



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | #GOAZTECS

San Diego State vs. California Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 76, California 67 - overtime

SoCal Showcase | The Pavilion | San Juan Capistrano, Calif. | November 25, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Every time we take the floor, we're learning something about our team. And the good news is we're learning through winning. Sometimes you take a loss, and you learn hard lessons, but we've been fortunate enough to learn lessons as we win. We've been concerned about rebounding all year and it showed again today. Sometimes we will outrebound an opponent or two and feel a little better about ourselves, but we have to improve our rebounding if we're going to be a really good team. We put work on it every day, but it has to translate. With that being said, (California center Fardawz) Aimaq is a monster in their rebound the ball. He gets a hand on it and it's his. Cal is very talented and they're learning lessons too. They're a very good team, but unfortunately, they're losing. They're losing one possession games, and that's hard, but they come out and fight every day. That's a credit (head coach) Mark (Madsen) and the way he does things. Those kids have got a lot of fight in them and when they get fully healthy, they're going to be a really dangerous team. They were dangerous tonight, and we were fortunate to get a win."

On the play of senior forward Jaedon LeDee:

"Jaedon is a good player. He had 19 (points) and seven (rebounds). That's a good game, but he's got to get on balance. Sometimes with his finishing he's a little off balance. He's got to get on two feet and have better balance. That way he'll have a chance to draw fouls. But we went to him at the end of regulation in an isolation play and I went to him in overtime in an isolation play to try to let him get downhill and make big plays."

"I knew he was good last year, and we just didn't find a way to get him in the starting lineup. He was good enough to start but we had a pretty good team last year. We have a good team again this year. Jaedon has grown his game I told him, 'You're like every player that ever lived. When you go one-on-one and miss it, I'm mad you didn't hand it off and when you hand it off and something bad happens, I wish you would have gone one-on-one.'"

On the play of Reese Waters:

"We ran Reese off a lot of handoffs, a lot of screens and try to get him freed up to make shots which he did... and important shots. I thought we played pretty well connected. We just had a tough time putting in the basket. That's part of basketball."

-more-

On the team's confidence in overtime:

"We just played an overtime game last week, so we should be comfortable and play the same way we against Washington. Let everything go that happened during the game and refocus for the next five minutes. We had the ability to do that. We got stops. We finally started getting a couple of stops, the ball went in and we were able to create enough space to get a win."

On the choice to have Darrion Trammell on the floor in the last seconds of regulation instead of Lamont Butler:

"Darrion was making some shots and was dangerous and Lamont was having a tough night offensively. So, it's just the classic offensive defensive substitution. If we need to stop, I like Lamont size sometimes. Darrion plays great defense but he's easier to shoot over the top of, so we were trying to sub offense for defense sometimes with Lamont and Darrion because I thought Darrion had a better offensive game than Lamont tonight."

Junior Guard Reese Waters

On if he's played in the JSerra High School gym before and if he was comfortable playing in it:

"No (I've never played in here before.) I felt pretty comfortable after the first two shots went in. I try to use my defense and rebounding as a way to get myself going on this offense as well. But I felt pretty good."

On with the focus of defenses on Jaedon LeDee, does it make it easier for others to score:

"Yes, definitely. Jaedon's a good player, so they're going to send two (defenders) at him and they're going to make adjustments based on how he is playing. That frees up everybody else, including me to get shots and be able to create further."