



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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

**Sept. 3, 2022**

**Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.**

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

##### **Opening statement:**

"In the game, offensively and defensively, we have to get a lot better for next week. Looking at our tackling, was atrocious. It's as bad as I have seen our team do in a long time. Offensively, we need consistency in what we're doing. The best players on our team are running backs, and we have to get them going early. Braxton Burmeister tweaked his shoulder a bit, so we thought we would give him some time to rest during the game, and the trainers did a good job with him. Resting him a little bit was what we needed to do to finish the game out with Will Haskell. It's a good experience any time you can get it. On special teams, we couldn't get a punt block in previous seasons, and we did that in today's game. In the championship game, we had two punts blocked, so we did block a punt and had some good special teams. Overall, coaching, starting with me, wasn't very good. As we get into this week, will evaluate more clearly tomorrow, and then we're going to get ready for Idaho State."

##### **On tackling:**

"It's not who we've been. In the last three years, we've tackled better. We just have to coach them better. We have to do a better job next week."

##### **On offensive line play:**

"When you're talking about offensive linemen, we're talking about calls that go and checks. There's a lot more to it. I was more disappointed because Josh Simmons had two penalties and one of them was significant. I don't like Braxton Burmeister running all over. Am I disappointed he had to run all over? Yes. We're young upfront, and that's the hardest position, in my opinion, to play because there are so many things that go into it."

#### **San Diego State senior wide receiver Jesse Matthews**

##### **On Arizona's defense:**

"I saw a lot of the same defensive backs, and the difference between today's game and last year was that we just didn't capitalize on opportunities we had. Today we had momentum, then we let it go, and that was the whole difference."

##### **On his message to younger players:**

"We have to move on from this moment, remember this feeling right now and make corrections, watch film, and don't let it hang over us. It's the first game of the year. We have 11 more opportunities. We have to bounce back. It's not about how you

start; it's about how you end.

**On opening Snapdragon Stadium:**

"I enjoyed the atmosphere a lot, and we fed off the energy coming out of the tunnel. The one thing we have to maintain at every game is the crowd's energy."

**San Diego State senior defensive end Jonah Tavai**

**On the defense's missed tackles:**

"Missed tackles are always a lack of intent. We have a lot of veteran guys that are included in that group. As disappointing as it is, we can get better. We know one thing that we have to work on this week and going forward."

**On opening Snapdragon Stadium:**

"I was excited about the Warrior Walk. It definitely felt like home here, seeing all the fans waving at us as we pulled up the buses, excited to see us play. Coming into the stadium and hearing the roar as we walked through the tunnel and ran onto the field was exciting. The student section was as excited as we were, and we loved seeing that. The atmosphere for me was a blessing, definitely not one of the greatest games as a team, but I hope that continues as well."

**On the record-breaking heat:**

"We knew it was going to be this hot. Our coaches did a good job of hydrating us throughout the week and focusing on drinking water. We moved around as a defense, but Arizona was also playing in the same heat, so we can't use that as an excuse to explain our performance in the first half. We should do better."

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**Arizona Head Coach Jedd Fisch**

**Opening Statement:**

"Hats off to our players and our coaches for preparing the way they did and trusting the process. The amount of work that we ask them to put in, in the summer and in training camp, paid off today. I think it was good that they came out and played like they did. They played hard, they played physical, they executed in a lot of plays, but there are certainly some plays they need to clean up. We are going to go back and watch the film, there's going to be a lot to coach off of. It is certainly more fun to coach off of a win, than a loss, but I will say that every week is its own week, and we're excited to get back after it next week."

**On bouncing back from turnovers:**

"We've tried to emphasize every day that this is 2022, and don't look back at previous years. Maybe one thing happened last year, and we couldn't overcome it, but that doesn't have anything to do with this year. We just played the next play every play and didn't focus in on what could have been and what happened."

**On the defense's play:**

"As I was saying earlier, and I don't know the exact stats, but we gave up very little in their passing game, and really stifled

their running game as well. I think that our defense played great today. All around, they just played really good football and I'm proud of our team's effort today."

**-SDSU-**