

NEW MEXICO BOWL  
CENTRAL MICGIGAN VS SAN DIEGO ST

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. -- Coming into the New Mexico Bowl, San Diego State's defense was the focus. The Aztecs ranked second in the nation in rushing defense and second in rushing yards allowed per carry. But San Diego State's offense, with only an average of 19 points-per game, ranked among the nation's worst. Something had to give against Central Michigan and its strong defense.

So the Aztecs offense stepped it up Saturday

Ryan Agnew passed for 287 yards and three touchdowns, Jesse Matthews caught three passes for 111 yards and two touchdowns and San Diego State won a bowl game for the first time since 2016, beating Central Michigan 48-11 on Saturday in the New Mexico Bowl.

"We don't listen to the stuff outside the locker room," Matthews said. "It all came together."

Jordan Byrd ran for a career-high 139 yards and a touchdown to help the Aztecs (10-3) cap their 10th straight bowl appearance with a victory. San Diego State opened 7-1 record, then dropped two of its last three conference games to fall out of contention for a Mountain West title game berth.

San Diego State coach Rocky Long said he and his coaching staff did nothing differently to prepare the offense or get them motivated.

"We just played a whole lot better today," Long said with a shrug.

San Diego State prevented Central Michigan (8-6) from sustaining consistent, with quarterback Quinten Dormady under pressure and forced to throw into tight coverage. He passed for 164 and threw three interception.

Central Michigan's Jonathan Ward, who came into the game with 1,082 yards and 15 touchdowns, was held to 7 rushing yards and 26 yards receiving.

Kobe Lewis ran for 97 rushing yards, with a 66-yard rushing touchdown in the third quarter. Despite the loss, Lewis credited Chippewas coach Jim McElwain for changing the culture of the program that went from 1-11 to 8-6 in one year.

"I didn't care what the score was," said Lewis. "I wanted to play hard and finish hard."

McElwain said he still felt Central Michigan had a successful season even through the team finished with losses in the Mid-American Conference Championship and New Mexico Bowl.

"You learn from your failures," he said.

McElwain said he was returning next season as head coach despite talk linking him to over jobs.

The victory served as homecoming for Long. He last won the New Mexico Bowl in 2007 as New Mexico's coach. Long is 4-9 in bowl games and used to look at the field from his office. "It was real special to me because I have ties to this place," Long said.

THE TAKEAWAYS

San Diego State: The Aztec came into the postseason with its highly touted defense but concerns about an offense that took a lot of time off the clock to score. San Diego State attacked Central Michigan in the air and on the ground in a balanced attack to end with its 11th double-digit win season in program history.

Central Michigan: To overcome San Diego State's nationally ranked rushing defense, the Chippewas needed big games from Dormady and Ward. However, both were held by the defense line. Central Michigan had to improvise and rely on Lewis, but it was not enough to overcome the pressure.

Final	1	2	3	4	T		
CMU	3	0	8	0	11		
SDSU	7	13	21	7	48		
Scoring Summary -----							
FIRST QUARTER			CMU	SDSU			
SDSU TD 12:34							
Jesse Matthews 22 Yd pass from Ryan Agnew (Matt Araiza Kick)							
4 plays, 32 yards, 1:43							
CMU FG 10:40							
Ryan Tice 33 Yd Field Goal							
5 plays, 60 yards, 1:54							
SECOND QUARTER			CMU	SDSU			
SDSU FG 11:46							
Matt Araiza 48 Yd Field Goal							
10 plays, 58 yards, 3:46							
SDSU FG 6:22							
Matt Araiza 31 Yd Field Goal							
11 plays, 56 yards, 4:29							
SDSU TD 5:26							
Jesse Matthews 74 Yd pass from Ryan Agnew (Matt Araiza Kick)							
1 play, 74 yards, 0:13							
THIRD QUARTER			CMU	SDSU			
SDSU TD 9:51							
Jordan Byrd 2 Yd Run (Matt Araiza Kick)							
4 plays, 58 yards, 2:13							
SDSU TD 6:24							
TJ Sullivan 29 Yd pass from Ryan Agnew (Matt Araiza Kick)							
5 plays, 39 yards, 2:34							
CMU TD 5:13							
Kobe Lewis 66 Yd Run (Quinten Dormady Pass to Kalil Pimpleton for Two-Point Conversion)							
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:11							
SDSU TD 1:42							
Chase Jasmin 2 Yd Run (Matt Araiza Kick)							
2 plays, 58 yards, 0:45							
FOURTH QUARTER			CMU	SDSU			
SDSU TD 5:16							
Darren Hall 20 Yd Fumble Return (Matt Araiza Kick)							
1 play, 11 yards, 0:20							
Team Stats			CMU	SDSU			
First Downs			8	24			
Passes for First			4	12			
Rushes for First			2	9			
Penalties for First			2	3			
Third Down Efficiency			4-16	6-16			
Fourth Down Efficiency			0-1	0-0			
Total Yards			277	510			
Total Plays			57	76			
Avg Gain Per Play			4.9	6.7			
Net Yards Rushing			112	223			
Rushes			27	45			
Yards Per Rush			4.1	5.0			
Stat Name							
Net Yards Passing			165	287			
Comp-Att			12-30	18-31			
Yards Per Pass			5.5	9.3			
Times Sacked			3	1			
Yds Lost To Sacks			-20	-4			
Interceptions			3	1			
Punts			8	7			
Punt Average			40.0	43.4			
Penalties			10	6			
Penalty Yards			86	65			
Fumbles			3	0			
Fumbles Lost			2	0			
Possession			21:41	38:19			
Individual Stats							
RUSHING							
CMU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Kobe Lewis	5	97	19.4	1	66		
Jonathan Ward	9	26	2.9	0	6		
Tommy Lazzaro	3	5	1.7	0	3		
Daniel Richardson	1	3	3.0	0	3		
Team	1	-4	-4.0	0	0		
Quinten Dormady	8	-15	-1.9	0	5		
SDSU	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Jordan Byrd	17	139	8.2	1	56		
Chase Jasmin	10	51	5.1	1	23		
Kaegun Williams	8	34	4.3	0	19		
Chance Bell	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Ethan Dedeaux	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Zidane Thomas	3	-2	-0.7	0	1		
Ryan Agnew	1	-4	-4.0	0	0		
Team	3	-6	-2.0	0	0		
Daniel Bellinger	1	-6	-6.0	0	0		
PASSING							
CMU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Quinten Dormady	11	26	164	6.3	0	3	5.5
Daniel Richardson	1	3	1	0.3	0	0	1.7
Tommy Lazzaro	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.1
SDSU	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Ryan Agnew	18	31	287	9.3	3	1	77.5
RECEIVING							
CMU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Kalil Pimpleton	3	71	23.7	0	61		
Tyrone Scott	3	41	13.7	0	30		
JaCorey Sullivan	3	32	10.7	0	21		
Bernhard Raimann	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Jonathan Ward	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Mark Patritto	1	5	5.0	0	5		
SDSU	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
Jesse Matthews	3	111	37.0	2	74		
BJ Busbee	2	39	19.5	0	23		
TJ Sullivan	2	38	19.0	1	29		
Elijah Kothe	2	20	10.0	0	13		
Ethan Dedeaux	1	19	19.0	0	19		
Kobe Smith	1	18	18.0	0	18		
Jordan Byrd	2	13	6.5	0	9		
Parker Houston	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Daniel Bellinger	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Kaegun Williams	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Chase Jasmin	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Chance Bell	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		