



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State Football Fan Fest Press Conference Quotes

August 10, 2024

San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Sean Lewis

Opening statement:

"It was a good night and good to be in the home stadium. It was a good opportunity for the guys to put on a show and compete a little bit for the community and their loved ones. Obviously, there's lots to clean up. There were lots of good plays on either side, depending on how you're looking at it, because the high on one side, is a low on the other side. That's the beauty of the inner squad scrimmage, but with it being day nine and scrimmage [number] one, that's to be expected where there's going to be lots to clean up and explosive plays. It's all part of the process that we'll learn from, that we'll grow from, and we're excited about where we're at and where we're going. Three weeks from tonight we'll be here to fill the stadium and to get this thing game ready and be ready to ready to roll."

On the quarterback play:

"They all had some highs, they all had some lows, but without seeing the tape and talking to them about their decision-making process, and it's hard to say. We've got to do a better job taking care of the football. Three interceptions is too many, but we'll clean it up and get a good idea on how they're processing, how they're thinking, why they're doing what they're doing, and we'll go from there."

On the order the quarterbacks played:

"It doesn't mean a whole lot. They all rolled in, and we balanced it up with the number of reps that they were going to get with the ones. Regardless of who they were with, one of the biggest things that we're looking at is how they move the ball and how they elevate the people around them. It speaks volumes with the guys when they're rolling with the twos and they're competing against the [No. 1] defense and having success and vice versa."

On the running backs:

"They all kind of showcased their unique abilities right. [Marquez] Cooper shows a unique wiggle to be able to shake guys off in a phone booth and make guys miss. We got Kenan [Christon] in the open field to be able to hit a crease and go. Jalen [Armstead], Lucky [Sutton] and Cam [Davis] all have great skill sets in their own right and can be utilized in different ways. It's a group that has some good competitive depth. They've all got some good game experience, especially at the top of the order there, and the young guys with Lucky and Cam are coming along as

well. So, I feel good about that group and what they bring to the table.”

On WR Mikey Welsh carrying the Aztec shield:

“[The shield] is still very significant for us because there's a lot of traditions and history that make this place special. From who gets to hold the shield in the warrior walk and take the field, to the Aztec Creed that every guy that's new is learning and reciting and that we say when we walk out. Those words mean something, and Mikey has embodied all of that since we got started, all the things that we want our culture to be, that we're building and he's a selfless individual. Whether it's special teams, whether it's offense, whether we need another DB and for him to slip over. I don't know what his skill set would be, but I know he'd sure give it his all and trust that the Aztecs could win. I thought this opportunity was really important to highlight him and shine a light on all that he's done thus far.”

Junior Cornerback Chris Johnson

On the comfort level of the new defense:

I'm really comfortable with the defense as a whole as far as my job and some of the safeties. I can give them some tips too. As a whole, I feel like our defense has really been coming together these last few weeks. Especially with the final transfers coming in throughout fall camp, I feel like we are just putting everything together. Everybody is learning all the plays. Once we start week-to-week, we'll have more of a game plan with a lot fewer calls than we usually run. We're really comfortable.

On his interception:

The interception I had was really early. We had one of our base coverages and it turned into a scramble drill. Coach Sumler preaches that on a scramble to go to the nearest receiver so that's what happened. I was on a running back, I think it was Marquez Cooper. Danny O'Neil rolled out and threw the ball and I made a play on the ball.

On defending the run:

Between the players we picked up in the portal and our new scheme, we sometimes have an extra defensive lineman in there. We have more people in the box. At the start, everything was going well. There weren't very many completions and they weren't running the ball very well unless it was a great play by the running back. We have to keep it up towards the end of the game, when they were pounding the run. Lucky Sutton had a few great drives. We have to stop things like that from happening and keep our foot on the gas.

Sophomore Wide Receiver Baylin Brooks

On what he saw from the quarterbacks:

I saw a lot of good things. A couple of young quarterbacks stepped up. Javance Tupou'ata-Johnson did a couple of really good things today.

On how a successful running game opens up the passing game:

It opens up [the passing game] totally. The running game makes more people come in the box, which allows me to get one-on-one matchups and other receivers get one-on-one matchups and dominate on top.

On how Fan Fest prepared the team for the season opener:

It prepared us greatly. It's great to be in the stadium and around fans with this atmosphere. We have three more weeks and we're going to do everything we can to be fully prepared to go out and dominate from the first quarter on to the fourth.