



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State- UCLA Press Conference Quotes Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019

Head Coach Rocky Long

On SDSU defeating UCLA for the first time in program history

"I think the whole experience is pretty special. It's really cool to get to play in the Rose Bowl against a great university and football program like UCLA. That is really neat, in and of itself. And San Diego State had never beat UCLA in a football game. If it had been two or three times, that's not as unusual, but it was the 23rd meeting, that makes it a special day."

On SDSU's offense:

"They threw and caught the ball a whole lot better than they did last week. They made a big improvement. I heard that we were seven [passing] yards short of 300. We didn't run the ball as we would have liked to. But a couple of guys made some great catches, and Kobe Smith did a great job after he caught the ball."

On the caliber of quarterback Ryan Agnew's performance:

"I don't think it's unusual at all. I mean, he is a senior and he's been around a lot. He has played a lot of football, and all the way back to his high school days, he played in state championship games. I don't think that it was any special deal, at all. I think he was upset that he didn't play well last week and he went out and played like a veteran. I mean he is a veteran. We can't be surprised when he plays well."

On capitalizing on two UCLA fumbles:

"I think that any time that one team turns the ball over and the other team does not, the team that turned the ball over has a very little chance of winning. UCLA is a good football team. They should have won last week, too, but they turned the ball over four times. I thought they had outplayed Cincinnati. If they had not turned the ball over today, I think the outcome would have been completely different. Now, on the other side, our kids caused the turnover. You've got to be happy that our guys caused the turnovers. Any time that the defense is out there, you're trying to cause a turnover."

On the opening three-and-out and UCLA's first touchdown:

"No, I said something to our kicking team because that was only a 40-yard drive. And our punt team let it get all the way back to the 40. They had all the momentum, and they'd got a huge momentum shift, so I said something to the punt team."

On quarterback Ryan Agnew:

"I think he's a very good quarterback and experienced quarterback and that's what spread quarterbacks do. We should have had about six sacks today. Their quarterback is a spread quarterback and he made our guys look silly when our guys were trying to tackle him back there. That is what spread quarterbacks do. When they can buy themselves extra time, it gives receivers a better chance to get open. You don't want to see your quarterback get hit, but both of those quarterbacks out there are great athletes. And great athletes can do those kinds of things to make things happen."

Junior Warrior Tayler Hawkins

On personal meaning of win over the Bruins:

"It means everything. I grew up in California, looking at UCLA and USC games, and I always wanted to go to a school like that. But, SDSU, today we came through, we bought in all week, and we really played for each other and came out with the victory."

On feeling of setting up into final victory formation:

"It means everything. This is a team I will never forget, and that SDSU will never forget, and this group is the first in school history (to beat the Bruins). And we just plan to keep it going."

Sophomore Wide Receiver Kobe Smith

On beating UCLA:

"It was a great W, a great win, especially to win in the Rose Bowl. We had not beaten UCLA out of the 22 times we have played them, so this is a very special win. Now we just go and beat our next opponent, we go into the season 2-0 now and we just have to prepare for our next opponent."

On setting up final victory formation:

"It was actually my first victory formation, so I got to feel it all in. It was crazy."

On meaning of today's win to team leaders:

"I know that (Ryan) Agnew and Kyahva (Tezino) are both taking this in. It's surreal. I know they both played their hearts out, they are guys we can lean on and trust, and they are just as excited as I am, maybe even more."

Senior quarterback Ryan Agnew

On beating UCLA:

"It means everything, coming here, the Rose Bowl, a game you watch every single year, the history here, the granddaddy of them all. It's a great program in UCLA and it means a lot to come in here and win. With the team we have and the brothers that we have on this team, it (the win) was really special."

On if this he has ever experienced a "sweeter" victory formation:

"I don't think so. But I think the next one will be even sweeter. Today was special, especially with all the Aztecs in the crowd, me looking directly at them when I was kneeling with the football, it was awesome."

On support of Aztec fans:

"Aztecs came out to support. We have not won here in 98 years, and this was another opportunity to try and beat the UCLA Bruins. We gave them all we could and they (UCLA) were a good football team and we did all we could to (for the fans) ."

Senior linebacker Kyahva Tezino

On feelings about today's victory:

"It has not really sunk in yet. It still feels like I'm out there on the field, tired and going through it. Obviously, I have to get it through my head that we got a win, that we came in the Rose Bowl and made it happen."

On meaning of the celebration in the locker room after the game:

"It meant a lot. It shows how much hard work we put in. Seeing it pay off, it's an exciting feeling. It's like an addiction we have, we just want to keep winning. UCLA was a great team, we're going to celebrate it tonight and tomorrow we have to get ready for New Mexico State."