



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Nevada at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 74, Nevada 65

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 10, 2023

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"That was a great performance. I thanked them after the game for the last three minutes. I said if they played 40 minutes like they did the whole game then they wouldn't need any coaching. I thanked them because now I get to coach a little bit again. We'll work on press offense. It's just like the game last year in Nevada. We had a big lead and obviously it was more worrisome there because they cut it to the last possession to win the game. We had a bigger margin this time, but again, our press offense wasn't very good. We've worked on it and had to continue to work on it. I told the guys, I watch college basketball games every night and everyone talks about "Well, don't throw the ball there, don't throw the ball there". Everybody throws the ball in the same place, but you have to have players that make plays from those places. We have to become better playmakers when we get the ball with the space we have and know what we're doing, and we will. I'm not overly concerned with it. The rest of the game was magnificent. The first half was probably as good as we played all year. I think we had eleven assisted baskets, maybe only two turnovers in the first half, made 6 or 7 threes. We played really, really good basketball. And then in the second half, we let off the pressure a little bit defensively and they got a little comfortable. I told them in a timeout, the difference in the half is your ball pressure isn't as good. So, we picked up our ball pressure again and we grew the lead to 20 against a really good Nevada team. These guys are very good. But we got them out of their comfort zone. They run really good stuff. They're well coached. They play hard, but we made them uncomfortable enough to get some fast breaks and get out on the run a little bit. And then I thought late in the game, we got some of the same shots, Matt was at the rim, Micah had a wide open three, they just didn't go in. It's not like you're playing any poor basketball, you're getting really good looks. But if they don't go in, then you give the other team a chance to come back and get back in the game. I was pleased with the performance. Obviously, things to clean up, but I told them this at halftime too, as good as we played, if you believe we don't have a higher level to climb to, we're never going to be a very good team. So as good as you think you played and I think you played, there's a higher level we can play to and if you don't believe that we're not going to have the year we want to have. Now we have to take a good half and grow it into two good halves. And be the team we all want to be."

On taking lessons from last year into this season:

"Yeah, everybody's press is different and they're not really a pressing team. You know, this is what they did last year. They got down so much. They pressed out of desperation and got back in the game. So, presses late in games are different because early in the game, you break up press, you're going to try to score but later in the game, you're just trying to break it and

then pull it back out and then they get a second trap. You know, so you always walk a line as a coach. When you break it, are you going to attack and go try to take the layup? Are you going to back it out and that's what Darien got. He broke it. Then he dribbled it back out and everybody's still in the back court and they trapped him a second time. You know, so presses early in the game sometimes aren't quite as effective against us. We've been good against it. But late in the game, I watch everybody have the same struggles around the country. You know, unless you have that dynamic guard that can just dribble through it. Then you have to rely on spacing, passing, and just fundamentals and that's what we have to get better. We can get better at our fundamentals."

On being back in the Associated Press top 25:

"It's such a long year. We're just more concerned about whatever metrics keep us near the top of the NCAA tournament bracket. That's all we're playing for, the NCAA tournament. That's what we try to do. We're looking at whatever metric is being used to try to keep us in that field. That's what we want to do. We want to play in the NCAA Tournament."

San Diego State Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On what he liked about the first half and coaching:

"Like Matt said, we are getting better. We kind of hit some points where we may have stalled a little bit in the past. You know, as the season goes on, we just work together and learn how to play together better. It's a good feeling."

On staying undefeated in conference and taking first place in the Mountain West:

"It feels good. I mean, it's a testament to our hard work. We still have a lot of games to go, and we've got to keep it going."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

On the evolution of the team's offense:

"Yeah, we've grown a lot since last season. With the new guys coming in and just new actions. Everybody is dangerous and many people can get off. You never know which game somebody is going to get off. You know, it's been me. Today it was [Jaedon] LeDee. We grow as a team as far with coaching, play calling, and players."

On the fans presence in Viejas Arena:

"Definitely credit to the fans. You know, this is a tough place to play in and with the way we practice and the way we've been going all season, that's a different thing. Viejas is jumping. The Show has our back."

On staying undefeated in conference and taking first place in the Mountain West:

"Yeah, it feels good. Our minds need to just maintain that first place and get ready for Vegas, we've got to hold onto it. We've got a big target on our backs now."

Nevada Assistant Coach Kory Barnett

On tonight's contest and the adjustment to SDSU's physicality and speed:

"There's no doubt. This team hasn't played in this type of environment. Oregon was great obviously, but this is a different deal. We weren't ready for it, they punched us in the mouth. I loved the way we responded in the second half, but we just didn't respond quick enough early on."

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