



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego Christian at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. Dec. 18, 2019

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"I put on the board today that San Diego State is playing San Diego State. That's no disrespect to San Diego Christian, but we're playing up to whatever our standard is for ourselves. I thought we came close to doing that. Second thing I put of there was rebounding. We didn't do that very well today."

On close start in the beginning of the game:

"I didn't overreact to it. I probably sat on the bench longer than I've sat in a year or two. I wanted the guys to figure it out among themselves without me up the whole game on every possession."

On level of respect for San Diego Christian:

It's basketball and it's beautiful. They don't get to play in this environment a whole lot. It's a memory that they're going to have. We put on the board a lot: respect the game. Part of respecting the game is respecting the opponent."

On upcoming game against Utah:

"We know that's going to be a battle.:"

San Diego State Senior Guard KJ Feagin

On the :

"I think we played pretty well. Today we tried out some new defensive covers, you know, put some things in motion and get away from our original offense. (Collectively), we shared the ball and played as a team. I'm pretty satisfied with the performance today."

On the team shooting over 50 percent from the field tonight:

"It feels good. I know that the work we put in everyday we are in the gym every morning. Not something we are worried about. Even just personally I'm not worried, basketball shots come and go, we have to hang our head at defense. Every shot that you take is going to be contested and every shot that you make is going to be a tough make."

On San Diego Christian pulling to within three points of the Aztecs in the first half:

"Yeah, I didn't get worried at all. As a collective group we were just mad that we allowed them to score that many points. As soon as Malachi, Yanni and I think myself checked back in, we brought everyone back together. We opened the game up after that. It got under 20 in the first half, but we

ran away with it on the last half. We knew that they would make some kind of a run, they play basketball, they're basketball players, they can make shots. We just kept at it and things fell in line."

On level of respect for San Diego Christian:

"I have a lot of respect for those guys. I think what Santa Clara offered, that could've easily been me. Those were the kind of schools that were recruiting me before I went to Santa Clara, so I definitely have respect for those guys. I know how hard it is when you feel like you work so hard and you should be on a bigger stage, maybe it goes unnoticed sometimes, but they still come out and compete for 40 minutes and that says a lot about their character and what type of people they are off of the court. That they're warriors."

On the team's demeanor heading into Saturday's game vs. Utah:

"We are rolling right now. There's no reason not to feel good. It's just all about (sharpening) our focus in and not getting too high or too low. Just knowing that Utah isn't a rollover, it's going to be a tough game. But it's the confidence that you've put in the work, you deserve to be here. I'm not worried, I know we will go to LA and get the win and put on a show. I'm looking forward to it."

On the opportunity to play inside Staples Center:

"Well, my dad said they bought about 75 tickets. I'm just waiting to see how much family I have there. I'm just ecstatic, like everything is coming full circle for me in my last year and just being able to come back to San Diego, my home, and having the Staples Center on the schedule just shows that everything works out in the end. I hope I play well, I know I will play well. I want to get the win."

San Diego State Senior Forward Yann Wetzell

On the team's performance:

"We had 10 days off, so it was nice to knock the rust off and get back out there. It was awesome playing against a team like this; everyone was able to play some good minutes and we shared the ball really well. Overall great performance in my eyes."

On the difficulty of playing a team like San Diego Christian:

"We weren't too worried, we tried different defenses, we had everyone out on the floor. I don't think we were too worried about the score at that point."

On the Aztecs' big advantage in the paint:

"Obviously, we had a lot more size than them; that was one thing we tried to do was get the ball inside. I think they had one guy over 6-2 or 6-3. We start with two bigs, so obviously we are going to dominate in the paint and in rebounding, too. We just played to our strength in that department."

On level of respect for San Diego Christian:

"Yeah, you have to. I was at a Division II my first two years of college and I played with some absolute studs too, guys that can play but didn't have any exposure. You have to respect every opponent that you come against. They're grinding just like we are. They obviously don't have all of the perks we have, but they're coming in here hungry and going to come at us. We are still unbeaten; we've got to come (out) every day and respect every team we play against."

On the opportunity to play inside Staples Center:

"Universally that's the height of playing basketball playing in arenas like the Staples Center and (Madison Square Garden). We are all pretty stoked that we have this opportunity, excited beyond measure. But we've got to stay locked in and scout Utah these next couple of days and remember it's another game. We can't get caught up in the idea of us playing in the arena."

San Diego Christian Head Coach Dwayne Cosby

Opening Statement:

"This team is so well-coached and they have athletes who can shoot and rebound. We wanted to come and execute our stuff and put up a good fight for 40 minutes."

On what went different from the game plan:

"Easily full court pressure. Plenty of surprise, I was really shocked how well they pressured us and how bad we handled it because we practice that every day. That threw (us) a curveball, but we re-adjusted and got it to 19-16, but we never got in a groove offensively."

On what to take away from this game:

"[This is] a team that is more skilled, bigger stronger more athletic. It gives us a barometer to see where we're at and what we can improve on."

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