



**SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**  
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## **Head Football Coach Brady Hoke**

### **Opening Statement:**

"Thank you everyone for coming out. Obviously, we appreciate Aztec Nation and our students in the show itself, for coming out and enduring the heat, it was hot, and we have been through it. We all know that. Obviously, we're disappointed in how we played, how we coached and losing the football game. Our focus this week is obviously to improve, play better at every position, coach better and every position, all three phases. There are things that we need to do better. We have to continue to do that. Offensively, we have to convert third downs. We didn't do very well there. And when you don't convert on third downs you will be out on the field longer defensively, time of possession, so we need to do a better job there. We didn't tackle, we missed 35 tackles and that's a number you don't hear very much when you talk about missed tackles. That a lot of different things when you miss 35 or pursuit angles, we got to wrap and get guys on the ground. They converted six out of 13 in third downs, that's almost 50%. We've got to play better. Special teams. We blocked the punt block, or pushed the guy into a block punt. And then we got a punt block and that can't happen. For us, we have to win the special teams. Critical penalties obviously, the one hold on a touchdown that was called back. We have to use better techniques and we will do that."

### **On the number of recruits at the game:**

"By the time I get out, a lot of the recruits are gone because of the media and afterwards but it was good to talk to them before the game on the field. It was a good group, a lot of hometown heroes and that is important to us."

### **On Noah Tumblin's interception and reading the quarterback as a former quarterback:**

"I don't know if that has anything to do with it. Because his job within that coverage is the guy who can track the quarterback down, the guy in keeping some speed on the field so that is why we had him there."

### **On Cade Bennett's play:**

"I thought Cade had a pretty good day. The first time really seeing him in the game situation he had a really good day."

### **On the offensive line play:**

"There were a couple misfits, as far as looking where you're going when coming off the line of scrimmage. We got to play a little better when it comes to being more fundamentally sound in what we're doing, play with a better pad level, I think that would be something to work on. But overall, I think they'll continue to improve."

### **On getting the ball out of the quarterbacks hands quicker:**

"There's a little bit for everybody. You know, there's a little bit from Braxton, he's got to be a little more patient, and we have to do a better job up front, we have to make sure our routes are detailed, and so I wouldn't just pick on one group."

**On if Burmeister will start this week:**

"Yeah, he threw the ball yesterday and did a pretty good job."

**On improving from week one to week two:**

"No question. I've been doing this for a long time as an assistant and now as a head coach obviously— and there's no doubt. In every team I've been around, our improvement from game one to game two in all areas [we improve], and I believe in that."

**On Idaho State playing UNLV and getting ready for them:**

"Yeah, I can't speak on what their mindset was and all that. Our preparation has got to be more about us. We're going to take them very seriously. Their players and their effort that they play with; Charlie has done a good job without being there too long. He did a heck of a job as a high school football coach, and then he's been in the PAC-12 for a couple of different stints, and he's got a good staff and they're doing a good job."

**On the team running out of the tunnel before the game:**

"I think that's really cool, believe me. I don't think we'd do it if I didn't think it was really cool. When we went over on the 20th and walked over some of the things that we wanted to do, it was pretty neat. I think the leadership of our team has done a really good job with some of those things."

**On the student sections support during the Arizona game:**

"It was really neat. You look down at the student end, the show, and all those kids down there, it was really cool. I just wish we'd have played well enough to keep them around, even with the heat. But we really appreciated them coming out, even with the hot weather."

**On the Idaho State quarterbacks:**

"They've been playing two guys— they played two guys two weeks ago. And he's very talented, you know, he wouldn't be playing at Wyoming if he wasn't. He's a good football player, both of them are."

**On Idaho State's wide receivers:**

"It's going to be similar to what we just played against offensively. There's a lot of similarities, the skill positions are really good up front offensively, they got a couple guys who can really get after you, so we got to play a heck of a lot better football."

**On playing an FCS opponent and the expectations:**

"We just turn on the tape from the Arizona game. That's all we have to do. I mean, we turned it on yesterday. It's all we have to do."

**On the potential rain on Saturday:**

"Well, it'd be pretty weird, you know? When's the last time we've gotten rain? Well, wet ball stuff, but we'll do some of that during the week."

**Senior linebacker Caden McDonald**

**On if he went to games when being recruited:**

"I personally didn't, being from Texas, that's a long way to go. High school football in Texas, you don't really get much time to get visits out of state and stuff like that, due to time restraints. I definitely am jealous of those recruits that got to come to Snapdragon and check out the atmosphere, that was an awesome thing for sure."

**On preparing for this week and watching film on last week:**

"We played bad, like we had 35 missed tackles on defense, that is not Aztec football in any way. We had to look at the tape and had to be very constructive and be real with ourselves. We can't all sit around and play patty cake around and say, "we did good here." But we have to look at the negative stuff and what we have to fix to get better and we all did that as a defense and as a team. I'm looking forward to changing it this week in practice. We had a great practice yesterday, and I look forward to doing it as well this week and carrying it out throughout the rest of the week."

**On the Arizona quarterback play:**

"No, they were good, we knew coming into the game that they're going to be really good. They have a new quarterback, and he was the freshman PAC-12 player of the year last year. They also brought in a lot of good transfers, 53 new guys, so that's a whole new team. It's football you got to play up to what the talent is, and they are a great football team. We have to play better too, we just shot ourselves in the foot many times."

**On the team's poor tackling:**

"I personally don't know, I think it's a personal choice and we just got to do better and work harder at it. When you do poorly at something, there's only one way to fix it and that's to work harder at it. We are going to work harder at tackling the rest of the week and the rest of the season."

**On how to view this week's opponent:**

"We're going to take this week's opponent higher than we did Arizona because we lost to Arizona. Each week anything can happen, it's college football we've seen it, amazing things happen. LSU coming back and getting their P.A.T block with zero seconds left every game anything can happen. No matter who you're playing, I know as San Diego State, we love being the underdog because you have nothing to lose. That's how FCS schools are when they play us, they have nothing to lose so we are looking forward to playing them this week. We got to come with our best foot forward because they are a good team. They can definitely beat us any day of the week, so we have to come with our best foot forward to be able to beat them."

**On walking through the new entrance onto the field:**

"Being on the field was really cool. I thought the coolest thing was hearing all the fans go nuts about us and seeing the student section packed was unreal. I get goosebumps thinking about it now. It's an unreal experience and I really look forward to it again throughout the whole year, it was awesome."

**On playing in Carson to playing at Snapdragon Stadium:**

"When you go from nobody in the stand and having fake crowd noise to real crowd noise. Where you actually can't hear any of the calls on the field and you have to do sign language with your defense to try to get the calls in, that's what it's about."

**On playing with his brother Cooper:**

"It was really cool, my parents told us that they started crying in the stands when we took the field. But it was really cool to look over and be face to face on a tackle and it was funny. But it is a really cool experience unlike any other."

**On what Snapdragon Stadium means for the future of Aztec football:**

"I think it's a complete game changer for the entire conference. As for San Diego State I believe it was just the missing piece that we needed all this time. It's one thing when you have to share a stadium that's not yours, but now it's San Diego State's stadium and we get to call that our home. It just brings you another level of confidence, like this is our place and this is our home here. I think it's really an awesome thing."

**On rain in the forecast for Saturday and if it favors the offense of the defense:**

"I personally think it goes to defense, but they can just run the ball as well and we just need to stop the runs. I mean it's football, you have to play whether it's 105 degrees or whether it's rain or shine. You have to play either way, you have to tackle people and score touchdowns."

**Senior running back/returner Jordan Byrd**

**On if he went to games when being recruited:**

"Same thing, I'm from New Mexico and I didn't have that opportunity to come out here and see games. It was really nice to see the stadium, the game, and the atmosphere and what they'll get if they come out here."

**On how to view this week's opponent:**

"We never take any team lightly. You can never do that in college football. Watching the games this weekend like Virginia Tech and Old Dominion, you never thought about that. But never take anything lightly out here."

**On the bond between the running backs:**

"Outside of football we all love each other. We all know what we can do on the field, we just go out there and have fun. We always compete during practice when we're running drills with Coach Horton, he knows that we all love each other. He gives us a good opportunity to show what we can do on the field, so that's what I like about Coach Horton. We all know what we can do and we all love each other at the same time."

**On the depth of the running back room:**

"It's really good because we all know what we can do. From Cam Davis, to Chance Bell to Keenan, we all know what we can do on that field. Being able to trust them out there too it's a really good bond with all of us."

**On putting a play behind them and focusing on the next play:**

"Like you just said, you have to move onto the next play, things happen for a reason. You know we didn't have the best outcome that we wanted but we just got to move on and practice harder this week and get ready for the game."

**On walking through the new entrance onto the field:**

"It was exciting, coming out on the 50-yard line and seeing the fans walking out of the locker room was really nice. It gets you pumped up, you're excited, everyone's excited."

**On what Snapdragon Stadium means for the future of Aztec football:**

"It's a great place to call home, playing in the charger stadium was really nice to play in but having this stadium as our is a blessing and an honor."

**On rain in the forecast for Saturday and if it favors the offense of the defense:**

"I feel like it's only rain, I mean you have to play in anything. I used to play in the snow in high school and that was really fun to do, rain is fun to play in too. My freshman year when we played Air Force it was raining as well, and it was a fun game."

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