



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Nevada Saturday, October 21, 2023 Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

“Obviously, we are pretty disappointed in our performance. It’s not what we expected as far as us going out there after having some time off. We had good practices. Our guys understood that we wanted to start stacking some wins together, and we obviously have to play better in all facets. Defensively, there were some things we did well. That first drive wasn’t as good as we liked, but the defense got it under control a little bit and got a bunch of three-and-outs. Offensively, we have to be more productive, and we have to take care of the football. We can’t fumble the football, and we’ve learned that lesson multiple times. At the same time, we have to be able to run the football, and that’s one of the things at times we’re pretty good at. That was good from the offensive line, and Lucky Sutton did a good job with the football in his hands. Now we have a bye week, which is unusual, but it is what it is, and we’ll take advantage of the time. We will take advantage of the time to possibly make some more decisions. We had some older guys playing, starting, and all that, giving them an opportunity. We’ll see how that goes.”

On what went through his mind during the last drive:

“I thought we’d win. It might be a little tougher than some others. The defense did a nice job, and the field position was good. What really teaches them is not committing turnovers. Turnovers are priceless. That’s one thing defensively. We tackled better. We did all those things, and we played the ball better. From that standpoint, there are a lot of positives. But at the same time, you’ve got to get the ball. You’ve got to get the ball.”

On potentially changing quarterbacks during the game:

“I had that thought a little, but at the same time, I have seen Jalen do so many positive things, especially in this kind of situation. We stayed with it. We will go through the week obviously and look at the film and make some decisions just like any other position.”

San Diego State Offensive Lineman Cade Bennett

On what went wrong offensively today:

“We had a good game plan. We prepared our asses off, but it’s an unacceptable performance tonight. We didn’t get the job done. We were not physical enough. We have to be better, no excuses.”

On if Nevada’s defense had anything that San Diego State was not expecting:

“No, they really didn’t. We knew what they were going to do. We just didn’t execute. Our defense played their ass off. We just have to be better.”

On what the offense needs to do to regroup this coming week:

“We have to stay together, first and foremost. We have to watch that tape over and over again and figure out what we did wrong and not let this happen again.”

San Diego State Safety Cedarious Barfield

On what to do during the bye week to make sure the team stays focused

“We still have some things to play for. We have a lot of seniors, and it might be the last time they play football. Just come out and have fun. Don’t worry about what happened tonight. Let it out of your system today and get over it. Just have fun, play football, and still play hard.”

On getting defensive stops:

“No one had their head down, we were still in the fight. We did try to force a fumble or an interception to make it closer for the offense. Last week, we got an interception, and it ended up in a touchdown. We have to get better about our position on the ball, but I love how we kept our heads up and kept fighting.”

Nevada Head Coach Ken Wilson

On the last drive of the game:

“Drue Watts had maybe two or three tackles in that last drive. That was a hard drive. They had all the momentum. Our defense chopped all the way down the field until we got the takeaway. That’s a credit to our defensive staff.

On the attitude of his team:

“This is not my team. This is the kids in the locker room’s team. They took it upon themselves to play when people were doubting them, and they came out with the same attitude they come out every week with. They played their butts off and came away with a win.

On Nevada’s players doing their jobs, sticking to assignments:

“They really bought in, and they played their butts off. A lot of guys made plays all over

the field.”

Nevada Linebacker Drue Watts

On working through the losses:

“We’ve been working for a really long time, never gave up, and every day we came out and worked ... We finally put it all together for four quarters, and the outcome speaks for itself.”

On the defensive unit:

“It feels great as a defense because we’re a great defense, and sometimes it doesn’t show with the points being explosive. Today, we put it all together, and we showed how much of a great defense we are.”

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