



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Troy at San Diego State Postgame Quotes
Saint Mary's 68, San Diego State 61
Footprint Center | Phoenix, Ariz. | December 10, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"You're going to find this interesting, but I thought we played this year in a loss better than we did last year in a win. Last year both teams played a sloppy game and we came out on top of a sloppy game. I thought for the most part we executed pretty well against what they were doing. The difference was in the first half we were attacking, getting to the foul line and finishing and in the second half we missed some finishes at the rim. They weren't going to give us some threes and we didn't give them a lot. When we started switching five and switching ball screens, they got less threes and we didn't have to help as much. But I thought it was a pretty good college basketball game."

On what the difference is when Nathan Mensah gets in early foul trouble:

"They got him twice right away and he didn't get to play much. When you are playing in that few minutes (18:23) it's hard to get into a rhythm. We missed him on the floor. He is one of our best players, but 18 minutes is not enough for Nate. Then when you come back in after not playing for so long, your rhythm is not there. So he's got to find a way to play without fouling."

On what Saint Mary's did today offensively that they didn't do in the last two years:

"They just attacked and attacked pretty good. In the first half we were late switching and at the end of the first half and in the second half we just switched everything. They attacked the big sometimes, but I don't think they really hurt us throwing into the post on a switch and we had a guard on a big. Play wise we held them to a pretty low point total; we fouled them down the stretch and they knocked down the free throws at the end. Both teams defended at a pretty high level. This was a high 50s, low 60s basketball game."

San Diego State Senior Forward Keshad Johnson

On how he feels the game went:

"Both teams played well, and it was a better game than last year. Last year it was a sloppy game from both teams. Today we played good, but our shots weren't falling the way we wanted them to and that makes a big difference. They hit a couple of threes and were getting to the line and made some layups. We've got to convert more, whether we get the foul or not."

On what may be wrong with the offense in the last two games:

"Nothing. Everyone just needs to make their shots; they weren't falling the way we want them to. That won't continue for ever. Our shots are going to start to fall, and we will be fine."

On what Saint Mary's did in this game that they hadn't done in the last couple of meetings:

"This time we let them attack us more and we need to defend without fouling. They were able to get to the line and get us in foul trouble, which was a big part of their game, and they used it to their advantage."

On where the team is right now:

"I feel like we are getting better each and every game. We are more comfortable with each other. Our chemistry is growing whether we win or lose. We need all these hard-fought games and just need to learn how to grind them out and get the wins."

San Diego State Junior Guard Lamont Butler

On what is different between the team from the Maui Invitational to now:

"I really don't think much has changed. We just need to continue to play with confidence, everyone playing their game and staying together."

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