



**Quotes**  
**#16/13 Fresno State**  
**vs. San José State**  
**November 29, 2013**



Head Coach Ron Caragher

“What an exciting win for our program. Our teams battled and competed. Big numbers in the first half by both offenses. Things settled down in the second half and I loved how our defense stepped up and defended Fresno State’s offense. The run game was important to be successful and I was excited to do both that and the onside kick. It was a battle of two offenses that were constantly scoring and the surprise onside was a key point of the football game. This game came down to a few different possessions and adding those were big. I’m proud of the guys. David had a lights-out football game. Guys were making plays and I was proud of all three phases of our game. We wanted to send the seniors off victoriously and get that sixth win to become bowl eligible so it’s an exciting day for San José State. As a head coach, this is up there in my top couple games. This is my favorite win at San José State, to beat our rival, a top-20 team, to be in our stadium. It was exciting to be a part of.”

On how the team rebounded from its recent losses:

“Two of our last three weeks, we’ve had tough losses, as tough as I’ve been around. The key was to not let it knock us down and our guys maintained focus. We understood that the ship can be righted if we got a win today. The seniors shared their stories last night and what it would mean to beat our rival and that ingrained in our guys the importance of this game. That could have been the difference in our game.”

On the surprise onside kick to open the second half:

“At halftime, we talked about what we needed to keep doing and when I came out at halftime, it came down from the box after halftime from Terry Malley and his arena football experience, and he just mentioned it, and I said we should just do it. They were moving the ball so we wanted to roll the dice and surprise them. Harrison kicked a beautiful ball and he was able to slide down and get it. That got us ahead in the possession meter. In the first half, both offenses were scoring constantly.

On the offensive battle of the first half:

“I had that moment of appreciation by what a Wild West shootout it was. At the end of the halftime, there were numbers as if it was the end of the game. It was two offensive football teams executing at a high level and it was going to come down to possessions or who can stop whom.”

On the first half versus second:

“We ran the ball a little better and kept the ball longer. As long as you can keep Carr off the field, that was big. Our guys kept competing, didn’t back down and didn’t blink. I think we came out and played better defensive football in the second half.”

On what message this game sends to a bowl selection committee:

“What an exciting football team and whoever invites San José State will have an exciting team who will play a good game. A lot of the teams we played this season are going to a bowl and in our conference, we finished strong. We can go toe to toe with a lot of people and I liked that this game was on a national stage. We had our backs to the wall and our guys stepped up and got a win. I feel good about getting an invitation because we’ve played a challenging schedule, are above .500 in conference and we’re an exciting team. I think we’re an attractive team to go postseason.”

On the importance of making a bowl game:

“You go back two years ago when SJS went to Fresno and had a huge win, some people thought that catapulted into a successful 2012 season. There’s a lot of excitement now that you know will carry over into a bowl and the offseason. I think this could have a lot of carryover.”

On quarterback David Fales

“Last week when we was 42-56, that was an impressive game by a quarterback and today, he was on the money. It was a great way for him to go out regular season and I’m impressed. The guys around him stepped up. He came out and it was a dual between David and Derek Carr, but David knows you can’t make it personal and you just have to do your job and work to the best of your ability. He’s played so well the last few weeks and he’s a competitor who wants to succeed.”



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Linebacker Keith Smith

On the importance of this game:

“That was one of the big things; we wanted another 15 days together. I was proud of the team. We fought hard. I was proud of both sides of the ball. People made plays when they needed to. We take pride in playing for each other and I feel like that’s what we did today. Young guys stepped up and across the board, we had some young guys who stepped up and it’s much appreciated. It’s always good to see that.”

On his interception off of Fresno State quarterback Derek Carr:

“I was surprise he threw that ball because I thought he looked at me during the play. Maybe he was trying to test me. I thought I was (cornerback) Bené (Benwikere) for a second to get that ball. It was a fortunate play to get that ball.”

On beating a ranked team:

“The last few games we played, we were in those games and we all knew what we were capable of. That gave us extra motivation with our backs against the wall. We still had something to play for; our respect and the possibility of making a bowl game. Our seniors wanted our last game in this stadium and on this turf to go out this way. It’s a blessing. All the weapons Fresno State has, it was a fun game. People were flying around and making plays.”

On what it felt like to play in front of such a big crowd:

“It’s always fun to play in a hostile environment but we knew what to expect. We knew Fresno State would pack the house and we were looking forward to it. That gave us energy and fire. We were fired up when we were going through the seniors and they disrespected us by coming on the field and it fueled the fire.”



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Quarterback David Fales

On what winning this game meant:

“This was what we expected. They’re an explosive offense but our defense stepped up when we needed to. Our veterans stepped up and did what we had to do. We weren’t putting pressure on ourselves. We did it for the seniors. The situation, that we needed to step up and come together as a team, I know the defense went against an offense like that and when they needed to make plays, they did. It was nice to finish our season at home like this.”

On the battle between Fales and Derek Carr:

“On our side of the ball, I was expecting a good offense. It’s exciting and it’s good for us. We stepped up to the challenge.”

On throwing six touchdowns:

“Our receivers were making plays, recognizing everything. We understood that when we went into the red zone, we had to get touchdowns. The one to Kyle Nunn, we knew he’d have a big game. You could tell all week. He had an extreme sense of focus and for him to make a play on that, I was really excited for him. Everyone was seeing the same thing. Our offensive line did a great job.”

On finishing the season in this way:

“We did a good job of forgetting the way this season went. We didn’t let it hold us back because we knew our potential. Our message to a bowl game is that we’re ready. We want another 15 days of practice.”



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Wide Receiver Kyle Nunn

On having a great performance in his final game at Spartan Stadium:

“It feels great to end it right. This was the best game of my career. I felt like it was a complete game and it felt great to have my last game at home. There was a sense of urgency but I had the team on my back to count on me. I wasn’t expecting tonight to go the way it did but I was glad to do so well for my team.”

On playing so well against Fresno State:

“Personally, I have a history with Fresno. They highly recruited me out of high school but decided not to offer me, so I felt like my best game for my final game should be against Fresno. I knew they thought they were better than us and I feel like I had the most aggressive two quarters against us. I had to come out as strong and emotional as ever.”

On beating Fresno State:

“They came in here ranked and we were definitely the underdogs but it feels great to show people. This game is way better than the Military Bowl win. This will be more memorable to me, in front of my family and at home.”



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Wide Receiver Chandler Jones

On beating Fresno State:

“This feels great, to be at home on senior night and beat Fresno State, who came in ranked. This is my favorite game. So many emotions were going through my mind because it’s senior night. My birthday was yesterday and it was a good present. This win definitely uplifted our spirits. For a rivalry game, to possibly ruin their chances of a BCS game, it feels great. The seniors came in and changed the program. A lot of guys worked hard, spent a lot of time training and doing schoolwork to be successful. To see the success we’ve had since being here, words can’t describe how that feels.”

On the back and forth nature of this game:

“After the game, stepping back, I realized what a good game it was but during the game, I was focused. I wish I could’ve had more touchdowns but I’d take zero if it meant a win.”

On his message to a bowl game committee:

“You got David Fales slinging the ball and we’re a hungry team. We’re out there flying around and we’re an exciting team to watch.”