



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Troy at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 60, UC Irvine 55

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | December 5, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Another hard-fought game. I told the guys I feel bad about the schedule I put together, but it's going to toughen us. There's no question about that. We knew Troy was good, they had our full attention. It's not like Troy came in and played us tough because we overlooked them. They were ahead of Arkansas by eight in the second half, and Arkansas found a way in the last four minutes to win. We did the same thing. Trailed, then found a way in the last four minutes to make enough timely plays to win the game. We knew we were in line for a really tough game, and it was. But to our credit, we fought through, and we didn't get down when we were behind. We kept mentally tough, and that's what I put on the board. That's what their coach said after their loss at Edwardsville. He said the toughest team always wins, so I put that on the board— the toughest team always wins. And I said that's got to be mental toughness. Because physically, I've known guys over my career that are big, but they're as soft as a marshmallow. Size isn't toughness, mental is toughness. We had a lot of mental toughness in order to hang in there when things weren't going great and still find a way to win the game."

On halftime adjustments:

"Yeah, we tried to throw it in. We tried to drive in there and then jump stop, and then duck the bigs in. Make that little small bounce pass. We've been working on that a lot so it's good to see that starting to pay off. They took away all of our entries. They do a great job denying and they forced 17 turnovers, but we forced 17 turnovers. The key to the game was they hit seven threes in the first half— if they hit seven in the second half, we'd have lost, but they only made two. One of them was, the guy didn't even know the shot clock, then he threw one up and went in. The last one the last one was a deep heave where late in the game, we doubled and helped in the corner too much and they threw it out. We did a good job taking the three away and they shot a low percentage, and we protected the basket with Nate and AG and size at the rim. The only thing I wish we had done better is we had a lot of stops on the stretch, but we didn't finish with a rebound. Gave them second chance opportunities, but we guarded like crazy tonight."

On the next matchup versus St. Mary's:

"They're good. They're really good offensively and efficient, but they couldn't score against Houston. The main thing was that Houston couldn't score on them. So, their defense was good. I think the score was 53 to 48. If we guard hard and they guard hard, it might be in the 30s— we don't know. But whatever we need to win, we're going to get it. If it's 38 to 36, we're going to try to get just enough points to win that game."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

On what he feels like his role is this year after stepping into a playmaking role:

"I kind of struggled my first couple games, finding that out and what I quickly realized is that I'm playing with a bunch of great players now. Darrion, Jaedon, you know, everybody down the list, everybody's capable of scoring and offense is really deep so I stepped into that playmaker role a little bit better and that opened up my offense a score so I'm just you know, getting comfortable doing that and I'm not pressing the score, you know, buckets anymore. I'm just out there playing trying to have fun and you know, give other guys opportunity to score."

On working with Darrion at the end of the game:

"Yeah, like he said, we talked at halftime. This is our type of game, they're going to deny everybody, try to pressure, just blow it up, attack the rim and make plays for other people. And after the game, all we care about is winning. Whether he shoots it, I shoot it. Anybody shoots it, we're just trying to get the best look and that was the best look, we trust Darrion 100%."

On pressure free throws:

"Yeah, they were big free throws. I just kind of took a second and told myself, I'm going to make them. My teammates, I forgot, were standing right there but I knew Darrion was and told me I was going to make them as well. So just having confidence on your side and feeling like the gym is going to trust you and making them means a lot. I'm glad I made them and I'm excited for the next opportunity to do so."

San Diego State Senior Guard Darrion Trammell

On how his hamstring feels:

"It's getting better. I feel like I'm very close to 100%, slow nagging but I'm getting better."

On working with Matt at the end of the game:

"We knew they were trying to deny us and pressure us, so at half time, Matt and I talked about it. I feel like that's like our game. Like if they're going to do that, it's going to be hard to stop us one on one. I think at the end of the game, the ball just finds the right person. Not trying to be too 'Oh, we have to get the ball, we have to get the ball' but just let the ball come to us. I made a layup. I just made the right play."

On Troy forcing turnovers:

"I think we just had to understand we were going to get denied and just play our game. I feel like we were trying to force our entries, and they were just denying it super hard. The easiest play was just to go by the pressure. At that point, just let your instincts take over. We're all really good players. So, I think once we figured that out, we were in good hands."

Troy Head Coach Scott Cross

On tonight's contest:

"We missed some easy shots there down the stretch. Giving credit, that's the best defensive team we will play all year long, we knew it was going to be tough to score, but late in the game we did miss some layups, some unforced turnovers that we normally don't commit."

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