



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. Washington Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 100, Washington 97 (OT)

Continental Tire Main Event – Championship Game

T-Mobile Arena | Las Vegas, Nev. | November 19, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

It looked like an NBA game almost. The offensive talent out there tonight was incredible. The way guys could score that basketball. When they introduced their team, I knew what it was going to be: fifth year senior, fifth year senior, fifth year senior, fifth year senior and fourth year senior as their starting lineup. These are guys who have played a lot of basketball, a lot of good basketball, some of them their whole careers at Washington and some at other programs, but they're an experienced, well coached team. We weathered the storm. Some people will say our press offense wasn't good. Our press offense was darn good other than the five second count and a couple of jump balls. We decided in practice that when we run press offense, we're not really trying to score when we run it. Usually when teams press us that late, we're just trying to hold the ball, but they were pressing with three or four minutes ago. There were times when we were undecided if we wanted to attack or not attack. We told him to start getting down there and we tried to dunk on him a few times on the press break. We've worked on the press break, but it's obviously frustrating when you have a lead and it kind of slips away at the end but that's college basketball. To our kids' credit, they had resolved to go to overtime, not be disappointed and find a way to score enough timely baskets to come away with a win tonight.

On staying in the game after losing the late lead:

"It's early in the year, you're going to have those moments. We're five games in so no one's playing perfect basketball. If we had lost, it would have been a teachable moment. Like I said, I want all the teachable moments that come after a win. We have stuff to learn, and we will get better from here. But like I said, our talent and our resolve are there. Jaedon's a monster. I can't believe anybody is scoring more points than he is yet doing it in the right way, doing it unselfishly. He's taking what the defense gives him and stepping up and making big plays. He was capable of doing that last year. I told everybody he was and I'm the one that held him back because I had other good players too. And he had to play a different role last year, but he stepped up to do his current role and he understands that the more he has success, the more double teams he's going to draw. Then he's going to show what makes him special: his ability to pass the ball. He's a really, really well-rounded player.

On if Jaedon LeDee is the best big man in college basketball:

"He's not really a big man. He's big and strong but he's super skilled. You see him off the dribble and shooting mid-range

jump shots, shooting the three, but he's strong inside too. He's hard to guard because he's versatile. He can do a lot of things. He's a good passer. That's going to make him very dangerous for our opponents this year."

On playing against a zone defense:

"We got we got some productivity out of it. We weren't great but we followed instructions. We tried to get high post touches and create from there. Jaedon made a couple of really nice mid-range jump shots against the zone, but I think that's the first they've played zone this year, and they hadn't played a possession of zone. Obviously, we know his pedigree with the zone but we were playing well enough in man to man offense that they thought they better throw it on there tonight and they did a good job with it."

On the development of the bench players in the Continental Tire Main Event:

"They're all getting minutes. They're getting valuable minutes against good competition. I'd like to play them more. I rolled these guys a long, long time. Jaedon is going to play a lot of minutes this year. He's that dangerous and that important of the team, but I've got to divide the minutes up. I want to get Darrion [Trammell] more minutes than he got and see if there's a way to get him back in the lineup at times. I didn't play him much down the stretch and Darrion was the MVP of the South Regional. I tell him this every year, not every night is going to be your night. If you stay with it and you have a good attitude, you'll be ready when your night comes. These guys are ready when their minutes come. They all were productive when they got in today."

On Elijah Saunders' performance:

"It's just confidence. You can't get better until you play minutes, and he didn't play a lot of important minutes last year. He got minutes but not important ones. Now, he's getting important minutes. And he's growing into his role. And that's a difference in having a fifth-year senior like we had last year and a sophomore that's going to grow into that role and get better as the year goes on. That's why I'm encouraged. I think we'll get better as a team as these guys get more valuable minutes. The bench gets more valuable minutes, and they play more together."

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On the offense with 50 seconds left in the game:

"I was just playing. All credit to Coach Dutcher right here. He drew up that play in the huddle and trusted me to go out there and make the right decisions. If they would've helped, I would've kicked it out to a teammate] but I got my spot. I got it up. All credit to the coach and my teammates for trusting me."

On the mental impact of Washington's comeback:

"I credit the composure to all the time we put in in practice. For the guys that were here last year, we had a good run last year. We faced a lot of adversity during the tournament. It was just using those experiences we had to stay cool and just execute."

On his numbers so far this season:

"I just knew my role would be different. We have a different group of guys, but I really never thought about my numbers and stuff. I just thought about how I can help us win and that was the case. I didn't ever think about that."

On playing over 40 minutes against Washington:

"I feel fun. I always think the first four minutes are the hardest for me to get my body warm, but I feel great. You've got to do what you got to do out there. Take care of business. I mean, you got a job to do. That's how I look at it.

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