



U.S. Air Force Academy

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Air Force Post-Game Quotes/Notes at San Diego State, Oct. 11, 2008

Head Coach Troy Calhoun

On playing two freshmen in the backfield:

"It was more of a conservative approach, that's for sure. Those guys gave us some pop. They are going to be good players. They have a lot of work ahead of them, but they are guys with leadership potential."

On whether he was happy with the play of his freshmen:

"Yes, I think for the first game. There are some things they absolutely have to do better. We need some aging medication. Somebody has to come up with it.

On Air Force's second-half turnaround:

"I think the first half we played on eggshells. It just seemed like we had a bunch of guys in the locker room waiting for somebody else to spark us. If you go to Air Force Academy you don't wait, you need initiators, leaders, and guys that are asertive."

Team Notes

- Air Force uses honorary captains, along with game captains. The honorary captains for the San Diego State game were Steve Ritchie and Dwan Wilson. Ritchie is 1964 Air Force Academy graduate and was a two-year football letterman. He helped the Falcons to the 1963 Gator Bowl. Wilson is a 1986 Academy graduate and a four-year letterman that helped the Falcons to a 12-1 record in 1985. The game captains were seniors **Hunter Altman** (OLB), **Todd Newell** (FB) and **Luke Yeager** (FS).
- Air Force snapped a two-game losing streak at San Diego State, winning for the first time since 2001 (45-21) at Qualcomm Stadium.
- Air Force improved to 18-9 overall and 7-5 in San Diego against the Aztecs. Head coach Troy Calhoun improved to 2-0 vs. San Diego State.
- Air Force improved to 1-1 in the month of October this season and is now 4-2 under head coach Troy Calhoun in October. Prior to last season, Air Force was just 12-19 since 1999 in October. The Falcons had not won more than one game in October since 2002 prior to last season's 3-1 mark. Air Force is 1-0 this season and 4-1 under Troy Calhoun in conference games in October.
- Air Force has won for the sixth consecutive time following a loss to Navy, who beat Air Force last week.
- Head coach Troy Calhoun improved to 13-6 overall and 8-3 in conference games during his career. His 8-3 conference mark is the fourth-best in Mountain West Conference history and ties as the best start ever in conference play by an Air Force coach. Fisher DeBerry also started 8-3 in 1984 and 1985 in Western Athletic Conference play.
- Air Force improved to 6-4 vs. San Diego State as members of the Mountain West Conference.
- Air Force improved to 316-266-13 all-time in its 53rd year of varsity football. The Falcons improved to 146-155-10 all-time in away/neutral site games.
- Air Force is now 3-0 this season and 7-3 under head coach Troy Calhoun when the team scores first in a game.

- Air Force improved to 10-1 under head coach Troy Calhoun with a 100-yard rusher. The Falcons were 9-1 last season with the only loss coming in the Armed Forces Bowl vs. California.
- Air Force's touchdown on its opening drive of the game marks the first time this season that the team has scored on its opening drive. The Falcons turned the ball over on downs and punted four times in their previous five games.
- Air Force's 16-play scoring drive in the first quarter is the second longest this season in terms of plays and longest since a 17-play drive in the opening game of the season vs. Southern Utah.
- Air Force extended its school record consecutive games scoring streak to 187 games dating back to the 1992 Liberty Bowl vs. Mississippi. The streak is the second longest in the conference and sixth longest in the nation. The streak is also the 17th longest in NCAA Division I-A history.
- Air Force's defense forced a punt on San Diego State's opening drive of the game to mark the fifth time in six games the Falcons have held their opponents without points. The Falcons have forced three punts a turnover on downs and a field goal in the previous five games.
- Air Force scored on its opening drive of the second half (Asher Clark nine run) for the third time this season. The Falcons also scored touchdowns vs. Southern Utah and Houston. Defensively, Air Force forced a punt on San Diego State's opening drive which marks the fourth time this season they have held the opponent without points. Air Force's last two opponents (Utah and Navy) scored touchdowns. Air Force forced two punts and a fumble in the other three games.
- Air Force's 28-point second half is its largest scoring half this season. The previous best was 21 vs. Southern Utah in the first half of the season opener. The 28 points is the best second half since scoring 20 against Wyoming and Southern Utah.
- Air Force's 473 yards of total offense are the second-most this season and most since collecting 508 in the season opener vs. Southern Utah.

Individual Notes

- Freshman QB **Tim Jefferson** made his first career start. Jefferson is just the third freshman ever to start at quarterback in a conference game. Dee Dowis (1986 vs. BYU) and Shaun Carney (2004 vs. UNLV) are the only other freshmen to start in a conference game. Jefferson capped Air Force's opening drive of the game with his first-career touchdown on a one-yard run. He finished the game with career highs in rushing attempts with 12 and rushing yards with 55. His previous best in each category came last week vs. Navy with six carries for 35 yards.
- Freshman TB **Asher Clark** made the first start of his career. Clark also started his first game as a deep man on the kickoff return team and had his first-career kickoff return. Clark finished the game with career highs of 15 carries and 109 yards. He also had a career-long 11-yard run and has now scored a rushing touchdown in two straight games. Clark is the first Falcon since Shaun Carney (108) and Jim Ollis (101) vs. California in the 2007 Armed Forces Bowl to rush for 100 or more yards in a game and the first freshman to do it since Qualario Brown, who rushed for 158 yards on 12 carries vs. San Jose State in 1997.
- Sophomore CB **Anthony Wright** made the first tackle for loss of his career on SDSU's first play, a one-yard loss on a pass completion.
- Senior FB **Todd Newell** notched his second consecutive game with a career high in rushing yards. Newell rushed for a career-best 77 yards, in a return to his hometown vs. San Diego State. His previous career high of 50 yards came last week vs. Navy. Newell also recorded a career high in carries with 19. His previous high of 15 came last week vs. Navy.
- Senior DE **Jake Paulson** recorded 1.5 sacks vs. San Diego State to mark the fifth time in six games this season he's had at least one sack in a game. Paulson entered the game leading the nation in sacks with a 1.40 per-game average. He now has 8.5 sacks this season.
- Junior ILB **Justin Moore** intercepted the first pass of his career and returned it for his first-career touchdown. The INT return for a touchdown is the first by a Falcon this season and first since Drew Fowler returned one vs. Colorado State last season for a score.
- Junior SS **Chris Thomas** record his first interception this season and third of his career. The turnover is the third this season for Thomas, as he also has two fumble recoveries.

- Junior WR **Josh Cousins** scored the first touchdown of his career on a career-long 32-yard reception in the fourth quarter. Cousins matched his career high with three receptions and set a new career best with 41 yards. His previous high was 37 yards vs. Utah.