



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Hawaii

Oct. 5, 2024

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Sean Lewis

Opening statement:

“Good to get a win. Good to be 1-0. I'm still battling as well. I'm proud of the team and their effort. All the improvements that they've made through the course of all these weeks and the hard lessons that we've learned have come to fruition tonight. We found the right way in a four-quarter game for all three phases to step up in different ways and to come out on the right side of this game. I am incredibly proud of those guys in the locker room. Their effort, the way that they prepare, the way they go about their business, and excited for the future as well, to be able to build upon this opportunity and this win.

On the team's energy and how they feed off of each other:

“It's been really positive all the way through. We've shown a character, an attitude, and a resolve that embodies our blue-collar and nastiness approach. There's a job to be done, and regardless of what that job is, we're willing to punch the clock and show up to do the work that's required to win. The way the defense is encouraging the offense, or the offense is encouraging the defense, and the special teams is the glue that's holding it all together. To see them come together tonight was really powerful, and it's a testament to the approach, the work, and the culture that our staff and the kids are building each and every day. We will continue to develop, improve, and compete.”

On kicker Gabriel Plascencia's performance:

“Every point in this contest was critically important. Everything Gabe did, every single time he went out, he was able to rise to that occasion. With all of his training, his preparation, and the adversity that he's gone through this year, he clearly separated himself this week and he'll be our guy going forward. It's been a big step tonight in doing his part and helping us win in a big-time fashion.

On quarterback Danny O'Neil's ability to not turn the ball over as a true freshman:

“He's coachable. I told him before we went out there, we're wearing black tonight, so throw to the guys in the black shirt. He does a great job with his process while knowing and understanding what is open at this level. I think that's something young quarterbacks have to learn and feel on their own. He's done a very good job with that, from his film

study and the actual application of what he's been able to do and to know while testing himself against our defense on a daily basis. In practice, day in and day out, he knows and understands when I'm going against Eric Butler, Dalesean Staley, Deshawn McCuin, and Chris Johnson. He gets to compete against those guys on a daily basis and when he plays against another opponent he has a good feel for where he can fit a football.

San Diego State Defensive Edge Trey White

On tonight's victory vs. Hawai'i:

"It definitely feels better to be on the other side of this for sure. But, we're not done. We can't be complacent after. We got to move on with the film and get ready for our next opponent."

On mindset during the game:

"I wanted to come up big for our team. I didn't want to have that feeling of a loss again. I hate that feeling and I know our team does. The look on our faces after that Central Michigan game was terrible, and I never want that to happen to us again. We have to come up there every time it happens, and we have control over what happens. We have to come down and make plays."

San Diego State Quarterback Danny O'Neil

On his preparation during the week for a game:

"Throughout the week, you test the limits a little bit more with new concepts and new looks. Then maybe on Tuesday, the first day of practice for the week, you test it. Wednesday, you really have to dial in and question if it is a good look, a bad look, a smart throw, or not. Just being able to protect the ball on Saturdays is my main job. Being able to put the ball in a playmaker's hands, distribute the ball, and not have any turnovers is my goal every week."

On having confidence in the team:

"All of us have spent countless hours together on the field and in the film room. It's been a long journey from when everyone got here in January all the way up until fall camp. All the hours that we put in together, all the sacrifice, the blood, sweat, and tears. It's easy at the end of the day to trust in the one next to you when you've done something like that."

University of Hawaii Head Timmy Chang

On the message to the team going down by 10:

"Just stay into it. We came back with two back-to-back good drives, and then just couldn't finish the last one. So that was tough for us."

On going for it on the final drive instead of kicking a field goal:

"If we give them all that time, they would have to come down and pick up your goal and just run it. So, I didn't want to put it into their hands with that much time left. I wanted to see if we could convert and get closer; kill some time and give ourselves a chance to win."