



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Boise State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

Boise State 79, San Diego State 77

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | March 8, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"That was a heck of a college basketball game. You always lose sight of it when you're on the losing end. Hard competition and two teams really going at each other in high-level basketball, that's what tonight was. It's hard to feel good about it when you're on the losing end. There were a lot of great moments for us. The moments that cost us were not being able to secure rebounds down the stretch, they got offensive rebounds that turned the game. Obviously, there's a big play that changes momentum, and it went back and forth. Boise State's Max Rice hit the half-court three and that shifted the momentum. To our credit, we fought back and tied the game again, but they drove the ball. Jaedon LeDee came off his man and tried to block the shot, which obviously freed Boise State's Cam Martin for the offensive rebound. We also weren't able to crack back with a guard and keep him from getting the ball. Then Boise State's Martin got the foul and made two free throws to win the game. There are always lessons to be learned, and you have to be able to overcome the disappointment. Now our fate for the Mountain West Conference Championship tournament lies in another game to see if we're in a play-in game or when we're playing. I told the team that whatever that is, that's not in our control. We'll be ready to play when they tell us to play, just like we have in the past. We'll put this in the rearview mirror. We'll get positive again, get our attitude and energy up, and get ready to compete in Las Vegas in the conference tournament."

On tonight's loss on Senior night:

"Nevada ruined Boise's senior night, and Boise ruined our senior night. That's the Mountain West. It's no fun losing games, especially when you have a chance to have the first undefeated season in school history. We had something to play for. We had a late one-and-one foul, where Lamont Butler made two free throws. He then missed a one-and-one and gave Boise State the opportunity to hit a two to tie the game and put it into overtime. Max Rice then hit the miracle three-point shot, which put us down by five. We fought back, and then it came down to being unable to rebound, and Micah Parrish missed a shot at the end of regulation. If that goes in, we're celebrating tonight. It's hard to win a college basketball game. We made enough plays to have a chance to win, but they made the plays to win, and that was a difference."

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On if San Diego State is still the team to beat:

"For sure, we are still the team to beat. When you watch the other teams play each other on film, they don't even look the same when they're playing us. What we've done in our history, what we've done last year, everybody will come for us no matter what."

On his final game in Viejas:

"It was awesome. I'm disappointed that I couldn't deliver a win for the fans at Viejas. The energy they bring every game and this game was phenomenal. The fans are second to none. I really appreciate that."

On the unknowns of who they will play in the conference tournament:

"We just have to be mentally ready for whatever happens. If we play in the play-in, we have to go out and attack that. If not, we will attack the next game. It is what it is."

Senior Guard Lamont Butler

On Max Rice's buzzer-beater:

"It was a crazy shot. He just threw it up, and it went in. Credit to them. We wanted to win this game and break that record this year, but it didn't happen. Now we just have to look forward to the tournament."

On Viejas' impact on their time playing at San Diego State:

"Viejas has been amazing my whole four years being here. The fans are second to none. The crowd really helps us go on runs at home, and we wish we could have gotten a win for the last one this year. We have to look forward to the tournament now and make this our last loss."

Boise State Head Coach Leon Rice

Opening statement:

"We have so much respect for San Diego State and what they've done. To sit here and watch the senior night ceremony with the accolades that those guys got. I turned to [advisor and former Division I coach] Larry [Eustachy], and I was like, 'That is impressive numbers.' I stayed out there and watched it because I really value guys who have stayed in these places, did what they did, and made it through this league. I have a ton of respect for those kids in this program. The battles that we've had with them are just epic. This one is maybe one of the most epic because it's recent, but it lived up to the hype of these battles that we've had. We were just fortunate to have the last shot at the free throw line."

On switching to the zone for the last 11 minutes:

"I was looking at the game strategy like we're a boxer and I was waiting to switch to the southpaw. I took a page out of Steve Fisher's book and into the 1-3-1. I couldn't stop those guys, and as the game gets longer, they get better at going to the basket. We were just hoping and hoping they could miss. We were lucky enough that they did."

On Jaedon LeDee:

"He gives us everything we can handle. Our guys just kept persisting possession by possession."

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