



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | @AZTECSPR | #GOAZTECS

No. 5 San Diego State at Nevada Postgame Quotes Lawlor Events Center | Reno, Nev. Feb. 29, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"This was just a really good college basketball game. It's also easier to say when you win but looking at Nevada stats, they have 26 baskets and 21 assists. They're playing the right way. Both teams shot 50 percent from the field and competed at a high level. We just made more timely plays down the stretch and they did. So, I'm just proud of our kid's effort. They played like the mature team they are. They didn't get rattled on the road even though Nevada rattled us. I'm just proud of the way we finished and Malachi, obviously, good players make coaches look good. So you put it in good players hands, and then they'll determine what's going to happen in the game by the decisions they make and the plays they make. I've got a bunch of really good players that make a coach look good."

On how good this team is with the post season looming:

"We're good. I'm a little bit concerned over the last three games. We're letting teams shoot 50 percent in the first half; Nevada shoots 50 percent for the game. We hang our hat on our defenses and our rebounding. We have to get back to playing at a higher level of defense because it's March. We can't let teams shoot that well against us. Without Nathan (Mensah), we don't really have a rim protector, so we thought we'd try to take some more charges in the second half and they didn't have free rein just to come to the basket."

San Diego State Junior Guard Malachi Flynn

On being "in the zone" against Nevada:

"It was just one of those nights. Early on it felt good and my teammates just kept giving me the ball and kept telling me to keep going. So, I think a lot of it has to do with them just trusting me."

On changes made at halftime:

"We just had to change our effort. It was all things we can control. They had 45 points at the half, and we haven't given up that much all year. So, we knew coming out in the second half, if we locked in on defensive, everything would take care of itself."

On the team being able to turn things around in the second half:

"We've said all year we're just resilient, but we don't want to be in those situations. We've got to find a way to keep from getting into those situations but moving forward we've just got to keep going. If that happens, we know we're just going to keep working and keep working hard."

On if they realize what they have accomplished by going 28-1:

"Yeah, it's good to look back and realize we only lost once but to be honest, it means nothing now. We've got conference tournament and then March Madness, so this means nothing. We've got to put it behind us and look forward to what's next."

San Diego State Senior Guard KJ Feagin

On what adjustments were made in the second half:

"I just think we decided that we wanted to play defense in the second half. In the first half they kind of got whatever they wanted. We didn't impose our will on the game, so in the second half we just got back to who we are, and we imposed our will on the game. We made the play Aztec basketball, and we came out victorious."

On how he hurt his ankle:

"I went up for a rebound with their big and tapped it to (Adam Seiko) on the way down and landed on the big's foot. It hurts right now but my team needed me. I taped it up and I could run just enough for me to play and that was enough for me. So I got back on the court. Props to coach for having trust in me to put me back on the court to make those plays to help my team wins. So, everything should be fine by tournament time."

On why this team responds so well on the road:

"We just like playing on the road. We like to the raucous environment. It was hostile in here tonight. The fans on the (end) of the court we're talking smack before the game. They were up on us so it was kind of a gut check and we like to see who we are when, when it's to play. We were down. We were bruised and beaten but we weren't finished so I'm glad we came out victorious."

On the play of Malachi Flynn:

"I mean he's the best player in the conference. He's been showing it for the last 18 games or so. All he did was go out there and kept showing what he's been doing for the last 17 or 18 games. I think he's the best guard in the nation and he showed that tonight."

On if the road success the team has enjoyed will translate into the postseason:

"I think it's going to transfer a lot. Knowing that we don't have the home crowd and knowing that we're used to being in that environment, a lot of teams aren't used to winning on the road. But we have that positive feeling of having 17 or however many wins on the road so I think it transfers well going into the tournament. I think it will bode well for us as we make this run."

On the importance of getting this win:

"You always want to end your season on a high note. So if we wouldn't have won, I think that this week would have been very tough. We would have had that sour taste in our mouth. So it's good to have a gut check and come back and win. Now we really feel good going into the tournament, knowing that we've seen everybody's best shot. And now it's time for everybody to get our even better shot. So, it's time to take the game to everybody else."

-SDSU-