



## **SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**

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**San Diego State Men's Basketball Press Conference**  
February 14, 2024

### **Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

#### **Opening Statement**

"I'm real happy with our second-half performance, that might be the understatement of the season. But to allow a team like Colorado State to only score 11 points in the second half is incredible. It's partly because of our defense, they missed some open shots and that happens sometimes in basketball. We took advantage of them missing shots, got out on the break, and fed Jaedon down low. He fouled two of their bigs out and was sensational. The key to this now is putting it behind us because we have 20-5 New Mexico coming into Viejas on Friday night. We have to be fully ready for that game and we will be. New Mexico had a big road win at Nevada last night. They're 4-2 on the road, which is a really good record in this conference. So we know they're very dangerous and we'll have to really do a good job prepping over the next two days to be ready for that task of playing the Lobos here in Viejas."

#### **On recent lineup changes with slow starts:**

"We always are looking to improve ourselves. So if we need to start big again, and we think that's best for us, we'll do that. That's all self examination, trying to look at all these games and see why we're not being productive at the start. Is it because of size? Is it because of play calling? What is the reason we haven't gone off to good starts in the last couple of games and so we have to do some self-examination and decide what's best for the team out of the gates."

#### **On the depth of the team:**

"Our depth helps us. We're going to play pressure defense. You can't do it playing five guys, we're going deep into the bench every game, playing 9-10 guys every game. Jaedon in foul trouble didn't help us, he only played seven minutes and 20 seconds in the first half. We survived without him. The coaches came to me with two minutes to go in the half and said 'Do we need to get Jaedon back in?' I said if we were going to put him in, we needed to put him in with six minutes ago, not with two to go. I can't have him get a third foul with two minutes to go in the first half. That was my choice there. We were willing to put him in but once they made the suggestion to put him back in, I couldn't have him get a third foul with two minutes ago. I think that would have been deflating. I'd rather get into halftime, regroup and then come out and try to play a better second half."

#### **On Jaelen House:**

"He's so dynamic. He affects the game at both ends of the floor. Some guys usually only effect it at one end. Either they're great defenders and then they're okay offensive players or they're great offensive players and just okay on defense, but he impacts the game at both ends. He pressures the ball. He creates steals. He creates havoc. On offense, he's so fast and dynamic

that he can get downhill on anybody. He can shoot the three and get to the basket. He's a willing passer. House is a dynamic player and obviously had a huge impact on the game at The Pit when we played them the first time."

**On the growth of Jaedon LeDee:**

"He is just trying to continue to play the right way. Knowing that he's not going to score against a double team, become a more willing and able passer which he's a good passer, but to be able to adjust to the way the defense is playing. Early in the year nobody knew he was going to be that good, other than us. Now that he's played, he's drawn double teams everywhere on the floor. Nobody scores against a double team. He has to be a playmaker in those parts of the game and that will make us a better team."

**-SDSU-**