



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. San Jose State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 72, San Jose State 51

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 28, 2023

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Another good home victory. I mean, we played another great first half defensively and offensively. I was really pleased and obviously, free throws were something we shoot at an elite level and we were like three for 10 in the first half. This game always has a way of humbling you. I told them at halftime, get out early, go take a few free throws to start the second half. And then I think we were 10 for 11 the second half from the foul line. So, we did a good job of that. I think we played three and a half games where the turnovers have been outstanding. The first half of Colorado State we had seven, the second half we had three, then we followed it up with a really good performance at Air Force, a really good performance against Utah State and then only three turnovers tonight, taking care of the ball. You know that's important to any team, and really important to us because if we can get a shot and then Keshad and Nate and Jaedon, they're going to rebound it. We can't rebound a turnover. And so we've done a great job of taking care of the ball. That's had a lot to do with our success at the offensive end. I think we're just playing together more. We're getting into our second option, we run a play and they take away the first option and then we're flowing into the second thing. I think in the first play of the second half, we ran the lob play for Keshad. And it worked twice. We've got two dunks on it. Well, they saw it coming and they took the dunk away. Well, there's a second part. So Nate stepped up, he ball screened, Matt was already down there, he lifts behind and we got Nate a lay up dunk on the same play where we got Keshad a dunk. So it's the same play but a different result. That shows we have an ability to get to our secondary options on some of our set plays. That makes us really hard to guard. I thought it was a really solid performance and now we'll be back at practice tomorrow at 11 am here in Viejas and then hit the road and play a really good Nevada team on their home floor, and Reno. Then come back and play the other team that's a game back, Boise, on Friday and I think they have a bye week leading into the game. So I think it's a real challenge. It's four games in 10 days and we're halfway through it."

On letting up in the second half:

"I told them in the second half, the key to the start of the second half is rebounding. We're going to cause the first miss. Well, the first two minutes they had three offensive rebounds that led to baskets. I don't want to say I'm a prophet, but I kind of know what the problem is going to be. I try to give them a warning as to what it's going to be, and that when that happens, it gives me more credibility as a coach. So, we gave them too many second chance opportunities. That's what happened in the first half of Utah State where they finally had some success, it was on the offensive glass. So, I think they had 11 or 13 offensive rebounds and if we do a better job on the glass, then we cut second chance opportunities and I think they scored on a lot of second chance opportunities."

On the emphasis moving into the second hand of conference play:

"Just keep getting better. Don't think that we've arrived, know there's another level we can climb to and work every day to climb to that level, both physically and mentally. Stay involved, know that you can be better, be the best version of you. And we still strive to do that every day."

San Diego State Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On their defensive:

"We take defense really personal here. So, you know we kind of looked at it and then, our biggest thing was just trying to shorten their run. You know, they are going to make runs. They kind of went on a good run. Like Keshad said, we're going to get back tomorrow and look at it, move onto the next."

On takeaways from tonight's contest:

"We've just got to keep them down. When we've already got somebody down, we've got to keep our foot on the neck because I mean everybody's capable of you know, making runs and playing good basketball. So, you know, when we are on top, we've got to stay on top."

San Diego State Senior Guard Keshad Johnson

On his recent success:

"I'm just working. Work has to automatically pay off sooner or later. So that's just a result of all the work I put in."

On unlocking his full athleticism and energy on the court:

"It's all about energy and effort. Giving my full energy every game. There's a lot of things that might not go your way so this game everything was pretty much going my way. I was tough on the glass, I'm still kind of disappointed because they outrebounded us by two. For me and Jaedon, that's our responsibility as leaders on the team and I kind of feel like I left my team down a little bit there. So, we don't have to win every game on the offensive glass and defensive glass right there. So yeah, just that will help us."

On takeaways from tonight's contest:

"When we come back out of the locker room for the second half, we've got to keep the same energy and play like it's 0-0. We just got to learn how to build from and stack good plays back-to-back. That's what we've got to learn."

San Jose State Head Coach Tim Miles

On tonight's contest:

"San Diego State, I thought was outstanding defensively. The first half Keshad Johnson, I thought was really good. Matt Bradley, you know he's going to come and get you at some certain point. Aguek Arop, who I've known forever since he was a young high school player, that really gave high quality minutes for the Aztecs too. Their defensive pressure got us out of whack, out of sorts and we couldn't get on track for much too long."