & Senior Aztec (Safety) Parker Baldwin**

#### **Juwan, how good did it feel to really get going in the fourth, scoring two touchdowns?**

JUWAN WASHINGTON: "It felt real good just to get some things going and find a couple seams that the O-Line opened up. We started out a little shaky and we wanted to stay together all game and not fade apart. We've been talking to each other all game to stay together and when it opens up, it will open up. They finally opened up some big holes and I was able to run through them."

#### **You scored that touchdown in the first quarter but Sacramento State slowed you down in the second and third. How were you able to regain that rhythm in the fourth?**

JUWAN WASHINGTON: "Just keep fighting. They came out and played a real physical game. We tried to come back with some punches and they were throwing punches, so we keep going through the whole game. When we play physical like that, we are able to finish and wear some defenses down. I think they kind of got -- wear down a little bit towards the end and we're able to finish."

#### **What was the reaction from everybody when Christian Chapman went down?**

JUWAN WASHINGTON: "We were all hurt. He's a senior on our offense and a leader, and to see somebody go down like that, it makes you want to play better. Also, we wanted to get out there and get a win for Christian. Agnew did a really good job of coming in and making plays for our offense, and just not taking a step off a backup coming in, just making big plays for our offense."

#### **On the defense perspective, what did you think when you saw Christian come out?**

PARKER BALDWIN: "A lot of heartbreak. He's been our quarterback for several years, the winningest quarterback because he started this game. Yeah, it's just heartbreaking. We were all hurt but we had faith that Agnew was going to go in and make the plays that he did, and he did enough to get us the win."

#### **Juwan, how is Ryan Agnew different from Christian?**

JUWAN WASHINGTON: "I'm not too sure how they are different. You know, sometimes Agnew scrambles and Christian scrambles, they are both kind of the same to me. But they both go in there and make plays for us when we need them to and we saw that with Agnew and we've seen it plenty of times with Christian. So pretty much all the same to me."

#### **Were you getting a little antsy at all in the first half, not getting quite as many carries?**

JUWAN WASHINGTON: "They were stacked in the box early, so we needed to throw this a little bit to spread them out a little bit. They made some big plays and we hurt ourselves towards the middle with penalties, but the receivers did a really good job today and the quarterbacks was going in there and making plays and we did a really good job with

that.”

**Could you talk about the secondary's improvement from this game? Aside from the deep ball you gave up, can you talk about the improvement?**

PARKER BALDWIN: “Yeah, they definitely came out. I came out and told the guys all week, it's a challenge. We've got something to prove after what happened last week and we still have a lot of improvement to make. You saw today, there's a few bombs they had and there's a lot of improvement we have to make but it's good. It's a good step in the right direction, and we've just got to keep getting better every single day.”

**Seemed like the play that sealed the game for you guys was on the defensive side of the ball. Can you talk about Kyahva's sack on fourth down?**

PARKER BALDWIN: “Yeah that was a great play by Kyahva. He had one-on-one with the guard, I believe, just beat him and made the play for our team. Something that we really needed. He's one of those guys, he's a great player and he's going to play his heart out all the way through the game and you saw that. He never gave up and never yielded and he made that big sack at the end to seal it for us.”

**Was there any nervousness there at the end of the game trailing? Were you confident you could pull it out?**

PARKER BALDWIN: “We were definitely confident we could pull it out, but they played us very tough the whole game. They are a good football team and they played us tough but we had faith that if we just keep doing our thing, keep playing our ball, we're going to come through with the win and that's what happened.”

**Can you talk about just playing in front of a big home crowd? I believe attendance was over 45,000. Just talk about the crowd and environment, how it helps the game.**

JUWAN WASHINGTON: “It helps a lot. When you make a play and hear the crowd cheering; it just gives you excitement and makes you want to play harder. Everything we do, we do for the fans because without them we don't have a big stadium or crowd noise or anything like that. We want to make sure we go out and play our hearts out every game for them and make them want to come back more and even stronger. Hopefully next game, we get the same kind of intensity and it's going to help us for the future.”

PARKER BALDWIN: “Yeah, the fans really give us energy, especially when you see a big crowd out there, it gives us energy and boosts us when we're down. Maybe when we're trailing in the game, gives us that boost we need. And especially playing in front of that home crowd, you've got to protect your house. You know, I think seeing all those people gave us the extra boost we needed to pull it out.”

**Sacramento State Head Coach Jody Sears**

**On tonight's game:**

"I thought the kids really came out and fought their hearts out. We were really worried about that running back [Juwon Washington]. We did everything we can to try to contain him in the end zone, and he got loose on us a couple times. I thought we did a fairly decent job outside of the one draw play in the first half. Our kids were fighting. I really loved their effort and their tenacity. They were a little bigger and stronger than we were, but I love the fight we had in us. We made a couple plays on offense. That was a very physical front defensively, and that worried us, but I really loved the way our kids came out and played hard. They weren't awestruck. A lot of these kids have been in our program for three or four years and they've been on a big stage before and I didn't see any bewilderment or shock or intimidation. They went out and played. They played their hearts out."

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

"Against a big offense like that—they kind of wore us out a little bit towards the end. I went for it on that fourth down because I was afraid we weren't going to be able to get them stopped. I didn't know if they were going to get a 20-yard run or a 70-yard run if we punted it. I love the fight the kids had."

**On DB Caelan Barnes and DB Elijah Wallace's performance:**

"They had a really good week of practice. They've had a really good six weeks since we started camp. They're older kids. They've been roughed up a little bit and I'm really proud of them because we put a lot on them. We were going to put an extra linebacker up there—and we did. I thought we did okay."

**On what he hopes to take away from tonight's game:**

"We just have to make some corrections on some technical, fundamental things. Outside of that last false start, I thought our penalties were okay. Those PI's—you're going to have a few of those. We just have to keep getting better."

**On if there are positives to take away:**

"There's no such thing as moral victories, but there are a lot of positives we can continue to build on, and that's our jobs as coaches—to stay focused on our purpose, focused on our why, and just keep plugging."

**On tonight's atmosphere:**

"I thought this was a great atmosphere. It was a great place to come play a college football game."