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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. UCLA

Sept. 9, 2023

Snapdragon Stadium | San Diego, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

“Tonight was really disappointing. I am disappointed in our coaching, disappointed in how we reacted to situations. We didn’t play as well as we are capable. I give them credit. They’re a good football team. There’s no question about it. But look at the end, the last four minutes of the second quarter, first half, there were opportunities that we didn’t follow through. Then, in the third quarter, there were 14 points that were left out there. Then in the end zone, after the fumble on the one and a third down and one later, I thought we definitely had some momentum there. We got first down and thought we were going to score. We have to learn from this one because next week is just as difficult. We’re talking about Oregon State as a good team, a hell of a football team. We’ve only been able to watch them one time so far in Corvallis, the new stadium, and what they’ve done there is something that they’re all proud of, so it’ll be a hell of a crowd. We have to get better this week. We have to make sure that we’re all on the same page. We have to play better, we have to coach better. Coach better, then play better.”

On today being a measure of where the team is:

“We’re a pretty good football team; that’s sincere. We’ve gotten better. We did some things better today. From the offensive side, there were three RPOs (run-pass options), Jalen Mayden did a heck of a job sticking them in there. There were a couple of others that probably should have been caught, or at least a 50/50 ball. His progression is getting better. I am really proud of how Kenan Christon plays football and how he represents us. He’s done a really good job and being a leader also as a captain, but he produces, and that’s what you have to have. I don’t know if that one game to measure it on. Obviously, we didn’t coach it well enough. That’s my responsibility first and foremost, and the coaches, so we have to do a better job there. We got a big week ahead of us, and we need to continue to improve.”

On any surprise with the defensive performance:

“We have to play better, we have to tackle. Both of their running backs, whether they were running the stretch or inside, had too many yards after contact, that’s discouraging. We

looked at that a little bit, and it's concerning.

San Diego State Wide Receiver Mekhi Shaw

On the offense tonight:

"We have to do a better job putting drives together. We can't show flashes here and there. We have to be consistent throughout the whole game. Time of possession is important, but we must put the ball in the endzone and score some points."

On if a lack of execution or UCLA's defense stopped them :

"We did not execute well enough. Everyone has a job. You have to be one of 11 and involve those guys at the same time. It didn't happen. Whether it was MA's (missed assignments) or technique-wise, we just have to be better so that everyone can do their job."

On his touchdown reception:

"I took it up top and trusted the QB to make the throw to the back shoulder."

San Diego State Linebacker Zyrrus Fiaseu

On UCLA scoring three touchdowns in the second quarter:

"They came out and played hard, and we just did not execute the way we should. They should not have scored those touchdowns, and that's all on us. We just have to get better."

On the defensive assignment errors:

"Assignment errors are assignment errors. They are going to happen. Everyone makes assignment errors, I make assignment errors. So throughout the game, especially next week, we have to minimize those. It's all mental, nothing is physical. There are no physical mistakes right now. It's just all mental, something that we can get taken care of."

UCLA Head Coach Chip Kelly:

On the quarterback situation:

"We'll do everything as a staff, and we'll sit down and talk about everything we do and what gives us the opportunity to be successful. Again, I feel like we have three guys that are really good football players. That's something that not every team can say. We'll see how this whole thing plays itself out."

On adjusting to the refereeing:

"Every game is going to express itself differently. We have to be able to adjust."

On the four touchdowns:

“You always want to finish the drive to a touchdown. If we could’ve scored six touchdowns, then I would be a lot more happy with the situation. There are always things that you could do to improve, and you’re never going to be able to get them until you get in a game situation.”

On the defensive performance:

“I was really pleased with our defense, especially the response after the one turnover we had. We turned the ball over and thought it was a touchdown. They reviewed it, said the ball is at the half-yard line. First play, they got a tackle for loss. In the second play, they stop them, there’s a fumble, and they almost recover the fumble. The third play, they went big, and we went big.”

UCLA Defensive Back Alex Johnson**On the fourth quarter:**

“It was a dream come true. The whole game was just a great, great testament to this team, how far we've come, and really how far we have to go. Everything that we've done so far today, but we have so much more we can build, on so many more plays we can make. This is a great starting point.”

On the defense’s strength:

“Whatever offenses do, we tend to match so it doesn't let them dictate what the game is going to look like. If they want to go heavy, we can go heavy. If they want to put four receivers on the field, we can go nickel, we can put two defensive backs on the field, we can do whatever. The range we have as a defense is great, and we haven't even been able to showcase all that we have yet.”

UCLA Defensive Back Oluwafemi Oladejo**On if the defense has anything to improve:**

“Definitely. We made some plays because of the film. We can definitely look at the film and correct some things. That’s the beauty of it, we can still be better.”

On correcting offside penalties in practice:

“It was just a matter of mental discipline, mental toughness, and just learning from our mistakes.”

UCLA Wide Receiver Logan Loya**On true freshman quarterback Dante Moore:**

“Dante came into college at 17. He came here and played like a dog. He made some throws in practice that we're like, “Wow, this kid's impressive.” He is 18 now, but a super young kid, but he knows what he's doing. He's going to be a star, he already is and he is

going to continue to grow.”

On UCLA’s talented receiver room:

“We are loaded. We are super deep in the receiver room, and the quarterbacks and running backs, everywhere. But, for me, to contribute to the team is awesome. I want to do whatever I can to help this team win.”

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