



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening Statement:

"All right. Number one, just to recap 2022 was not the season that we wanted. It was disappointing to say the least, but I think we learned a lot through some adversity. We're going to be a young football team in a lot of ways, but it's a young football team to this point as we started winter conditioning, who have done a heck of a job. Coach Hall has done a great job with them. I think the runs in the morning, the lifts, the physicalness that they've shown to this point have been really good. We're excited about starting. Obviously, we have some additions as players, with guys who are new to the program and also additions in the coaching staff. I'm really excited with Ryan Lindley. I think he has done a great job and I'm excited for him, and excited he is the offensive coordinator. Ron Gould as the assistant head coach and the running backs coach and Coach Gould I've known through passing with Dan Frio, and some other guys I've coached with. He's got an unbelievable career and has done a great job everywhere he's been. I really feel good about him as an associate head coach. He's had head coaching experience and he'll relate great with our running backs and coaching them. Jonathan Krause, our wide receiver coach who came from UNLV, played at Vanderbilt, played in the SEC, bounced around the league a little bit and then was at Oregon. Obviously, he came from UNLV, really excited because he brings the energy that we're looking for, and really proud to have him on our staff. The last guy, Bojay Filimoeatu, I really love what he brings us as the defensive line coach. In the interview process he stuck out, he was highly recommended by a lot of guys. He's been a Broyles Award nominee, and I think his energy will help us a lot in the recruiting aspects. Also, he'll teach our guys a lot and I'm really excited about that. We're in phase one, we're starting phase two, so as we start next Monday, for the first day, it's going to be a physical spring. I can promise you that. We're at this time where the strength gains, and the fundamental work has been really positive. The cornerstones of our program have always been mental and physical toughness, and I think we've been doing that. You can only get better or you get worse, Bo Schembechler said that years ago, and it's one thing that I've always believed in. For us to get better, we have to be more disciplined as a team and we've got to be more disciplined when it comes to fundamentals and techniques. So we're excited about it, excited about getting started, and I'll open it up to you."

On this year's recruiting class:

"Well, you look at us upfront defensively, and in the last few years there have been some pretty good football players that have moved on, so we focused mainly in the front and in the back end, and at the safety position. It will be fun to see these guys develop, especially up front, and that's kind of where I hang my hat also, so I'm excited about that."

On new recruit KJ Giles, and how he'll fit in the team:

"His athleticism. He's from Dayton, Ohio... His high school coach Mo Douglas has been around, and did a great job at Trotwood Madison and Dayton. I really trust Mo as an evaluator of talent and development, and we just kind of fell into him,

and the more film that we watched, the more we liked him. Coach Mattix went out and visited him, and we are excited about what he could bring us. I wish he was going to be here even earlier."

On the top things to develop:

"I would say number one, from an offensive standpoint, we have to finish better up front offensive line wise. I have a lot of trust in Ryan Lindley, and in how he'll coach the offense. The running back room should be a really good room again, with all of the different guys we have there and the competition that we have."

On identifying a go to wide receiver:

"Rosters are changing constantly because of the portal, and it's made it an even bigger deal. I think identifying the guys who are going to be the playmakers is going to be huge for us. And then from there, we'll have some opportunities after spring ball."

On losing players to the transfer portal:

"We're going lose some other guys. That's going happen. I think we all have to prepare for that. That's why we have to be proactive throughout the spring. I also think we've got to keep recruiting the guys we already have on the roster. With the NIL we've been active to some degree in it, but not as active as some other schools. Obviously, that's something that we've got to continue to grow as a program, if not, we are going to be left behind."

On how to cope with the strength of schedule for next season:

"We have to have a good spring. We've got to identify our playmakers, identify the guys who are going to play with great discipline and toughness. From an offensive standpoint, we will do a little bit of two back schemes, and 12 personnel looks... a little bit more like Utah. Sitting down and talking with Ryan, his creativity is something I'm really excited for. Ron Gold has been doing this a long time, and he is someone who has recruited and coached some of the best running backs who have played in the Pac 12. His knowledge of the game is awesome. Jonathan Krause hasn't been coaching as long as some of us, but he has great energy, and when he gets in a room, he commands the room."

On the challenges of having a new offensive coordinator:

"You can't be afraid of making mistakes. He's going to make a mistake, I've made a lot of mistakes, and I've been a head coach for 16, 17 years... I still make mistakes. I've got his back. I'm going to have his back and I'm going to try and help him as much as I can and guide him. I want him to be him, and this offense to reflect who he is."

On if the ball will be thrown more or moved downfield:

"I think we'll be a little different. I think we're going to be a little different when you see. A little bit more under center a little bit more. Like I said, like Utah, a little bit more 12. Identify, you look at the tight end position. There's five guys. They all have a specific skill set and have skills that they need to be on the field. And so, in the other thing we've got running backs, who can go ahead and be wide receivers. I mean, they're athletic enough to catch the ball well enough. So, I think we have that component. Now that doesn't mean we're not going to keep looking for guys who are playmakers."

On the location of the spring game:

"Right now, it's scheduled for Thursday the 23rd. It's at Snapdragon."

On Jonathan Harrison and other unexpected losses:

"Well, you want to have your roster intact and keep it intact. When that doesn't happen, I guess this might be part of the positive of the portal. To be honest with you, you have another chance after spring ball to fill your team."

On the loss of 9 guys from the class of 2021 recruiting class:

"I think it hurts and I think part of that was COVID. Recruiting all changed with COVID. You worked at home, you couldn't make school visits. You don't get to know the guys like you used to. So, I would say that as much as anything, because you're looking for culture, you're looking for character. You're looking for all those if you want people who fit what we do. So, I think that has a lot to do with it."

On if anyone will miss spring for health reasons:

"Not right now. We should be alright."

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