



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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San Diego State vs. New Mexico Postgame Quotes

New Mexico 76, San Diego State 67

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 14, 2023

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Frustration is a big part of everything we do in sports. We're frustrated that we didn't get a win today. But we can't let that frustration linger. We can't let it settle in where all of a sudden, we're mad about this game two days from now. It's college basketball, you play a lot of games, and you're going to lose games. And we lost to a team that's 16-2 today at home. I thought we had a chance. We didn't play particularly great offensively, a lot of that was a credit to them. They came in and they played super hard. We had two guys, Matt and Darrion, who are very good. We might suffer through one of them not having a great game, but when they're both a little off offensively, it puts extra pressure on us. At halftime, it was: Don't overreact, we should be down more than 10 the way we played offensively. But we're at home, we're playing really good basketball, we've prepared well, don't be frustrated. Let's tie the game at the first time out. And we weren't tied at the first time out, but we were tied shortly after that. We fought our way back into the game. When we were getting stops, we didn't convert on the fast break at a high enough percentage. When we had the chance to take the lead, we didn't do it. And then that gave them hope of oh, we're still hanging in there and we took a good punch from them and we're down one. Then Nate gets a reach and a technical for two points. I tried to change the defense on a baseline out of bounds, but it didn't get done. They threw it inside on Darrion and we went and doubled and gave their best player three. So, five points in that one possession. So, we go from up one, to down four, and they got ahead 13 and we fought back again. We didn't take advantage of the opportunities we had. And you have to do that if you want to win."

On the conference being so tough this year:

"Last year at this time, we were 3-2 in the league. Now we're 4-1. Yeah, so it's a long journey. We know that last year Boise was 8-0 and they kind of ran away with it. They got 8-0 but nobody's done that yet this year. Nevada, you look at them, we beat them and then they bounced back and played phenomenal, scoring like 85 points in the next game. So, the hardest thing about this game was that it was a home loss, now we have to go on the road for two. We'll see how tough we are mentally and physically, to go on the road following a home loss. We can't let it balloon and there's always a chance that can happen on the road. This is a tough conference on the road."

On Nathan Mensah's Technical:

"He definitely reacted to the call. Everyone could see that, everyone in the stands could see. What was said? I don't know. But he reacted to the call visibly. Whether you throw a ball down and it bounces, or you raise your hands and move at the referee

then it's at his discretion. He put himself in a position where it was up to the referee to interpret how bad it was or wasn't. I don't think he was out of line to T Nate. Sometimes it's not what you say, sometimes it's the way you react that puts yourself in a position where the referee is going to make a judgment as to whether he feels it's worthy or not. Obviously, I was hoping, give him the foul, don't give him the technical. I'd like to keep him in the game. But at that point, once it's called, he's not going to take it back."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

On guarding New Mexico's Jalen House and Jamal Mashburn Jr.:

"Yeah, they're really good players and I was feeling good coming into this game because last year we guarded them well with our gap defense and making them take tough shots, but they made all their tough shots today. They stepped up big time to close the game. They're really two great players and they did their thing for sure."

On Mensah's foul trouble and technical:

"Yeah, you know, the gym was loud. It was so competitive in that moment. I didn't really know what was going on. I knew they called a foul and that was questionable. But the technical I thought was really questionable. I thought he was talking to Keshad [Johnson]. Tempers are high and those moments after every foul call, somebody was either frustrated or saying something, not necessarily to the ref, but out loud. So, for the game to be that competitive and to call a technical on the defensive player of the year, I thought it was pretty bad for us for sure."

On the slow start to the first half:

"I don't think there is any hangover [from the previous contest]. It's just our free throws were huge today. We didn't make the frees that we wanted to make but just hitting shots. We made the right plays. I would say our defense in the first half was probably the worst it's been all year and that's the standard we hold ourselves to. We play super hard but there was some missed assignments and turnovers. A turnover by me in the open court that we could all get better at and that shouldn't happen. So, it was just a poor first half for us. Doesn't happen super often but we'll get better."

San Diego State Senior Guard Adam Seiko

On guarding New Mexico's Jalen House and Jamal Mashburn Jr.:

"Yeah, I mean, they did their thing tonight. I think some of those are on us, just missing assignments, not being where we're supposed to be at certain times in the game. In the second half, they made tough shots. They got going, those are two guys you don't want to get going. Credit to them, just playing hard. They played a great game, but we have a lot to get better at and we will on Monday."

On the team's fight in the final minutes of the game:

"Yeah, I mean, these guys are relentless. You know, in our huddles when we get down, we know it's a game of runs. We stay together through adversity. We don't get down on each other, we just know that we've got to keep going. Keep going, getting stops, and our offense will come. A lot of shots didn't go down for us tonight, we had a lot of good looks but that's okay. You know, it happens in the game of basketball. So, you know, just got to get back in the gym, get back in the lab and get better and we'll adjust."

New Mexico Head Coach Richard Pitino

On tonight's contest:

"[We] played great. We told our guys we want to come in here and feel as if we belong. When I took the job, I felt like New Mexico and San Diego State for sure are the class of this league. Now we've got some rebuilding to do but we've got to start walking in the buildings with confidence about us because we've got some of the best fans in the country. I loved our toughness."

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