



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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### San Diego State at Air Force Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 98, Air Force 61

Clune Arena | Colorado Springs, Colo. | Jan. 22, 2021

### San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

#### Opening Statement:

"Well, I said this is like going to the dentist, but it was a good checkup today. We played at a high level defensively and took them out of a lot of what they do well. I think it was with our pressure that got us ignited offensively. We shot the ball well. We shared the ball. Everything we worked on this week to try to make it difficult on them offensively was effective. So now both teams will go make adjustments and it'll be a completely new game on Sunday. We can't get full of ourselves and not know that this is a team that's going to come out and play inspired basketball against us on Sunday."

#### On the play of the team's defense:

"We did a good job. A lot of times if you pressure a Princeton offense you get back doored a lot, but we pick and choose when we're going to pressure and I thought it was effective, both from the post position and then from the wing position."

#### On what he told his team in the locker room at halftime:

"That this is just the first quarter of four quarters. So, we knew there was another half and another full game. We won the first quarter, and the second quarter was close, I think it was 46-45. It'll be the third quarter coming up on Sunday, so we have to approach it like every half is important and we will continue to do that."

#### On the choice to start Terrell Gomez and Lamont Buter:

"Well, we knew that they played a matchup zone, so I liked Terrell's shooting ability. Lamont was coming off a very good game at Utah State and we wanted to reward him for that. My biggest decision was obviously whether I was going to leave Adam (Seiko) in there or put Trey (Pulliam) in. Trey's assist-to-turnovers are so high, and Adam gives us some scoring off the bench, and so we went with that lineup."

"We'll see if Matt (Mitchell) gets healthy and is able to come back, and what that does the rotation in the lineup, but I've got guys that come to play whether they're starting or not starting. They're wired the right way, all they want to do is win, and so I thought we had contributions, both from the starting lineup but just as importantly off the bench."

#### On the play of Adam Seiko and Aguek Arop who both came off the bench in this game:

"Well they're both wired the right way. If they were kids with attitudes and (had) that kind of thinking, they might not be able to respond. But both these kids want to win. They both play at a high level, whether that's starting or coming off the bench. It's a long season so they'll play their way in and out of that starting lineup as the season goes on, because they're both very effective players."

## **San Diego State Junior Guard Adam Seiko**

### **On if it was difficult to come off the bench after starting the six games prior to this one:**

"Yeah it definitely was tough. You know mentally I had some checking to do of myself for a couple days, but you know I believe in all my teammates and I'm happy for Lamont (Butler) and I'm happy for (Terrell Gomez). I'm happy for (them) because I don't doubt that they will go in there and do a great job. It was tough, but I've got to stay level headed, know that I trust my teammates as much as they trust me. They're always encouraging me, on bad days, on good days, it doesn't matter. So, it was good to go out there and have a good game today."

### **On how the team has progressed offensively in the last three games:**

"It's just about playing free and that's what we talked about in our film sessions after Utah State. It seems like sometimes we're iffy on some stuff and we have to learn to play free play and know that we're confident in all our games. You play free (and you) will be able to go out there and score and our defense will work for itself."

## **San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel**

### **On the team's play in the game and if it was a result of the outcome at Utah State:**

We're not used to losing games here. We had to control all the things we can control, our attitude, our effort, our energy coming in here and our execution. I think that's what we did in the first half. (We) came with great energy on both sides (of the ball). (We) turned it over a little too much in the first four minutes, but our defense held us right there. So, once we got rolling offensively, we were good.

### **On if he was happy to play against a zone defense:**

"Yeah. I like the options that we put in. There's a lot of movement, of a lot of freedom and like what Adam (Seiko) was saying, we kind of found out how to play within that freedom, take care of the ball and just make the right plays. So, I liked offense that we (put in)."

### **On the difficulty of playing at Air Force (SDSU is 10-11 since 2000) in general and how difficult it will be put together back-to-back wins against them:**

"We know part of the reason why the record is what it is, is because the offense they run. It plays well in this altitude and they are very, very good at it. Their offense gets you leaning back door, and then (the guard) comes off a little handoff screen and he's shooting. They're very, very good at those shots and you just have to match their energy. It's more of a mindset thing. We're in good enough shape to do it, you know you feel tired, but you've just got to push through, and we have the luxury of having a deep bench."

**-SDSU-**