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Boise at San Diego State Postgame Quotes
San Diego State 78, Boise State 66 (OT)
Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.
Feb. 25, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We are really fortunate to come out with a victory in a hard-fought game against a talented and well-coached Boise (State) team. We built an early second-half lead and they fought their way back. They went small and caused issues with the (full-court) press. They shot a lot of threes and they made a lot of hard threes; they took 40 threes for the game, which I must believe (is a) season-high for them. They they made them. We were fortunate to play well at the start of overtime to build a lead again, maintain it, and come out of here with a really hard-fought good victory tonight."

On if the close nature of the game is good preparation for what they will see in games in March:

"We've had a run of victories where we've won by wide margins and we knew this kind of game was coming. It's getting (close) to March, it's getting (close) to the conference tournament, it's getting (close) to another hard game with Boise (State), and hopefully if we play well enough, the NCAA tournament. The rest of the games are probably going to have a feel like this."

On Derrick Alston's play tonight and if his game plan for defending him will change for Saturday's matinee:

"He's just a really good player. The start he got off to in the second half was sensational. We just have to continue to do a good job (defending him). Sometimes you have to tip your hat to a player that is making big shots and timely shots and he did that tonight."

On Matt Mitchell's play heading into and during overtime:

"Matt played well. He has done that throughout his career at San Diego State. It is not a surprise that he did it. When he got downhill and attacked to the basket, good things happened for him and our team. Matt has to continue to pick and choose his moments in the game, much like all great players do. When he's going to move the ball quickly and get his teammates involved or when he gets an opportunity to attack aggressively, I leave that in his hands because he's the one out there with the feel for the game."

On his comfort level with his available players going into overtime:

"I've got veterans on the floor that have played a lot of minutes and that have played big minutes in big games. When you have Matt (Mitchell), Trey (Pulliam) and Jordan (Schakel), Nathan (Mensah) as a junior out there, and (Terrell) Gomez as a senior, I've got great experience. Sometimes they have to make plays to win games because I can't draw everything up. They made timely plays, they made important plays, and we got out of here tonight with a good victory."

On what he told his team heading into overtime:

"We just said let's do we did at the start of the game and the start of the second half, let's get off to a great start. We did that in those (first) two halves and we (were able to do it) to start overtime. In all three of those segments, we started off fast and it paid off for us. We were able to build that lead and maintain it in overtime because obviously there's only a five-minute cycle."

On how the team handled losing their 17-point lead:

"These guys don't get down on themselves, they are a next play team (and always have a) next play mentality. That is what we preach in this program. Matt (Mitchell) would have liked to finish the game in regulation, but it didn't happen. To his credit, he did not get down (on the team), he did not get down on himself. His teammates believed in him, and he got off to a great start in overtime. You have to be wired the right way mentally in order to do that, and I think this team wired the right way."

On his takeaways from tonight's game:

"They're all learning experiences, but we're going to go back and watch the tape. (After this game), I'll do a better job hopefully play-calling down the stretch, (so I can) put us in the best position to be successful. They switched up defenses, they hit us with a three-quarter court press that we turned (the ball) over against, that we worked on (in practice) but did not recognize. They switched ball screens, they switched every screen, and we have to do a better job being prepared for that in the next game. I am grateful we came out with a win, but there is always work to be done. I'll go to work first with the staff, as I have got a great coaching staff, and then we will get with the team tomorrow and we will make adjustments and ultimately play a better game when we see them on Saturday afternoon."

On what he gives credit to for a successful first-half defensively and what changed in the second half:

"Our coaching staff gave us a great game plan to be successful. We executed it, and to (Boise State's) credit, they came out in the second half aggressive. They hit a lot of really good three-point shots, contested three-point shots. But they're capable of doing that as they are a very good team or else we would not be at the top of the conference standings with them. They will make adjustments and both teams will be better versions of themselves on Saturday, I am sure of that."

San Diego State Senior Guard Trey Pulliam

On if he was comfortable with what he was seeing in the Boise State defense and if it was similar to what he saw at Fresno State.

"Well, I didn't expect to see (Derrick) Alston in there for starters, especially on the ball screen. We've been working on that in practice. The big dropping in. Me and Nathan (Mensah) or Joshua (Tomaic) playing two-on-two. I was just playing with confidence on the pick and roll."

On if he took a lot of confidence out of the Fresno State game:

"It helped me a lot. I mean, I saw a lot of shots I've been working on finally going in. I'm not thinking about it anymore. I'm just stepping up taking the shot. If I miss them, I'm going to take it again the next time."

On what he can do to help cut down on turnovers for the next game:

"Just making smarter reads. I threw a lot of lazy passes today. I just need to play smarter, be smarter with the ball and take better care of it. They (turnovers) are something that upset me, but I will fix it."

San Diego State Senior Forward Matt Mitchell

On what he said to the team heading into overtime:

"All you've got to say 'dig in.' That's all it is. As Coach said, we're a mature team, with me, Trey and Jordan leading this team. We don't really get down on each other or point the finger and blame people. We look ahead, see tunnel vision and see us digging in and winning the game."

On if he did anything different in guarding Derrick Alston in the overtime period:

"Yeah, just applying a little bit more pressure. I think early in the second half, we let him get a little bit too comfortable. We sagged off and he was able to just let it go. That's what started his scoring streak. So we've got to press up on him and be aggressive the entire game."

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Boise State Head Coach Leon Rice

On if his team's second half performance gives him a level of confidence heading into Saturday's game:

"Well, every game is a new one. If we come out the same way we did in the first half tonight, we'll come out with the same result, so we have to fix that. Twelve turnovers in the first half. If you have half of those then you weather that storm."

On trying to rally from a big deficit:

"You have to use so much (energy) to get back into (the game) that it makes it tough to finish."

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