



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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SDSU Football vs. UNLV Postgame Quotes November 10, 2018

San Diego State Head Coach Rocky Long

On contributions to tonight's loss:

"Well I think there's all kinds of things you can look at. They deserved to win because they out played us. There's always a misconception when you play a team that doesn't have a very good record that they don't have athletes. I think the media makes the mistake dramatically most of the time. They have some athletes, but the truth of the matter was that they controlled the line of scrimmage. They controlled the line of scrimmage on defense because we didn't block them, couldn't block them and we weren't able to run the ball. We threw the ball okay, but eventually that cost us the game. We weren't able to run the ball. We weren't able to play the kind of offense we'd like the play and the kind that we normally play. And then on defense they controlled the line of scrimmage too. They ran the ball way too well. Now we gave up a couple of deep ones, but that's going to happen every once in a while. But they ran the ball way too well. I think we played a little soft in the first half and in the second half we started blitzing them some and played a little better until they split a blitz and the guy went 75 yards for the winning touchdown. So they controlled the line of scrimmage and normally the team that controls the line of scrimmage wins."

On putting in Agnew over Chapman:

"At halftime we decided that he was playing better than Christian was, so he was going to play the rest of the half."

On Agnew's performance tonight:

"We thought he was moving the ball better. Because we weren't controlling the line of scrimmage, a mobile quarterback has a better chance to extend plays and make plays because we weren't blocking them at the line of scrimmage."

On third quarter performance and how the game got away:

"I don't think it got away at all. One thing broke and they won the game. That doesn't mean it got away from you. They made one big play. It was a third and twenty and we played soft and the quarterback scrambled for the first down, that's a mistake on my part. I shouldn't have played that defense."

Thoughts on tonight's execution:

"No, I wasn't surprised because that's the way we've been playing all year. Except for a couple games this season, and this was our tenth game, we've been playing just like you saw tonight all year long. And when you do that, usually you're 50/50. You win half of them and you lose half of them. At this point, we've been lucky that we haven't lost that. We've won more than we've lost. So, was I surprised it was that way? Not at all. That's the way our team is. They're going to be a lot better in a couple years, but that's who they are."

Thoughts of the play with UNLV kicker:

"Well we actually scout those guys and that kicker had not been very accurate from over 40 yards, and I think this was over 40 yards. So, we went with the statistics and we decided we'll let him try kicking it from there than giving him a shot of kicking it into the end zone."

Junior Quarterback Ryan Agnew

On the final drive:

"It started off pretty good. I got a first down so it was a step in the right direction. There was a little miscommunication with the bad throw. You just can't have that."

On this loss:

"It's not good. It's never good to have a loss and we never want to lose a game no matter who the opponent is. We have to come in on Monday and have a great attitude and great leadership because the season's not over yet. We still have games in front of us and we have to come out with a great mindset."

On UNLV's 4th quarter defense:

"They didn't change anything defensively. They just wanted it more than we did."

On Tim Wilson:

"Tim had a great game. He had some great catches and two touchdowns. Stats are cool to talk about when you win games, but when you lose not so much."

On replacing Chapman:

"Coach just said they're going to go with who they feel comfortable with at the time. It doesn't matter who's out there, the offense is going to run the exact same way."

On improvement going forward:

"We have to play for the love of the game. We all came to San Diego State to play football because we love it and we need to show that now. We need to show how much we love the game of football and our teammates. We just have to show our love for the game."

Senior Safety Parker Baldwin

On the inability to maintain consistency throughout the game:

"It felt like a lot of the games we played this year. We have played a lot of really close games and we've been able to pull it out in the end, but this time we weren't there. We have to be able to play better football."

On the defense letting up in the 4th quarter:

"Just complacency. We were up by 11 and we felt like the game was in our hands. We just got complacent."

UNLV Head Coach Tony Sanchez

On what's special about a comeback win:

"I tell you what — earlier in the game we were sitting there for those first couple of early drives, and we got three points out of them and we needed to get seven out of one of them, and you're just hoping it wouldn't come back to haunt you later on in the game. Our

guys—the defense went great. They kept us right within a touchdown the entire game. Coach Barney [Cotton] did a really good job problem solving. Those guys with all their gut Xs and the different types of stunts that they do, they're going to get you off schedule. We told the guys all week, don't worry about negative plays. They're going to create some negative plays, but we just have to stay the course and execute late in the game, and we did. To win special games you need special players, and Lexington Thomas made a special play. That is a dude making a great college football play. That's why you bring guys like that in."

On their offensive struggles:

"When you look at his yardage in games where Armani [Rogers] is in the game versus when he's not, it's different because people have to defend us totally differently. We struggled throwing the ball tonight. We had some open guys, and we had some opportunities to really extend the lead and take the lead earlier in the game. We missed a lot of guys. I thought [Offensive Coordinator] Barney [Cotton] did a great job of staying patient, continuing the lean on the run game, shortening the game. The defense was playing good. We didn't want a bunch of three-and-outs. Keep that clock ticking, and as long as we're in one score difference, we have a chance to win at the end, and that's what we did."

On holding SDSU RB Juwan Washington to minimal rushing yards:

"Coach Skipper, he's such a positive guy. He does a really good job. He made a really poignant change with Javin White in the safety spot based on the 21/22 personnel. We really benefitted from that. It was a good matchup for us against that type of style. I thought our guys did a really good job of handling it, and the thing we haven't done in the past—we played the deep ball well. We got a couple of picks, which we hadn't done a lot of the year. We didn't give up many big plays. We gave up a couple. We gave up that one third-and-long, and they scored a touchdown, but it wasn't a consistent thing throughout the course of the night."

On winning at San Diego State for the first time since 2000:

"I'm so happy for our guys. It's been a long season. We had a lot of aspirations early on. We played really darn good football for the first four weeks. Armani [Rogers] was a huge blow, and then you look at the amount of guys—this week alone—[Alex] Perry tears his shoulder and he's out for the year, and Greg Francis tears his shoulder and he's out for the year. You have all these guys out, and for the guys to just keep coming out to work and just stay the course not listening to the outside noise and believe in themselves—you do that and you give yourself a chance in games like this. We know we could have played better football at times—there's no doubt about it—but for our guys to come out and play a team who has a record that they do—they're still fighting for a conference championship—they went to Boise and beat Boise on the road. For us to come in and win this game it's big. I think it speaks to the grit of the guys. We know we're not healthy. We won't be for the rest of the year. It is what it is, but our guys fight, and they stick things out. They have some toughness to them."

On Lexington Thomas' 75-yard touchdown:

"You're expecting a positive gain. You're always hoping it might pop, but really you're just trying to move the chains. We're expecting to go ahead and really execute a drive that's going to take the whole three minutes of the game and score at the end, but again you give guys like that opportunities and sometimes they take something simple and turn it into something special."

UNLV Senior Running Back Lexington Thomas

On that 75-yard run:

"It meant a lot to the team. Coach Sanchez told us before the game there were going to be a lot of 3-yard runs. I took everything he said and showed it on the field."

On winning this game:

"It's important for me and the team. It helps the team know that I still have their back and no matter what the game is I'm always going to give it everything I have. Whether it's a five-yard run or a 75-yard run I have their back."

On beating SDSU for the first time since 2000:

"Coach preached, 'finish.' In the past, we haven't been a good finishing team but today we started well and finished great. We won the game and we got off the losing streak."

On the long run:

"I just made a move. I wasn't thinking about it. I just did what Coach told me to do. Big players make big plays."

On running the long run play:

"We just run the inside on those plays."

On the touchdown record:

"It always feels great to win a game and break a record. But to me, it's all about winning this game since we haven't won here since 2000. I've been here for four years and it's my first win against these guys. It meant a lot to me to score my first touchdown against them. I haven't scored in the four years I've been here so I really credit this team for the win."

UNLV Junior Defensive Back Jericho Flowers**Thoughts on winning the game:**

"I really just see the ball, but we all just went out there and played the best we could play. He threw it straight to me and I just jumped and slammed it. From there, we just played consistently, and we played hard. And it payed off so we could make that play for the team."

On progress of UNLV as a team:

"It says we can win we just need to come out there and play. We can't be up and down, depending on the week. We need to go out there and throw all our chips in and play hard every week. We've shown in the USC game and this game that we can actually play, and when we come out there and play together and play as one that we can beat any opponent. The best thing we need is consistency. We can do it, we just need to be consistent."

On who is the happiest guy in the locker room:

"Fauolo probably is. He's crazy if you got to know him. He's shy in person but I feel like all of us are all excited because we knew we needed this win."

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