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San Diego State Men's Basketball Press Conference
January 5, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We are excited to take the floor tomorrow against UNLV. They're getting healthy and getting back to full strength, which will present a great challenge for us on national TV on CBS tomorrow. UNLV has a freshman point guard who's dynamic and he's surrounded by a lot of veteran players. They have five fifth-year seniors on the roster. It's always concerning to a coach when we have to go against that kind of experience, knowing firsthand that when we're experienced, we're good. They've got great experience and are going to be very dangerous tomorrow on the court."

On the team's improvement in rebounding:

"We're getting better but it's only through hard work. Sometimes you get instinctual rebounders, and we don't seem to have that. We have to work every day at rebounding and it's on the practice plan every day. Rebounding is still a concern as the season moves on."

On Reese Waters and Miles Byrd's injuries and whether they will play tomorrow:

"Reese is getting better, so we'll see how he does today in practice—what he's capable of. We'll go easy on him, and he'll be a game-time decision, much like Miles with turf toe, a little bit more concerning. It might take a little longer but both of them are progressing and we'll see what it is tomorrow."

On UNLV's victory against Creighton:

"To beat Creighton is a huge resumé boost and then they played Saint Mary's in double overtime. Saint Mary's hit a buzzer-beating layup in the second overtime to beat them. Once UNLV got in full strength, they are better and that's without [Jalen] Hill who missed those games. I think he'll be back for our game, reading some of their reports that he will be a game-time decision and that he's practicing fully. A full-strength UNLV team will be very dangerous not only here but moving forward for the rest of the conference."

On game times changing due to games being televised on national television:

"I love being on national TV and the start times are better for me. I don't like those late starts, you know 7:30, 8:00 at night. So, we'll go at 1:00 and we'll go early. It will be great for the fans and those with families that don't want to keep their kids up all night to catch a game will get a chance to come to an afternoon game at Viejas."

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Senior Guard Lamont Butler

On UNLV:

"They are a really good team. We watched film on them yesterday, and they have really good pieces, and they play well together so we're going to go out there and we're going to be ready for the challenge."

On playing without key players tomorrow vs UNLV:

"It's the next man up mentality. The pieces really stepped-up last game when the fellows went out. We've just got to continue to do that and I think we're going to come out victorious."

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