 **San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke**

**Opening Statement:**

“I was really proud of our football team. It was a good win against a good football team. I thought our guys played hard, fought hard, and did a good job there. What we saw Saturday was really a representation of the cornerstones of who we are as a football team. This program is built on mental and physical toughness, and I think we’ve kept that. To me, that's what I’m most proud about San Diego State and what San Diego State has become and what this football team has become. The next thing I want to talk about is the leadership from our seniors and upperclassmen, how hard they competed. We’d like to do some things better, period. But at the same time, the one thing we talked about is competing for sixty minutes and I think in all three phases we did that. The drive by the offense at the end, they overcame two penalties, which we cannot have. We have to be a better football team than that and we have to learn from it. To perform like that, it tells you how much pressure is put on them and that's what we try to put our team in during the week. Defensively, they really performed well, there were a couple critical penalties that extended some drives. One thing we talked about defensively is creating turnovers and we got four turnovers in the ballgame. The kicking game, really proud of what those teams have done. Our kickoff team had two stops inside the twenty yard line and our kickoff return had two returns across the thirty yard line and Jack had five punts, five inside the twenty, three inside the ten yard line. That speaks to what he has done, and on the fifty-yard field goal, that was well done by a whole group of guys and Jack did a good job but the snapper and holder both were excellent. We’re talking about winning championships around here and that's important, one thing, our attitude is going to be everything that we do, we won't blame anyone, we’re going to all do our part. I appreciate you being here and this is a team that we have to keep executing better and improve.”

**On Jack Browning earning a scholarship:**

“He just goes out to work, he’s got a great mentality about him. I really respect his work ethic, how he competes. He’s well respected and I think you can see that. You know he’s going to be happy and everyone will be happy for him, and you feel good as a coach to be able to do that.”

**On Boise State’s offense:**

“My brother worked with one of their coaches in Tampa Bay so I called him up after they beat Seattle and asked him what he could tell me, and he said he was going to throw the football so be ready for that. But the coaches aren't playing. This is a players game, so we got to prepare. The one hard part is what exactly they're going to do when their quarterback left and what they’re going to do offensively. They have good personnel, Taylen Green is a quarterback who was nationally recruited out of Texas. He’s a big guy, 6’6”, who can run. He’s a very talented young man.”

**On the lack of offense:**

“It’s timing, we haven’t held the line of scrimmage enough, we are not getting press coverage, it’s all of those things. It’s also obviously the quarterback not making good decisions. We said early that this is a different football team than last year. We are young but we are still making improvements. It is also a team that a year ago was 12-2, there are some factors that aren’t there anymore but we’re going to work like hell for execution.”

**How to address the teams problems:**

“If you want to get better you have to address it. What we have done and what our coaches have done is they have done a great job looking at the things we have to get better at. We have got the right people, we promise you that.”

**On the talented receivers:**

“We go back to the same thing, we threw the ball 24 times last week. We just have to protect Braxton better and get off press coverage. Because of what our receivers have done, people are playing them a little differently. Toledo was interesting because of how they would drive the safety’s. They were well coached, but the good thing is we responded to it, and we countered what they were doing.”

**On the challenge of having a one-sided offense:**

“We need to get consistency and execution there. We are still going to be a team that runs the football for various reasons. That is what we have done for about the last 13 years and that’s part of us.”

**On QB Braxton Burmeister’s struggling:**

“The only thing is he has to keep his eyes downfield a little bit more. You can say that about every quarterback but the one thing I can tell you is that we have to do a better job. We have to execute better in all the other areas. It’s not just him, it’s all of us”

**On the toughest part about having three young guys on the offensive line:**

“Yeah, I think at times he is under siege I believe that. When you look at what you’re doing offensively. Recognition where we are targeting or where the blitz is. For young guys they struggle at times, the one thing I am excited about is that we are making strides. We would like to be 4-0 obviously but the two losses were to two good PAC-12 teams. We have to play better, but at the same time it is a different team and a different schedule.”

**On QB Braxton Burmeister knowing when to run:**

“Well, I wish I had the answer. But I think he has an instinct, you know that when he feels this, you know the two runs obviously in the two minute at the end that opened up in the middle of the defense. Right? And so he feels that, stepped up. At that time, he was looking down the field, and then he made the decision. You know, it was a good decision. Right. And then obviously, for the last play, second to last play, you know, he took some hits now that that worries me, but he reminds me not to worry about him because he'll be fine.”

**Thoughts on the final play with Braxton Burmeister handing it to Jordyn Byrd:**

“Well, it was one of those things and I'll tell you BCD, Brandon did a great job on that side. I mean, they caved that whole side down and obviously Byrd made a good cut back to the outside. We had one timeout left still. We thought we could at least run it and if not call a timeout.”

**On Jordyn Byrd and his capabilities:**

“Yeah, I think he is. It was interesting after the game. For those of you listening to Caden McDonald, and what he had to say about Jordan Byrd and what Jordan Byrd is capable of, and how hard he worked. His body and all those things in the shape that he is and the football IQ that he has. So that allows him to do all those things.”

**On player’s psyche and confidence boosts:**

“I like them to feel good about themselves. I like them to earn feeling good about themselves and they earned it.”

**On Braxton’s freelancing vs. designed plays impact on the season:**

“If anything, I've been the one probably holding him back a little bit because I want him to stay healthy. You know, I want him to play 14 games. And so, I think that's part of it. I do think that you know, you see what he brings to the table on those scrambles. Now, we want to hit some of those things on designed runs a little bit more. And we had more against Utah there were a couple more quarterback calibers, quarterback power plays, not as many in this passing game.”

**On balancing Braxton:**

“It’s football. He's got an instinct, you know, and I'm not going to hold him back. You know, you'd rather try and hold back and talk and you know, but he's pretty special.”

**On balancing snaps between running backs:**

“There’s a lot there when you look at those names when it comes to talent, as well as the kinds of talent. For now, we’re going to keep sticking with whichever guy has the hot hand. The other day, [Jaylon] Armstead go the hot hand, and barring his ankle injury, I would have preferred to see him keep running the ball.”

**On the health status of Chance Bell, Patrick McMorris, and Jaylon Armstead:**

“Bell is for sure going to up, and I believe McMorris will be as well. Patrick is cleared for activity, he just can’t have any contact right now– but he’s been cleared for everything else in practice. As for Jaylon, I hope so, although I don’t feel as positive about that one as the others.”

**On returning to Boise:**

“I haven’t been to Boise since 1992 when I was over at Oregon State, but I’m excited. I think our kids are excited too, especially when we’re starting Mountain West play. For us, we’re getting a chance to go out there and play our best football on a Friday night.”

**Senior Defensive Lineman Keshawn Banks:**

**On playing high caliber defense against Toledo:**

“It was the same thing as always since I’ve been here that makes our defense good. Playing hard and being the most physical team on the field is usually what it comes down to and that’s one thing that we preach every week. We really take pride in that, and although in the first few games we may not have done it to the best of our ability, I think last game we looked a lot more like ourselves.”

**On challenges preparing for a new offensive system and quarterback next week versus Boise State:**

“Nothing changes too much. At the end of the day, it’s football. When we’re out there on those white lines, there’s not too much that we haven’t seen before– especially with the veteran group of guys on defense that we have. They have a mobile quarterback, good running back, decent O-line and talented skill players. They’re a good offensive team, but it’s nothing new that we haven’t had to play against before. Obviously, there’s some things to reinforce on our side of things, but that’s more in-house than anything else.”

**On the mentality of a new Boise State quarterback facing the San Diego State defense for the first time:**

“I honestly don’t know. I never played quarterback, but I remember when I was a true freshman and I would go out there, eyes wide, and not necessarily feel scared, but something along the lines of taken aback. I don’t think he’ll be scared, I think he’s going to be ready to play. He’s on scholarship just like we’re on scholarship and I believe that he wants to play football to the best of his ability just as much as we do. I think he’ll be ready, and regardless of whether he is or not, we’ll be ready.”

**On his last time playing Boise as a freshman:**

“It was a hostile environment to say the least. Those are proud fans up there, and the team is just as proud of the blue. With that said, it was definitely fun. It was a welcome to college moment for me in that vibrant stadium of 30,000 people, and all you could smell were funnel cakes. Especially to go in there on the road and pull out the win that we did, I’m sure it’ll be just as fun on Friday night and I’m looking forward to it.”

**On the short week:**

“It’s definitely different. Not having that day to prepare your body and get a little extra treatment or an extra day of film and preparation is different. But last year we got it done against San Jose State and UNLV, and we’re looking to do it again this week. It’s not necessarily something that feels normal to us, but there’s no pushing back the game and we have to come prepared and ready to go.”

**Junior Tight End Mark Redman:**

**On the importance of getting the passing game going:**

“Obviously having the running game going is important and it’s something that we pride ourselves with here in Aztec football. But getting the passing game going is something we need to do as well. You saw what happened with that two-minute drive at the end of last game. Braxton really got it going, and the O-line held up their part up front. I think that once we get into that rhythm, we have the ability to really get the ball down the field and put some points on the board.”

**On offensive improvements going forward:**

“It’s on everyone on the offense. Starting with the O-line, you saw what happened on that last drive when they gave Braxton some time to throw the ball. Those guys are going to protect the quarterback, and it’s something that they’re continuing to get better at every week. The overall offense is something that we’ll work on every week in practice and I’m sure that we’ll see improvements in this upcoming game that carry through for the rest of the season.”

**On getting down the field against Toledo and in the future:**

“We kind of just kept the short and quick game going for most of the time against Toledo. In my eyes I need to get up field, and it’s a lot of the same with everybody else. For example, Jesse [Matthews] was throwing a little hitch, we love throwing to him and letting him break loose. We have a lot of other weapons and all of those guys want to and can make bigger plays for us in the air. But again, it all starts up front and being able to have that protection– if Braxton can get the drop back that he needs to throw the ball out, we can start working from there.”

**On looking forward to playing in Boise for the first time:**

“It’s going to be awesome. It’s my first year here, but I’ve heard Boise is a big rivalry game– obviously I’m going into Friday treating it like every other week, but I’m really excited to get out there and see what happens.”

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