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## **Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Mexico State**

**September 4, 2021**

**Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif.**

### **San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke**

#### **Opening statement:**

"As always, it is great to win. I am very proud of how we responded. In the first half, we made too many mistakes, we had too many penalties and we did not have enough discipline in all areas. I will give New Mexico State credit offensively. They did a nice job of getting the ball out. At the same time, Coach Kurt Mattix did a really good job in the second half with change-ups. I am proud of our football team. Our offensive line came alive and running back Greg Bell had a heck of a day."

#### **On the personal fouls:**

"This is a great teaching moment, as we had some personal foul penalties that are unacceptable. This is a great moment for us to watch the film and teach. That is what we are going to do."

#### **On the performance of young cornerbacks Noah Avinger and Noah Tumblin:**

"Both of them played very aggressively for young guys. Avinger showed really good ball skills and they did a great job in the second half. I am proud of both of them. New Mexico State is a team that will get the ball out quickly and has really good skill. It was good to see those two mix it up with them."

#### **On the punter/kicker Matt Araiza:**

"He did a great job and flipped the field position, helping the defense. I am really proud of how he did, even kickoffs, every one of them was in the endzone. His ability is definitely a weapon for us."

### **San Diego State linebacker Andrew Aleki**

#### **On the defense responding to being down 10-0 at the start of the second half:**

"Every play we go out there, we are coming with intensity, we are coming with the energy, and we just want to get the ball back for the offense. Once our offense gets going, it gets us going, and we are able to do what we did - get three turnovers."

#### **On his pick-six in the third:**

"Thank you to Keshawn Banks who tipped the ball. When I saw the ball, I was like "Whoop, I guess I have to get it" and then I ran towards the end zone and got a pick-six."

### **San Diego State Running Back Greg Bell**

#### **On running back Jordan Byrd's performance:**

"Jordan had a big day. I broke a long run and then he came in and used the speed and power and made me look slow out there. He had a good day. I am happy for him."

#### **On the passing of Chris Thompson, his former Head Coach at Mira Mesa High School:**

"He was really special to me, and he helped me a lot. Without him, I can honestly say I would not be here today. I went out there playing for him today. I played as hard as I could and gave it all out there for him."

### **New Mexico State Head Coach Doug Martin**

#### **Opening statement:**

"In the first half, we played very physical on both sides of the ball, and we protected Jonah extremely well. In the second half, we did not protect him at all. We're lucky we didn't get him injured tonight. We need to play a lot better up front if we're going to do anything on offense. Tonight, was another 'tale of two halves' so to speak. As a team, we need to find a way to be more consistent and play a complete game. We've found a way to play a strong half so far, but we need to learn to play a full game. We'll start on preparing for UNM right away, but like tonight, it's going to come down to whether we play a complete 60 minutes or just 30."

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