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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Idaho State

Sept. 10, 2022

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State head coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

"It's good to win compared to last week. We started a little slow in some areas. We have to be a little better. We thought we could make something happen on special teams, and obviously, Jordan Byrd had a good night in a lot of ways; not just running the football or returning the football, but what he did when you look at possession. There were a couple of punts that he got his hands on and did a great job downing them. We still got a lot of work on both sides of the ball. We can't let up big play and we didn't get any turnovers. If we're going to be a good defense, we have to turn the ball over. From the standpoint of how we played versus the run, it was much better than last week."

"There's a lot of work for us to do a lot of work offensively. We got some good rushing, got a lot of guys back there to get their hands on the ball. I'd like to see us keep feeding the running backs the ball, and I'd like to keep our quarterback healthy. He's healthy, but we have to make sure that we keep him healthy."

On the decision to start safety Davaughn Celestine:

"We thought on Monday that it was Davaughn's opportunity. He's a guy that, in practice, always comes to be his best. He does a great job there, and he's physical. He played a really good football game. He made some individual tackles that we maybe didn't make last week."

On special teams coordinator Doug Deakin preparing for the special team's fake punt:

"Their head coach, Charlie Ragle, was a special teams coach, so Doug went all the way back to when Ragle was at Cal and when he was at Arizona. He got all that film off our servers and went through all those punt returns. Think how long that took. He said, 'Coach if they line up like this, the play is there.' They lined up like that. Jack Browning is smart. Jack looked at it and ran the play. That was a big part of the momentum we needed then."

San Diego State senior running Back Jordan Byrd

On the windy conditions and if it affected him:

"Not really, I feel like the worst game I have played in was in Hawaii with the wind. If I can catch punts out there, you can catch punts anywhere. I felt like it was good. In San Diego, the lights were perfect. It was good."

On past fumble issues

"It has to come from practice. That is one thing that coach is pushing onto us. One too many fumbles, we can't have that. I had one, I don't know who else had one, but we can't do that. That's on us. We know what we have to do at practice. We have to pay for it. We can't have that out there."

On what stands out from the game:

"We just have to move onto the next play. You can't let that stick in your head, if that sticks in your head, you're not going to get past it. You just have to keep going on, you know what you can do out there. That is one thing I have in my mind, if I have a mistake, I know what I can do in the next play to prove that I didn't mean to do that. That is one thing our team is good at moving on from mistakes."

San Diego State junior safety Davaughn Celestine**On starting tonight:**

"I figured out I was starting at practice Monday. I've been preparing ever since I came in. I've always been prepared; it was just my time to shine so I made the most out of the opportunity."

On his journey as a walk on:

"When my time came, I knew and I wouldn't miss a beat. That's how it should be in our defense, always having that next man up mentality and knowing that you can go in at any time. It's kind of nerve wracking at the beginning, but after you make that first tackle its game on."

"I was going to go JUCO, but my mom said if you want to go, go, I'll support you, so I bet on myself and I came. I put my head down and worked my way up in the depth chart and here I am."

On how to build on tonight's performance:

"We hit it hard at practice this week. We need to come every week like that, we don't need a loss to practice like that."

Idaho State head coach Charlie Ragle**Opening statement:**

"First of all, I want to start out by saying how extremely proud I am of our guys because this is a game that people thought we'd come into and get rolled over by 60. We played our tails off, and they had to play their starting quarterback until there were five minutes left in the fourth quarter. If our kids can continue to play like they're playing, we're going to win a bunch of games in the Big Sky. We've still got to continue to convert and compete, but the heart of this team and the competitive spirit to play back-to-back weeks is undeniable. San Diego State's going to win a bunch of games in the Mountain West and our kids went toe to toe with them. This team here has got a competitive spirit, and that's what's going to be tough to beat if we can clean some things up. We're going to have a heck of a year that I think most people didn't anticipate from the Bengals."

On what he was encouraged by:

"I'm really happy about the spirit and fight that we showed. These guys battled on every play for 60 minutes, and when those experienced guys over at San Diego State come up to me after the game and compliment me on how hard my guys are playing, then you know that our team has something in them. Those coaches over there have seen a lot of football, so they

know what they're talking about, and the film will prove it. If we can keep up that kind of spirit and competitiveness, we're definitely going to win some games."

On losing his quarterback early:

"It was definitely hard, but I love Hunter. That's why we've said so many times that the battle for starter went all the way into the last week of camp. He's a warrior and the kids love him for that. He's going to do great things for us. There are no excuses in football, so we got to figure out a way to get back on the trail and get a W. If you watched this game or listened to it on the radio and you're in Pocatello or southeast Idaho, you should come out next Saturday and support these guys because this is a team that you should get behind because they're going to win a bunch of football games."

On the team's defense:

"They were good. Going into the game, we knew that number 15 was going to be the best player on the field for them. As a matter of fact, I tried to recruit him when I was at Cal, with us both being from New Mexico and knowing how explosive he was between the lines. Outside of him and special teams, I think our defense improved a ton. From week one, getting shell shocked in that first half to coming back and playing like how they did tonight. I know the score may say otherwise, but disregarding the two touchdowns special teams gave up, our defense played phenomenally. We got a good football team here. We just have to keep building on it and we're going to go back to Pocatello and do just that."

Idaho State defensive lineman Terrance Jones

On the team's defensive performance:

"Today I think that we tackled really well and had great energy on the field too. Everybody was competing and had a high spirit for the game today, and we are obviously going to grow on that and keep growing and pushing."

On how to build off tonight's game:

"I think we just need to keep going and keep working hard. That's the biggest part, we showed it today and just have to keep working every single day to get better."

On playing at home next week:

"I'm very excited. We have a new stadium, new seats, and a new coaching staff that we love. We're both excited, we're all excited."

Idaho State wide receiver Christian Frederickson

On the touchdown that got reversed:

"Well, I made my second release and saw the ball in the air and went up and got it. I tried to reach back as far as I could, and I really thought I had it, but you know refs thought otherwise and cameras showed differently. I just had to move onto the next play."

On what did the offense do best today:

"I think just sustaining drives, we are getting a lot better at that. It doesn't matter who is on the field, we know every single one of us is going to be able to make plays. Everyone on the sidelines is just excited for everyone that's on the field."

Thoughts on the offense overall:

"We have all the pieces, and we just needed a couple different plays to go differently and it's a different ball game. I think just understanding that we can hang with the best of them and that we can be in any game."

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