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Kennesaw State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 88, Kennesaw State 54

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | December 12, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well, it felt great to be back in Viejas, we had a great crowd. They brought the energy and that's what I put on the board. We have to bring energy. It feels like we're playing every other night, but we've had a pretty good schedule. It's balanced out. Sometimes it just feels like you're playing every other night and so I was concerned about this game. I knew Kennesaw had a week off before us. We played a tough game against St. Mary's in Phoenix, one day prep, but we did a really good job on that one day. The beauty of this business is when you have a team like ours, they like to be coached. We got at them about things we didn't do, what we didn't like in the St. Mary's game, what we had to get better at, and they wanted to be held accountable. I thought they came out and responded well and played a good game. 21 assists on 31 baskets, I think we only had eight turnovers, maybe with a minute or two to go. Then, at cleanup time, we had four more, so we took care of the ball, we passed the ball. There are some games like St. Mary's, they weren't going to give us any threes. They lived with Seiko, and they didn't leave them for a minute. But we had open looks today and we made some, but I thought we missed a lot of open ones too. We have to find a way to make those open shots when we get them. We had good looks, and I was thinking we could have easily made four or five more. But we have to step up we have to start making them we're going to be the team we want to be."

On confidence in shooting this game

"Yeah, I said it on the radio after the game. It's like a pitcher that's getting paid millions of dollars and you can't find the strike zone for some reason. Or a golfer, that's one of the best and he can't make a putt. You know, sometimes you just can't make it three as good as you are doing it. They don't go in, but that one goes in and then another one goes in and all of the sudden, it turns around and you're making 8 to 10 a game, that's what I hope what happens. Matt came out a little frustrated in the second half after he had missed one and I said, 'Matt, I believe in it, you just have to believe in it. You have to know you're good and you have to keep taking them. I don't worry about it.' It's my job to help them with their confidence, not to say you have to make it, they know they have to make it. They just have to get in the gym where they start feeling good about themselves and see a couple go in and then I think it'll open the floodgate and we'll start making some threes. We got good shooters; Micah is a good shooter and Adam Seiko who didn't play tonight's a good shooter. Matt's a good shooter, Darrion's a good shooter, Lamont is an improved shooter. We got guys who can shoot the ball, it's not like they're incapable, they just have had a stretch where some games they don't even get one because of the defense. Obviously, the defense thinks we can shoot. Then the games when we do get them like this. We got some against Troy, we have to step up and make them,

we have open looks that we have to make more of. So much is dependent on how the defense plays us. But in games like this, when we get open looks, I thought we should have made more of them.

On the ALS warm-ups tonight:

"We were sponsored by ALS this game to bring awareness to it. Obviously, we all know Mark Fisher, I think is in year 12 with ALS. He was on the bench today, a valued member of our coaching staff who contributed to what we do. But like I always say, you never have a bad day, when you look at what Mark has to deal with and go through, just to be here, to be a part of this all. So, we honor Mark, and we are all those that are fighting ALS and have fought the hard fight with it for all these years. We are trying to bring awareness to it where we can fight for a cure and fight for a treatment."

San Diego State Junior Guard Micah Parrish

On being a spark plug off of the bench:

"Just seeing things that I can help with. Like when the starters are lacking at something, or if the starters start slow, then I know that I have to come in with extra energy. If I see a play, and the starters don't see it, but I can see it on the bench, I'm talking when I'm on the court and I'm fighting through the play and things like that."

On the confidence to continue to shoot threes despite current struggles:

"We got a lot of good shooters on our team. I believe we have a lot of good shooters on our team. I feel like we can make shots and today, they just gave us open looks. Usually in the past few games, I don't think we had that many open looks, so it was nice today to really get a lot of open looks. I think you'll see the shooting improve during the season goes on."

On Jaedon LeDee:

"He just has to get back into the groove of things. I feel like he could start anywhere in the country. I know he just has to get adjusted—like you said, he hasn't played in 20 months. He just has to get adjusted to things, he's a really good player. I know what he can do. We see it in practice every day: offense, rebounds, scoring—I haven't played with anybody like Jaedon. I think as the season goes on, you're going to see a lot more. It might be up and down because he still hasn't played in a long time, but at the end, you're going to really see how good Jaedon is."

San Diego State Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On bouncing back after the tough loss to St. Mary's:

"I think we were a little disappointed after St. Mary's, but we came back, got a good practice, and really did zero in on this game. We said we have got to bring better energy. Coach Dutch said we had to have an NBA mentality bouncing back from St. Mary's, so I think we did a good job moving on to the next game for sure."

On trying to get back into game-rhythm:

"It was pretty tough, for sure. We were getting after it in practice, so it kind of felt like a little bit of a game, but it's nothing like real game minutes at all. But that's at least kept my competitive juices up, to at least have that in practice."

On getting everyone involved in the win:

"It feels good with everybody getting in. I mean everybody wants to play. Just being out there in that atmosphere, it's different. For those guys to get in, and for everyone to contribute, it all feels good."

Kennesaw State Coach Amir Abdur-Rahim

On tonight's matchup:

"Anytime you are coming into Viejas Arena, playing against a Brian Dutcher team, the DNA of this program is as solid as it comes. I remember playing against them in 2013 when I was at College of Charleston and the one thing you knew they were going to be was physical, they were going to be tough, and they were going to be disciplined."

On postgame chat with Coach Dutcher:

"I told Coach Dutcher after the game...when San Diego State Basketball is at it's best, is when they are menacing on the glass, defensively and offensively. Unfortunately for us, they were menacing on the offensive glass tonight. I thought they set the tone early. I think when they play that way with the weapons that they have, they are really tough team and hard to beat."

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