



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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New Mexico at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. Feb. 11, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"I couldn't be more proud of a team. The hardest thing in basketball, obviously other than winning the final four is winning a regular season conference title because you have to do it over the whole season. And to have the title outright already with four games to play is an incredible accomplishment. I told them in the locker room now we have to get greedy and try and win them all. And it won't be easy. Now that we have the title, we have another goal, that goal being to have a perfect season. So that will be the next step, try to finish with a perfect season. I'm proud of these two guys, they played magnificently, and they make a coach look good when they play like that."

On championship ceremony:

"I think it's (the championship ceremony) the greatest feeling in the world because of the moment that (we realize) we did it (win a conference championship). It's exciting, you realize all the hard work you put in. But I always tell them, 10, 12, or 14 years from now when they come back with their families and come back to the place where they played, (they can) point to that banner and say 'we won that banner in 2020. That was us. We were part of that team.' And that's always special, not just the moment it happens but (because it creates) a lifetime of memories. If they (the members of this team) come back in 12 or 14 years I don't know if I'll still be here. I'll be at the games, but they'll (San Diego State might) have another coach. They'll come back here and they'll have fond memories."

On recent foul trouble:

"Foul trouble is always an issue. Mitchell had three in the first half. I watched some of (the) Utah State and Colorado State (game played tonight) and [Neemias] Queta had three in the first half, so it's part of basketball. You have to do a good job of not getting a cheap one. You're going to earn enough (fouls throughout the game), so don't get a cheap one where you go over the back because you're mad you didn't get a call--don't reach in when you know you can't get it. We have to be smarter with our first foul. I trust these guys, obviously we played three guys at Air Force with two fouls in the first half. We're not afraid to do it because they're smart."

San Diego State Junior Forward Matt Mitchell

On breaking 1000 point threshold:

"It (reaching 1,000 career points) was special to me (not only) because I was able to reach it, but (to) reach it on the night that we hang a banner and win the conference. I will definitely cherish tonight, but tomorrow we have to let it go and move on to the next games we have."

On passing up Kawhi Leonard on all-time scoring list:

"I actually didn't know that, but, wow, I'm happy I was able to do that. I feel like that's good company to be in."

On dunk in second half:

"Honestly, I saw the ball going down the court and I thought if I got it I was going to take off and try to dunk it. I honestly didn't know there was somebody under the rim until I took off, but at that point it was bad for him. He was under the rim, so he got dunked on."

San Diego State Senior Forward Yann Wetzell

On tonight's championship ceremony:

"I think pretty early on I thought this team could be really special. I got here in the summer with a bunch of guys, and I knew we had great pieces from the get-go. But I think after that BYU game, a couple of us played great and a couple of us didn't. And we kind of noticed the depth of our team, and (noticed) across the (that) we cover all spectrums. I think it's a credit to recruitment and just the way we across the board are deep."

On first half spark:

"The guys found me on a lot of slip (ball screens) and coach Dutch(er) put us in great positions. We ran some plays where we could slip the ball screens and the guys found me in great positions. My legs felt good today so I was just trying to get up and down the court and be as aggressive as possible."

New Mexico Head Coach Paul Weir

On what changed in the game in the second half (to change the game's outcome):

"I thought their defense was exceptional and (San Diego State) really cranked up in the second half. It might have been a little bit of us fading (in energy) because we gave so much into that first half. We came out trying to do that in the second half, but they just wear on you. At halftime, Wetzell and Mitchell were 10-for-13 (field goal percentage) and the rest of the team was 3-for-20. We talked about just trying to match Wetzell (defensively) and (match) Mitchell's physicality and we just couldn't. They (Mitchell and Wetzell) were men amongst boys down there [in the post] and on both sides of the court. We couldn't find a way to finish offensively or defensively-- they really hurt us around the rim."

On if SDSU is a No. 1 seed:

"I don't know, I don't know enough about No. 1 seeds (in the NCAA Championship tournament). I coached against their (SDSU) team in 2012, played against them in the NCAA tournament, and to me this team is better than that team. (Malachi) Flynn's defense alone tonight sends a lot of messages to people as well [about the greatness of San Diego State Basketball] as (well as Matt) Mitchell's physicality. They're good and they were good tonight. I thought our guys played hard and we really tried, but you have to credit what is a terrific team on the other side."

-SDSU-