



SAN DIEGO STATE COMMUNICATIONS

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

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | #GOAZTECS

San Diego State Football Press Conference October 19, 2026

Head Coach Sean Lewis

Opening Statement:

"Afternoon, everyone. That was a great win this past weekend. Really a tremendous job by everyone in the program. I think it really speaks to the program that we've built over the past two plus years. The resiliency coming off not a great moment, obviously up there in Corvallis, but bouncing back and getting done what needed to get done. Really want to thank our fans for their continued commitment, showing up. 21,000 there at Snapdragon on Saturday night, and their support was really felt. Our guys feed off that energy, especially late in the game, and with the fast start, they were able to be engaged with it, which was awesome. Again, huge rivalry win; those things matter. That trophy's been here since day one of us getting the job. Our staff remains undefeated against those guys. You know, there's numerous guys in the program this morning, that were bragging about their record. Jordan Napier being one of them. He's 3-0 against those guys, which is great. Still, lots to improve upon as we look at the tape. But there's momentum in the building again, and we need to do a great job building off that momentum as we go. The one significant injury update really isn't an update right now. Denny [Jayden Denegal] is day to day. We'll get some more tests done today. Everything else, we came through it clean, and in 48 hours' time, we'll get the first availability report out there. But obviously, Denny [Jayden Denegal] going down was significant in the game with the way that he started. Really good job by Stone [Saunders] coming in and settling in to finish it the right way, and to find a way to get a win. Yet again, we're going to go on the road against another good opponent. Really explosive offense, finding their way defensively, but Coach Mora [Colorado State head coach Jim Mora] is a great head coach. He runs great programs, obviously defensive background, so we know that we're going to have to be at our best, and it starts with our preparation and how we go about it, so we can go do what we're capable of doing and getting our first road win, which is important step for good teams in this process."

On Denegal supporting Saunders taking over at quarterback:

"That room is really close knit, and we've talked about it at times where it's such a unique position in all sports, and especially within the football team, to where you have four guys in that room and only one guy is going to play, and the way that those guys compete to make each other better is really important that they have that day in and day out. But then the maturity that all the guys in the room do have, that whoever has the ball is really the most important guy at that moment in time. So, Denny [Jayden Denegal] having the maturity and the humility to realize, hey like, it's not going to be me. Let me throw my weight behind this guy and back Stone [Stone Saunders] and give him the support, the encouragement, the knowledge, and the information that he has, so that he can have a successful evening. And Stone, again settled in nicely, and through Denny's [Jayden Denegal] support, that was huge, and made probably the most important play of the night there on that third down, where he was able to play pitch and catch with Napier [Jordan Napier], and his run after catch to set us up for that long field

goal was crucial. So, it's a great job by Denny [Jayden Denegal]. Great response by Stone [Saunders], and again, we talked about it at length, but next man up and being ready when your number's called, and Stone [Saunders] was that."

On the defense rallying after a tough loss at Oregon State:

"We played to our standard. We know what we're capable of doing. Guys are doing a better job winning the pre-snap process, like we talked about last week, where that was a big part of what we're in command of, or what we're in control of, to be able to do that better, to get our cleats in the ground, to be tied together. And again, there's moments where, if we were on the chalkboard we may want to make a different call but at least we're making a call with conviction and we were tied together, and because we were all tied together as 11 we were able to play as one and had advantages. I thought guys did a great job straining and winning at the point of attack. Like Kai [Wallin] comes to mind, obviously, where he's able to win in one-on-one situations and have three sacks in crucial moments. So, again, like we've been talking at length about the process, the process, the process, in these Monday afternoons together. Guys are truly believing and buying into doing that, not just on game day, but doing it slightly better as we move through the week. We're still not doing it to the best of our ability, so we need to get better at doing that, but we did it well enough on Saturday night to find a way to win. That's the most important thing, and we got to find a way to keep doing it better and better and better, so we keep getting better as we move through the season, so we can play our best ball in all phases, at the end of the year."

On facing Colorado State's offense this coming weekend:

"Their one wide receiver, number zero, who I believe is the Wake Forest transfer. He's an explosive threat. They got two backs that are really dynamic. One's a bigger thunder to the other's backs ability as a lightning slasher. They're both dynamic guys. So, they got skill that's explosive. And again, they do a good job with, call it flavors of the week. They're going to throw some new formations at you; they're going to throw some new concepts at you that you haven't necessarily seen. So, we got to do a really good job again, communicating through all that. And I sound like a broken record, but again, that goes back to winning the pre-snap process, and again, winning and thriving in those downs, to the new stuff that we know that we're going to get."

Senior EDGE Brady Nassar

On the defense responding after losing to Oregon State:

"We go to work like we always do. It was a terrible day for us that Saturday. But, at the end of the day it's just an L on the schedule. It was up to us to respond. We had come back to work and practiced hard. And like we always do, we came back and we did everything we could to respond this past weekend."

On the defensive line's play against Fresno State:

"Yeah, I mean, against Oregon State, I think there were two opportunities we missed. There was a chance we had to affect the quarterback that we didn't. Watching the film back, we made some changes on the field for this matchup and it showed. I mean, Kai's [Kai Wallin] a goat. Kai made some great plays. Jib [Djibril Rahman] is an animal. I mean, you got freshman Alijah Lash running around like a crazy guy getting after their quarterback. You have Krishna Clay playing out of his mind, so I think you see on film, you see our guys playing the run, and you see they left it all out there."

Sophomore Running Back Javion Kinnard

On being healthy and playing alongside Lucky Sutton:

"We kind of do that throughout the week, every day at practice—just finding ways for us to learn from one another. Every time he's in the game, he's talking to me saying 'What did you see on this play?' Kind of just something he does every day. I'd

say since Portland State, this was probably the first time we've had everyone able to go—we might not even be 100%, but at least able to play together. So, we were definitely happy. We had been talking about it all week, and the whole game was actually fun. Later in the game, when it was crunch time, we were just laughing, hyping each other up, and having a good time. It was definitely a great moment to be back on the field with Lucky."

On building momentum and looking for the team's first road win:

"There's no going back; it's kind of what it is. We can't go back from where we used to be; we have to focus on now and keep it going. It was a good win last week. I feel like we needed it as a program and as a team. So definitely keep it going... Now, it really is our main thing to get a road game win. We know what we can do at home, and coming off a big win, I feel like this would be the perfect week for us to pick up a road win. So, we have to start today and at walk throughs tonight. All I can say is we need to be dialed into our details and know what we are supposed to be doing."

-SDSU-