



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Postgame Quotes: Utah State at San Diego State
Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.
Saturday, Feb. 15, 2022

Brian Dutcher, San Diego State head coach

Opening Statement:

"We had back-to-back good offensive games. Who would've thought that would happen? We shared the ball. We had 19 assists and shot a high percentage, 51 percent from the field, and played good basketball. We guarded at a high level and did a good job following the game plan. It was a hard fought victory. I love Utah State's team. I think they are really good, and we were fortunate enough to get ahead early. I didn't think we had a great start to the second half and gave us some offensive rebounds, but we found a way to maintain an eight-point lead that could have easily been two or four, but we held the lead and then spurted again. Matt Bradley was sensational. He draws extra coverages and he's unafraid to move the ball and had five assists and then we had great production off the bench again. AG, Baker-Mazara and Seiko all contributed at a high level."

On why it's difficult for opponents to defend Matt Bradley:

"If they double him, someone else is going to get an open shot because he's obviously a willing passer and that makes him doubly dangerous. That's always what we've been best at, finding a go-to-guy and if they don't double, he can score, and if they do, he can find open players and Matt's becoming that for us. As the season goes on, he's become more and more comfortable making plays for himself and others."

On holding Utah State to 5-for-18 shooting from three:

"We stayed attached. They drive in there and they like to spray it out and we didn't get drawn in when they got into the paint. We stayed extended on them and wouldn't let them kick out for open threes. They hit 10 [threes] against us in the first game and that was a big part of their victory, but we did a good job taking their three away and that was a big part of the win tonight."

Matt Bradley, San Diego State senior guard

On having to face defenders who are taller than him:

"It was like I played in the game against USC and for the past three years. I played against those types of teams where they had length and it was nothing, you know, it was an internal battle with me, just getting comfortable finding my rhythm within the team. We're you know, I don't. I wouldn't necessarily put a stereotype on the length or anything, just mainly being in the gym getting shots if I needed to feel uncomfortable, so I just got to show up against whoever it is."

On energy going into game:

"Definitely. This game we're looking forward to. We had it marked on our whiteboard that this is the game with the score posted on it from the last one. Everybody was locked in and the energy was contagious. It was a great win. Utah State hats off to them. They're a pretty good team. I mean,

as you know, Coach just mentioned in the locker room before the game that in last six years these are the two teams that won the Mountain West championship. Utah State always give us her best. Even though the outcome didn't come out the way they wanted it to, it was still a great game. They still play well and we love playing against them. We left the last game with a bad taste in our mouth. So this week, we're very focused and locked in and that showed tonight."

On Aguek Arop getting a standing ovation after grabbing an offensive rebound:

"Coming out in the second half, Utah State was grabbing offensive rebounds left and right. I think he really saved us. He flipped the switch. He wasn't gonna allow them to just keep pumping us on the glass. He grabbed like two or three big offensive rebounds and I think the last one he grabbed he definitely got a standing ovation. That was well deserved. He is a beast whenever he's available. Whenever he can get out there with us we really enjoy it. He's a great teammate. One of the hardest workers I know. He battled through a lot this year and just as a testimony to him he knows his role. He knows what he has to do out there to help us win in those rebounds and just tipping balls and getting deflections into custody is so huge for us because no one knows that on the stat sheet, but we all know in the locker room at the end of the game that he was a huge part of this one."

Adam Seiko, San Diego State senior guard

On what changed defensively in the game versus what happened in Logan:

"The main thing for us was that we wanted to pressure the ball more this game. Last game we felt like they were too comfortable dribbling around with it and passing the ball around. This game we wanted to get up and pressure as much as we could to catch their close outs. The biggest thing is personnel as well. Our coaches do such a great job at scouting. So we know who we're closing out, and we're able to guard them accordingly. So it was a good job by everybody staying connected on that."

On fewer turnovers and more assists:

"It's just about concentration, concentration and out on the floor making the right plays. A lot of times we're going in there and not playing off two feet, which we practice a lot. Which was huge for our point guards especially, and everybody to take care of the ball today because we knew that if we let them get on the transition, it'll be a long game. So that was very important for us and our turnovers."

Ryan Odom, Utah State head coach

Opening statement

"I thought [SDSU] dynamite. I thought their defense obviously led the way for them. Bradley got going in the first half and he's going to make some hard shots at times, but we got to do a better job of making him get into those positions where he's having to make some harder ones and there were several easy ones that he had, not easy for most players, but for him pretty easy. We wanted to make him dribble and there were times where he didn't have to dribble at all, he just banged threes on us. I thought they were very aggressive on the offensive glass. They did a nice job in the first half getting some extras and then that continued early in the second half. We couldn't really get a handle on that. We got some of our own in the first five minutes of the second half and tried to close the gap, but we really couldn't get a bucket and a stop on consecutive possessions. It was just kind of trading baskets, and you can't do that on the road in a tough environment and expect to have success, but I was impressed with their team and the way that they played. We certainly have to get better going forward here."

On San Diego State turning 15 turnovers into 23 points:

"They're really good at getting you inside the line and then getting you to pick your dribble up, and then they lock out from there. They do an excellent job of switching and then it's tough to make passes and sometimes you're holding it so long that all the sudden, you expose the ball, and they knock it loose or on the catch there's somebody right there invading your space. It's certainly a learning experience for us and they actually turned us over in Logan as well, a similar number they just weren't able to capitalize on some of those as easily as they did tonight."