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Saint Katherine at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 74, Stanford 60

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | December 21, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Good win against Stanford, like color commentator Coach Avery Johnson said after the game. We've won the PAC-12. The last year of the PAC-12, and we're 3-0. We will gladly take it. I was worried about Stanford. Obviously, they're shorthanded and missing Spencer Jones. We were happy to see that. I felt bad for them but happy for us. We knew we had to stop them in transition. They're making nine threes a game. I think they hit two against us. We did a good job rebounding, obviously Jaedon LeDee was in foul trouble early. I thought Miles Heide came into back-to-back games and has asserted himself on the offensive glass. It's good to see Miles step in in that pressure situation and really deliver for us. Then obviously, having Jaedon back on the floor made a big difference in the second half. I thought we guarded at a decent level. I tell them at the end of the game, "I have a standard that I want them to play to," which sometimes they might feel is not fair, but I want them to be the best they can be and I do it selfishly, for them as well as myself. We have to get better in certain areas. I think we will because they're willing learners, they believe in the message, and it's a good group. I told them the most important thing right now is to go home and enjoy your family. Spend Christmas with family. Don't think about Aztec basketball for three days, and then we'll come back on the 25th, practice on the 26th, and get ready for Gonzaga on the 29th. We're 10-2, obviously, you want to be 12-0, but 10-2 with the schedule we played is pretty good. We're healthy, we're getting better and we have to continue that growth into the New Year."

On the improvement of the supporting cast:

"I said at the last game, I expect our four veterans to play mistake-free, and the rest of the guys will catch up. That's what I told them. Miles Heide is catching up. He's becoming a factor on the floor. Rebounding-wise, he missed a couple of chippies, but I think he'll make them eventually. Miles Byrd stepped in today – Heide and Byrd. Byrd stepped in and was explosive, hit some threes, and was dynamic, attacking the basket. But he's still got room to grow. Jay Pal, with a broken nose, stepped in and hit two big threes in the second half. The supporting cast is getting better. They're catching up to the veterans. As that continues to happen, we'll continue to get better as a team."

On Jaedon LeDee's game tonight and holiday plans:

"Jaedon is a whole other animal out there. He's hard to deal with. You pressure and take something away, and then all of a sudden, you're having to face him one-on-one. Maybe it's better you don't take something away and let the other guy have the ball. But once they deny guys, Jaedon's going to be downhill and that's what he does."

"He's the one guy that won't relax. He'll be in the gym twice a day long, as he's not playing three on three or five on five. I know he's gonna be in the gym. He can't help himself. I already know that."

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On Lamont Butler's performance tonight:

"Lamont played well – he shot the ball great, and he was being a floor general per usual. I have ultimate confidence in Lamont. We all know what he can do, it's nothing new to me."

On playing Gonzaga:

"At the end of the day, it is just basketball. We are going to go out there and play our brand of basketball. We're going to come compete. That's what we do."

On whether he is persistent about being put back on the court:

"I'm not, they got confidence in me. If they wanted to put me in and the game needed it, I know they'd put me back in. My teammates were playing well, so I wasn't worried about it at all."

Senior Guard Lamont Butler

On breaking out of his scoring slump:

"The last few days, I put a lot of time in the gym, just trying to get my shot back comfortable to where I am consistently hitting shots. Today was a result of that. I was hitting shots comfortably. I wish I would hit my free throws – they keep going in and out but they are going to start dropping, I know they are. I just felt comfortable and you know, credit to my teammates for finding me and letting me go to guard."

On being 1-4 in free throws tonight:

"It's definitely frustrating because I am a great free throw shooter. I just feel like this year, I've been missing a lot of them. A lot of long misses, a lot of in-and-out misses, I feel like I can't catch a break. But now I've been shooting it great, you know, all throughout the last couple of days, throughout the whole year, honestly. I think they're going to fall, I'm thinking right now it is just a little slump."

On scoring off of turnovers and second-chance opportunities:

"We worked a lot on that in practice, credit to our coaches. Working after a play, they would tell and scout what the play was so, they were already on the play and we had to get into something else. That kind of helped us throughout the game. Then, playing in transition, we scored a lot in transition. That helps, as always."

Stanford Head Coach Jerod Haase

On Jaedon LeDee's impact on the game:

"He makes a big difference. He's a load inside and draws attention from a lot of different players, and they obviously made some shots as well. Sometimes maybe overhelping and getting beat, but that was our game plan. Hats off to SDSU for those reasons."

On SDSU's defensive performance tonight and the 16 turnovers for Stanford tonight:

"They haven't pressured as much – on-ball pressure and off-ball pressure, but they did come after us, and some of our guys struggled."

On a teaching point for the aggressiveness:

"There's a sweet spot. You want to get the ball and go downhill, but if you over-penetrate, you turn your back against them, it's going to be a problem. but it's a fine line. It's trying to be aggressive and get to the paint. The phrase we use is "one less dribble." When you get to the paint, one less dribble because at least one will get in there. Their job then is to find the man, and we struggled with that, sometimes over penetrating and or just under duress, maybe not being able to find the open guy for a shot."

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