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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. UNLV

Nov. 5, 2022

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

Head Coach Brady Hoke:

Opening Statement:

“Number one, it was good to win in a tough game. It was a game that both teams played hard, and I liked how we finished. After last weekend, which was heartbreaking if you were involved and had some skin in the game, we did a nice job all week at practice and how these guys came out. They did a nice job tonight. Obviously, there's plenty of work for both sides of the ball. We talked about turnovers and creating turnovers, and the five interceptions defensively, as much as anything, helped us win the football game. In the end, Chance Bell running the football and the tight ends seemed to have a little more juice, so they did a great job. It's good to win. It's good to win homecoming. We will have 24 hours just like we did last week, win or lose and then get ready to be at home again next week against San Jose.”

On the team's ground game:

“It felt great, and I give a lot of credit to the running backs. In the end, I thought they were poised. They stayed together. As an offense, they were a little disappointed early in the game, obviously. They kept themselves on the field where the defense didn't have to go back out, and they won the football game for us.”

On playing for each other:

“Those guys are out there every day and preparing every week. That's who we're playing for, in addition to the fans. The way they played tonight, there was some ugly in there, but at the same time, they held in there as a team. From that standpoint, we'll do everything we can as players and coaches to always to do our best.”

On offensive consistency:

“To get consistency, we need to finish in the endzone. We have a thing defensively about keeping our opponent out of the endzone, and we need to have the opposite offensively. We need to get in the end zone more.”

Senior Linebacker Caden McDonald

On what was effective defensively

“I think getting the turnovers. The DB’s played such great coverage which allowed the defensive line and the linebackers to add some pressure to the quarterback. We knew coming into this game that they didn’t turn the ball over much. They played phenomenal, getting all those turnovers for us, like Coach said. I think that was a big part of why we won that game, is getting the ball back for our offense and getting the opportunities to score. The turnover margin is a huge reason why we held them to 10 points.”

On red zone defense

“Last year, we didn’t have very good red zone defense in the offseason and spring football, and we really wanted to focus on that. When they are in the red zone, we want to stop them, hold them to a field goal or to zero points at all. To see it come to fruition is a big thing and for us to see our hard work paying off gets the defense pumped up, and I know it gets the offense juiced up too when we hold them.”

On finishing the game

“Our motto for this game was to just finish. I know the whole team just wanted to finish and keep fighting for all four quarters. Playing harder for longer than the other team was our goal, and we were just preaching that the whole game. Just stay steady, keep battling, keep attacking and just finish.”

On moving back to linebacker

“I just want to do what’s best for the team. The coaches said that me moving back to linebacker is what they wanted. I want to do whatever it takes for the team to be the best that we can be. That’s a spot that I’m comfortable at too, and I can help work with the D line and still be a leader. Still affect the game whatever way they want me to and I’m willing to do that anyway possible.”

Senior Wide Receiver Jesse Matthews

On what it means to Jesse to play in San Diego for homecoming and get a win:

“Just being home in San Diego, I scored my first touchdown in San Diego today. So that was a pretty special moment for me. And just being in front of my family and friends. And them being here is something very special to me. So, I’m just grateful, I’m so grateful to be in this position that I’m in. I’m glad that we came out with the win.

On Jesse’s touchdown and what happened during the play:

“Yeah, it was a two-trap coverage which means the corner will crash down right away. And that safety has to go over the top. But I noticed that that safety was too far so once I got past that cornerback, I just turned my head to Moose, and he read it. He got the ball to me pretty quick, and I knew I was going to have to beat a couple guys and fortunately I did fight to the endzone.”

On if Jesse realized how close his right foot was to stepping out of bounds:

“Yeah, I haven't really seen the video, but I felt like I was pretty close, I thought I might have stepped out, but I just kept going. I didn't hear a whistle, so I had to finish.”

On what it was like for offense to be on the field at the end:

“That was really encouraging. I think it's a confidence boost that we could take into the last few games of the season. We always want to finish on the field and that's something that we've been preaching, and our defense worked so hard for us and they come up with so many big plays that we want to reward them as an offense and I'm proud of our front linemen and our tight ends and running backs and everyone involved just, you know, taking pride in that and finishing the game. Because that's something we preached all week.”

UNLV's Senior Defensive Lineman Adam Plant Jr.

On bouncing back next week:

“It's definitely frustrating but you have to face adversity in life and it's all about how you're going to respond.”

On future adjustments:

“Throughout the season, we've set a very high standard for ourselves. It's just getting back to the board and attacking our P's and Q's and doing assignment, doing our one-eleven.”

UNLV'S Junior Running back Aidan Robbins

On confidence in getting the ball back in the last drive:

“Very high confidence throughout the whole week, we established ourselves with stopping the run, playing very physical, and making sure we were on our P's and Q's when it comes to our one-on-one responsibilities. I feel proud of this team.”

On his condition:

“Physically, you know it's going to be a dogfight. I knew that going in, we all knew that going in, so my body's maimed up. If your body is not maimed up after one of these games then you didn't play hard enough, so I'll take the bumps and bruises.”

On the mindset in the last drive:

“The biggest emphasis was just trying to strip the ball and get another opportunity for the offense to try to score. We weren't able to do that, but the biggest thing was just our

team's swagger and what we stand for. Finishing strong, making sure that we get off the field the right way.”

On defensive focus:

“Yeah, that was the biggest thing coach Hayward and the whole defensive staff preached: confidence, swag, and togetherness. Us playing together as a unit, as a team, and to dominate our one-on-one keys and I feel like overall we did a great job of that tonight.”