

## **UNM 73, BOISE STATE 72**

### **POST-GAME QUOTES**

#### **COACH WEIR**

*(On the win):*

“We haven’t won a lot of one-possession games this year, and unfortunately they have cumulative effects on a season ... To get one of these is really big for our guys. It’s a nice boost, and hopefully will serve us well going into Saturday’s game.”

*(On game tactics which led to the win):*

“It’s taking care of the ball and rebounding, and that is all that we talked about for weeks now ... If you look at the box score, we were able to win the rebounding battle, which was big when we turned over the ball 11 times. Eleven is still probably a little much, but at the end of the day I think a lot of those were also offensive fouls going to the glass, and those couple of possessions end up being the difference in a close game. Unfortunately, this season, those were two areas we struggled with.”

*(On Dane making the game-winning play on Senior Night):*

“(Boise State) made a shot with a smaller lineup and we thought we needed to get (Dane) out there for defense. To make that play at the end was clutch, and that’s what seniors do. That possession is where experience kicks in. Unfortunately we lost a lot of one-possession games or close games because we have young guys that have never been in those situations before, and Dane has the savvy and the seasoning to do that, and he made a big play.”

*(On overall effort on defense):*

“The first half reminded me a lot of Colorado State, and I told the guys that at the half. We came out and it was all business. We were working, we were doing exactly what we wanted to do offensively and defensively. We were executing the game plan. We weren’t getting too high and we weren’t getting too low. We were doing what it was that we wanted to do. I just thought at the start of the second half, we didn’t come out with enough energy, and it gave Boise State a little momentum that they carried for a while and turned it into a ball game. Fortunately, we had enough of a lead over the course of the game, and we got just enough stops late to stave it off.”

*(On looking towards the conference tournament):*

“At the end of the day, I don’t know how the standings are going to go down. We beat the number one team in the league, quite frankly I believe the number two team in the league, and potentially the number three team in the league. I don’t think we are going into the tournament thinking we are just going to play basketball ... I feel like if we can still find a way to take care of the basketball and rebound, we have a chance to win whatever game we play in the Mountain West Tournament.”

## **DANE KUIPER**

*(On the final play):*

"It felt great that I could attribute something to the team and win a game by doing it (getting the steal). I just saw him bring that ball up and I swiped at it and I got it. It's a great feeling on senior night especially."

*(On being surrounded by supportive people):*

"It's crazy important. My grandma had to fly in from Alaska, my aunt from Arizona, it's just nice having my whole family kind of close, and then my grandma is willing to fly. It's just awesome having them there."

*(On making the big play on senior night):*

"It's kind of like the perfect storm. I had made a couple of three's throughout the game, made a couple of turnovers. I really wanted to get in there and play some really good defense. I'm just glad it worked out."

*(On connecting from beyond the arc):*

"It felt good for me. My knees have been hurting me quite a bit. I think it affected my shot a little bit. Having those threes go down and finding my rhythm again. It just was awesome."

*(On senior night):*

It was just a really special moment for me, being here all four years. I just love this place. I didn't cry as much as I thought I would during the speech."

*(On making threes and overall team development):*

"I think the biggest thing for us is just playing hard defense. When we play really good defense and we play hard, offense just flows. When you're getting stops, you feel better about scoring. I think Coach Weir will do an awesome job with the next group about getting them into it. If they can watch what we've done in the past couple years even though this year hasn't been the best. I think the next team is going to be really good."

*(On facing Wyoming):*

"We're getting that momentum towards the end of the season just like we did last year, and I can't promise anything but I know we're going to play really hard and try to go for a title run."

## **ANTHONY MATHIS**

*(On sealing the win):*

"That's the perfect way to end. Dane Kuiper is one of the best defenders I've ever played with or against. It's a picture perfect ending. We just all finally came together and played for one another. Everybody just kept saying let's do it for the seniors and I really appreciate it. It's been a crazy year and to just finally come together and win one of those close games that often times this year we've been letting slip away at times."

*(On building momentum):*

"I just think we needed a win. The way that we won obviously helps, it gives us some experience down the road for close games. Just getting the win in general really helps us get momentum. Getting into the tournament last year with that run we made - we can do the same with a two-game win streak (which we can hopefully extend to three). Whoever has the most confidence, goes into the tournament and thinks they can win. You never know - it's March - we'll just see what happens."

*(On setting records):*

"I had no idea about any records, that's just crazy. I never thought I would sit here talking about breaking UNM records with all the great shooters, great players we've had come through this program. It's just a dream come true. All the work I've put in finally pays off. I'm just grateful to be in this position."

*(On team confidence):*

"I feel super confident. I feel like we finally came together and we're playing really super hard. Our bigs are rebounding the ball. They're just finally dominating the boards. It takes a lot of pressure off of us (guards). We have Carlton, Corey, Vlad, Vance, Makuach all constantly rebounding the ball. It's amazing and it's coming at the right time."