



## SAN DIEGO STATE COMMUNICATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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### **San Diego State Football Press Conference Quotes**

**August 26, 2024**

**San Diego, Calif.**

#### **Head Coach Sean Lewis**

##### **Opening Statement:**

"A lot of good that came out of Saturday. Good to come away with a win. A lot of players who made their first career FBS starts in a lot of different places got a lot of great game experience as we went through it. We have to be a lot more detailed and be a lot more disciplined. The number of penalties (on Saturday) was inexcusable and were major contributors to extending (A&M-Commerce) drives or hurting our own drives, so that's something we need to put a great deal of emphasis on and we will continue to do that. We're tightening up the details of our job, the details of our craft and the discipline of our craft as we go into a really, really good opponent in Oregon State this weekend. But I was excited to be in Snapdragon Stadium this past weekend. The fans that showed did a heck of a job, and I'm looking forward to more members of the community coming out to cheer us on to victory and to be a big key for that and create a good home field advantage at Snapdragon Stadium."

##### **On Danny O'Neil overcoming early struggles on Saturday:**

"He was excited about the opportunity, and probably tested a bit too much in terms of having a little bit of adrenaline. He just needed to settle in and play his game. He got a sense for what they were trying to do to us and what the proper answers were. Then, he finished strong so that he could build off (his performance). I was pleased with his effort."

##### **On what makes Marquez Cooper so special:**

"His preparation and how he goes about conditioning his mind, his mental toughness and the chip he carries on his shoulders. He has tremendous pride in his performance, and it doesn't matter if it's the first rep of Tuesday practice or the last rep of game day Saturday. He handles those moments like an elite competitor, and he goes about them the right way. He wants to play for something bigger than himself and maximize on all the opportunities the o-line creates for him and share that joy and that passion with them as well. But his mindset, his makeup and his journey are what make him so special."

##### **On what it means to host a 'power school' like Oregon State:**

"They happen to be the next faceless team coming in, but our community should be excited about the work that our kids are putting in and the few select opportunities that we get, regardless of who happens to be on the other

sideline. We have a ton of kids that are from right here in San Diego County that are really, really proud to represent San Diego and Southern California. And if you're living here, there's no better place to be on a Saturday in the fall. This Saturday, 7:30 pm, come out and see our Aztecs do their thing."

### **On Oregon State and the challenges they bring:**

"They can control the line of scrimmage. They had two running backs that went over 150 yards and they're big up front. So they're going to lean on the run game and possess the ball, and because of that they took the air out of the ball for an explosive offense last week. So, we have to do a good job killing the run and taking that advantage away from them which is going to be a strong test and a strong challenge. Defensively, they do what they do, and they do it really well. They have an exotic third down package that stresses you with various pressures. They have two edge rushers that are very dynamic, they can go three deep at that position, and they have some really good length and rangy athletes in the back. Overall, a really, really dangerous team and a really well coached and disciplined unit."

### **On Oregon State quarterback Gevani McCoy:**

"He's a guy that can do some good things. When given the opportunity, he's very efficient. He can hit the big shot. When you've got to commit to the box it creates some clean pictures for him. He does a good job with his ball placement. He's super-efficient at 90 percent (completion percentage). It's hard to beat that as you go forward with it. He's a good player who understands what's the strength of his unit and how he fits into how they attack (the defense)."

### **On the Aztec defense:**

"They're opportunistic. Anytime you get an opportunity to go hunt the football and generate two turnovers that leads to 14 points immediately, that's a huge swing. To start the second half and to capitalize off where Trey White keeps that thing alive and Tano gets a scoop and score. Obviously, everyone saw JD (Coffey's) pick 6 coming off the post and running that thing back, but there was an unbelievable pass rush move by (Ryan Henderson) from the field side and Owen (Chambliss) did a great job firing up and under the man-side guard to force an errant throw that ends up being a lollipop in the middle of the field. We've got long, rangy guys who are explosive with really good ball skills who can cover a lot of ground and fly to the football."

### **On the Aztec FAST defense:**

"The Aztec FAST mantra gets labeled instantly with the offense, but it's a whole brand of ball for our whole program. In all three phases we want to be playing fast, thinking fast, doing fast with confidence, but then having fun while we're doing it, and being accountable to one another and being smart with how we do it. (It's also) having a toughness about how we go about our work in all three phases of the game."