

San Jose State Coach Caragher

Opening Statement:

“Thank you for joining us tonight. Sometimes when you have a layoff between the last game of the regular season and a bowl game, you’re not sure sometimes how you start off. You’ve got to shake off the cobwebs, get rid of the rust. I’ll tell you what, I’m so proud of this football team, how they came out and played tonight. From an offensive standpoint, we moved the ball pretty well, but we didn’t capitalize necessarily in the first half on certain opportunities. But the defense played stellar football. They got pressure on the quarterback, held them to 23 yards rushing in the game and just did a terrific job. Special teams did a good job as well. Tyler Ervin, who we know is a special player, special athlete, had that punt return in the game that was an electrifying play, and we’re really excited about that. By the way, it’s so exciting, our team is really fired up, that Tyler Ervin now has the San Jose State all-time single-season rushing (record). Really exciting. It’s the guys; we wanted to send our seniors off victoriously in their final game. And it’s so fun to be part of a bowl. I want to thank AutoNation. I want to thank the Cure Bowl, Florida Hospital, the sponsor. Being part of a bowl with a philanthropic type of approach to the game, and giving to such a good cause, really is a blessing. It’s an honor and a privilege to be in this game. Thank Alan (Gooch); thank Megan (Dowdy) for their hospitality.”

On what the APR qualifier says about the team...

“It says a lot. I think college athletics are about the student-athletes, and sometimes, maybe just the record on the playing field or on the basketball court can sometimes be recognized, but often the performance in the classroom doesn’t get recognized. And this is the unique situation of what happened and we get recognized because of both. We got five wins, so we were hovering there, and we had a chance, but the APR is why we got picked, and I think it’s great. I think it’s very ironic that we’re playing in a bowl game that’s about the bigger picture, because what we did was about the bigger picture, academic and athletic success. So we’re in a bowl game that’s a philanthropic type of bowl game, and to be a part of it was very special, and just proud of our guys, the way they came, the way they represented San Jose State here in Orlando, and how they represented our university on the field tonight.”

On the feeling tonight...

“It feels great. We wanted to win that last regular season game, and it didn’t go our way. We really thought our season was done. When Mr. Bleymaier and I talked, there’s a chance that there won’t be enough six-win teams, I got hope, but I was cautiously optimistic about it because I didn’t know for sure if it would happen. Sure enough, things happened and it came around that we were invited to this bowl. We’re very thankful for a chance to compete one more time with our seniors and as a team, and to get that win. There’s nothing like it, getting a win in your last game to bounce you forward into the next season.”

Tyler Ervin, Sr., RB

On what it’s like to play in a bowl game with a great cause behind it...

“Playing in a bowl game that has such a significant cause that affects so many lives, breast cancer is something that a lot of people either have experience with or somebody knows someone that has breast cancer, something that hits home for a lot of people. It’s an honor to play in this game.”

AutoNation Cure Bowl – Postgame Quotes

On if the single season rushing record was in the back of his mind...

“It was in my head a little bit, but my main concern was to win the game. We came back, we rallied, and we got the job done. I’m happy that I got it; it was an honor playing with everybody, especially my o-linemen, because they come to work hard every single day, so I couldn’t do anything without them.”

Kenny Potter, Jr., QB

On how the team collected itself for the win...

“Well, that wasn’t the ideal way we wanted to win the game, especially with how good the defense played. We felt that we should have been putting points on the board the whole game. But if you’re in that situation, you kind of dream of those situations as a kid, you kind of imagine those situations being down with a certain amount of time left. It started off with the running game with Tyler (Ervin), and the o-line, they did a great job. I luckily just got the last play that got us the touchdown. But before that, he was the one that was driving us down the field. The o-line was blocking great. The defense got another stop, and we drove down again with Tyler again, and it ended with me just throwing a simple one-yard route to the tight end. It was a team effort, completely, with the defense playing so well, and at the end, it was just an offense that we just stuck together and kept fighting. We kind of willed ourselves to the win, and that’s with our coaches trusting in us and it’s awesome. It was an awesome way to win, and it wasn’t the ideal way to win, but it was fantastic.”

Christian Tango, Jr., LB

On what the defense did differently to slow Georgia State’s passing attack...

“We put in a package, a three d-lineman package. To start off, Georgia State is a great team. They have a great quarterback. He threw for over 4,000 yards this season, so my hat’s off to them; they played a great game. The game plan that (Greg Robinson) put together was just spectacular. He put three down linemen, and then we had another d-lineman that dropped back to cover the hood, so just the game plan tried to knock him off his feet a little bit. We were able to get back to him a couple times, so just that game plan that (Greg Robinson) put together was incredible.”