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San Diego State Football Press Conference Quotes

Sep. 19, 2023

San Diego, Calif.

Head Coach Brady Hoke

Opening Statement:

"Couple of things about last week, I thought that was a really good effort. I think the guys played hard. We have to play smarter a little bit. I thought from the discipline standpoint, we only had one penalty and that's a real plus. Hopefully we can keep playing with that kind of discipline. We controlled the ball and the tempo of the game, which is an important feature. Still gave up too many big plays. We've got to do a better job there. We also made some big plays defensively. So those are some of the things that we did better. I think in all three phases. We have to do a better job protecting the quarterback and that is an everybody deal. That is receivers, route running. That is up front. That is running backs. That is the quarterback. It's everybody's fault when he's on his back. So we have to do a better job there and we've talked about that, obviously. A little uncharacteristic for us, was the kicking game wasn't as good as we expected it to be. That's something that as a team and as a staff we'll work our butts off to fix. Looking ahead, obviously Friday Night, it's an early week for both teams. It's the start of the Mountain West Conference; excited about that. Boise State's a good football team. They played some good opponents in Central Florida. Look at Washington. They've had some challenges there but they've done a nice job and we're excited to have a great crowd on Friday night."

On went wrong defensively in the second half of last year's Boise game:

"They played really well and we didn't play a second half defense. It's pretty much that simple. They changed quarterbacks, I think he had something to do with it. We weren't sure if we were going to get him or not. So the quarterback runs that piece of it. I think we prepared but not as much as or as in depth as we needed to."

On any difference in Boise's offensive plays compared to last year:

"There's the same plays in there. They have a quarterback who's really proficient in running the ball, scrambling, doing those kinds of things, the quarterback designed runs. So I think they'll stay with the basics of what they do with it."

On if the priority is to stop running:

"Priority is always to stop everybody's run game. So whether it's him or whether it's the running back or whoever it is. We've got to do a great job in the running game. They're talented, they have good backs. Jeanty, he's pretty good and Holani he's been banged up a little bit, hasn't played nearly the number of snaps but this guy's he's really good."

On if he likes where the team is at heading into conference play:

"I do. Would I like us to play a little cleaner in some, not miss that block, not miss the hole, not miss a tackle, or leverage the ball all that stuff. I wish we would be a little better at it. But I think we're a work in progress."

On tight end Mark Redman:

"I think he's awfully talented for us. From a guy who's willing to stick his nose in there and block and finish on blocks to route running. And then he becomes a little bit of a mismatch because of his height depending on how people want to play."

Senior offensive lineman Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson

Crenshaw-Dickson on the state of the offensive line:

"We're young up front, but one big thing I will say is week by week, we're definitely 100% getting better, especially in the run game. That's what we're trying to focus on, coming out into conference play and moving forward."

Crenshaw-Dickson on how much difference there is in switching positions around on the offensive line:

"There is not much of a difference. Just kind of knowing where your quarterback is. Last year we had Braxton back there at quarterback who's a righty, so this year with Maden being a left handed quarterback being his blindside tackle pretty much."

Crenshaw-Dickson on the play of Maden:

"We love Maden as a quarterback, coming out being a leader for the offense. One big thing that we're trying to focus on especially in the O-line room is making sure that he takes less hits. Last game we gave up five sacks and that's unacceptable, being in the O-line room. So with him being the guy that we want back there as a quarterback we've got to make sure we protect him a lot more."

On the difference between playing O-line vs power five opponents:

"Not much of a difference. Everybody wants to win the game. So I feel like if anything, it would be the speed of the game making sure that we just do our job upfront."

Crenshaw-Dickson on the rivalry:

"I will say it's a rivalry like Fresno is. It's a big game for us. And like they said last year we got shut out in the second half. So this is a big game just as much as Fresno is."

Junior cornerback Dez Malone

Malone on how opportunistic the defense has been this season:

"We've taken advantage of a lot of good opportunities that we had, but also, we have a lot of what we like to say "left money" on the field. There were times we could have made plays that we didn't make, but for the most part, we got takeaways and right now we are just focused on stopping the run more."

Malone on learning from last years matchup with Boise State:

"The biggest thing we've learned from last year's game is to finish, because we started out pretty good. We came out and shut them out. And then as we all know, the second half come back. They came with 35 unanswered so it was crazy, but that's something we take kind of personally and we know, we can't fall asleep at any moment of the game."

Malone on Boise State's team:

"They have a pretty good team. They play hard. But we feel like we match up pretty well with them. And we know they have a quarterback that's really good with his feet, so that's another thing we emphasize on defense. I think if everybody just does their 111, we'll be alright. And we can compete with anybody. I feel like it's a pretty good rivalry too, and we got a bad taste in our mouth. So it's always a good one."

Malone on Boise being picked to win the conference:

"Early on, I did see that they were picked first to win the conference, but that's just opinions. This is a game that I feel is really one of the more important games especially going into conference play. This game can really show a lot and it can turn a lot of heads so this is a big game."

Malone on paying on Friday:

"It is a quick turnaround. You got to kind of trick your mind a little bit. So like today's Tuesday, but it's really Wednesday for us. Like that's why we got signs everywhere around the facility. It's Wednesday. I'm not going to feel it until it's after I get that Saturday and Sunday off. But it's a fast turnaround for sure."

Both players on the impact and importance of limiting penalties:

Malone: "Penalties are something that we really emphasize, especially the penalties that we can control. Now sometimes penalties are there. They come from playing hard and things like that. But the ones that we can control, we really emphasize on that, we are really detailed even in practice. We really make sure that we're not trying to get as many penalties as we have in the past."

Crenshaw-Dickson: "For the offense, I would say last year we had a problem with jumping offsides. So getting into the snap count and knowing the cadence is one thing that we focused on. We didn't want that to be a problem at all this year. The holding penalties, that's just playing hard but that's also something that we can work on being an O line room."

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