



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. New Mexico Postgame Quotes

Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.

Jan. 31, 2022

Brian Dutcher, San Diego State head coach

Opening Statement:

"I was pleased with our performance, in a bounce back game after Utah State. It was important. We came out and played well. We know what's down the road. We know it's at Colorado State on Friday. So this was a critical game for us to try to build a little momentum going into that game. Like I said, this conference is going to be a marathon. I don't know if there's an easy game on the schedule. So we did what we had to do. We played with a sense of urgency at the defensive end. That usually sets the tone for our offense. We got off to a good start defensively, and we were able to run and we turned a lot of turnovers and rebounds into fast break opportunities. We had 19 assists, which is really good. Just a good overall performance from the Aztecs today. I was really pleased with the way we played."

On where he feels his team is compared to earlier in the season:

"On any team you have, you go into the year thinking you're going to be good at this and then you realize 'we have to change that' and you just try to find out what your strengths are as a team and play to those. I think we're getting closer to that with this year's team."

On the rest of the Mountain West regular season schedule being released:

"I think it's too many games at the end. Even the fact that (for us) Fresno State is at home. If we had a choice, we probably would not play that game, because it's leading into the conference tournament. So if we catch fire and we win the league and I look back and say I'm glad we played them all, but if it comes down to us having to win three games in Las Vegas, then I don't want to play in Las Vegas on tired legs. I'd rather have a fresh team. I don't know if this schedule will give us that heading into the conference tournament. I looked at the calendar. I've never seen anything like it. We have so many games left to be played. You know February is going to be ridiculous how many games we're playing and how short the prep is. We can't lose sight that these are not professional athletes, these are college students. To travel and miss class when we're traveling and not get back that day and then Game Day prep and you know they're student athletes, they're not athletes and so I don't want to lose sight of the fact where the sacrifice they are making academically to try to keep up with all their classwork and all the studying they need to do to be successful in the classroom is equally important to me and to them, so I think all these games probably isn't good for a student athlete."

Matt Bradley, San Diego State senior guard

On the team's defensive effort:

"That was a big emphasis for us going into this game, especially going against New Mexico. They have a bunch of talented players so we knew coming into this game we couldn't have defensive lapses like we did against Utah State. I think we really stepped up tonight in the show."

On being a better teammate and getting teammates more involved:

"You know, I'm happy, my teammates, they trust in me, throughout the slump. My coach trusted me so you know, we watched film, we got together and we just keep getting better. I'm really happy for our guys and our team. We're gonna have a long way to go but I'm happy with my improvement individually for sure."

Keshad Johnson, San Diego State junior forward

On making New Mexico best offense players struggle:

"We tried to disrupt their flow. We all give them respect on the offensive side and we know they're a good offensive team. So we just had to play hard. We came ready for an assignment. We prepared well to bounce back from the Utah State game."

On what goes through his head when he dunks:

"Nothing really goes through my head. It's all like natural instincts at this point. I've been doing it for so long. I just like to naturally do whatever comes to mind at the time. I got a God given talent so I'm gonna use it."

On offensive rebounds improving from Utah State to tonight:

"We heard about offensive rebounds a lot. The absence of our coach, JayDee Luster, was big at Utah State. Now we have him back. He's our rebounding coach. So you know we had to bring it back for him."

New Mexico Head Coach Richard Pitino

On San Diego State's defense:

"Their size really, really disrupted us and bothered us. You could just tell they're older, they're stronger, they're longer. And that definitely took us out of our rhythm offensively. They're a terrific defensive team; we couldn't really get anything in the post. If we didn't hit about 13 threes, we probably weren't going to have a chance. But you know, it's going to be one of those games where learn from it. I told them after the game, 'it's not going to happen overnight.' But you've got to commit to getting bigger and stronger, whether it's with nutrition, whether it's in the weight room in the offseason because being strong is an advantage, and they certainly have that, and we don't right now."

On the Aztec defense limiting the Lobos' Jaelen House tonight:

"Yeah, he just wasn't great. You know, I mean, they're physical and they're really good on the ball and he wasn't able to get around them. Then you know, five turnovers is just too much. (It) wasn't a great night for him. I said to him after the game, 'you guys just got to flush this.' I don't know how much we can learn from it. We'll watch it. take tomorrow off and then just turn the page even go get Air Force."

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