

Fresno State vs. Sacramento State Post-game Press Conference

Head Coach Tim DeRuyter

On the game...

"I am real proud of our guys' win today. Obviously it was a little sloppy early on. I really want to thank the Red Wave and the students for coming out, that was a great crowd for the home opener, I really appreciate their efforts. I wish we would have given them a better show in the first half, but I am real proud of our guys for the second half. I am real happy with how our defense played pretty much the entire game. We gave up a big throw early on, we got a little lazy with our eyes, but after that we really buckled down and held them to less than 100 yards rushing and passing, and in today's football, that is hard to do. The other thing we talked about all week was getting pressure on the quarterbacks, and our guys got that done today. Offensively, we are still a work in progress. We made a commitment to run the ball better and I think we wore on them as things went on. Early on, I think we struggled to block, but things cleaned up in that sense. Our special teams helped us, particularly with field position. Blake [Cusick] did a nice job pinning them down, Jimmy [Camacho] kicked the ball up well, and our coverage units covered the ball well. Overall, I thought they were a big plus in helping us win the game."

On Chason Virgil...

"Chason has probably had better efforts. He found a way to get our team to win, but early on he struggled a little bit. We will have to coach him up better this week."

On his halftime speech...

"It needed to be measured. I thought we were playing really well defensively. Other than that one big play Sacramento State had, I thought our guys were playing well. I wanted to make sure our guys knew that we had the lead. Even though Sacramento State had some momentum, they really didn't make a play. They had a freak play happen, which we have to give them credit for, and they hit that field goal. I think our defense thought the game was at hand, but we wanted to kick start our offense a little bit. We weren't playing really well and we got their attention at halftime."

On the slow start offensively...

"We wanted to establish a run early. I know Sacramento State played hard, and I give them credit. They were beating blocks and doing a good job tackling. We were forced to throw a little more than we had wanted to early on in the game, but we give them credit for that. When we were throwing the ball, Chason [Virgil] was a little bit off, but when he was on, we had guys drop balls. We can't do that. You have to move the ball on third down and you have to protect your quarterback."

On the win...

"I don't think it would be frustrating. A win is a win. The key is, how do you learn from it. Every time you play, whether you win or you lose, you are looking for ways to play better, ways to get your team to execute better. Frustration is not the word I would use. You should never apologize for winning a football game, it is too hard to win."

On this game being a mirror image of the Nebraska game...

"Give Sacramento State credit, they held in. That is a group with a lot of pride and a great coach. They are a young team and they came out with a lot of fire. In a lot of ways they are very similar to us, they are very young. They got punched in the nose last week at home and we knew they were going to respond. We give them credit, but eventually we were able to block a little better to wear them down a little and get some takeaways and that momentum helped us to get the running game going and be able to seal the deal."

On the team's confidence going into Toledo next week...

"I certainly hope it helps. We will need a confident team going on the road to beat a really good Toledo team. They are 2-0, a team who won 10 or 11 ball games last year, and they are getting a lot of their guys back this year. We know it is going to be a big challenge. They are a very talented football team, and we are going to have to improve by a ton to be able to beat them."

On Fresno State receivers' performance tonight...

"I thought both of them were really focused and running great routes. Chason [Virgil] found them well, they made some difficult catches, and it was just a nice job overall. They have been practicing well. I challenged KeeSean [Johnson] to step up and play better, and I really thought that he did."

On putting on a show for the Red Wave...

"Winning is the key thing. At home, we like entertaining the fans, but the bottom line is, we have got to find a way to win. If you can do both, great. I know early on, we did not execute very well and that could be frustrating for the coaches, as well as the fans, and I get that. We finally got it going late, and I am not going to apologize for a win, because we did take the win. We have a lot of things to learn from, and we have got to get a lot better in our execution."

Quarterback Chason Virgil

On the first half...

"We weren't doing our jobs. There were a few plays where I missed reads and didn't complete some passes. Sacramento State came out and did a good job, they played their game."

On the game...

"We got the win, but personally I'm not happy with the way I played. I'm grateful that I had the other 10 guys on the field, our offense played a really good game. The receivers made plays late in the game to try to seal the deal for us."

On the fourth quarter...

"It showed that when we calm down and play our game we can put points on the board. It gives us a little bit of confidence, but we know there are things we have to get better at."

On halftime adjustments...

"There really wasn't any halftime adjustments. It just came down to us playing our game, doing our assignments and calming down. We just needed to come out and execute."

"We still felt good after halftime. There were just some things that we needed to fix. Our defense played great, not only the first half but the whole game, so we just needed to come out and build off of their momentum."

On having to throw more against the defense...

"We wanted to run on them to establish our running game, to make up for last week. I don't think they forced us to throw the ball more. We had some good looks early that allowed us to have some big plays to move the ball down the field."

On the play of Jamire Jordan and KeeSean Johnson...

"It's very important for me to get those guys going. Aaron Peck had a really good game at Nebraska, so there were more eyes on him tonight, which allowed me to get KeeSean and Jamire going. It forced Sacramento State's defense to play honest, they had to account for all three. It really helps our offense going forward."

On settling for a field goal in the first half...

"That would have been a big part of the game if we would have been able to get another touchdown right there, to put us up 14-0. That would have given us more confidence. Settling for a field goal wasn't bad, but as the offense, you always want to put seven points on the board."

On picking up momentum from this game:

"Our confidence is still high. We just need to fix the things we see on film, work hard at practice and go into this next game with a game plan."

Defensive back Tyquwan Glass

On the defensive performance tonight...

"I feel like we prepared very well for it. I say we did a great job. Our coaches wanted more from us, they wanted a shutout, but I still think we did very well."

On giving up the field goal at end of second quarter...

"I don't feel like it was a downer, but we for sure did not want them to have that field goal. We went back in the locker room and talked about it. We came out in the second half more aware and more physical."

On the interception...

"We've been preparing for that. In practice, we do their plays. I had seen the corner do a comeback and start breaking down, so I just pulled the trigger and just went to go get it. We were kind of struggling for it, but I thought, 'I'm here, I might as well try to take it,' and I got it."

On post-game mood in the locker room with the defense...

"We were just congratulating each other and keeping each other up. They were tired, but it was the same with the offense, too. Some people had their heads down, but we had to pick them up. We just won our first opener."

On third quarter emotions...

"I was just saying to myself that we should be up by a lot right now. We all talked about it and that's why we came out in the second half a little bit better."

Wide Receiver KeeSean Johnson

On first TD in the fourth quarter...

"I felt like our coaches just told us to go out, play and stop thinking so much. That's why I felt like we cut down on the penalties and it showed."

On feelings after first win...

"I'm feeling good. I feel better than last week. I just feel like I have to continue to keep working at practice and let the preparation show."

On last week's key play...

"Our coaches showed in the meetings the big third down plays that I should and could make. It was something that challenged me to show up the next week."

On overall mood of team currently...

"Right now, I feel like even coming off a loss from last week, our confidence was not down because of the way we played in the first quarter and the way we have seen how we can play. Now going in to the first half of this game, we came out slow, and then we had to have a talk in the locker room. We've seen how we can play when we execute, so that's what we did."

On first half starts, last week vs. this week...

"I don't know why we came out so slow this week. I just feel like we didn't have everyone into the game as much. Sac State showed that they could come out and play, so we had to pick it up."

On potential threat of halftime score (10-3)...

"I didn't feel threatened at all. We just had to go out and show what we have showed all week in practice and execute."

On what may have been said at halftime...

“To help motivate us, one thing I got from coaches was to just stop stressing about making the big plays and let the game just go.”