



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Eastern Illinois Postgame Quotes

Head Coach Dino Babers

Opening statement:

“Obviously I’m really happy for the players. Eastern Illinois came here in 2001 with (Dallas Cowboys quarterback) Tony Romo and lost. So for us to get a win like this over a really good San Diego State team is big. (SDSU) did a great job. They really, really played us tough. We were losing guys left and right early in the game. (SDSU) was smacking us around. We just found a way to hang in there. The ball kind of bounced our way.”

On the difference between SDSU this year and last season:

“I think (SDSU) is extremely physical and had a lot of good things going for them. Obviously, they’re hurting a little bit with their two corners. But those kids that are back there are very athletic and they made plays. All they need is playing experience. We just got lucky we got to play them early. In three or four games, those guys will be fine.”

On what Eastern Illinois did so well:

“We didn’t quit. Our guys really played hard for the duration of the game. It was hot out there and you had to be in good condition. We really try to work hard on conditioning so was can play all four quarters. I’m a little embarrassed a couple of our guys had to come out with cramps.”

On how hard it will be for San Diego State to rebound from this loss:

“I think it’s perfect (for SDSU). I think they’ll beat Ohio State (next Saturday). You couldn’t write a better script for them.”

Quarterback Jimmy Garopolo

On the game:

“I can’t put it into words right now. Everything came together offensively, defensively and special teams wise. We played great. It was a total team effort. If we’re going to play like this all year, good things are in our future.”

On bouncing back after SDSU’s touchdown on the wide receiver reverse in the first quarter:

“Just the fact that (SDSU) did the reverse on us, that gave us a little boost. We felt they were a little nervous doing a reverse that early in the game. That was a good sign for us actually. The defense after that really came together. For our defense to play like that against that type of offense, we’re going to win most games that way. You’ve really got to give credit to (the defense).”

On their strong second half:

“You’ve got to give a lot of credit to our strength and conditioning program. It really turned us into a well-conditioned team. It’s tough for teams to keep up with us, especially our offense, for four quarters. When you start seeing defensive lineman with their hands on their knees, it’s a good sign for us.”

On how big of a win it is for their program:

“I can’t really describe it. It’s a huge win for us and a great start to the season, but it’s only one win. We’ve got to improve from here.”

On if they’re a better team than he thought coming into the season:

“Last year was a transition, so I think we all feel more comfortable (this season) on both sides of the ball. Everything is starting to click right now. We’re on a good roll. There was a lot of preseason hype around us, but this really shows we didn’t buy into the hype too much. We let it go in one ear and out the other.”

-SDSU-