



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

GOAZTECS.COM | [@GOAZTECS](https://twitter.com/GOAZTECS) | [#GOAZTECS](https://hashtag.goaztecs.com)

Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Idaho State Sept. 2, 2023 Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

“Well there were some good things and a lot of bad things. Fourteen penalties itself that's playing, not very smart football, that's hurting your football team and so we got to correct that. The offense ran the ball much better, I was very excited about that. Getting Jalen Mayden going a little bit in the run game was great to see. We got to be better though overall. Defensively, we got to play tighter, we got to get better with our pass rush.”

On if there was a lack of focus and attention to detail:

“No, I don't think we played the kind of football we wanted to play. Kicking game, offensively, defensively, didn't tackle well, didn't do a good job late in the half twice, we got to do a better job coverage. Part of that though is we got to get better rush.”

On the consistent run game:

“Well, obviously we did a good job up front. And I think we are making progress there. I know we had some penalties that we don't want to have, but I thought we did some better things. When Jalen and some of the quarterback runs. I thought he really hit them a couple of times. I also like when Jalen drops back and nothing was there and he went through his reads and he felt some heat. I love that he went and took off and I thought he ran pretty well. Just like Martin Blake, I thought he had a nice night and did a nice job.”

On safety rotation:

“I don't know if it's safety rotation. I think there were some things that from a coverage standpoint, that we got to do better. There's some things coverage wise and we have a couple other things that we will do that we haven't. Going into playing these guys, we didn't know much. That played a little bit into it. They had some real dynamic quarterbacks that could throw the ball. We got to play better.”

On what wasn't working passing wise:

“I don't know how many times we tried to throw it down the field. We obviously felt a little more

comfortable with the running game and screen game off of that. We've got to take some shots when we get the opportunity. I think we got some opportunities, but then all of a sudden we got a penalty."

On reasons for so many penalties:

"Lack of concentration, lack of discipline. Some of them are calls that I'm going to send in that I saw differently. And the one good thing is they get right back to you and at least you get an answer. There's a couple of those, but there's no excuse for 14 penalties."

On Coach Doug Deakin's coaching:

"Coach Deakin does a really good job with the special teams. It's the evaluation process and the execution that goes along with that. You got a handful of guys, some play offense, some play defense and trying to grab some young guys so they start learning how to play at this level. Coach Deakin does a nice job with it."

On having linebacker Dominic Oliver in on kickoffs:

"He's pretty fast, he can run. We're trying to use him a little bit more defensively because of his athleticism, pass rush wise. He had one not very good performance on the kickoff, but he's pretty good for us."

On the late touchdown giving life to Idaho State:

"You can't give people hope, you can't do that. They're a good football team. Coach Cody Hawkins' father was a really good coach. It will be part of what Cody does. They did a nice job. The ball comes out of the hand so much and you got to decide how you're going to defend it. We knocked some balls down. Defending this kind of offense we've got to count on knocking some balls down and we did that a couple of times."

On Martin Blake and Keion Mitchell getting more playing time:

"Keion Mitchell has improved and he's understanding the system. Both Keion Mitchell and Martin Blake are guys who have worked very hard. And they're respected by their teammates. All of that is what makes them special and their work ethic."

On Martin Blake's perseverance to get snaps with a deep running back room:

"Martin Blake is pretty confident in himself, which is good. He talked about his brothers being out there and being with him. That's true. That is Martin Blake."

On the importance of walkons stepping up:

"I was a walkon so I have a lot of love for those guys. Those guys want to play and how hard they work in the weight room. Between Tobin O'Dell and Kyle Crum and Liu Aumavae, Tobin O'Dell right now would be the next guy in. That continues every week with what we're trying to do at the second quarterback. Tobin O'Dell is a smart guy, there's football IQ there. He was very successful in high school, he's got the respect of his teammates. He was unbelievable on the scout team last year against our defense. He's a guy who knows the game, loves the game and he's a great kid."

On being hard on the special teams:

“We had a couple of punts that weren’t exactly any of Jack Browning’s bests. Two of them really surprised us because of our expectations for him. We got to get better everywhere, coaching included.”

San Diego State Cornerback, Dez Malone**On playing tighter coverage:**

“We have the talent to play real good, tight coverage. We just got to keep building confidence throughout these weeks especially when we get to play these tougher teams because they’re gonna watch and they’re gonna study and they’re gonna come out for it. We just need to keep progressing. We’ll be all right.”

On drive at end of the first half:

“We fell asleep in the secondary a little bit because even though the coverage was tight we just have to finish. That’s something that we talk about all the time, finishing, so it was a little disappointing, but we do understand what we did and the mistakes we made. It really wasn’t even a technique mistake. It was literally just falling asleep. No matter if we planned it, at any given moment, it can be a big play. On defense, you have to have a mindset that the ball is coming your way every time. We didn’t do that on that play and we paid for it.”

On preparing with little game film:

“We have a great coaching staff on defense. They were studying three to four different teams that the coaching staff recently coached before, so we had a beat on what they would do a little bit, just off that. It was a little challenging, not having a set of things to really study and look forward to.”

On defense success with six interceptions:

“That is just our goal. We left so many plays on the field. We are one of the best defenses in the nation. We set the bar really high and we go out there and try to execute that, so we’re honestly not surprised.”

San Diego State Running Back, Martin Blake**On making his way on the depth chart and first career touchdown as a walk on:**

“It’s great when you put in the work, and it finally pays off on the biggest stage that you could be on right now. It’s great to be out there and especially to do it with my brothers. Just as long as we keep the ball moving, keep it going, we’re good and that’s all that matters. I’m very appreciative of these blessings and do it for my family. As a walk-on, you’re overlooked most of the time, but that’s all talk. If you’re a walk-on you got to put in the work. You have to be great every day. If you do mess up, you have to move on because, at the end of the day, all that matters is what you put on film, as coach just said. Being a walk-on and being able to play and have a press conference feels amazing. All that work you put it in throughout your life, finally pays off.”

On the offensive line:

“Oh, they did great. You know, those are my boys. You know Ross, Dean, Christian, Myles, Cade. Those starting five are my boys. Every time I go in there and tell them hey, we got to now, we got to keep pushing me. Be a dog if you want to be a dog. At the end of the day, we all fight but in my opinion, they have the hardest job on offense right now. Every play they fight in the trenches and to see it pay off and see every running back do their job. Gotta love it. Have to take the boys out to eat meat.”

On his progress made during the spring and in the summer getting that got him to the endzone:

“I felt it. Never put yourself down, no matter what team you're going against. As long as you do what you can do and what you can handle, you shouldn't be upset. My dad always told me, "as long as you give it 100% physically and mentally, you can't be mad at yourself. It was amazing. It felt like heaven's gates opened.”

On his style of carrying the ball and how it differs from the others:

“I'm more of an on-your-feet kind of guy. I like to put pressure on your feet to see where you're going to go. I like to see where you're going to be. I like to get on your feet because it makes you uncomfortable. So you know even when I go against them, one of the best defenses in my opinion, they make me better through short steps and short guard because I have to react quick. When I go out there against defenses like this, I do the same thing I've been doing and it makes it easier for me. We're not far off from each other. We all have our own little swag. We all have the same style of running. We are just better in different areas and it makes us better as a running back group. You really can't pick one and be like, he's got this and he's got that. We all have the same kind of flow in our game and it helps us out as a group tremendously.”

Idaho State Head Coach Cody Hawkins:**Opening statement:**

“I'm super proud of the guys and just the journey that we've been on since I got here. It's been pretty incredible. You hear a lot of stories about what experiences guys have or hadn't yet, and to see guys play four quarters of football, I was honored to be a part of the family of these guys and see the smiles on their faces and see them overcome some adversity. You saw some glimmers of doubt in certain guys' eyes periodically throughout the game, which we would love to squash completely, but the guys talked about this year really wanting to strain together. That was kind of their motto that they thought of, and it's an example of what happened tonight. It doesn't mean it's gonna be easy. The game wasn't easy; our defense took some shots and came up with some really big plays. We obviously got to take better care of the football, but seeing how the guys performed as a team, I was honored to be a part of it.”

On moral victories:

“There are totally moral victories; at the end of the day you want to win every game but I mean, this is a perennial Mountain West champion-type program. I respect the heck out of the program. Brady Hoke has been coaching in Michigan, and it's my first game ever as a head coach. I'm super proud of these guys. They did an awesome job. I told him that at the end of the game, if they can continue to approach every game like that, I won't guarantee them success but I can guarantee them fulfillment. That's what we're all searching for in life and in sports. I want to win

every game. But as we build this thing, I want guys to feel special for being Bengals and tonight they feel that in a locker room.”

Idaho State Safety Mason Young

On X:

“It was a tough game. We are definitely proud of the way the team fought. There are just little miscues that we could have capitalized on to better the result. It was a good start to the season just to see where we're at, and we just keep going up from here.

On the turnover margin:

“We did a good job coming downhill, forcing fumbles. We were able to get a couple of picks here and there. We brought it, there are small things we can work on to fix”

Idaho State Wide Receiver Chedon James

On scoring against San Diego State:

“This puts confidence in the offense and our guys. We know we're an explosive bunch. We don't celebrate moral victories, but we're very proud of how we fought these games.”

On what to improve upon for next week:

“It's little details that change the whole game, and it's not just one play.”

-SDSU-