



**SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**  
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## **San Diego State-Hawai'i Postgame Quotes** **Oct. 8, 2022**

### **San Diego State head coach Brady Hoke**

#### **Opening statement:**

"First off, that was a heck of a finish. I am really proud of Jack Browning and how he came back [after that missed field goal]. I'm proud of the offense and how they went down with the last drive, and obviously, quarterback Jalen Mayden had something to do with that.

We're excited to get to win like everybody; that's what we're in this for. From an offensive standpoint, we did a nice job, and we were balanced. Defensively, we'll need to shore some things up when we look at tackling; we need to tackle a little better."

#### **On quarterback Jalen Mayden's performance:**

"I would be lying if I said I saw this coming, but Jalen is a good athlete, he's played a lot of football, he is an intelligent guy, and he can pick up things really well. The time that he and (quarterbacks coach) Ryan Lindley spent together since Ryan got here last Sunday was unbelievable. Just like Jalen said, I asked him if he was interested, and he said, "If it helps the team, I'll do it."

#### **On going for it on fourth-and-1 from the 29-yard line:**

"It's always a gut instinct. I wanted the offense to feel good about themselves. We needed confidence. I trusted Jalen, and we trusted each other. We always talked about having each other's back, and they had my back."

#### **On the plan for the bye week:**

"We've got a lot of recruiting that we'll do. A lot of the guys will be out for four days and will go to football games and high schools, and then we'll get back together on Tuesday and have about an hour of practice. It's all going to be based on fundamentals and techniques, things that we haven't done well. In our situation, it gives Coach Lindley a chance to get to know his guys and get more adjusted into the verbiage and what we're trying to do offensively."

#### **On the performance of younger players like wide receivers Brionne Penny and Mekhi Shaw:**

"It's good to see young guys grow up and make plays. Obviously, Tyrell Shavers and Jesse Matthews have shown that in the past, and both did a great job today. It was really good to see Mekhi because he's a guy that can really help us when you're looking at fly sweeps and other plays. It was good to see those guys come on."

### **Junior quarterback Jalen Mayden**

#### **On if his first start went how he pictured it:**

"A little bit, but I just knew the team was going to embrace me and I just knew whatever it took to win we were going to do it."

#### **On what was going through his mind during the last drive:**

"We had talked about a lot of things that were coming open and we just put them one by one, piece by piece and just drove down the field."

**On transferring to quarterback from safety:**

"Coach and I, we had an agreement that whatever I need to do for the team, and he feels like he sees me there. I'll be able to do it. So once he told me, the team rallied around me and we just got stuff done."

**On how long it took him to feel comfortable being back as a quarterback:**

"Coach Lindley did a great job of making sure that I was comfortable with the operations. I just felt right at home since I (moved) back."

**On what it was like to have Coach Lindley on the sidelines:**

"It was good. I mean, he knows (foot)ball and he just asked me everything I've seen and he confirmed or denied it and moved on."

**On Tyrell Shavers' performance:**

"I feel like Shavers and I have a real good connection, just throughout the years. So I told him if I could put it in his vicinity, he told me he could catch it. Was pretty much cut and clear."

**On being a safety to the process of going out as a quarterback:**

"It was really just faith in my teammates and the belief they had in me just really got me going. I didn't practice, I didn't throw a ball. It was honestly just all safety. I wanted to be committed but just the belief and the teamwork that we put together just got me going."

**On being confident and if anything was done to not get butterflies:**

"I think just day to day, everyday life. I'm just an even-keeled person. My coaches from high school taught me that so just being able to just take what they taught me and just keep that way with life just keeps me calm. I don't have to worry about much."

**On how he will build from this going forward:**

"Just whatever the coaches need me to do, I'm always open for anything. Wherever the team needs me. I'll be ready to go."

**Senior linebacker Caden McDonald**

**On how the offense responded after being down by one:**

"That was awesome. They bailed us out there. No, just from this whole week, we noticed the offensive practice had so much more energy and excitement about them. And that carried over to the game. They played an awesome game, passed for 300 yards and had a lot of movement, then the game-winning drive gave us a victory. They did an awesome job. It's great when we're not doing good that the offense picks up our slack and bailed us out. So, it's awesome to see our offense playing like that."

**On defense's performance:**

"We (gave up) too many rushing yards tonight and that's something we've got to really do a lot better at. We take a lot of pride in stopping the run. But I'm not going to give you like a letter grade on it because there's some good things that we had tonight and there were some bad things as well, but we just got to get better as a whole."

**On other teams attacking up the middle:**

"When we get one-on-one blocks, we've got to defeat blocks and get off and make the tackle. I think that's a big thing that we need to do. Linebackers need to come down, like myself, come down and fill the hole better. But I think it's not a scheme thing. It's a player thing."