

2009 New Mexico Bowl
December 19, 2009
University Stadium, Albuquerque, N.M.
Fresno State Quotes

Head Coach Pat Hill:

“I think it was a heck of a football game and you have to give Wyoming a lot of credit, especially that quarterback (Austyn Carta-Samuels), he made some really good plays tonight. We had our opportunities as a football team but once again if you can’t put it in (the end zone) from the one-yard line with three tries you have to give a lot of credit to the defensive stand by Wyoming. We had our chances, they had their chances, they made good with theirs, we didn’t. Turnovers are critical in any football game but you have to overcome those or you have to create them. We got a big play and scored off a turnover and we had a chance to ice the game, so they all balance out more or less in a game. The bottom line is I give a lot of credit to Wyoming. They did a heck of a job. I’m not going to base our season on one game, there are so many games that are played during the course of the season. I told the team in the locker room I was very, very proud of them. The game of football is a hard game and tonight you saw a heck of a football game that both teams played very hard. It came right down to the final play and I tip my hat to Wyoming, they did a heck of a job.

Going for the touchdown on the fourth and down in overtime:

It was a simple decision. I have great belief in our offensive line and our running game to put it in (the end zone) and we didn’t get it done. Give a lot of credit to Wyoming, I don’t think in my career we have been stopped like that on the goal line. Going for it on the fourth down in overtime was not a hard decision at all.

Quarterback Ryan Colburn

“I think like Coach Hill said, we have a lot of confidence in our offensive line and our running game. In that first series I thought we were going to punch it in, we had a good look for the last play. They (Wyoming) made a good stop in the second overtime. They played tough; you have to give them credit.”

“Right now it just flat out hurts to be honest. It’s very disappointing. I don’t want to say I’m ashamed to lose because they played very hard and they played very disciplined, but it’s very disappointing to lose that game.”

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Wyoming Quotes**

Head Coach Dave Christensen

Opening Statements

First of all, it was a typical game by the Wyoming Cowboys. We kept everybody in their seats and took it late into the fourth quarter and double overtime. I thought our kids just did a tremendous job of showing great discipline throughout the entire game and never giving up. We talked at halftime about having playmakers making plays in that second half. You have to believe in your teammates and they have believed in each other all year. We've been down before, and being behind is nothing new for this football team. Four of our games were fourth quarter comebacks prior to going into the fourth tonight. Once again, we're a team that has not been given a lot of respect by a lot of people and I think they've slowly started to earn that respect. It was just a tremendous game by a lot of players on both sides of the football and a great victory for the Wyoming Cowboys.

On what this does for Wyoming, in his first year with the program

Well I think we made huge strides. I think it makes a statement about the direction in which this program is going. These guys broke down a lot of barriers this year. They had people not believing in them. There were people who didn't think that we were good enough to finish in the middle of our league, not good enough to go to a bowl or to win a bowl game. I also think it makes a huge statement about the kids we have in our program, and the great leadership of this senior class.

Quarterback Austyn Carta-Samuels

On what the team was thinking going into the fourth quarter

We were really excited about the opportunity to come back in the fourth quarter. Eleven points would have been nice, but it was exciting to make that comeback. We knew we could do it. The pivotal one was that first drive in the fourth quarter where we had to put three up on the board to come within eight, then obviously get that two point conversion. But we knew if we got that, we'd have the momentum going again. I guarantee you that defense didn't want to come back out on the field in the fourth quarter, trying to stop us.

Defensive End Mitch Unrein on his forced fumble

Well I just came off the block and I saw him (Ryan Matthews) running kind of loose with that ball. In practice, we stress the turnover circuit every day, going for the ball and stripping the ball. So it was just kind of natural. I saw the ball, got my hand on it, and rolled away from him. The ball was right on my chest, and I almost couldn't believe that just happened. So I got up and was showing the refs, and I don't think they believed me. I'm glad they took a look at it and saw that.