



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Colorado State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 78, Colorado State 65

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

Jan. 4, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Good bounce back victory for us today. You know, we felt that we had an opportunity to win the first game in the series. They made the plays down the stretch; we didn't. Today, we got off to another fantastic start. We maintained the lead at halftime. In the second half, they made a run. They're a good team. But we kept our wits about us. We continued to play hard and got a good victory, our first conference win in the season. And now I told them the same thing I did after we lost our first game, we have a quick turnaround. We have to have an NBA mentality. Enjoy this for tonight, but we have to go to work tomorrow because we play on Thursday."

On the ability to respond to Colorado State's run in the second half with some big baskets:

"It's always good when the ball goes in. It makes life easier because we always guard at a high level. But sometimes the ball doesn't go in, and that's when we have to rely on our defense. As a coach, I told them don't let me rain on your parade. We always have a way of not being happy the way it ended, wanting to win by more, playing better (for) longer periods. And so as coaches, we usually find fault. But we couldn't find fault in our effort, we couldn't find fault in how we prepared on our day off to kind of right the ship and get a victory over a good Colorado State team."

On whether there's a concerted effort to get the ball to the hot player as was the case with Jordan Schakel tonight:

"Yeah, obviously I have to call plays and continue to get the hot hand the ball. But at the same time, his teammates know he's hot, and so some of basketball is not diagrammed. It's playing together, knowing each other's tendencies, knowing where Jordan likes the ball, how to get him open shots. It's just high IQ players finding the hot hand and they did that with Jordan tonight."

On if the Aztecs did anything different tactically compared to Saturday's game:

"Yeah, we threw it inside the first game and that created a lot of three-point opportunities for us; they were doubling. This game they did a better job of not coming right away, and the inside out game wasn't quite as good as it was the first game. I thought we had some success again on the fast break keeping the ball hot. We ran shooters along the baseline to try to give them looks, and we just mixed ball screens, post touches and some baseline running to try to get opportunities to shoot the ball. The thing I thought we did (was) we got off the play right away. Like, if you didn't have a shot, you moved it. That's what we have to do. We have to keep the ball hot and then play quicker at the offensive end. Defensively, it seemed like you got up into them a little bit more. Yeah, we pressured harder. We pressured without getting back cut, you know, they're very good at back cutting. So, we didn't want to really deny the waves we present the ball on top."

On the defensive effort:

"Yeah, we pressured harder. We pressured without getting back cut. You know, they're very good at back cutting, so we didn't want to really deny the wings. We pressured the ball on top. To start the game, we doubled the side ball screens. In the first game we switched it. So we doubled the side ball screen to force them out away from the basket, and then we switched everything up top like we did the first game. I think the key to the game

is when they rolled us inside. In this game we did a better job of fronting and keeping it out of there and I thought that was a real difference, especially in the first half."

On if Colorado State missed Kendle Moore tonight:

"Moore's very good player, so whenever you're missing a player. I mean, Keshad (Johnson) from that fall he had in the first game was unavailable for us today. You know, he fell on his shoulder and then he even though he was playing, he asked to come out because he was feeling a little under the weather still. So it's always best to be at full strength. But when you're not, you just have to play with what you have and what we had, it was enough."

San Diego State Senior Forward Matt Mitchell

On the number of shot attempts he took tonight and if it was a purposeful adjustment from Saturday's game preparation:

"I would not say it was a [purposeful] adjustment for me to take less shots [tonight]. I saw different holes and different spots for me to be able to get my teammates the ball. [When I was] going through film, I [kept] seeing the double team sent to the post; [I saw them] sending guys two guys to the post every time so I was trying to find other guys (than the post players) to get them a shot and keep the ball moving and keep the ball hot. I can not worry about my shots and I am not worried about taking 10, 20 shots a game. I am just trying to get a win."

On satisfaction of tonight's win and the team's mindset when Colorado State went on a second-half run:

"[The win was] very satisfying. We bounced back [from the loss] well, we came together as an entire program and knew that we really dropped the ball on Saturday and [that] we could not do it again. We were very focused, very locked in (when Colorado State went on a second half run). These guys did not want to drop the ball again and really wanted to get a win. We wanted to send a message, not only to ourselves but to the conference that we are here and we are real."

On the feeling for him with the team finding itself in a similar point-lead to the game on Saturday:

"I did not think it [was] strange to find ourselves in that position again, [because] just knowing we did it the first time, we knew we could do it again. All we had to do is put our minds together and go out there and give it 100-percent effort and [you see] the results, it turned out well."

On his excitement for Jordan Schakel throughout his hot shooting streak in the second half:

"I am just happy for my guys [when they are hot], and I am [always] especially happy for Jordan, because he has been with me since I got here. We are road dogs and he is my running mate for this year. To see him shine, to see him score the ball, shoot the ball like that especially in Viejas, it is a light-hearted thing. I am so happy for him."

San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel

On the feeling he has when on a hot streak shooting:

"[I just feel like I need to] just keep shooting. I don't really get a feeling. Most of the time, [I have] a next play mentality, whether they (his shots) go in or not. If you start feeling good when you hit them (three-pointers), you tend to feel bad when they are not going in. I try to stay levelheaded the whole game, no matter what (if shots go in or not)."

On his emotions/ability to sleep after Saturday's loss and his preparation for tonight's game:

"After the game (on Saturday), normally after games [throughout the season] I do not really sleep well and especially games like that, I did not get a lot of sleep. (Because of his inability to sleep) last night, I made sure to go to bed early and take care of what I could take care of and put myself in the best position [to support the team]. Last night, I got a great night's sleep."

On feeling in the locker room at halftime due to the game's similar nature to Saturday:

"We knew we had to keep our foot on the gas [because we] never want what happened on Saturday to happen again. We controlled what we could control, we played alright (tonight), we just have to execute better and lock-up on defense."

On his change in demeanor due to Saturday night's result:

"[In the loss] I learned that I just have to be mentally locked in at all times, not that I was not Saturday, but that I need to be locked in at a more intense level. I would not say I was any more aggression [that I showed], but it was more mentally telling myself this (in the game) is exactly where [I] need to be, constantly talking to myself to make sure that (blowing a large lead) does not happen again."

On leading the team in rebounds:

"Sometimes you get lucky with the ball bouncing in the right direction (towards him to be credited the rebound). We have a lot of guys [on this team] that box out, and when you box out, you do not necessarily get the ball every time [but tonight I was a beneficiary of a lot of good bounces."

Colorado State Head Coach Niko Medved

Opening Statement:

"They (San Diego State) are a terrific team. Even though it was an emphasis, the way we handled the ball was not good. We turned it over 12 times in the first half and I think they had 22 points on live ball turnovers. So, when they are scoring out of our offense, that makes it really difficult. That was a huge key. And overall, our defensive intensity was not what it needed to be. They got into a rhythm again and I do not think our hands were very active. They did a good job with their screening action and we did not communicate very well. They had us running around and we lost shooters and they made us pay. We came out in the second half and I think we played with a lot more force defensively and we started taking care of the ball."

On the play of Jordan Schakel and Terrell Gomez:

"They (Jordan Schakel and Terrell Gomez) are two of the best shooters in this league. In our scouting we knew we had to make them dribble and clearly we did not do that. Every time we got within 14 (points), it seemed that we'd lose him (Schakel) and he would bury a three. He was just a killer. I think he had 18 of their 25 points in the second half."

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