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Wyoming at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 87, Wyoming 57

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

Jan. 28, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I said this is four quarters (referring to tonight's game as an NBA game). We won the first quarter convincingly, (but in the) second quarter (half) they beat us. I am not very happy about that, but we have to play better. That is the task at hand, so we will come in tomorrow, we will put our work in and try to play better in the next game when we play a very good Wyoming team (again)."

On the team's offensive play:

"We played a solid first half. Obviously, they did mix it up a little bit of matchup zone, I know it is tough to tell, but they did play some zone for about a three- or four-minute stretch. But we adapted to it quickly and we shot the ball great. We shot great from threes and we only had two turnovers at halftime. We took care of the ball, we shot the ball, and we shared the ball. That is what you want to do."

On SDSU's first-half record-tying performance:

"We played the right way. We were hot from threes and we got out on the fastbreak because we got stops. We shared the ball and we did not turn the ball over. We had two turnovers (in the first half). So we played really well offensively. In the second half, we had 24 points and we did not particularly shoot the ball as well. We missed a lot of shots and Wyoming made some defensive adjustments and played a better second half against us. If I was just going on the first half, I would say it was a spectacular game, but we have room to grow as a team and we have to start doing that tomorrow."

On Lamont Butler's emergence offensively:

"Lamont is playing good basketball. He is being aggressive; he is scoring when it is called for and when it is not. He is finding his teammates for assists. That is what a point guard should be doing. You should be able to run the team, take care of the ball and make good decisions."

On the shift in his starting lineup and his choice towards veteran players over his youth:

"I just ended up going with the veteran senior. I explained that to Lamont that it had nothing to do with the way he plays. I thought that much like Adam (Seiko) and AG (Aguék Arop) did when they lost their starting spots, they came in at Air Force and scored 15 points off the bench that game, and (tonight) Lamont came off the bench and put up good numbers with double-figure scoring, took care of the ball and was really impactful in the game. I have got a team that is wired the right way whether they start or come off the bench they are always ready to play."

On Trey Pulliam's play and his elite assist-to-turnover ratio:

"Trey plays elite defense. (Tonight) he was on Marcus Williams, their leading scorer and he did a good job when he was on him. He finds his teammates; he is a pass-first player and everybody likes playing with a guy like that. If they are open, he finds them on time and on target. He could have had a few more assists today if guys would have finished plays that he set up. I am pleased with Trey's defense and his ability to find his

teammates. Obviously, he'd like to shoot the ball better and hopefully (if) he continues to put the work in, he will be able to do that as the season progresses."

On holding Wyoming's offense to 57 points and his scheme against their three-point shooting offense:

"Coach (Jeff) Linder is a good coach, so he knew, probably, we're going to switch (on) Hunter Thompson because of the shooting five-man. So we had a couple of plays early to roll them in there and post them up. We made an (early) adjustment not to switch for a minute or two, and then when they got settled back into what they do best, which is make and pop and then space them, we started switching again. There were a few adjustments offensive adjustments as the game went on. We knew they were going to shoot a lot of threes. I said (to the team) they are going to for sure shoot 30 threes. And I want 30 contested. If they take 40 (threes), I want 40 contested threes. They ended up taking 43 (three-point shots), which is probably the most anyone has ever taken against us. So for the most part we contested the majority of them. They missed some open ones, but that is what they do. They space the floor and take a lot of threes."

San Diego State Freshman Guard Lamont Butler

On what he thinks of Trey Pulliam's play and his assist-to-turnover ratio:

"It's great for a point guard. Trey's a great player. It might seem like he hasn't been playing so well but defensively he's been great and getting everybody involved. I respect his game. He's a great player; he's a great leader. So I'm just trying to follow after him and just play to the best of my ability."

On his mindset waiting for the opportunity to play this season:

"Just stay confident, stay aggressive. I know my game; I know I can help this team win. And so with me being out there, I feel like I'm helping the team just being aggressive, getting to the paint, playing off two, finding teammates and being a hassle defensively. So I just feel like me being out there is normal to me. I played a lot in high school. It's just the game of basketball and I felt like I was ready."

On if he had to campaign Coach Dutcher to put him in the game or just patiently wait:

"No, I trust coach; he knows what he's doing. I was just ready when the opportunity came."

San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel

On what the team can improve upon after such an impressive performance:

"We can definitely build on this and improve. I'm pretty sure we turned the ball over too much in the second half. You've got to continue to be aggressive but see the right plays and continue to make the right plays as the game goes on. So we have a lot to improve on."

On if the team is building confidence winning games like this by huge margins:

"I think confidence comes by playing well and playing together, which I think we're doing right now. Not too worried about other teams in our conference if we just take care of business, do we do what we're supposed to do... We are getting confidence against who we're playing right now and we've got to keep it going."

Wyoming Head Coach Jeff Linder

Opening Statement:

"That (San Diego State) is the standard. There is a reason why they have won a lot of league championships. It starts on the defensive end of the floor. (We are) a young team, and we are one of the youngest in the nation, and you are competing against one of the oldest teams in the country who are, in their minds playing for a conference championship. Those players (San Diego State) hold each other accountable. Watching (Matt) Mitchell on the floor and the way he talks to the guys and the way he holds them accountable; you can tell they are a player led team and that's the reason they have won so many championships. For our guys it is good to go through that. It's good to get that experience, but you don't want to get it getting beaten by 30, but that's what happens when you play a team of their caliber."

"In the first half their intensity, their ability to execute the game plan and sit down and guard (led) us into a deep deep hole. It's a situation where a lot of teams have been beaten by 30, but you can't feel sorry for yourself, you have to look at the film and get back at it on Saturday."

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