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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Boise State

Sep. 22, 2023

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening Statement:

We had opportunities. We didn't take advantage of them. We didn't follow through with them. We had two fumbles; we have to do a better job taking care of football. Missed two field goals; the one may have been a little bit near the range, but Jack usually makes all of those. We have a lot of things. We didn't tackle very well defensively which surprised me because of the way we practiced. But we've got to clean that up and can't have penalties that knock you back. Those are the ones that we talked about. We got to be a lot smarter. We can't be mentally lazy. And then the hard part is you're trying to use your cadence as a weapon against the defense and when you have the false start then you don't have that weapon. We were good for about three weeks and we need to better.

On Mayden's fumbles early in the game:

They were huge. There's no doubt about it. And like he said, he'll learn from it. He went through the technique he should have had and didn't so I know he'll he'll bounce back. He took a couple shots tonight but he's a guy who's really continued, in my opinion, to improve every time we go out on the field. And I'm really excited about that. Do I like the fumbles? No, but I do like the progression that he's made. And I also have to give some credit to some of those wide receivers. Penny and Brooks both did a nice job. Mark did a nice job again. I think there's one other improvement that Moose (Mayden) has done, is in the pocket and feels things I think a lot better.

On the team's tackling issues:

Well, we tackle constantly. You can only tackle so much. But we work angles, we work sheds, we work all kinds of stuff. So it'll be interesting to look at it and see if it was angles; see if it was following through, and wrapping up so we'll see how that all turns out.

On the team's discipline and fixing the tackling problems;

I don't it speaks to it being an undisciplined team at all. Tackling is a physical thing. And part of the tackling being a physical thing is also your angles to the football. There were times we had three guys on the guy and he kept going so we have to do a better job of finishing.

On Boise State's Ashton Jeanty's ability to break tackles:

We faced two real good backs in the last couple of weeks and I think as much as anything, the combination from what they were doing a little bit with the quarterback and the quarterback runs. That took single tacklers on guys more on the quarterback than the running back.

On Hayden becoming a more complete player:

I think he continues to improve. I think he continues the relationship with Ryan (Lindley). He gets after him, and also does a really good job of coaching, fundamentals and technique.

On personnel changes in the fourth quarter looking for the right combination:

(Eric) Butler played a lot during the whole game and part of that is that he's getting better. With Brady (Anderson) it's the same thing. Brady played a handful of the last series of the game and so I know Kurt (Mattix) was going to reward him for practicing hard.

On where Jack Browning is at with the kicking duties:

He has to be more consistent. If anybody knows that, it's Jack and he'll go back to work. He had a little bit of a hamstring, but I don't think that was any of the problems.

On Hayden and Barfield handling the postgame press conference after a loss:

I think it was pretty cool. They're both guys who you love to have on your team. Cedarius (Barfield) was voted captain and Moose (Hayden) has everybody's respect when you look at our football team, offensively defensively. It's two guys who have really come along and understand that the hard work is in front of us and we got to keep working.

Senior quarterback Jalen Hayden

On balancing out accomplishments and mistakes (two fumbles):

"I have to play a complete game, and it starts with me. As far as tonight, I did feel like I was on a rhythm, but I just can't have turnovers and can't allow myself to make those mistakes."

On the first full season as a starting QB and gauging where he's at:

"I've taken really big leaps from last year. Last year I was just doing whatever I was coached to do. I wasn't trying to do anything extra as far as make plays, let receivers work. It was more of looking if they were open or throw the ball out of bounds if they weren't. It hurts us because we were not giving them time to make those plays and throw into those tight windows. As far as my first four games last year compared to this year's first four games, I feel like I've improved a lot more."

On improvement of not giving up as many sacks as last week:

"The O-line just stepped up and really took this week of practice with intent. A speaker came in and spoke with us about intent, so this week at practice, it was really about being intentional, and they picked it up."

On flipping 360 during the first fumble:

"We work a drill all the time on stumbling over somebody, where I have to keep two hands on the ball and keep it up on my chest. I had two hands on it, but I had it tilted sideways, and that allowed the ball to slip through my hands, so I just have to rely on the coaching."

On everyone stepping it up at camp, including receivers:

"The same thing applies to the O-line. It starts at practice. Everybody seems more intentional about what they do as far as getting to the right depth, running the right routes, and being where they need to be. Say something breaks down, we have some extra plays where we have guys getting open when the pocket breaks down. It's just being intentional about everything they do."

On driving the team down during a dire situation:

"We work a two-minute drill every Tuesday and Wednesday at practice. A two-minute drill with one timeout left and about that much time on the clock, so it felt natural. Going back on coaching, don't skip a read, don't skip a progression, take it for what it is, and take what the defense gives you. Keep progressing."

Senior safety Cedarious Barfield

On their work at practice and into the game:

"First of all, respect to Boise State and their running backs. As coach said, our defensive philosophy is everyone to the ball. I did feel as though we were running to the ball, but not getting in there. We were trying to make the play but were just running there just to run there. We did have a very good week of practice, so this one kind of hurts knowing that there were some stuff that we could've controlled."

On turning this performance around:

"Luckily, we played on a Friday, so we have until Saturday to get healthy, go into the film room, and look at Air Force. It's one of those things that we can think about all night, but we have to put it behind us. It's still a long season with the top two teams. We can still make it to the championship if we want to, so we just have to focus on the next team."

On running back being more difficult to tackle:

"He is a very good back but, we were just stomping our feet, running to the ball, but not looking to finish. Our coaches are always putting us in the position to be successful, and as players, we have to make the play."

On message to younger players in the locker room facing adversity for the first time:

"A big thing that we talked about during the offseason is that player-led teams are going to be more successful. We have to take it upon ourselves to bring the younger guys up. We have to put this behind us. You can't think about this game and let it carry into the Air Force game. We're 0-2, and we have to move on, starting Monday at practice and come out more than we did last week. I know we looked good, but now we have to look great. We need to finish Monday through Saturday."

Boise State Head Coach Andy Avalos

Opening statement:

"I'd like to thank Bronco Nation for showing up down here in San Diego. We got a lot of young men from Southern California on our team, and it was awesome to see all the families out here for their support throughout the game and the energy they brought. I am proud of the team for coming on the road here and the first conference game coming to play a very tough opponent, very physical opponent. I love the way the team worked together tonight in all three phases. It wasn't perfect. It's never gonna be perfect. There are a lot of things to celebrate which we did well tonight. That allowed us to come on the road and beat a very tough opponent to start."

On Ashton's performance:

"Ashton is extremely talented and will continue to keep growing. I love how the O-Line and the tight ends blocked tonight. That was a huge part of it, and there were some pretty big holes, and when there wasn't, he was pretty impressive and broke tackles.

On rotating the defense:

"As the season goes on, we've got to be able to continue to grow the dependable depth. We got guys that are ready to jump in there and play. Some situations call for playing more guys, depending. We probably played in three or four different groups today on defense. That's a big game plan for a short week, but given all the things that they were doing on offense, it allowed for a lot more guys to play.

On the changes the coaches made during the game:

"I'll tip the hat to our coaches too, because after those first couple of drives we were able to say "Okay, this is what we can do well, based off of what they were doing on defense with our coverage structures and the different things they were doing with their fronts." I tip our hat to our coaches and being able to identify some run plays that obviously were going to be able to be successful, and then the guy's been able to go to execute them and being explosive.

Boise State DE Demetri Washington**On the importance of winning this matchup:**

"Winning college football is really, really hard. You have to give your all every single day you have to win. You have to win Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. You have to be able to prepare throughout the week. You give every team your best because they're gonna give us their best. It means a lot to get those wins. We had to learn, we were battle-tested, and now it's time to get to conference play and do what we have to do.

On the significance of playing in San Diego:

"I have a lot of people out here who grew up watching and coming to Aztec games, doing camps here, doing a youth camp here. It was pretty surreal driving in. I even texted my girlfriend and said, "It's kind of surreal right now. I worked so hard and would come down here to train for the next level."

Boise State RB Ashton Jeanty**On breaking tackles:**

"It's just a mentality that I come with. I'm not gonna go down. It's my job to make guys miss and break tackles. It's a running back's job. When the O-Line gives you holes like that, you have to finish the job for them.

On 200+ rushing yards this week compared to last:

"I didn't play the way I wanted to last week, but the great thing about football is you always have the chance to bounce back and come back and be better.

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