



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State Football Press Conference Nov. 10, 2021

Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

"Number one (Hawai'i) was a great win. We talked about that the other night, obviously it was early in the morning here. It was a great win. We won how we kind of do win right now. We got two turnovers and that was important. I thought the offense took care of the ball pretty well. Our average field position compared to Hawai'i was an (eight-yard) difference. I thought our special teams (was good). Jordan Byrd with a 50-yard kickoff return and Matt (Araiza) again hit a punt 79 yards. We were able to be a little creative with a fake field goal and the success and the work that was put in (at practice) to make that happen was really good (to see). Offensively with time of possession, we really wanted to control the clock. We thought that would be important and I think it was important. We had three drives (including penalties) that were a 19-play, 16-play and a 10-play drive. It took a lot of the clock. Obviously we'd like to get in the end zone more, but when you look at how we played and how we won it's kind of how we do it. We've got to play as a team and play together in all three phases and I thought we did that. Stopping the run defensively was very good. I thought we harassed the quarterback. I really thought the front three - we three-man rushed a little more than normal - played their tails off and they're going to have to do the same thing this week. This is a great football team that is coming into Carson that we're going to go up against."

On Nevada quarterback Carson Strong:

"To me he is a prototypical pro quarterback. He's rangy, he's tall, has a really good arm, gets rid of the ball, can make all the throws and moves well enough. When I say (moves well enough) most of those kind of guys can move up in the pocket and do a great job. They're calling a lot of plays at the line of scrimmage. He really knows the offense well. You look at their offense and really their whole team, they're an old football team. There's a lot of seniors, a lot of fifth and sixth-year guys who've played a lot of football, so they're a team that has some maturity about them."

On the play of the Aztec offensive line the last few weeks:

"I think they've done a decent job. Are there things that we've got to do better? No doubt, but it's all 11 (guys). The offensive line can do a hell of a job on a stretch play but if the wideout doesn't take care of the safety or the eighth man then we have a problem. If the quarterback doesn't do a great job of faking after giving the ball or taking the play all the way to its end you're not going to be as good. We have to do a better job. There's no doubt. I think we're getting better and I'm excited about what we'll do this week."

On how important it is for making sure the offense is on the same page when going against the Nevada defense:

"You look at their numbers, and sometimes I think that's a bad idea, but you look at their numbers and they've struggled a little bit. But then you turn on the tape and the film and they've got some playmakers who do a great job up front. I think their backend (guys) are very athletic so overall this is going to be a great football team."

On learning from the Fresno State game for the Nevada game:

"I didn't think we challenged enough at the line of scrimmage. We did a much better last week (at Hawai'i) challenging at the line of scrimmage from that standpoint. Then as coaches you look at do you want to change your looks a little bit or change your shells a little bit? Go back to last year's game there were some really good things we did a year ago when facing them so you look at a lot of different things."

On why the running game hasn't been as productive lately:

"You look at the defenses that we played, I think that's part of it. Fresno (State) is very good defensively and Hawai'i is a very good defense. I think that has something to do with it. You have to look at that also. We haven't had an explosive play in the last three weeks I would say. That's part of it. We've got to get explosive plays."

Senior cornerback Tayler Hawkins

On comparing Nevada quarterback Carson Strong:

"I know Carson Strong is a really good quarterback. He has a real good, strong arm. He's very accurate throwing in the pocket and on the run. I know he'll play at the next level and there aren't a lot of quarterback out there that will do that."

On if the defense looks forward to playing skilled offensive teams like Nevada:

"We get up for every game as a defense. We have high expectations and goals for ourselves. These receivers are definitely talented and have a lot of speed. We have to stay disciplined in coverage and stay disciplined in our assignments because one little mistake could be a touchdown."

On comparing Nevada quarterback Carson Strong to Fresno State quarterback Jake Haener:

"They're both really good quarterbacks with really strong arms, very accurate. I think Haener could move a little bit better but other than that there's not much of a difference. They're both NFL-type quarterbacks."

On what he learned from facing Carson Strong last season:

"I learned how accurate he is. I think I kind of underestimated him as a DB last year but I definitely have to come with my "A" game this year."

Junior wide receiver Tyrell Shavers

On his first season so far with San Diego State:

"My first season has been great. It's been good. I've enjoyed my time here. We've done some good things as a team and it's going well. We're working toward one goal and that's to Win22."

On if the offense is the position to break out with a big game:

"That's the goal. We get better every day, every week. We just need to get better and continue to grow as an offense. I feel it coming."

On his success on the special teams:

"I've done special teams everywhere I've been in college. It's something I love, something I take pride in, something I take joy in because it's when the offense and defense come together for the one time in the game. I love it. I definitely take pride in it."

On if playing on special teams helped him work his way up the depth chart:

"That's definitely helped me because anywhere you go, even on this level or the next level, you have to have success and establish yourself on special teams. That did help me."

On moving up the depth chart throughout the season:

"I'm just doing my job. Doing what I'm coached to do every day throughout the week Monday through Thursday. Just handle it and go out there Saturday and do what I'm coached to do."

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