

**Colorado State vs. San Jose State postgame quotes – Oct. 12, 2013**  
**CSU Head Coach Jim McElwain**

*(opening statement)*

*"It's very disappointing, I'm not going to mince any words. That was a game where we had an opportunity to win and we didn't win. I give them all the credit; they made the plays when they needed to. There was a fantastic crowd out there. I feel sick for the homecoming crowd who came out to support these guys, we didn't send them home with a win. We talked going in that you can't give up the explosive plays and they took advantage of it. When you flush them out of the pocket you have to stay in coverage and that's what hurt us a couple of times. You give up 600 yards, follow those on yard after contact. It's beyond me where our tackling went. Offensively we did some things okay, we never did take control of it. That's the story of the ball game. Give that kid credit, he's a hell of a player and he took advantage of us. I just can't tell you how sick I feel for the people who showed up today to support our guys. Now the next step is to go learn from it and we have to go steel some on the road and get some wins on the road. We're going up against a very good team this week, that's a game that has a quarterback that can make plays. We have to work cut out towards that. I'm not going to hit the panic button, because I know we are doing some good things just not enough."*

*(on QB David Fales' effectiveness scrambling)*

*"No it didn't surprise me. The thing he does is that he extends plays and keeps his eyes down the field. So very rarely is he going to run with the ball. What he did is he took advantage and that's how you play the game."*

*(on this being a statement game)*

*"It is very disappointing. We can't sit there when things don't go right all the time in life, you have to learn from it and move forward. We still have a lot to play for and we have some great opponents coming up. There is still a statement to be made by this football team."*

*(on being confused by the secondary still giving up big plays)*

*"I am. Playing is solid, but guys freeze sometimes. We worked scramble drill, the discipline with your eyes, we just got to continue to work on it. That's something we'll obviously do, we do that every week. Emphasize what we need to do when a guy breaks out of trouble."*

*(on reasons for poor tackling)*

*"We tackled pretty well during the off week and tackled well on Wednesday. For whatever reason we need to bring up feet, and ducked our heads and threw some whiffs. We'll get that corrected."*

*(on breakdowns on both sides of the ball in the second half)*

*"They made some big plays, we made a couple big plays and didn't finish. We got the ball down there, bounced one off our hands, (it was) a little bit high. You can say what it is, we didn't finish. That's the bottom line."*

*(on whether it's the adjustments to be made at halftime)*

*"Our adjustments have been solid. The one thing we have to do offensively is to make sure that the playmakers get the ball in their hands and hit the "get-it-tos" early so that they have the opportunities to make plays. (WR) Charles (Lovett) came out and made some plays early and we didn't get him back involved. That's something we need to look at, obviously, and that's a part of coaching."*

*(on how he has talked after previous games about believing in his team, and sounds more disappointed today)*

*"I still believe in them, don't get me wrong at all. I'm disappointed for them, I know about the work that they put in and the work that we are going to continue to put in as we move forward. It's hard to see those faces. Yet if you let it keep you down, it doesn't do you any good. We'll get the corrections on it, come out to practice, and get ready to go up and play for the Bronze Boot."*

*(on inconsistency with offense)*

*"(It's) taking care of business on every single play and being able to overcome some adversity, which I thought we were getting to a little bit based on a couple of games, but obviously it didn't happen today."*

*(on how big the play was in which San Jose State intercepted CSU in the red zone)*

*"There were a couple of third downs where we have to maintain possession and keep them off the field. That's obviously a glaring one, along with some other ones. Give (coach) Ron (Caragher) and those guys credit. That quarterback was on and proved he is more than just a pocket passer."*

*(on whether his team's goals are still in reach)*

*"They are. We have some good things coming up that I'm looking forward to taking care of."*

*(on Kivon Cartwright)*

*"Kivon, and I thought Crockett, came up with some big plays. Both of those guys are playing really well. They're out there giving everything they have on every snap. I like it."*

*(on the offense overall)*

*"We didn't quite get the ball to Joe (Hansley) enough today, and Rashard. We got out of rhythm giving those guys some touches to get them going early. We didn't do it in the second half."*

*(on San Jose State's second interception, by Bene Benwikere)*

*"That was a heck of a play by their guy. Thomas (Coffman) had the inside. Maybe if we throw it out a little farther he can run to it. He made a good play on it, the safety bit and we're one-on-one with the ball out there."*

*(on the red zone defense having some success)*

*"They (the defense) gave us a chance. The scary part is that they got down there. We have to do a lot better job on first down. When you get into second (down) and those medium or short, now you've got everything in your arsenal. We have to do better job on first down."*

*(on giving up big plays)*

*"We're working on our deficiencies so that we get better. This is a heck of a quarterback that we have to play next week (Wyoming's Brett Smith). We can't let that guy control the game like this guy did."*

*(on whether offensive inconsistency is tied to lack of an explosive running game)*

*"With a game like that, maybe a little bit. We're not establishing the run enough. We had some opportunities for some big plays and we didn't take it."*

*(on Greg Myers)*

*"Here's a guy who won the Thorpe Award. Here's a guy who was an unbelievable student and now he's a doctor. One of those former Rams that is the epitome of what it's all about. I was excited for Greg. He's a*

*great supporter and a friend of this family. It will be nice to see that (jersey number in stadium) when you come out to Hughes every day."*

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**CSU Players**

**LINEBACKER CORY JAMES**

*(on SJSU QB David Fales)*

“That is frustrating for all of us. We want a sack, we want to make a game-changing play but the quarterback is good enough to scramble out of it. It was pretty frustrating.”

*(on the defense giving up big plays)*

“Of course we’re mad but we have to keep on practicing to prevent big plays.”

*(on what the team has to do to bounce back)*

“We just have to stay focused and focus on getting a win next weekend. We need to work on it little-by-little every week.”

*(on what the locker room was like)*

“We are down and it’s kind of quiet. We just need to bounce back from it.”

*(on whether the team will use this as motivation next week at Wyoming)*

“Yeah. We have to fix those missed tackles and busted coverage.”

**QUARTERBACK GARRETT GRAYSON**

*(on the most frustrating part of Saturday’s game)*

“The fact that we didn’t finish in the fourth quarter. Coach Mac talks about it all the time, that is what you have to do. You can start as fast as you want but if you don’t finish, things like that will happen. We didn’t come out and finish like we all want.”

*(on whether SJSU made defensive adjustments in the second half)*

“We have to give them credit. They are one (heck) of a team. Like Coach Mac says all the time, it’s not about them, it’s about what we do. If we execute what plays are called we should win the game, we should get the yards. If we don’t execute we don’t make plays and I don’t throw the ball well, we aren’t going to win games.”

*(on whether his first interception was a back-breaker)*

“It didn’t feel good, obviously. We come out and hit the huge play and we are feeling good about ourselves and then the next play we have the exact look we want, Kivon (Cartwright) was wide open and I just threw it a little bit too high.”

*(on throwing more deep passes than usual)*

“That was kind of in the game plan. We knew they had certain guys they’d put in there for run situations and we wanted them to play pass defense. We had some big plays. When they’re called you have to execute and in the first half we did that but in the second half we didn’t necessarily do that.”

*(on whether TE Kivon Cartwright has emerged as his go-to guy)*

“I think a lot of teams are focusing so much on Crockett (Gillmore) and when his number is called he is going to make a play for you. As I said, that interception I had, that tipped pass, it is not on him at all. It was over his head. He is making plays for me. He is a guy I can count on. I know when it comes down to a situation where we need a big play I can count on him to come up with it.”

## **S TRENT MATTHEWS**

(on fixing the big plays)

"How we fix it is first of all, lock in what the coaches say. Secondly, is to find a man and stay on a man, even if he scrambles. Third, is just play with good communication and good eyes. If we do those three things next week, hopefully those explosive plays won't happen."

(On the defense trying to make the big hit rather than just tackle on Lawson)

"We thought we had it, or we knew we had it, and he was just a great runner. I give credit to him. He ran through tackles when we were supposed to stop him at two yards he gained another three. That happens in football. We're going to have to watch film next week, run through our hits, wrap up and hopefully it won't happen again."

(On tacking not usually being a big issue)

"I'm glad it happened now, so later on we know how to do it. Luckily it happened now, that way we can just fix it."

(On what was harder giving up big plays or long drives)

"Giving up all three of them really. They all matter. They all counted. It happened and now we just have to find a way to fix it."

## **TE KIVON CARTWRIGHT**

(On personal soul searching)

"First off, we made it through, we made it healthy and we have lots to be thankful for. So, I just give all my prayers to God. I know a lot of my teammates who put our faith in the lord and give him everything we got, and if you come up short, you come up short, it happens. During the game we had our opportunities to make plays, but I feel like as an offensive unit and as a defensive unit we did not make the plays that we should have. Our coaches did a great job of putting us in the opportunity to make plays."

(On personal soul searching)

"Anytime you lose, you're disappointed and those thoughts start rolling through your head. I know the guys in that locker room, I know we came out and we gave it our everything and I know that we fought hard to the end. As long as we leave everything out on the field, we can handle it."

(On executing)

"One thing, it comes down to is playmakers. Our playmakers making plays, it's as simple as that. When they call your number you just have to come up big. You just do your job. As a playmaker it's your job to make the big plays, it's your job to do that. I feel like this game, we didn't do our job as best as we should have."

(On his speed)

"I just play as hard as I can. I just always feel like someone is right behind me, no matter if I'm wide open or not, I always feel like someone is right behind me trying to catch me. I just play hard."

(On taking the offense on his shoulders)

“My mentality going into the game is not to carry anyone on your shoulders. My mentality is to give everything you have to God and let him make a way. He has been making a way, and he will keep making a way. As an offensive unit it just comes down to doing your job. If they call my number it’s my job to make a play, it’s as simple as that.”

(On the biggest thing they need to take away from this game)

“The biggest thing I’m going to take away from it is just that it all comes down to a few plays. I feel like we did some great things on offense, we did some great things on defense; but when it was the third quarter, when it’s crunch time, when your number is called and this one play could affect the fourth quarter with two minutes left in the game, you’ve got to seize the moment. Sometimes as athletes sometimes we don’t think that the play in the second quarter, or the play in the third quarter is a game winner because you have a long time to play. Those plays early can change the whole fourth quarter.”

(On what the biggest thing to focus on next week)

“I was telling some guys in the locker room, it doesn’t matter what happens to you ever, in life, it’s how you respond to it. Whether it’s good or bad, it’s how you respond to it. We just have to go to work, and we’re a very resilient team. The guys on the team we know what’s ahead of us and we just have to go to work. We’re thinking of Monday’s practice and Tuesday’s practice, so we just have to come to work.”