



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State at Brigham Young Postgame Quotes

Brigham Young 66, San Diego State 60

Marriott Center | Provo, Utah

Nov. 12, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well, obviously this is a major road game played in second game of the year. And I knew we weren't playing up to what we're going to be down this down the road, but I thought we competed hard enough to keep ourselves in the game and give ourselves a chance to win. We have to execute better at times. But I liked our grit. I liked our fight, like the way we got on the ball after loose balls, got on the floor, dove after it, and competed at a high level. Obviously, the keys of the game were trying to contain Barcello. He made the big basket at the end and to keep Lohner off the glass and he had the big tip and at the end. So we worked hard all game to prevent those things, but at the end those are the two players that made the plays that kind of sealed the victory for them. We have to shoot the ball better. We all know that. We were 3-for-22, but BYU was 4-for-19. So both teams did a good job contesting the three. Obviously Barcello made three of the four they had. He's an elite player and it would have been nice to see one of those go in for us when we needed it, but our kids work hard. I think that is something that will improve as the year goes on."

On the play of Keith Dinwiddie Jr. off the bench and starter Nathan Mensah:

Well, we're like any other team. If you play and you're productive, your minutes will go up. And if you play and you're not productive, your minutes will go down. Keith played good defensively. He hit a three. We tried to run another play for him right away for another one, because they were hard to come by. So Keith did a good job in a road environment in his second season. And I was real pleased with Keith's performance. We went out we went down low to Nathan, and my comment after watching the Cleveland State game, which was a close game, was I thought Cleveland State lost the game at the foul line. And then I look at us, we're 10-for-19 in a close game. So we have to make free throws. Nate has to make more than he made. I think he was 6-for-12. So we have to get to the foul line and make them if we're going win close games."

On the team's struggles at the free throw line:

Yeah, well, you have to make free throws, and Nathan's got to make more than 6-of-12. He's got to be better than a 50 percent free throw shooter. He's made timely ones in the past, important ones. And he's got to get in there, practice it and believe in it. And if you believe in it, you've got a better chance of making it. So we won't try to discourage him. We'll get him in there. We'll help him help with his routine and his confidence. So that when he steps up there, he'll make them."

On the team's foul troubles:

"It was a physical, tough game. I thought that this was a good officiating crew. So, I would never complain about that. We have to adjust to whatever the officiating is. Obviously, Matt (Bradley) in early foul trouble, I think took him out of any offensive rhythm. So, we had a tough time getting him back in an offensive rhythm. Chad (Baker-Mazara) the same thing. Both guys only got a couple minute stretches and then they're on the bench with two fouls. And then we set them and bring them in the second half. Matt picked up (his third) right away and I said I've got to roll

with him. At this point. I can't have them on the bench. I got to let them get in a rhythm and try to stay in the game. He got going a little bit, so now we have to be smart with our first fouls and try to stay out of foul trouble."

San Diego State Senior Guard Trey Pulliam

On the difficulty of getting into a rhythm with key components on the bench with foul trouble:

"It is difficult just because even when we have Matt (Bradley) we are still trying to figure out our own chemistry. The way you scored a ball, obviously that's a big offensive piece that we need. But yeah, it definitely put us in a slump not having him. But that's what we're working on and it probably showed us that we've got to find ways to work through it and figure out how to score without him and just in general improve our chemistry as a team."

On the play of Nathan Mensah:

"I was telling him whole game, 'they got a young big, a freshman. Nate is just a monster. I mean, Nate, Josh (Tomaic), Tahirou (Diabate), Keshad (Johnson), that's what we told them the whole game. In the paint (BYU) can't really guard them, so big props to Nate. He dominated the board too."

On the atmosphere in the Marriott Center:

"I like the hostility of the fans and stuff like that. It was crazy here. I mean, it's easy to feed off it. I like being the underdog. That's what I've kind of been my whole life. It's definitely fun to play there. It's too bad to be lost, but it's definitely fun to play (in this environment)."

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