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Wyoming at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 98, Wyoming 71

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.

Jan. 30, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I told them (the team) it was a great team effort, we got contributions from everybody—[from our] starters, [our] bench and then the walk-ons came on at the end. Everybody played at a high level today. We shared the ball, we shot at a high percentage, [and] we defended at a high level and so I am happy, which is hard to say sometimes as a coach. I was happy with the performance. We played another really good first half [and] I didn't want to let up the second half. [But] they (Wyoming) played better [tonight], they scored the ball- they are dangerous. [Tonight] they decided to attack us downhill on the dribble. They got to the foul line and they were a lot more aggressive going to the basket this game. They (Wyoming) presented some [new] problems, but for the most part, I liked our energy and our effort and very pleased with the win tonight."

On the team's offensive explosion:

"We are scoring the ball at a really high level [in the] last four games. And even though we didn't score a ton of points in the second game at Utah State, our mindset was different. We were a lot more aggressive attacking to the basket and played more downhill than on the perimeter. We have to continue that trend (of explosive offense) and get better at both aspects [of the game, both] offensively and defensively."

On Matt Mitchell's record-setting play:

"It is great (to have Matt Mitchell playing). Matt plays at a high level, and he does it the right way, he plays for his team first and his numbers are not as important as wins are to him. It is nice to see him get individual accolades but the most important thing [is and] Matt will tell you is winning basketball games for San Diego State and we are proud of him for that."

On if Matt Mitchell's minutes (limited due to a previous injury) were lifted tonight and if he saw rust in his play after the injury:

"How many minutes did he play? 29 minutes? I'd say they (his minutes restriction) was lifted tonight. He was playing well, he was rolling along so I think moving forward that (amount of minutes) may be more of the norm than anything else, heavy minutes for Matt. Especially if he is playing as he did tonight."

"His rhythm was better tonight, [but] he shot the ball well coming off the injury, shot the ball well from three at Air Force and then shot some in the first Wyoming game. But, he was more aggressive off the dribble today, which means he's got more confidence on that leg with the brace and he is playing more downhill the more he has been in since the first two games he played (after his injury)."

On what makes Matt Mitchell an elite scorer:

"It was something he was given, and he has got a great feel for the game. When I saw him for the first time in high school I fell in love with his game because he knew how to play and he could score at every level—he could shoot the three, he can post up and he can attack the basket on the bounce, so that makes him dangerous. He is [also] a willing passer, so if he draws a double team, eh is the first one to move it out (of the post)."

[His elite scoring ability] is something he was blessed with all the way through his high school career [and came] into his college career. We are very fortunate to have him in an Aztec uniform."

On Joshua Tomaic's play off the bench:

Josh has been great, I mean to come off the bench and spell Nate (Nathan Mensah), he has been great and I think it gives us a very, very dangerous one- two punch. It seems like if one is struggling, the other one is not. We are getting productive minutes out of both of them most of the time.

Josh plays with great energy, he attacks the glass and he plays the right way. He is just out there, playing as hard as he can every time he is on the floor for the Aztecs.

On the team's foul trouble and how the team can overcome the issue moving forward:

"I am just grateful that we have the depth we have. Some teams can not afford to get in that kind of foul trouble because the guys coming off the bench are not as productive. I basically have [at any time] 10 starters, any of these guys can be in the starting lineup [because] they all are productive. We are one of the few teams in the country that can handle foul trouble because the next guy coming in is as good as a guy coming out. I do not like to be in foul trouble, (but) Wyoming was a reason for that [because] they were much more aggressive attacking us downhill and they weren't as concerned about shooting as many threes but [instead] trying to attack in the paint and draw fouls and [tonight] they were very successful at it."

On Keshad Johnson's play and impact when the team is in foul trouble:

"Keshad has become very reliable at the defensive end, and in this program that gets you minutes. [From there] it is just building confidence [for him] off the offensive end. When he sees his first three go in there [he then believes] there is a chance he could make two, three, four of them. When you are coming off the bench sometimes, you [can be] a little bit apprehensive, you [might] miss your first shot or two then you are just trying to fit in (to the flow of the game when missing shots). But when he sees the first one (shot) go in, when he gets a post touch and scores in there (the paint) then he is feeling good about himself and the team is feeling like they want to give them the ball. That is just the nature of this game, he shot will grow at both ends of the floor and his offensive confidence will grow as he continues to have success.

On the team's projected position in postseason play and the effect it has on the team:

That is great for the media to talk about it because people are interested in and want to hear about it but we have so much basketball left to play. We will either play our way in (to March Madness) or we will play our way out, but our fate is in our own hands. That is way we want it. We have been productive so far, but we have a lot of basketball left to play, and we will do our best to play ourselves into a position in the tournament.

On the season's set-up in two-game series and if they have kept the program from making changes in between games:

"Other than in the Colorado State (series), we have not had a split (series). I know some of the teams are splitting, Boise State and Colorado State split the series, Colorado State and Utah State split (the series), UNLV and Utah State split (the series, but we have been getting either two wins or two losses. I do not know the reason for that but I think we have good game plans and we do not have to make a lot of adjustments at either end of the floor, and so I think it makes it easier for us just to go out play the second game, because I think our game plan has been pretty solid on most of these games."

On his thoughts about more fouls called in the second game of two-game series:

"I know that Wyoming played different this game than they did in the first game so that had a lot to do with our fouls tonight. Every time when we would switch the ball screen or helped on a ball screen they (Wyoming) decided they wanted to go downhill, so they played aggressively to the basket. That is always a hard game to officiate when both teams are attacking to the rim and that's what happened tonight. There were a lot of fouls tonight, and by in large we have not had that many [fouls in a game], but this was one of the rare ones that both team shot a lot of free throws (because of foul trouble)."

San Diego State Sophomore Forward Keshad Johnson

On how the coaches and his teammates encouraged him to be aggressive offensively today:

"Not only today, but every game. We have a team full of very unselfish people, so there's unlimited encouragement everywhere. Regardless of whether I was playing good from the start or (not), they're always telling me to keep going hard on the next play and so forth."

On how he builds on his performance vs. Wyoming into the next game:

"Just go back into (practice) and work harder, listen to what the coaches have to say, get treatment, take care of my body. The list goes on."

San Diego State Senior Forward Matt Mitchell

On how long he will have to wear the knee brace and how he's adjusting to it:

"Minimum four weeks from the first time I put it on, maximum six weeks. I definitely feel a lot better being in the brace. (I'm) trying to get used to it but not too used to it, because ultimately I'd like for me not to be in the brace for the (remainder) of the season."

On if he's feeling closer to normal since his injury:

"Yeah, I can say I felt more comfortable in the brace, but as long as I'm out there playing, I always feel normal. I think if I didn't feel normal, then I wouldn't be out there."

On remaining on the Julius Erving Award Watch List:

"I'm very grateful for it. I'm grateful for having the honor of being in the top 10. I think it's big for the program moving forward. There's been great talent to come through here and talent that can compete. I'm not really worried about being a finalist. My play is going to (speak for itself). But right now, I'm just focused on winning games."

Wyoming Head Coach Jeff Linder

Opening Statement:

"Before the game I thanked Coach Dutcher and he asked me what for. I told 'You gave me 40 minutes of what I can show our guys for the next six to nine months of what it looks like on the defensive end of the floor and the habits we will build over time.' In the meantime, there is nothing better than our guys being able to see what that is all about."

On what he hopes his team takes away from these two games:

"How hard you have to compete every single possession. If you don't have the discipline and effort on every pass on the defensive end, every single movement and not allow teams to shoot 60 percent from the field (then you won't win)."--

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