



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS
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San Diego State Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening Statement:

"We're excited to start fall camp. It's been a really good summer and I'll get into some of that, but you know, we're excited for fall camp to start. We have to do a great job in camp to finish our development. That's one thing I think this football team has done a really good job of, is developing during the summer and here in the spring, but we've got some more to do before we play Ohio University on August 26. As coaches you know, the most important things and responsibilities are fostering and developing our players. Not just as football players and individuals, but as men. We're constantly putting the pressure on to develop our players, and our team has worked hard. We came off another bowl season which was great, but we were disappointed with the finish of the season. Obviously, we want to win championships, and we haven't done that since 2016, so we've got a lot of work to do but I'm excited about what's ahead of us. Our team has come to work every day. You know, Adam Hall, I think is probably as good as strength coaches are in this country. The one thing about Adam, he's going to shoot you straight. He's going to push our guys and he's done that, and he likes the competitiveness that he has seen so far. We made some coaching changes a year ago. I'm excited about those changes. I'm excited about Doug Deakin, you look at what he's done with our special teams, from not just a San Diego State standpoint but you look at who he's brought in, who he's recruited, and who he has developed. Kurt Mattix, our defensive coordinator, is the best coach I've ever coached with. I'm really excited about Ryan Lindley, and this will be Ryan's offense. It'll be a little different than what you saw last year, and I'm really excited about what he brings. All three of those guys bring a great football IQ, and the relationships that they have with their players are second to none. We are a young football team. You know, we have five returning starters on defense and seven on offense. So, we have to continue that development in fundamentals and how we want to play the game. We have great competition on both sides of the ball. I think we've taken advantage of what we've had through in the portal and what we've had to replace some guys. Obviously, we've lost three defensive line starters, and all three of those guys and 26 other guys are in NFL camps right now, and we're really proud of that."

On developing the fundamentals during the offseason:

"I think fundamentals and technique are really, really important. I mean, I believe in that wholeheartedly and I believe if you have really good fundamentals and techniques, you've got a great opportunity to overcome, maybe something that you don't do as well. So, I'm a big believer in that. I will always stress that and I know the guys will."

On incoming transfer Cody Moon:

"I remember we played New Mexico two years ago, and watching their defense and watching him. I don't want to say he mesmerized me, but I was always looking to see where he was and what he was doing. Then after the game last year, I shook his hand and said, I really like how you play and then he ended here. I think he brings some toughness to us. But I think he's got a good football IQ and he runs well."

On the teams challenging non-conference schedule:

I think a couple things number one, Ohio University and I'm very biased, play in a great conference. It's the conference I played in, the conference I coached in, and they've always been physical. In 2018 they beat the living heck out of us. They're a good physical team that won't be intimidated coming in here because they play big schools all the time, so they won't be intimidated. Idaho State got a new coach, they got a new staff. They'll be a little different because they don't play before we play them. They played week one while we play week zero. So, it's going to be interesting. There may be some things that we don't know that they may know about us, so I think that's a little different. As for UCLA we are excited to have them here at home. They're a much better team than they were in 2019 when we went up there and beat them, they're more physical of a football team, and I think they've recruited well and got some guys off the board that will help them a lot. Then going up to Corvallis will be fun. I coached there for six years, and I think Jonathan [Smith]'s done a really good job with his football team. I really like what they've done with their facilities. It's going to be fun. I'm excited about our schedule."

San Diego State Kicker/Punter Jack Browning**On having all three responsibilities of kicking field goals, kick offs and punting:**

"I feel like it was something I felt very confident in actually. I've been competing in all three ever since I started my junior college career at Grossmont. It's something I've had a lot of practice with handling all three duties, and I just felt very confident in it with working with Coach Hall and the strength staff to make sure my body felt right the whole season and it ended up being pretty successful and very confident."

On training with Nick Novak:

"Yeah, I have been training with Nick ever since around June 2020. He's been one of my greatest mentors. Not only just the mechanics of punting and kicking but also just the mentality of what you need to do and the mindset you need to have when you are in those situations with a game on the line. You've got to be able to hone all those emotions and just channel it into one energy and do what needs to be done. So definitely a lot has come from working with Nick and I'm just truly blessed and grateful to be able to work with him.

San Diego State Running Back Kenan Christon**On whether his game is more explosive or more physical:**

"I like to say I'm very balanced. I know I'm fast, very fast, but I do take pride in my power as well. So when I'm on the field, I like to be explosive when something small opens up and I have got to get through real fast

On being the student-athlete featured on a billboard in his hometown:

"Well, it feels great to be up on a billboard, you know, that's something everyone dreams of growing up but I mean, I don't let the shine and glitz and glam get to me. I've been through all that and it's nice to have it but I love being with these guys behind closed doors, no cameras, and just working and grinding."

San Diego State Defensive Lineman Garret Fountain

On being the main returner along the defensive line:

"I learned a lot in that defensive line room with Jonah (Tavai), Keyshawn (Banks) and Justus (Tavai) coming in last year in December. I felt we just had a good bond. I've watched those guys and then I've watched guys like Caden (McDonald) as well, when I was behind him at linebacker. Watching those guys take charge and take the lead, I feel now that it's kind of my spot to lead the defense and get the job done. I feel pretty confident in taking charge and letting these guys play."

On the home schedule and the caliber of teams they will play against:

"It's very cool. You know, I got here in 2019. That's the last time we played UCLA, and I was on kickoff return and got a couple of snaps in the Rose Bowl and you know it was just that the excitement in the locker room before was just something that can't be put into words. At halftime we knew we were beating them up pretty good and just to have that confidence that we're the underdog and whatever happens is going to happen, but we know how physically mentally tough we are. We know we can get the job done if we all stick together and have that one common goal in mind and that's win. Just being able to play those games and be in those situations is a fun task. The pressure is kind of on and you know, it's just everybody here that we've been practicing and playing with all have that same mentality of the pressure is on us and we're the underdog and we're going to go out there and fight, fight like heck and hope to win."