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Postgame Football Quotes – San Diego State vs. Nevada

Nov. 13, 2021

Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif.

San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening statement:

"It was a great team win, and we talked about the team, the team, the team all the time, and it was truly all three units working together. The offense had a couple of great drives during the game. They had a really good drive there at the end when we needed it most. The field goal unit of Matt Araiza, [holder] Jack Browning and Jacob Raab snapping, those three components have done a great job all year and did it again today. The defense had a stand at the end, and they did a nice job during the game. We have two drives that were a little sloppy and we will fix that. Overall, the defense played a good football game. It is a great win, and now it is time to keep going. We have UNLV next. We have goals, and as hard as these guys work, they still know that we have more work to do."

On this being QB Lucas Johnson's best game for SDSU:

"Lucas did not struggle with anything within the offense. When he had to go to do another read, he did a really nice job there. Overall, he was more decisive than he had been. You did not see him make dumb throws, and I was excited about that."

On the calm sidelines after losing the lead:

"We learned from the Utah and the San Jose State games, where we went through some overtimes and had to be resilient and had to count on each other. We learned from that, and hopefully, a lot of the younger guys are learning that also right now."

On QB Lucas Johnson having success late in the game and throwing more:

"It speaks of Lucas getting comfortable in our offense. He had some tough times. Last year in this game, he got hurt after starting really well. He got banged up early in this year. The good thing is to see him being tougher, and that has improved him as a quarterback."

On winning this game and the road to a championship:

"We learned a lot from the Fresno State game. I did not think we played with great effort, and that was one of the things that I talked to the team about. You cannot look too far ahead. Because if we are going to get better, we have to get better every day. To get better is how you win championships."

Quarterback Lucas Johnson

On the offense's mindset on the final drive:

"We knew that we had to get the ball in the field goal range for Matt [Araiza]. He's a huge weapon for our team, so we knew we just had to get it to the 40 and it would be good. We went out there calm and collected and were taking it play-by-play and we all leaned on each other, and we got it done and then the defense came in and they shut the door."

On if playing in previous close games helped them tonight:

"I think we just stuck to the plan. We're just sticking through it and we're riding out all the tough patches. We know we have a great defense and great special teams, so they've been helping us out this year. We knew it was up to [the offense] in the fourth quarter and we were happy we could deliver."

Defensive Lineman Cameron Thomas

On the defense holding Nevada to 21 points:

"I was pretty pleased with the defense's performance tonight. We knew we had to fight the quarterback and I think the defensive came together."

On what they expected from Nevada on their final offensive drive:

"We knew what we had to do. When we went out on the field, the offense trusted us to go out and stop them and we did, and we trusted the offense when they went out and they succeeded."

On the last four plays of the game:

"Those were very exciting. You know, I've had a lot of great wins here at SDSU and this one might have been one of my favorites."

Nevada Head Coach Jay Norvell

On his team's performance:

"It was a really competitive game just like we knew it would be and it just came down to one possession. Our defense played, for the most part, very well. Neither team was very good on third down. There were no turnovers in the game. As it ended up, San Diego State converted one last possession and we were not able to, that was the difference in the game. A lot of kids played their hearts out, I am really proud of our football team just in the way they prepare and the way they practice."

On QB Carson Strong's performance:

"I think Carson did a lot of good things out there. He is a super competitor and he just fell a little bit short. He has been outstanding in those two-minute drills. He had a chance to convert on the last one, but we were just a little bit short. He is an extremely tough guy, and he is able to put people on his back and carry guys. He made some really big plays in the second half, and he just fell a little bit short at the end. Hopefully next week we will get Cole [Turner] back; he is a tremendous player and we missed him tonight. But Carson's a tremendous player too and a great competitor."

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