



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State Football Press Conference

Oct. 26, 2021

Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

"Obviously it's another big week and another big week coming up in conference (play). (Fresno State) is really good football team. They've been playing good football. They're very balanced. (The win) at UCLA, they've been ranked. They've got a great quarterback who's very proficient. He does a great job (and has) good skill. You look at their offensive line, and they've got some veterans in there, guys who played a lot of football. They're a team that can run the football and they do a great job in the passing game. Defensively, they're as good as a defense as we have faced to some degree right now. They create turnovers, they're great with TFLs. They're ranked nationally in both of those (categories) so it tells you a little bit about their aggressiveness. This is a rivalry game. It's an important game. Right now we've got the Old Oil Can and we'd like to keep it."

On Fresno State's 1-2 running combo of Ronnie Rivers and Jordan Mims:

"Those two are very talented. Mims is a little bigger back but they both can stick their foot in the ground. Both can accelerate and when you have to good backs like that, then you have to look at the offensive line and tight ends. In 2017 they pounded us pretty good. Part of that was the tight ends they had and they did a great job. It's going to be a physical game. We're coming off a real physical game. We've got to get our guys ready from a football standpoint to how bad we want to play and be healthy at the same time."

On if it is more difficult going from Air Force's triple-option offense to Fresno State's passing offense:

"I don't think it makes it more difficult. Just for the simple fact that you practice all year against a certain style of offense in the spring and when you get into fall camp. I don't know if it has that much of an effect. I think going the other way does, but I think our guys have done a great job and they'll be ready."

On what the national perception is with the San Diego State team and how good he thinks this team is:

"I've never even thought about that. Here is what I do think about. These guys in all three phases have played together and that's one of the things that I think at this point, and we've all got to pump the brakes a little bit, where we are at right now is we are playing hard and playing together. We're executing more so than we are not executing. I think there is good chemistry. The kicking game and some of things that Matt (Araiza) has done is pretty astonishing. When you kick the ball 81 yards in the air and 85 yards in the air, you don't see that change of field position very often. I think the team understands that there's a mental and physical toughness that we have to have every week."

On the biggest misconceptions of the San Diego State program:

"I really don't care what the rest of the country thinks and I guess I'm speaking for myself when I say that, but this is about the kids on this team and that's what we care about. That's what we care about, how we go out and coach them every day, how we meet with them every day and how we help develop them as men and football players to the best of their abilities. I know one thing. My mom is 89 and watches every game in Dayton, Ohio. My father-in-law is 91 and he watches every football game in Dayton, Ohio, no matter how long it goes. As long as we get those two people from the Midwest we're OK."

On if he is a big style points guy:

"No. Here's the style. The style is to win and that's it. We're not real flashy but the one thing we do have is the way we are playing together and complementing each other. We've got a formula to try and win every game."

On playing three of the top quarterbacks in the Mountain West down the stretch:

"The meat of our schedule is ahead of us when you look at exactly what you are talking about. When you look at quarterbacks who are very capable of throwing for 400 yards and all those things. It will be a challenge every week. From a defensive standpoint we've got to take every one of them because they are a little different. Most of the schemes are the same though. We have to see how we can disrupt them."

On if pocket passers are a little easier to defend than dual-threat quarterbacks:

"You look at (Fresno State quarterback) Jake Haener. He runs around at times. He reminds me of (San Jose State's) Nick Nash and I really didn't want to think about that kid anymore. He was a good football player. They all can extend and they also are coached well enough I think that they have other elements where they can do a good job with play calling."

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