



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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UNLV at San Diego State Postgame Quotes **Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.** **Feb. 22, 2020**

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"Well, we tasted defeat for the first time and it doesn't taste very good. Anybody that was saying they thought a loss would be good for the Aztecs, we don't feel that way at all. We're vastly disappointed. We wanted a perfect season, but it didn't happen and that's college basketball. I'm smart enough to know that every game you play is going to be a challenge. We have to use this moment to find a way to get better. That's what I always say about Aztec basketball: we get better as the season goes on. We'll learn lessons in defeat and we will come back tomorrow. I told them the other good news about basketball is we play again right away. We play on Tuesday, so we're not going to sit here and dwell on this, we're going to pick a few things up that we think we need to do better, and come out and have a better performance on senior night against Colorado State."

On message at halftime:

"I told them at halftime I thought this would be good for us, we've been down before. So it's a good moment for us to make adjustments to try to get more on the same page defensively, which we did."

On message at end of game:

"Disappointment. But it's college basketball; it happens every night and it hadn't happened to us all year, so now we'll see how we respond to it. Even though we hadn't lost a game, I felt if we (ever) did, that this team is built the right way. They're connected, their chemistry is great and if there was a team able to handle defeat, this one is probably as good as any. We'll put that to the test next time we go out there and see how we play after a loss. I would be very much surprised if we don't play a very good basketball game on Tuesday."

San Diego State Junior Forward Matt Mitchell

On the first half's eight-minute scoreless stretch:

"Well we go through stretches (without scoring) all the time, I think every team does. We were missing shots and we were not connected on offense as well as we should have been or as we have been all year. We've now got to go back to the drawing board for next game, get in the gym and get better."

On the feeling of losing for the first time this season:

"It was a reality check that we're not invincible. A loss is a loss. We can't do anything about it. (We have) got to move on to the next game."

San Diego State Junior Guard Malachi Flynn

On the feeling of losing for the first game this season:

"We lost, and it's the first time it's happened (this season) so it doesn't feel good. We were all just trying to win the game, and it just played out the way it played out."

UNLV Head Coach T. J. Otzelberger**Opening Statement:**

"I'm really proud of our guys; togetherness was the theme of this week as we got ready for this game and I thought we did a great job (at it). Last week at New Mexico, (we did a great job of) sticking together and staying the course. My guys really did a great job here today, so many guys made big plays. It's also not (just) the big plays that happened during the game, but on a daily basis the work that these guys do (is what I'm proud of). As a coach, (I try) to teach life lessons of hard work and how that pays off (and tonight) that happened."

On clock management:

"It's important as a coach in those moments to know your team and be able to manage a game. This place [Viejas Arena] is a heck of an environment. We didn't want it to get too crazy for too long, so again, I wish we (would have) had a few more timeouts, but we used them the best we could at the times we did. I felt like our guys responded well and they were telling me (during) those timeouts that 'no, we've got to value every possession, we can't afford any live ball turnovers, we've got to make sure we get a shot on the goal.' They're (San Diego State is) really good (in) transition so I tried to keep them (San Diego State) away from that."

On offensive adjustments for this game:

"We had to spread the floor, so we changed a little bit of our philosophy. We popped the five (guard) and all the ball screens and tried to have the five out on the perimeter the whole time to have [Yanni] Wetzell guard on the outside so we could open up some bigger driving lanes and it worked for us early. I thought we really drilled the corners well, we talked about that a bunch, so credit to our guys for being so focused to execute a game plan and stay the course with it from start to finish."

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