



SAN DIEGO STATE COMMUNICATIONS

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San Diego State Football "First Saturday at Snapdragon" Scrimmage August 15, 2026

Head Football Coach Sean Lewis

Opening Statement:

"Good night. Great crowd. Good energy. (I'm) pleased with the way that the boys worked. For the most part, that was a really clean operation. A couple of procedural things here and there, so we need to clean those up for the 10th fall camp practice next Monday. It was our third time going live. (I'm) pleased with the effort. Pleased with the process. Again, lots of work to be done. Lots more camp to go. We're just getting started. We'll get into week three here after the day off tomorrow and get back at it on Monday. We get to have six practices straight and really look forward to cleaning this up and learning from it. Overall, I really like the way the guys are approaching the work."

On the wide receiver groups performance during the scrimmage:

"We kind of got a spoil of riches there in that room. Obviously, some of the guys were out and not available. It's great to see others step up. We have got some really good players that we're managing their workload and where they're at with what they've done. Again, just getting to where we need to be for the season and the start of week one. We want to obviously play a certain style of ball, and that requires enough depth of talent in that room to do it. We were very intentional when the last season ended with the injuries that occurred, we wanted to make sure that we had enough talent in the room, so we didn't have to completely alter the style of play that we think is best. So, (we're) having the guys continue to grow. Coach Middleton's [wide receiver coach Matthew Middleton] has done an unbelievable job with those guys and (they're) really refining their craft. As we move through and into week three of camp, we want to be able to stack more consistent, clean reps. Let's continue to build this football engine. Let's get some basic mechanics done the right way. I feel like this past week was refining the engine, fine tuning it. How many how many reps can we get with the engine finally tuned so that the timing and location of all things can be really refined and right for when it needs to be on September 5 against Portland State."

On the defensive players that stood out during the scrimmage:

"I know J-Lew [linebacker Jeremiah Lewis] was all over the place. Jeremiah, he flashed quite a bit. I thought the defensive line did a good job. Kai Wallin flashed in camp making some plays in the passing game, but he stepped up and stopped the run. I thought he showed up better on first and second down today, which was good. I think all along Malachi Finau and Gavriel Lightfoot inside have been really disruptive, and anytime that you can create some dents inside that makes life really, really hard. Mike Lindsey's been really, really consistent. So those are the guys that kind of jumped out right now. I am excited to watch the tape and see who else kind of flashed and took a step forward."

On the excitement of playing inside Snapdragon in front of a live crowd:

"This is a special spot. We haven't lost here in over a year. It's a spot where we get limited opportunities, and anytime we get to come over here and share with the community, like we did tonight on the first Saturday at Snapdragon it is really special. But I think it's more special just because it's the fact that we get to do it together. We had a team meeting before we came over. We talk all the time that the work is the reward, and when we do this really well, the way that we did last year means congratulations, now you're going to get to do more hard work. Now let's go do more hard work at Snapdragon, and your loved ones and people in the community are going to see, and we're going to get to share with them. That's what makes it special. We want to take advantage of each one of those opportunities and treat this practice like a game. What a privilege it is that we get to do this in such an unbelievable venue. How lucky are we to talk about football with all the other things that are going on in the world to be able to just say, "okay, we're going to go play a game with a bunch of people that we care about in a really great spot in an unbelievable community and truly love what we do." So yeah, those things make it special. The venue, the weather, the people, the music, the vibes, like heck yeah this is special."

On quarterback Jayden Denegal returning to the field fully healthy:

"There is this constant repetition right now that he's having. There's a command that he has. There's a confidence that he has in the throws that he knows that he can make. He's probably not second guessing, pulling the trigger, maybe a little bit the way that he was, just wondering how the shoulder was going to feel, how it's going to hold up when he was playing injured. He's really confident in what he's doing. I think again, not only tonight but throughout the course of camp. We have been talking about how he's the thermostat for the team. Everyone's got to adjust to him because he's setting the temperature and he's done a really nice job. He is really owning the huddle, owning the operation, owning the decision-making process. He's doing a really good job with it all."

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