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San Diego State Football Press Conference Quotes

July 30, 2024

San Diego, Calif.

Head Coach Sean Lewis

Opening Statement:

Morning, early afternoon, everyone, how's everyone doing? Happy report day. We're excited to get the guys back to campus. We've had a little bit of a long weekend here to get refreshed, get recharged. We're getting them back tonight to have some good dinner a big day of meetings tomorrow to kick off camp. And we're looking forward to getting on the grass with the team for the first time fully and completely to start training camp, and get this team unified and connected so that we can get game ready and get ready to rock and roll here with the season, obviously fast approaching. It's a fun time of year, excited about where we're at, excited about the work that the guys have done during the summertime, and really eager to get going, see where we're at, what we got, and how close knit we can get this team, and trained up.

On how Aztec FAST is going right now:

It's going well. The guys are having a better understanding of what it is that we're looking for. These next two, two and a half weeks, where we get to go in our football bubble and really dive into the work and immerse ourselves from sun up to sun down, and really dial in the details of all of it. We're really looking forward to seeing the growth that we have as we move through this process.

On what's the bigger issue, a new roster or a new playbook:

It's all about the people. Scheme is one thing, but to me the great hurdle that we get to overcome, and the opportunity that we have in front of us, is to take all the people in the building, old, new, whatever the case might be, and become a team to play this great team game. So, getting the people to know one another, understand their why, and understand their purpose for how they ended up here and what we're looking to get done then being aligned and being unified around those things to play the game for each other.

On the quarterbacks playing in the fast tempo on how to teach it:

No, they haven't played at our pace yet. You can watch as much film as you want, but you get better by doing all of it. That's the beauty of how we practice and how efficient our organization is. I've been really pleased with the staff, and everyone's alignment to how we need to practice to play in this manner, to get the reps and accumulate those

reps and spend time on task at the manner in which we need to do it so that those guys can feel confident to think fast, know fast and play fast in our fast style of play.

On the focus of the offense during camp:

We need to establish our physicality and our identity. We have to figure out one another. Obviously, a ton of conversation about the quarterback play, but it doesn't matter who's back there if we can't protect them. So, establishing our identity up front and still being a physical unit that can control the line of scrimmage and be able to run the football, be balanced and push the ball vertically down the field as well. So, that physicality and identity up front is a big piece of who we're going to be.

On the specific goals of year one:

It always starts for us with our guys graduating and being great citizens. Then it comes down to owning the old oil can, and obviously, with the scheduling we feel pretty good about that one. Then, win the Mountain West and get an opportunity to compete and win games in the college football playoff. Those are the goals year in and year out that we lay forward and those are the results that we're chasing. But making sure that we're measuring success again on a day-to-day basis. Those are a lot of things that we can influence by our behaviors day in and day out, but I want to focus on our daily habits and our daily discipline so that we can achieve those end game goals by how we're going about what we're doing. And again, that goes back to just improving and competing with relentless focus and relentless effort each and every day.

On how special this fall camp is for him:

It's the first one here with a whole new staff; first one with 50% of the roster really being brand new, and teaching them in that regard. But the unique characters that each team, each season brings, make each one uniquely different and as much as it is getting the players on board and collectively together. We've had lots of conversations as a staff and as a leadership team, from the coordinators and all the way through and down, that we're about to jump into this thing for the first time together. And really knowing, as we go through it, that the staff's done a tremendous job. But how can we all come together and serve each other best. From me serving the coordinators and the assistant coaches serving the coordinators, and the coordinators serving everyone down, and passing that information up and down the chain of command within the systems that we have in place. Just getting everyone onboarded with that makes it a lot of fun.

On finding out what this team excels at:

They excel at working hard, and that's a great foundation to have. As we refine where all these new pieces fit in, and the growth and development of the guys that were here in the spring and the progress that they've made, we will get some stakes in the ground and know this guy's going to be in this place and what compliments what he does. Then we'll be able to build out holistically what it looks like in all three phases from a schematic standpoint, so that we can consistently again be successful in all three phases with it.