



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Saint Katherine at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 91, Saint Katherine 57

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | December 19, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"It was great to be back on the floor after finals. We got some practices in, but obviously haven't had a game in a while. It felt good to get back out there in front of a Viejas crowd and start playing games again and this was a good game for us as a tune-up. We knew St. Katherine was 9-2 and they are playing NAIA competition, but they were playing well. They started the game, and you thought they would make every shot they took; I think they hit their first four threes. We got into a rhythm, turned our defense up, made it harder for them to score, and then found a way to build a lead, and a big part of that was rebounding. We finally dominated the glass. That's an area we've been struggling in, rebounding both defensively and offensively. I thought that was a big part of our production and we played everybody, good minutes. I don't think a starter played more than 20 minutes. The only thing that happened that was tough was we had a couple of injuries, and that's what you don't want in a tune-up game. Darrion [Trammell] tweaked an ankle he had already sprained, so we'll evaluate him as it goes on. Jay Pal got elbowed, so we're checking to see if possibly broke his nose or not. We'll find out as we move forward but we had to take him out. We have a really good Stanford team coming in here Thursday and we have to be at full strength, and we have to be ready to go."

On the halftime speech being up by 30:

"We have a standard we have to play to. I told them after the game that Darrion [Trammell], Lamont [Butler], Micah [Parrish], and Jaedon [LeDee] are held to a higher standard than anybody else. They can't make any mistakes at the defensive end. I'm tired of watching them make mistakes. I said the new guys – [Miles] Heide and Elijah Saunders in his second year with Byrd playing his first real minutes – they're working hard to catch up, and they'll make mistakes. Our veterans have to play mistake-free if we're going to be the team we want to be. I'm trying to put more pressure on my four returning seniors to be more productive at both ends of the floor. Hopefully, they'll answer that challenge."

On Cam Lawin's journey to becoming an Aztec and his performance tonight:

"Cam Lawin was a really good high school player in Chicago. He came to the Brian Dutcher or the Steve Fisher basketball camp when he was a young kid and he fell in love with San Diego. I've known his dad for a while. Cam came to school here and I told him he could be a preferred walk-on . . . I'm happy for Cam and all the walk-ons. They put a lot of work in and they're way better than they played on the floor today. I think it was the nerves of going out there because they're hard to stop in practice for our regulars every day. They're good players, so when they have success, it's not surprising."

On Stanford:

"Stanford has lost some close games. They played a really competitive schedule, Arkansas and Michigan, just to name a couple. They're veterans. They're bigger than us at almost every position, and so that size and strength are going to play a factor in the game. We have to make sure that we do a good job boxing out and rebounding, and then we have to contest threes. They're running more this year, they're playing freer, and they have a veteran team. I think they might start three, four, our five seniors, and fifth-year seniors. It's going to be a real challenge for us on Thursday."

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee**On the message he has for Mile Heide:**

"Go at it every day. I mean, that's it. That's what Miles does. He's been competing against me since the summertime, so I've seen him grow."

On his "game" this year versus last:

"My performance is a result of trust from the coaches and my teammates. We had a lot of great guys on the team last year. We have great guys this year, but it's a different dynamic. The coaches needed me to step into that role. I'm just doing my job."

On the younger guys:

"We know those guys are super talented and more than capable. I'm happy to see them out there and see that work coming to fruition. I'm super happy and I know the rest of the team was too."

Freshman Forward Miles Heide**On his performance tonight:**

"I went out there and did my role to get offensive rebounds when I get the chance and just stay physical. That was the game plan the whole time."

On being a freshman 11 games into his career:

"It's definitely been a learning process. Being able to go against Jaedon [LeDee] every day in practice has definitely helped. I get to learn from him, which has been good. He's like a big brother to me. The coaches have full support for me. It's a learning process. I'm going to learn from my mistakes and they give me a minutes, so I'm going to definitely take advantage of that."

On being a freshman big who gets minutes, unlike most other top teams:

"The coaches have done a lot to preach to me it takes patience and time. They've given me that role of going out there and being an energy guy, getting offensive boards, and doing what I can on the on the defensive glass. It's just time and patience. My role will grow even bigger eventually, but I just try to do what I can on the court right now."