



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. UC San Diego Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 63, UC San Diego 62

LionTree Arena | La Jolla, Calif. | December 1, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Needless to say, this was a hard-fought victory. Sometimes, you have to be at your best when your best is required. We got down 14 in the second half, but we didn't give in. We stayed tough minded, and we found a way to make the basket at the end of the game to squeak out a win. This environment was incredible. Credit to UCSD, on short rest after a long road trip. They played at a high level, and we were fortunate enough to get a win today."

On the final play:

"When we rebounded the ball, they only had three team fouls, so they we're going to follow us every time we threw it in. I ran a sideline out of bounds play to put it right at the top of the key at our basket. Then they're going to be scared, afraid to foul because they don't want to foul since we're shooting. So instead of dribbling it up, I threw it up, took my time out and then ran a play for Micah [Parrish]. He didn't get a shot. He threw it, Lamont [Butler] shot and then Jaedon [LeDee] tipped it in. They were afraid to foul at that point because anybody could shoot the ball and they didn't want to foul the team."

On the game being close:

"It's a game we knew we were going to get. I've played enough of these Crosstown rivalry games against USD [University of San Diego] and now UCSD [UC San Diego] and we knew it going to be like this. It was going to be an incredible environment. They were going to play at their absolute best. They did and we found a way to make enough timely plays to get a victory. We've got a good program, we're able to learn lessons as we win. Most programs are going to take an L or two L's and learn a hard lesson. We're learning lessons, but we're still finding a way to win games."

On Lamont's late game shooting:

"He's a competent player. You can miss shots during the game but really good players make shots when the game's on the line. They don't get discouraged when the ball doesn't go in. Lamont missed layups and he missed some opportunities but to his credit, much like he did last year for us, he made important shots. He made really important shots down the stretch for us tonight."

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Senior Guard Micah Parrish

On taking advantage of UC San Diego's poor rebounding numbers:

"Coach Acker said before the game that they were 300 and something in defensive rebounding. We knew we could get to the offensive glass, and we knew we had to box out and not let them get any offensive rebounds. I know they only had five offensive rebounds, so I think we did a good enough job."

On the team's attitude trailing by 14 points in the second half:

"We've got to weather the storm. We knew they were going to come in here and play hard. They had a great environment tonight. They have a great team. We knew we had to come in and step it up. We knew that we had to get stops and rely on defense getting stops and getting stops. We got three stops in a row at the end of the game. We knew we were going to go down and score. We just needed to get stops."

UC San Diego Head Coach Eric Olen

Opening Statement:

"Obviously, our locker room is disappointed. I just told them that I was proud of their effort. I thought we played good basketball, in particular, coming off a long road trip where we didn't feel like we played our best basketball. I was really proud of their response and just the way they competed. I'm proud of them."

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