

**2008 NEW MEXICO BOWL
POSTGAME QUOTES
COLORADO STATE**

Head coach Steve Fairchild

"First thing I would like to say is the New Mexico Bowl staff treated our players, our staff, and I know our fans, second to none. It was just a great experience for our football team."

"I would like to congratulate Fresno State on a hard-fought game. They're athletic, they made us look silly at times and we were hanging on for dear life."

"This game was big for a lot of reasons. It gave us a chance to play in a bowl game, gives our program a lot of momentum. You could feel the buzz in Fort Collins. You could see the Green and Gold out there in the stadium. I think our kids fed off that."

"We struggled a little bit in the passing game today, which has been our MO all year. We are a fairly decent run football team on offense but we have our ups and downs throwing it. I thought our offensive line was very physical. Defensively for the most part, we kept it in front of us."

"He (Gartrell Johnson) is obviously our best weapon offensively to date and he has been this way all year long. He is a very physical back. He made some plays in the passing game too, which really bailed us out. You can't say enough, his numbers speak for him and what he has done all year. What he has done all year has been remarkable."

"Tommie's (Hill) play was by far the play of the game. He gave us a chance to get a quick score and then get a stop. Turnovers are huge in any game and for a while there, no one was turning it over and they we did it. Our defense bailed the offense out with Tommie's huge play."

Defensive End Tommie Hill

"We were just able to make a play. I was in the right place at the right time and the offense capitalized on it. I wasn't supposed to be in coverage. I was supposed to be up-field rushing and I saw the back going for a screen so I just made a play on the ball."

"It felt good (getting the Defensive MVP) but it wasn't just me. It was the defense. We were making some plays, leaving them in the backfield whereas we weren't in the first half. The offense had our back the entire time."

Running Back Gartrell Johnson

"It just feels great. It's good for everyone, good for the program, good for coach Fairchild. It is good for CSU as a whole. To have a great day like that and for us to just get a win sets the bar high for next year."

"It's been our whole season, to fight through and persevere through the tough times. I was tired in the third and fourth quarter after two 60-yard runs. I was running hard and just kept it in my mind that I had to keep pressing on."

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FRESNO STATE**

Head coach Pat Hill

"Well, my hat's off to Colorado State. They really outplayed us in the second half, they got after us good in the second half. It's sort of the story of our season. We had four or five games like that this year that we had opportunities to take the game and we didn't make the plays we needed to make and the opposing team did. We've got to go back and really reevaluate it. We had a long talk with our players and we have to go back to work and we have to become a tougher football team, both mentally and physically. Injuries, none of that stuff, has anything to do with those type of losses, or any of the losses we had this year. Its ourselves. We've got to make plays. We had two opportunities to ice the game with an eight point lead. And you're three plays and out on both of them. It's a trend we had this year and that's not good enough. Those things have to change"

"I wont take anything away from Colorado State. They really did what they had to do in the second half. They made big plays, and made the plays they had to make to win and we couldn't stop them. And when we had to make the plays on offense we didn't get it done and that's why we lost. That's been a theme of this year's team that needs to be corrected and I'll take full responsibility for that... It's a tough way to go out. It wasn't the year we wanted to have but we can do a lot of things about that. There were some games that we played this year that we could have controlled the outcome of, but didn't. We controlled our own destiny out there again today. We didn't take care of business and you need to do that if you are going to be a really good football team. And this year we weren't a really good football team.

Running Back Anthony Harding

"I think basically they out executed us. Obviously we didn't execute when we needed to and they did. We were doing the same thing in the second half, just running simple plays, inside zone and outside zone, we were executing plays and it seemed like the second half they kept bringing pressure and we didn't know what to do. We broke down somewhere and didn't know what it was. They were just playing harder than we were, we weren't playing with passion in the second half. They were playing like we should be, and we weren't."

"There is something that needs to change. Obviously if we don't change the same thing is going to happen every year. I don't know exactly what it is, maybe we need to work harder in the off season, or just take it more seriously. I don't know, I'm just really at a loss of words right now."

Defensive Back Moses Harris

"Defensively we tried to hold the edges, but they kept finding that crease. We were always one person short from the inside. Colorado State is a good football team with athletic linemen and they got up in the hole and sealed it off. We had the edge solid and that was our Achilles heel all season. We fixed it for this game but they got us inside."

"In my opinion there was no difference between the first and second half. I think we played the same, maybe even a little more sound in the third quarter. We gave up some big, big plays, the touchdown going into the half was a fluke play that shouldn't have happened."