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UC Irvine at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 72, UC Irvine 69

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | November 29, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"That's how coaches get gray hair right there. I got a lot of it. Got some extra tonight but I just put on the board energy, we have to play with energy. I had turned on Baylor and Marquette, both teams had good game plans, but I just thought Marquette had more energy. The first game after Hawaii is always tough. I've been here long enough to know that it's super tough when you schedule a team that's 6-1 playing really good basketball. We made a lot of mistakes in the first half. Offensively, just too careless with the ball, trying to force too many things. And then as the game went on, I think we ended up with 13 or 14 turnovers but not many in the second half. We took better care of the ball and got shots. The most gratifying thing is to see that we got down four late and didn't fold up, we made timely plays, we made important plays at both ends of the floor. We got stops and we made big baskets. We struggled from three but with the game on the line we made three in a row. For Matt Bradley and Micah Parrish to sit for that whole stretch, we were riding with Seiko, Butler, Darrion Trammell, Keshad, and Nate, but with a game on the line offensively, we put Micah and Matt back in. As much as they were playing man, they were zoning at the end of the game up top. Two guards on Darrion, just switching the ball screen to keep a guy on him. So, I sent Nate down to the basket and flashed Matt to the foul line, I just know Matt's so good at the foul line against zone. Whether they were zone or man, if I could get the ball to Matt at the foul line, I told him to get downhill. Nate, duck in, occupy a body, get downhill. Matt took a dribble downhill, he saw Micah in the corner, he pitched the ball. I said Matt's one of our better playmakers too. He found Micah and to Micah's credit he stepped in and knocked out a tremendously important three to win the game for us. You feel good about it, but still enough to work on, which is the key to coaching. It's teaching, and we have a lot to teach. And it's always better to teach after a win than a loss."

On dropping to a #24 ranking:

"It's a tremendous respect for our program. Most non-power five schools lose two in a row, and they can't get them out of the rankings fast enough. I think the people we lost to Arizona, four and Arkansas, eight in the poll. I think people were accepting of that. Had we lost tonight, they'd had us out of the poll in a hurry. With that being said, this is a team that's 6-1 that was ahead of Oregon by 20 and I knew they were good. I didn't schedule them because I knew they were good. I was hoping that I scheduled them, and they weren't going to be that good. And it's a credit to Russell Turner because as long as he's been there, they've always had dominant bigs. So, when we were scheduling I said, did they lose their bigs? Yeah, one graduated, another one transferred. They got young bigs. I said we'll schedule them. It turns out their guards are dynamic, and he's done a great

job. For a guy that dominates with bigs, he's dominating with guards right now and really good guard play. That was a real challenge for us. Every mistake we made, they capitalized on, but we tightened up at the end."

On 3-point shooting:

"Well, a lot of that is a byproduct of people not helping, they're not leaving shooters. I know Arkansas and Arizona didn't help at all off the perimeter. They tried to stop ball screens two on two or if they helped it was off it was someone like Keshad or AG, they chose not to guard them. People are good at scouting and if you're a good shooter, it's hard to find a look sometimes and to our credit, we got a couple of looks for our shooters Micah is a shooter and Seiko is a shooter. We got Seiko on the baseline out of bounds, we got Micah on a drive and kick. We got him timely shots with the game on the line, so it's a credit to the guys for finding him and then for them making the shots."

San Diego State Senior Forward Nathan Mensah

On UC Irvine's potential game plan against SDSU:

"Before the game we thought they were going to double team, so it was already planned that we're going to become point guards in the paint. When I noticed that they are not doubling, we have to take advantage of that by just giving me the ball so that I found the best possible outcome."

On playing the 1st game after returning from Maui:

"I will say it's just it gets to a point where players are like, just tired from the flight is like a long trip. You just get back and mostly you think the team that you play next is going to be like an easy win. Looking at UC Irvine, yeah, they have had some solid wins, they are actually 6-1 before they played us."

On not double teaming:

"Sometimes, you look at stats and you notice someone's points per game. You have that mentality in mind that you said, I'm not going to get the ball so other teams try picks, so you have to go against them one on one. I don't see it as disrespect, I see it as other teams' coaches having confidence in their players"

San Diego State Junior Forward Micah Parrish

On the last play:

"Coach called timeout, and we called the play for Matt, and I told Adam to switch sides because I knew I was going to make it on that side. Matt is a great playmaker, so he made the one more pass to me open, and I kind of looked away because I knew I made it."

On shooting from the left side:

"I felt like it was easier for me to shoot on that side because I'm left-handed just so it's just easier for me to line it up. I know it's weird but when I came out of halftime, I hit almost eight straight or something like that."

On Matt's passing:

"Yeah, Matt is one of the best passers on the team. I know last year he led the team and assists, and I don't think you get enough credit for that. He's a really good passer and when he doesn't have a shot or anything going."

UC Irvine Head Coach Russell Turner

On tonight's contest:

"Well, it's tough to lose when we felt like we were controlling the game late, needed a couple of defensive plays that we didn't make, so that's disappointing. We came in here with the belief that we could win, and we performed for 37 minutes like we were the better team so I am pleased with the confirmation that we can do that as a follow up to our win against Oregon."

On SDSU's last play:

"Last play, Matt Bradley made a big-time play. We thought he was going to take the ball to the hole. I thought we did a good job crowding him, he made the pass to corner and second game in a row a left-handed three-point shooter has shot balls in on us."

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