



**Quotes
Boise State
vs. San José State
November 27, 2015**



HEAD COACH RON CARAGHER

Opening Statement

I was frustrated with the second half. Everyone knew what was at stake, a chance to come out and get a sixth win, a chance to send our seniors off with a victory in their final game in Spartan Stadium, a chance to beat a school that San José State has never beaten and gain respect on a national level. I think the first half was a slugfest back and forth. We went in and made some changes, not some major changes, but as an offensive staff went to some plays that we felt we didn't get to in the first half and would help us. I think where the game turned was a missed tackle in the third quarter that turned into an 80-yard touchdown run from a plus-two-yard gain. It's frustrating because I think the players were in proper position, but you just have to be able to wrap up. You can't just knock them hard, you have to be able to run your feet, accelerate, throw the uppercuts and put them on their back. While we saw that sometimes, we didn't see that in its entirety. That's where the game got away. I don't think they did anything brilliant by any means. I just think you have to wrap up and do a better job from a fundamental standpoint. That was very frustrating for me. I think some guys hung in there. I think Kenny played a really good game. The interception, the first one, was a misunderstanding and wasn't on Kenny. The second one I think he's just fighting and trying to fight to live another day. Your heart goes out to Tyler Ervin who had an outstanding year, rushing for close to 1,500 yards. Tony Popovich and the other seniors who invested a lot in this program, I thanked them in the locker room for their efforts and sacrifices that they made for the program. They made this place better and we're better for it. I think they had a good experience as well. All in all, it would have been nice to continue what we did into the second half and play that type of game from a defensive standpoint. It just got away, unfortunately.

Did you guys just wear down?

That can happen in the latter part of the season, in game 12. We've taken a look at where we are from a substitution position and it's been tough at the inside linebacker position. That wasn't a deep position for us before the season and we lost Jared Leaf with his concussion, so we have a small number of guys who are playing in there. Part of that was there was a wear-down effect, but that's not sounding like an excuse. We have to be able to overcome that and we have to play through it.

Are there one or two things you need to do to get over the hump and become bowl eligible?

Yeah, I think we're a couple field goals away from winning those games. We have to be solid in all areas of our game. We have to be sound in the kicking game. I think we've made improvements; our punt game has improved but we have to be where we're automatic and make those kicks because a game is a game of inches, and it comes down to that. We make kicks here and there and maybe we win those two games. But it's across the board. A season never comes down to one or two plays. There's always five or six key plays that determine the outcome of the game. We have to improve in those. I like the progress of the recruiting. The offense really

bounced back this year and improved significantly. I think we have a quarterback and we have some good, young players. We started four sophomores on our offensive line and they're all coming back. We'll miss Tyler Ervin – he's a special player. We did miss Tyler Winston down the stretch here – he was out for the last four games, and that's a redzone receiver, a big go-to guy. That was tough, but all in all I think when you go through these challenges you grow as a team. I think our team is improved, and it may not show how much we're improved on the win-loss record, but I think we're improved from a year ago.

RB TYLER ERVIN

You guys were up into the third quarter. What was the feeling and are you surprised it got away so quickly?

Yeah, I was a little surprised. We went in at halftime up and really looking to carry that momentum into the third quarter but they ended up making a couple really good plays and we kind of struggled to bounce back.

You had that big gain and then the tap went off. Was that just the way they were crowding the running lanes?

I have to give it to them. They have a very good defense. They play hard. We just didn't get the job done offensively as far as running the ball. I take a big part of that and I definitely think we could have done a better job.

How disappointing is it to be so close to a bowl game and not be able to get it today?

It's tough. Me being a senior, this is my last year. Not being able to go to a bowl stings a little bit but I think it's a learning experience for our entire team to stay hungry and next year come out and play Spartan football and play the games we know we can play.

QB KENNY POTTER

What are your overall thoughts on the game and throwing two interceptions for the first time in almost a month?

In the first half we played well and in the second half we kind of fell apart. I'm so proud of the seniors and everyone for fighting it out. That's all you can really ask for as a player. As far as the interceptions, they happen I obviously wish I could have them back but things happen during plays. It's tough, it's tough. I wish I could have those plays back but it's too late now. I'm just proud of our guys for fighting and everyone, from the defense to the offense, we never quit. Whether we were down 17 with 2:00 left or whatever, it was awesome to see and I'm proud of everyone.

What's the disappointment level in the locker room about being so close to a bowl and not being able to get over the hump?

Very disappointing. That was our goal coming in. The last two games we had to get two wins, and we knew that. We fought, and that's really all you can ask for. That's a great football team over there. Boise State, they're really good, well coached and have good players. It's

disappointing for everyone, especially the seniors. Our goal was to get them another game. It's a shame we couldn't do that.

Did it seem to you that their defense was geared toward stopping Tyler and making you guys one-dimensional on offense?

No. I think they played the same defense they've played all year. They showed us things we were ready for. They just played better than us tonight.

DT TONY POPOVICH

Did you guys get worn down a little bit?

It was definitely self-inflicted. We were in the right spots at the right time but we missed tackles. I think they scored three touchdowns on missed tackles alone, so that was on the defense. We can't really deny that. Those are with the young players who have a lot of time to develop. Frank Ginda is going to be a really good player. Christian Tago obviously has another year. I think our defense is going to have some really good players next year, but that obviously doesn't help us today.

How disappointing is to get this close and not be able to get there?

It's the first time we've played Boise State since I've been here. To make it such a close game initially and then let it slip away it's really disappointing because we hold ourselves to a higher standard. Every week seems to be close and we let it slip away somehow. That's something we need to stop, and that comes from within. Hopefully they can figure that out next year and make the changes we need to do.

When people ask you didn't reach a bowl game this season, what are you going to tell them?

We shot ourselves in the foot. It all came down to us. Besides San Diego State, there were no teams who really beat us. We beat ourselves a lot of the time. That's just something you have to own up to. You can't really point fingers at anyone else, especially when you know it's your fault. It's coachable things that are going to have to get figured out, and they're obvious on film so hopefully that gets handled. When I look back, I don't have any regrets at all. I had a great time. Obviously I wish we were in the winning column but there's not much I can control about that now. We had some good guys that I played with and that's all I can really count on.