



**Quotes  
Nevada  
vs. San José State  
October 15, 2016**



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**Head Coach Ron Caragher**

**Opening Statement**

This was an exciting evening for the Spartans, an old school football game as far as the score is concerned. You don't see many games 14-10. I say that because I really credit our defense, and how they came out from the get-go – fro making tackles in the open field to tackles for losses to the third down attempts for Nevada. Our defense did a great job on third down with some three-and-outs mixed in. So I thought our defense played really good, and that really carried us through the night.

**On the wet conditions**

Throwing the ball in the beginning came out different for Kenny. A couple hit the turf and a couple were overthrown. But our game plan from the beginning was to run the ball affectively against them. That had been one of their weaknesses, and that's something we can do pretty good. We came out and executed well. I wish we could have punched it in a couple more times, but, all in all, we ran the ball pretty effectively.

**On the Defense Tonight**

I believe our defense has been getting better. It may not be reflected on the scoreboard in the last couple of weeks, but I think they're getting better and playing gap-sound football. We've got some good young players. Trevon Bierria stepped up with an interception today playing on the back end. I think those guys are playing pretty good. From a linebacker's standpoint, I thought we played pretty good. Hopefully tonight is a building block for us going down the road.

**On Malik Roberson**

Maik has always been such a solid anchor for the team. What I mean by that is, pass protection, whether it's lead blocking or running his routes and catching. He's a diverse running back and a tough young man. He's also an inspiration to our team. You talk about (Christian) Tago and those guys on the defensive side, and Malik is that on the offensive side. He brings a spark and it's great to see a guy like that to be rewarded.

## **KENNY POTTER**

### **Opening Statement**

It's good to finally get a win, that's all it came down to. Last week, I said we were either going to man up or run away from it, and everyone manned up. I think that a lot of teams can shy away from these situations being 1-5 and giving up on the season. Like I said last week, we don't care about anyone outside our locker room. We manned up and the defense manned up and saved our butts all game.

### **On executing**

We did a good job running the football, we just couldn't punch it in at the end. We couldn't really get over that hump of seven points for a while. But the defense did such a good job. When they finally gave up the touchdown, we always have each other's back and that's kind of what happened at the end there.

### **On clean game**

The one thing I was going to make sure I did was take care of the football. As you see, if I take care of the football, what we can do on defense and then our offense obviously showed at the end is win a football game. I think I was going to make sure if I didn't have anybody open, I wasn't going to do anything stupid. I wasn't going to throw the ball away and live to play another down.

## **CHRISTIAN TAGO**

One of the main things we preached all week was winning the turnover battle. Coach was telling us that if we had two or more turnovers, we'd win the game. My hat goes off to Nevada. All season long they've had two turnovers. I think and we were able to get two on them tonight. It was huge being able to score on their turnovers.

### **On the tackle that forced a Nevada field goal**

My hat goes off to my defense first of all. It's just me doing my job. It's my D-line setting me up. There is a big gap there, and it's my job to run through there and make a tackle. It's my D-line that set me up for that. It wasn't all me, it was all the pieces that go together with it.

### **Run defense improving**

I think it's a mindset. We're starting to adjust to it. We're just trying to pride ourselves on stopping the run. I know these past couple years we've been down on stopping the run. Everybody is just buying in. It's a tight brotherhood in there. We have a saying, "we're all we got, we're all we need." It's all about guys doing their jobs. If 11 guys do their job, then it'll be good things for us.

### **On interceptions**

They were huge as that feeds into the offense and special teams. One thing we talked about was getting back to having fun out there. I think we're been getting too serious lately. Things just haven't been going our way so we're down. We're just having more fun.

## **MALIK ROBERSON**

Definitely a good night offensively we struggled a little bit but we stayed focused and pushed hard. The o-line worked with me through the difficult times. I think I paid off and rewarded them with good running tonight.

### **On carrying that many times**

I've never carried the ball that many times, but that's one thing I am developing as a player. It's something I can do. It's something I can be better and get more carries.