



# ARKANSAS

FOOTBALL



## SAN JOSE STATE vs ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | FAYETTEVILLE, AR

### POSTGAME QUOTES: ARKANSAS HC CHAD MORRIS & PLAYERS

#### CHAD MORRIS

##### OPENING STATEMENT

"First of all I want to credit San Jose State and Coach Brennan. His guys outplayed our guys, they outcoached us and I was very disappointed in the effort that we got tonight. For three quarters, they were the SEC football team. They took it to us and from the very first play they had us on our heels. It was very disappointing, extremely disappointing. We had great fight to come back and tie the game, but then we let them go down the field and score on us. We couldn't hold any momentum but credit those guys.

Everyone's going to be held accountable, from me down. I am going to hold every coach, every player, every staff member accountable. We are going to get back in here tomorrow and figure it out. This performance is completely unacceptable. You get what you deserve in life, and we did not deserve to win this football game. Anytime you have five turnovers and you allow a guy to throw for over 400 yards on you and go down the field on you like nothing, you lose. Missed tackles, unacceptable, completely unacceptable. We had an opportunity to capture some momentum at home and you got fourth and short on a couple of occasions and we can't convert fourth and short, so unacceptable. Just very disappointed. They outplayed us. I am going to give those guys credit, but this will be a defining moment for this football team this week and moving forward."

##### ON WHAT HE SAW FROM NICK STARKEL...

"Well I thought that we forced some things. I thought that we had some opportunities getting down in the red zone. We got to play within the system, that's first and foremost, we got to play within the system, we have to take what they give us and we can't force everything. I thought he forced some balls tonight, I thought he pressed a little bit and that was uncharacteristic, he did not do that the week before. It wasn't just that, we got to keep him clean too. We got to be able to be effective in running the football. We threw the ball 50 times tonight. That is entirely too many."

##### ON THE LAST OFFENSIVE DRIVE OF THE GAME...

"I thought the guy made a couple really good throws and I thought they made some great catches on some back-shoulder balls. I thought we did a decent job in the second half. We can't wait till the second half to decide we want to play solid defense. The guy made some plays. Give those guys credit, they found a way to drive down the field on us and they made some plays. We weren't there to make them."

##### ON HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE OFFENSE TO TIE THE GAME...

"We work two-minute offense every week. I thought well we got one timeout, a minute thirteen, we have done this before. I thought let's go. I thought that we underthrew Mike, I thought Mike was open. We had an opportunity, we knew they would be rushing three and dropping eight. We had to find the holes in there. I thought we had a chance to get the ball over the top, but we just didn't make it happen."

##### ON BOUNCING BACK FROM TONIGHT'S LOSS...

"Well we are going to find out, we are going to find out. It's a gut check time now. Its accountability, it is a gut check. We are going to find out a lot about ourselves this week."

##### ON TREY KNOX'S PLAYMAKING ABILITY...

"Well I think we have said Trey is going to be a great football player for us. He is a freshman and he is going to make mistakes, but obviously it was a big catch right there in the end zone for him. That was good to get the game tied."

##### ON DEFENSIVE ISSUES...

"You saw the same game I did. I thought [San Jose State] did whatever they wanted to do as far as throwing the football. We knew that [Tre Walker] was coming back, he had been out the first two weeks of the season. We knew that he was a great receiver and it showed, he had 120 yards receiving tonight. [Josh Love] was 32-49 for 402 yards, he had a great game too. Even though we were better in the second half, our third-down conversion rate in the first half was not good, we were letting these guys convert too many third downs. The bottom line is they outplayed us. I thought that Love had a career night.

"I was very disappointed in our lack of short-yardage conversion, it stalled drives. That's a gut check is what that is, regardless of how we're moving the ball, we've got to be able to knock the pile back and keep drives going. When we go for it on fourth down, which is who we are, we're going to be aggressive, we have to be able to get those downs, and we just weren't. Credit to San Jose State for stopping us in those moments."

##### ON THE TEAM'S MENTAL FOCUS HEADING INTO TONIGHT'S GAME...

"I was a little concerned in pregame warmups, to be honest. I thought we were a little too loose, I thought it was a little too giddy. I made comment of that. We're not good enough to be able to come out, walk out onto the field with a Razorback logo on our helmets and expect to win. We've got to show up and play, and we didn't, in any phase of the game. We punted the ball halfway decent tonight. I love the fight; we came back and tied the game, but we just couldn't finish it."

## **QUARTERBACK NICK STARKEL**

### ***ON HIS INTERCEPTIONS...***

"Yeah, I know, I felt like I tried to force the ball a little bit. Definitely wasn't just 'take what the defense was giving us'. It was just bad quarterback play. And I feel like I let everybody down; let my teammates down, my brothers, my family, these coaches who worked so hard to prepare us, get us in the right calls. I just let them down."

### ***ON FACING TEXAS A&M NEXT WEEK...***

"It's just another week, I have to refocus. Lacked focus this week. And that won't happen again."

### ***ON REMAINING CONFIDENT...***

"Yeah, at the end of the day, I wasn't good enough tonight. But that doesn't mean that my teammates don't believe in me. And, if I have the ball in my hands, I'm going to keep fighting. I'm not going to let, you know, missing the throw here, throwing the pick there, determine how I play the next play. I'm going to go out slinging if I'm going to go out."

## **LINEBACKER BUMPER POOL**

### ***ON HIS SHOULDER AND DEFENSIVE PERFORMANCE...***

"I'm feeling good, my shoulder is feeling fine. I had a good week, I thought it felt good, and tonight it felt fine. Obviously, we didn't do what we needed to do in the first half, and it hurts, but were going to bounce back, we're going to get back to work."

### ***ON THE LAST DRIVE OF THE GAME...***

"[San Jose State] made a couple of good plays. I thought we, for the most part, responded well in the second half. They made plays late, and we started off slow."

### ***ON THE TEAM'S FOCUS...***

"I think we wanted to win this game like we want to win every game."

### ***ON BOUNCING BACK FROM TONIGHT'S LOSS...***

"We just go in tomorrow, like Mike [Woods] said, and just hit the reset button. Our culture is different, like I talked about after Ole Miss. We're going to go back in there and we're going to work, we're not going to quit. This is only game four, we have a lot of football left. We're not stopping."

### ***ON SJSU RECEIVER TRE WALKER...***

"Obviously [Tre Walker] made plays. We will get back in the film room tomorrow, we'll watch it, we'll see the breakdowns. We have got to look ourselves in the mirror, dig deep and prepare for next week."

## **SAFETY KAM CURL**

### ***ON BEING MENTALLY PREPARED FOR THE GAME...***

"I thought we were ready but obviously we weren't because from the start of the game, we were chasing them. Obviously, we weren't ready."

### ***ON SJSU RECEIVER TRE WALKER...***

"We were just having breakdowns. We really just need to watch the film. He [Walker] is a good player. The goal is to go make plays for your team. That's what he did."

### ***ON BOUNCING BACK FROM TONIGHT'S LOSS...***

"We just have to watch the film tomorrow. [We have to] press the reset button. We can't dwell on it."

### ***ON THE LAST DEFENSIVE DRIVE OF THE GAME...***

"We had the confidence to win the game, but it didn't happen. They made some plays in the air and then they had that rushing touchdown."