



Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. New Mexico

Nov. 8, 2024

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Sean Lewis

Opening statement: “This game did not have the results that any of us were hoping for. Not what the players and I worked so hard for. That starts with me, as I can do a much better job over the course of the week with our attention to detail and what I’m coaching particularly offensively so we get in the red zone, where the area in the field and the margin of air tightens up. We can be much cleaner when we’re down there in particular. Anytime we have the [red zone] trips that we did and set up the number of field goals that we did in a close ball game that we know is going to be an all-four quarter fight, it ends up being the difference as you go with all of it. So we have to do a much better job in that area. The kids battled all the way through again. I just have to put them in their position to be successful from start to finish with everything.”

On if there was a plan to have Jordan Napier be the launch of the night:

“It was going to be a game-time decision [for Ja’Shaun Poke]. We talked all along the week that we think practice repetition is game reality and Jordan was open, available, and able to execute the plan. His play has warranted him in his first start and that’s why that happened that way.”

On what causes the pattern of only reaching the end zone in one half of the game:

“To get good at this and execute the complexities of our system to what we want to do when we’re capable of doing that in practice is to get better at it. We’ve been hampered and limited by who’s been able to practice and who’s been able to do what throughout the week. That leads to an inconsistency in the execution and I have to do a better job building that plan. That way we can be operating at a higher level and higher clip from the very first drive to the very last drop and have that amount of production that I believe this team is capable of having.”

San Diego State Running Back Marquez Cooper

On what was missing from the offense tonight:

"We just have to execute better, even myself. There were plays that I had to cease in the game and I should have ceased those moments. I wish I could get them back."

On if New Mexico did anything defensively that surprised him:

"They ran a lot of the 3-3-box on us. I didn't see that too much over the course of the season. They did show that, however, and I have to be more patient in my reads."

San Diego State Linebacker DJ Herman

On the play of the defense and adjusting after big chunk plays:

"It's all reading our keys basically. It starts with me in the front set and getting the defense ready to go. It's also on me to make the right reads. The focus this week was to play the fundamentals, communicate, know what everyone else is doing and make sure everyone was on the same page. We didn't execute that."

On getting his opportunity to be on the field with the team:

"It feels awesome doing my part. Being that guy to just run the defense and communicate, and help getting everyone on the same page, making the plays that need to be made."

New Mexico Head Coach

Opening statement: "We adopted the style we needed to, tailored to how the game was going. We were playing strong defense, tackling well, controlling the points, and that allowed us to manage the game offensively. We were able to rely on both sides to play in a complimentary way. This is the first game where that's come to fruition. The game against Colorado State was headed that way and we didn't finish and score. This was a version of that game, but cleaner and better."

On the defense's execution overall:

"We thought their running back Marquez Cooper was very good going in. We also presented to our team on Monday that this was going to be a close game right to the very end. Either we'll have it or they'll have it. That defensive performance this late in the year with the challenges they've overcome, is paramount. Our entire team was happy for them, certainly for the win, but to see guys battle. We saw the secondary guys go out early in the game with injuries and the next guys stepped up. There was a lot to be proud of in terms of their resiliency, their grit, and their determination."

New Mexico Quarterback Devon Dampier

On limiting his turnovers: "That was a big emphasis coming off of having three turnovers and then the pick-six to seal the game, last week. I made a big emphasis to make sure I'm allowing us to be efficient and to move the ball. I wanted to make sure we got the punts off when we couldn't move the ball."

On the offense taking a big step forward and the defense stepping up:

“The offense was able to lock in when we needed it most and getting that touchdown to put us ahead was important. To be able to close out the game at the end shows huge steps in our offense. I’m also going to shout out our defense. It was a huge game for them and they got the stops when they were needed. We wouldn’t have won that game without our defense.”

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