



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Jose State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 72, San Jose State 64

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | February 27, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"It was another active night in the Mountain West. I happened to see the last shot in regulation at Fresno State vs Utah State hit a double-clutch three-pointer to send it to overtime. Nevada's Jarod Lucas hit a three from half-court to beat Colorado State, and we're fortunate that it didn't happen to us. We played good basketball today. The first half defensively was as good as we can play, and that carries over from the last game, but we know how good San Jose State is, and we don't worry about their record. We worry about what we see when we watch tape on them and when we study them. In the first game, we knew they were good, and they put 78 points on us, and we beat them 81-78. Then this game, we did a really good job defensively, and they scored 64, which wasn't enough to beat us. We had enough offense to get past them. They did a good job of mixing man and zone coverage. They hit a lot of really contested tough threes, and the three wasn't really going in for us. We made five, but I thought we had enough open ones to make two or three more, and that might have been the difference. Lamont Butler and Micah Parrish had some open ones that didn't go in. Darrion Trammell turned down some open looks. He was 0-3, so I think he quit shooting them and tried to drive the ball, which is a good idea, but sometimes when you're wide open, you have to make an open three too. We made just enough to win. We had 25 baskets, 18 of them assisted, so we're playing the right way and we're sharing the ball. We ran some good zone sets to get layups against the zone. But San Jose State is scrappy, and they're good. Tim Miles is a good coach. Most people will say, 'Well, you should have won by more than you did.' We're just happy we won and that we played well enough to win. We made enough timely plays and moved our record to 22-7. We're still a game out in the Mountain West with two to play, and we still have a chance."

On what makes the matchup against San Jose tough:

"They're dangerous shooters. Tibet Gorener didn't even really get going tonight, but Point guard Myron Amey Jr. was making hard ones behind screens and contested. He hit a couple of tough ones, just shake and raise over the top of us. They made tough threes to stay in the game. The thing we might have been able to control better was the couple of put-backs San Jose State had late when they missed a shot, they had two tip-ins. I'll go back and look at the tape of that. That might have been more controllable, but some of the shots they were taking and making were really hard shots. That's a credit to their players and their willingness to step up and make big shots at important times of the game, but we still found a way to win the game. We took care of the ball pretty well, with only 10 turnovers, 18 assists, and outrebounded by 9. The numbers were actually pretty good. The game was just close, and there's nothing wrong with that at this time of the year."

On if he could have predicted Jaedon LeDee's success this year:

"I had to look at the stats to see how many points Jaedon had – it was a quiet 27. He did it every way he could, and we found him. Darrion Trammell found him when they switched and had a guard on him. Darrion picked the dribble up and threw a couple of great bounce passes to him. Jaedon rebounded the ball and got some put-backs. He ran the floor and got some baskets. He scored a lot of different ways which good players do. It's not just one-dimensional scoring. Jaedon is a dangerous player, and to his credit, everybody knows it. He still ends up with another double-double, 27 points and 11 rebounds. That's a first-team All-American to me."

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On how practice prepares him for the physicality of a game:

"We just compete in practice every day. Most teams are going to try to be physical and be rough, so we just execute the game plan."

On what the team needs to work on for the last stretch of the season:

"We're trending up right now. We're doing everything in terms of defense and rebounding and playing together connectively. That's what the team last year had. We were really connected on defense and offense. We were so deep last year too. As we keep growing towards the end of the season, hopefully, we keep trending that way."

Sophomore Forward Elijah Saunders

On what the team needs to elevate against UNLV following a bye:

"Coming off the last break we had, we need to be more prepared this time. At Colorado State, we had that break and then went into that game. I felt that I was as ready as I needed to be for that game. It's keeping our foot on the pedal, even though we have a bye week. It's not just kick your feet up and relax, we still need to get some work done."

On the team understanding the depth and rotation:

"If it's your night, it's your night, but if not, we each need to stand ready. We need to not let a bad game or having less minutes than we thought affect how we approach the game. In this game, I had 22 minutes, but in the next game, I might have half the minutes from this game. Whatever minutes I get, I just try to impact the game."

San Jose State Head Coach Tim Miles

Opening statement:

"We battled really hard against San Diego State, but there's just too much Jaedon LeDee for us. He's one of the best players in our conference, which makes him one of the best players in the country, and he showed that tonight."

On the competitiveness of the Mountain West:

"I've had the good fortune to be in this league at two different schools and see it through the years from 2007 to 2012 [coaching Colorado State] and now get to see it again. The Mountain West just keeps getting better. It's just more impressive and more impressive. It's a well-coached league with great players, phenomenal fans, and home environments. It's just really cool. It's a high-major basketball league for sure."

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