



WYOMING

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University of Wyoming Postgame Notes

Following a 27-24 home loss vs. San Diego State in the 2016 Mountain West Football Championship on Dec. 3, 2016, at Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie, Wyo.

Team Notes

- Saturday's conference championship game marked the 37th matchup between the two programs. Wyoming leads the all-time series, 19-18.
- Wyoming now holds a 12-7 all-time record against the Aztecs in Laramie.
- The attendance for Saturday's game was 24,001.
- Saturday's game was the fourth championship game in Mountain West history, with San Diego State making its second appearance and Wyoming making its first appearance.

Offensive Notes

- Josh Allen found Jacob Hollister for a 12-yard touchdown connection with 4:49 remaining in the first quarter, Hollister's seventh TD catch of the season and the 12th of his career. The catch gave Hollister 500 yards receiving on the season.
- Brian Hill caught two passes for 17 yards, marking his first game this season with multiple receptions.
- Hill unleashed a 66-yard run in the third quarter, his longest rush since a 72-yarder against UNLV on Nov. 28, 2015. Hill's run was the longest ever by any player in a MW Championship game.
- Hill rushed for 93 yards on the night. He now has 1,767 rushing this season adding to his single season record.
- Tyree Mayfield hauled in a 15-yard pass in the third quarter, the longest reception of his career.
- Allen found Tanner Gentry for a 33-yard touchdown with 13:49 remaining in the game to cap an 8-play, 75-yard touchdown drive. It was Gentry's 12th touchdown of the season.
- Gentry's 12 receiving touchdowns this season are tied for the fifth-most in a single season in Cowboy history.
- With 18 touchdown receptions in his career, Gentry remains sixth all-time on Wyoming's all-time list for receiving touchdowns.
- With 81 yards in the game, Gentry moved into fifth place all-time for career receiving yards at Wyoming with 2,702.
- Allen found C.J. Johnson for a 43-yard touchdown with 6:12 left in the game, the longest reception of his career.
- Allen's 26 passing touchdowns during the 2016 season give him the fourth-best single-season total in Wyoming history.
- Allen is responsible for 33 touchdowns during the 2016 season, tying him with Brett Smith (2012, 2013) for the third-best single-season total in Wyoming history.

Defensive Notes

- Freshman Cassh Maluia made his first career start at linebacker on Saturday. He recorded a career high in tackles with five.
- Nose tackle Sidney Malauulu made his first career interception on a tipped pass in the first quarter.
- With another tackle for loss on Saturday, Kevin Prosser now has at least one TFL in five of his last seven games.
- Prosser set a new career high with five tackles in the game.
- Freshman Shiloh Windsor posted a career high with two tackles.
- Marcus Epps tied a career high with 13 tackles on Saturday, his fourth game with double-digit tackles this season and the eighth such game of his career.
- Epps went over 100 tackles for the season during the game, ending the contest with 108 for the year. He joins Andrew Wingard as the two Cowboys to register over 100 tackles this season.
- Wingard's nine tackles give him 128 for the season, tying him with Gabe Knapton (2009) for the 10th-best single-season total in Cowboy history and bringing his career total to 250 tackles even.
- Redshirt freshman Youhanna Ghaifan recorded two sacks in the game as part of a career-best eight tackles. On his second sack of the game, Ghaifan forced the first fumble of his career.
- Late in the fourth quarter, Logan Wilson posted his first career forced fumble, with Marcus Epps recovering for his third fumble recovery of the season.
- The Wyoming defense held San Diego State quarterback Christian Chapman to just 85 passing yards.

Special Teams Notes

- Cooper Rothe tied his career-long field goal with a 46-yard make at the 8:04 mark of the first quarter. It was his seventh consecutive made field goal, dating back to Wyoming's showdown with Boise State on Oct. 29. He missed a 42-yard field goal in the third quarter to end his streak.
- Senior punter Ethan Wood punted five times for 224 yards, averaging 44.8 yards per punt with a long of 52.



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Head Coach Craig Bohl

Opening Statement

"I want to congratulate San Diego State and Coach Long. Their team was well prepared and it was a hard fought game. That did not surprise our football team, it did not surprise me and I'm sure it did not surprise San Diego State. San Diego State made more plays tonight than what we did. We want to congratulate them. I also want to say so much thanks to our seniors. During the course of this year, the things they have accomplished, really no one would've thought of at the beginning of the year except for those seniors and myself. We had set a goal to win the conference championship and we came up short. We'll move on. We'll be in a bowl game. We don't know which one or where it's going to be, but we've still got some more season to play, so that's where I want to start."

On what the season has meant to him

"If you remember how the season started out here, it was a game that was decided at about 3 o'clock in the morning. What became apparent was the resolve and the belief that these players have in each other, and the coaches. That belief and that togetherness and that unity really pushed us to overcome some difficult, challenging times. There's no doubt that the trajectory of this program, the arrow is pointing up. That's credited to these seniors. We have an exciting ballgame left. We want to cap off our season on a high note. I can tell you that I believe the stage is set. The culture in the locker room has shifted 180 degrees. There's a winning attitude. There's a never-say-die attitude. That's all part of building a program. We certainly wanted to have an opportunity to win the championship this year. We didn't get it done, but in my mind these guys are champions because they have set the stage to propel our program to higher levels."

On what San Diego State was doing with its pass rush

"We really had a difficult time getting the running game going tonight, and the two go hand-in-glove, because that had a real impact on what we could do play-action pass wise. I think we really need to credit San Diego State. They came into the game two games ago with the number one defense in the conference. Coach Long and I talked before the game. We both were scratching our heads about what had happened with the performance the week before. I think some of that was just the fact that you had two football teams that laid it all on the line and the tanks were empty. We responded tonight. We were out of kilter a little bit. We had a hard time getting man on man. Josh said it pretty accurately. The pocket was collapsed quite a bit and he didn't have a lot of time. Some of that goes with that we had tons of third down and longs. Whenever you have third down and long, you're chasing the sticks. That's always an advantage to the defensive coach. I'm an old defensive coach and Coach Long did a good job with that. Josh and the receivers made some plays. I think a lot of it was that we were just ineffective on first down and our third down conversion, I know at halftime, was like one-for-seven. Their stunts, their blitzes, they came up and we could never really make them pay for some of those blitzes they had."

On if he thought Coach Long would attempt a fourth-down conversion late in the fourth quarter

"Well we were going back and forth preparing for either a field goal or going for it on fourth down. I think Rocky's got a great instinct. He knows his football team well. We came up with a big play there. I thought the momentum switched, but they responded and their defense came back and played. There were lots of ebbs and flows in this football game. I thought it was a dynamic football game. I want to say a big shout-out to our fans. It's a commitment for them to come here on a cold night. I thought the atmosphere was electric. I know that wasn't an answer to your question, but I want to have that woven in. I appreciate our fans showing up tonight."

Sophomore Defensive Back Marcus Epps**On responding to the tough game from last week**

"We're just a resilient group on defense. We fight. That's just what we pride ourselves on, is fighting and playing as hard as we can each week. That's what we came out and tried to do tonight."

On the defense's response to the many injuries it has suffered this season

"It's definitely tough, but we trust anyone we have to put out there. On defense, everybody's tuned in and everybody gets a lot of reps in practice. Everybody cares a lot. We trust in anybody that we need to put out on the field. It's definitely tough to overcome those injuries, but that's just what we had to try to do."

Redshirt Sophomore Quarterback Josh Allen

On his running game

"They did a good job of getting pressure. They contained and collapsed the pocket a few times and I wasn't able to make enough plays. Obviously, I turned the ball over three times in our end of the field and that's not how you win games. I just didn't play good enough. I didn't make enough plays. That's about it."

On Tanner Gentry

"It's kind of just something we've developed. Every time I roll out and point my fingers, it just seems to end up in [number] four's hands. We're really good friends off the field. We hang out basically twenty-four seven. I love this man right here. I love all my teammates. I wish we could've sent him out on top of the Mountain West. It didn't happen. We've got one more game left and we're going to tend to send him out well there."

On San Diego State's pass rush

"They brought a few different stunts and blitzes that we really didn't prepare all that much for. They played a lot of man, and they brought it almost every play it seemed like. It's hard to adjust to that in games sometimes. They were ready."

On chasing down Demontae Kazee to force a fumble through the endzone for a touchback after he threw an interception

"I was just trying to correct a mistake I made. I shouldn't have made the throw. I was fortunate enough to meet him at the goal line and just jar it loose. It was a tough one tonight. I just didn't play well enough. I take it a lot on my shoulders. I would do anything for my teammates and for Coach Bohl. He's been a huge inspiration for us this year. From 2-10 last year to a conference championship game this year, it just speaks volumes about his style of coaching and the players that he gets and how he coaches."

Senior Wide Receiver Tanner Gentry**On his last game at War Memorial Stadium**

"It's been a really fun ride the past four years. I went through a lot of different coaches and a lot of quarterbacks. This is the most fun I've had playing football in my life this year. I love this team. It's been a blast to go through that journey, through the ups and downs. To play in that game was pretty special."



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San Diego State Postgame Quotes

Following a 27-24 road win at Wyoming in the 2016 Mountain West Football Championship on Dec. 3, 2016, at Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie, Wyo.

Head Coach Rocky Long

Thoughts Overall

"I thought that was a great football game. If you weren't a fan of either team or the other it was really exciting. I give credit to Wyoming. They are very tough, well coach, played their hearts out and just like we did two weeks ago the other team came out on the other end. So that's the way the championship should be, two teams playing their hearts out and playing out until the end. The Mountain West got the type of championship like it should."

Being aggressive and going on it on fourth down

"Our team is built on taking chances and I have no problem on going for a touchdown rather than kicking a field goal. At the end of the game, Wyoming was out of timeouts if you run the clock down it didn't matter either way they would have had to score a touchdown. If you kick the field goal the game could have been tied up but if you get a first down the game would be over. It's as simple decision to me."

Adjustments on the defensive side

"Our players played better. I hate to be simple like that, but our players executed a lot better than we did a few weeks ago."

What you've seen from the Wyoming program

"First of all, Craig and I are friends. He is a very successful coach and has a formula for wherever he is at. I remember last year when he was struggling, people were getting on him. I told him to be himself and that's what he is, what you see is what you get and he's one of the best coach's in the country. He's taken Wyoming to the top of their division and almost beat us for the conference championship. You can't get a better coach than he is. The problem is Wyoming is going to get better and that's a problem for the rest of us."

Refocusing after Colorado State loss

"As everyone in this room knows, San Diego State and Wyoming played two weeks ago and it was very similar to this one. Both teams played their hearts out in that game. My answer to last week was that we were emotionally spent because of the previous game. That gave us a week to refocus on one another and that's why you saw such a good game tonight. Both teams played to their potential, only one team could win and it was us."

Running Back Rashaad Penny

Talk about how well you've played in Laramie

"The wedge in the kicking game done a great job all year long. I haven't returned that many kicks but the ones I've got they've found a way for me to take advantage of that. We controlled it. It was a team effort. It's what we've been fighting for."

Pulling out back to back championships

"It was about toughness. We started back in January with all of the early lifting and running. It's all about grinding and getting after it. I think we did a great job executing. One thing about this team, we never let down and kept fighting. That's something special about us."

Cornerback Damontae Kazee

Talk about the change of the defense from last week

"We practiced a lot better and brought a lot more energy. The first interception I fumbled in the end zone which was my fault. I got another one so that made up for it. The quarterback was getting rushed out of the pocket and he had to throw it somewhere so credit to the line and the linebackers."

Running Back Donnel Pumphrey

Difference between tonight and the last couple of weeks

"I think it comes down to the line of scrimmage. The offensive line was able to control the line of scrimmage and that's what we rely on heavily. Going in to this game we wanted to control both sides of the ball and tonight we were able to do that. We had two 100-yard rushers so it showed what we able to do today."

Reaching the NCAA record

"I just want to be able to do it for my teammates, honestly. Winning the MW Championship was the ultimate goal and we got that and I'm happy and excited about that."



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San Diego State (10-3) **27**, Wyoming (8-5) **24**

Saturday, Dec. 3 – Cowboy Stadium – Laramie, Wyo.

Final Score	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	--	<u>Final</u>
San Diego State	7	3	14	3	--	27
Wyoming	10	0	0	14	--	24

Championship Notes

- San Diego State won its second outright Mountain West title, third Mountain West title overall and 21st overall league championship in program history.
- The Aztecs claimed their third MW title in the last five seasons (2012 co-champions and 2015 outright champions).
- SDSU's three titles since 2012 are the most in the MW.
- San Diego State became the first road team to win the MW Championship since the league moved to division play in 2013.
- Aztec head coach Rocky Long joined TCU's Gary Patterson (2009-11), Brigham Young's Bronco Mendenhall (2006-07) and Utah's Urban Meyer (2003-04) as the only back-to-back winners in league history.
- SDSU won its second straight league title for the first time since winning three consecutive conference championships as a member of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association (PCAA) from 1972-74.
- San Diego State's three conference championships this decade are its most since claiming four championships in the 1970s.

10-Win Season Notes

- San Diego State won its 10th game of the season and now has back-to-back 10-win seasons for the first time while being a member of a conference in its Division I history (since 1969).
- The Aztecs have 10 wins in consecutive seasons for the first time since 1976-77 while they were an independent.
- SDSU has back-to-back 10-win campaigns as a member of a conference for the first time since 1966-67 while a member of the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA).
- San Diego State has 10 wins in each of its last two seasons after not recording one its previous 37 years (since 1977).
- The Aztecs' 21 wins over the past two years are the program's most in their Division I era (since 1969) and most since winning 21 from 1966-67.

Big Notes

- SDSU won for the 20th time over the last 23 games (20-3).
- Pumphrey passed Ricky Williams into second place on the all-time NCAA FBS rushing list (now has 6,290 yards).
- Pumphrey recorded his 10th 100-yard rushing game and 32nd of his career with 110 yards and one touchdown on

- 25 carries (4.4 avg.). The 10 100-yard rushing games in a season ties his 2014 school record.
- Rashaad Penny recorded his fifth 100-yard rushing game of his career with 117 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries (7.3 avg.).
- SDSU had two 100-yard rushers in the same game for the sixth time this season and 27th time in school history. San Diego State is now 26-1 when it has multiple 100-yard rushers.
- San Diego State won its 32nd consecutive game when rushing for at least 200 yards. The Aztecs are now 40-2 in the Rocky Long era when rushing for 200-plus yards.

Team Notes

- The Aztecs improved to 11-3 (.786) against Mountain West, Mountain Division teams (the rest of the West Division is 17-45 (.274)).
- SDSU was tied, 10-10, at the half and has now not trailed at the half in 12 consecutive road/neutral games.

Trends

- SDSU started with the ball for the 61st time over the last 69 games.
- San Diego State won the coin toss for the 22nd time over the last 37 games.
- The Aztecs have now gone 130 games without suffering a shutout (Nov. 18, 2006 at TCU), which is the third-longest streak among current Mountain West schools (Air Force at 296 and Boise State at 249). That is the only time SDSU has been shut out in their last 222 games.
- SDSU held an opponent scoreless on its opening drive for the 18th time over the last 24 games and 19th time over the last two seasons (27 games).
- San Diego State has scored in 22 straight second quarters.
- The Aztecs improved to 10-2 this year and 45-10 in the Rocky Long era when leading after three quarters.

The Series

- San Diego State improved to 18-19 all-time against Wyoming.
- The Aztecs are now 7-12 all-time against the Cowboys in Laramie.
- SDSU has won three of the last four games in the series and four of the past six.

Player Notes

*** Donnel Pumphrey, Sr., RB (25 att., 117 yds., 1 TD)**

- Rushed 25 times for 117 yards and a touchdown.
- Passed Ricky Williams into second place on the all-time NCAA FBS rushing list with 6,290 yards.
- Became the 22nd player in NCAA FBS single-season history to record 2,000 rushing yards (now has 2,018).
- Recorded his 10th 100-yard rushing game of the season and 32nd of his career. The 10 100-yard games ties his own record (set in 2014), while his 32 career 100-yards games extends his SDSU record.
- Became the school's single-season leader in all-purpose yards with 2,229 yards.
- Passed Tavon Austin into seventh place in NCAA FBS history with 7,374 yards.
- The rushing touchdown was his 16th of the season and 61st of his career.
- Now has 16 overall touchdowns and 66 for his career, passing DeMarco Murray (Oklahoma) and Anthony Thompson (Indiana) for ninth on the all-time NCAA FBS list.

*** Rashaad Penny, Jr., RB/KR (16 att., 117 yds., 2 TD | 2 rec., 13 yds. | 2 KR, 113 yds.)**

- Rushed 16 times for 117 yards (7.3 avg.) and two touchdowns, while adding two receptions for 13 yards and two kick returns for 113 yards.
- Was named the game's Most Valuable Offensive Player.

- It was his 10th and 11th rushing touchdowns of the year (14th and 15th of his career) and 15th and 17th overall scores this season (23rd and 24th of career).

*** Christian Chapman, So., QB (6-for-13, 85 yds., 0 TD, 1 INT)**

- Was 6-for-13 for 85 yards and an interception.
- Improved to 12-3 as the starting quarterback.

*** John Baron, So., K (2-for-2 FG, 37 Long, 3-for-3 PATs)**

- Was 2-for-2 on field goal attempts and 3-for-3 on PATs.
- Is now 19-for-21 (.905) on the season on field goal attempts, the best mark in SDSU single-season history.
- Has made 17 straight field goals under 51 yards.

*** Damontae Kazee, Sr., CB (6 tackles (2 solo), 2 INT, 2 PBU)**

- Had six tackles, two interceptions for 44 yards and two pass breakups.
- Was named the game's Most Valuable Defensive Player.
- Recorded his sixth and seventh interceptions of the season and 16th and 17th of his career. The seven interceptions are tied for the fourth most in SDSU single-season history, while his 17 career picks extend his career record.
- Recorded multiple interceptions in a game for the second time this year and third time of his career.
- Became the first Aztec in program history with six or more interceptions in consecutive seasons.

*** Sergio Phillips, Jr., DT (10 tackles (4 solo), 1.0 sack, 1.0 TFL, 1 PBU)**

- Had a career-high 10 tackles, including a sack and a tackle for loss, and a pass breakup.
- Led the team in tackles for the first time of his career.

*** Kyle Kelley, Sr., DE (5 tackles, 2.0 sacks, 2.0 TFL, 1 FR)**

- Had five tackles, two sacks, two tackles for loss and a fumble recovery.
- The fumble recovery was the first of his career.

Other Notes

- CB Damontae Kazee, LB Calvin Munson, RB Donnel Pumphrey, LG Nico Siragusa and WAR Malik Smith each started for the 40^h straight game, the longest streaks on the team (does not include specialists).
- RT Daniel Brunskill, RB Donnel Pumphrey and LG Nico Siragusa each played in their 53rd consecutive game, the longest streak on the team.
- Jay Henderson forced his first career fumble.
- Tonight's game temperature was 18 degrees, tied for the second-coldest game in SDSU's recorded history.
- Tonight's attendance was 24,001.

-SDSU-