



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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### **Boise State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. January 11, 2020**

## **San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

### **Opening Statement:**

"Well the building was electric tonight and the start definitely helped. The crowd got engaged immediately and we just rode that wave of momentum with good play, good crowd support. We built a nice first half lead. Boise is a very good team. As a coach you're 17-0, but I want to find something to be mad about and they shot 60% the second half against us. They're a very good team and we are very fortunate to have the cushion that we had in the first half to withstand a couple of runs that they made on us. I put on the board that it's going to require a team effort tonight because Boise (State) is very good at driving the basketball, we have to be in our help spots, we have to show bodies because they really get downhill. I looked up five minutes into the second half and they were already in the bonus so that's a great example of how they play and how dangerous they can be. We are very fortunate and played well enough to have a nice victory tonight and KJ Feagin showed up offensively, he's been good all year so everybody has been waiting for the breakout game and this is the breakout game. The ball found KJ and once he made a couple, we started running a couple plays for him to get him downhill. He played a great game. Great Aztec effort tonight, 17-0 and like all coaches I'm already concerned about Fresno on Tuesday."

### **On playing at Viejas:**

"That's a huge advantage. And this is the best atmosphere on the west coast. I mean I can't believe there's many better, Gonzaga or Arizona maybe can rival it, but they're not better than it. So when this building is full and it's rolling like it is right now, then we're hard to beat in here."

### **On the Aztecs early success offensively:**

"We're very good offensive team, and I don't know what we shot in the first half and from three but it was a really high number. When you're making threes early and they have to run out to take the three away, then you get everything. You get penetration, you throw it in the post, then they're afraid you're making threes so they're leery of helping too much because you're gonna kick out and get a three. So the three point shots are a real weapon for us this year, and we shoot it from multiple positions, not just one position. So we're dangerous at the offensive end because of the three."

### **On if he is superstitious:**

"If I took my shoes off you would not want to smell my socks right now."

I've got the same pair of socks on for about four or five games, got a few lucky pennies in my pocket so I'm not superstitious, but I'm superstitious. And matter of fact, this is the best one--I have a strap on my briefcase, it's broken and it comes off every time I pick my briefcase up. Matt (Soria) said to me today 'do you want a new strap for my briefcase or do you want to wait until we lose a game', and I said I'm not switching the strap on the briefcase I'd rather put it on every day. So yeah I'm superstitious to a degree."

### **On playing nationally televised games and MW new schedule proposal:**

"I hope we're good enough where they want us to play every night on TV. I hope we're that good. Obviously, you know, altitude is always an issue so we got better success when we got rid of travel partners and we get in and out of altitude. If we had to stay at altitude for a couple days, it would definitely be a competitive disadvantage but there's nothing we can do about it. We will deal with it, whatever comes along."

## San Diego State Senior Guard KJ Feagin

### **On finally getting off on the offensive end:**

"It was nice to see it finally happen, but I always concentrate on the defensive end. Even if my shots are falling, I have to set the tone defensively, that's really my main focus. Hitting shots comes and goes, but defense shows up every night."

### **On the team's high shooting percentage from both the field and beyond the three-point line:**

"Yesterday we talked about not being able to shoot as well at home, but maybe we've set a new precedent moving forward and people will now know that we can make shots at home. This game is about streaks and momentum. We wanted to come out of here with a W and make a statement with a good win and that is what we did."

## San Diego State Senior Forward Yanni Wetzel

### **On team's fast start:**

"I think the ball was moving really well. The point guards were finding me and I had a lot easy looks early on. We're making the 'one more pass' so lots of guys are getting open shots and the offensive just ran in general."

### **On seeing Aguek Arop back in the lineup:**

"It was awesome. He is like a Swiss Army knife. He's one of those guys on our team that everyone loves. He brings all the intangibles; rebounds hard, gets on the floor, and does all those little things that a lot of people don't see. We see all the little things that he does. When you have a basketball mind and a good basketball IQ you can really tell that he's a great asset to the team and its great to see him back on the floor."

### **On how the Viejas Arena crowd helps the team:**

"It's awesome. When we came in for our last huddle, we have to take a moment to look around and just appreciate what we built this year. We've got a lot to thankful for to Aztec nation and The Show. It's incredible support. And then once you get on the floor and you get going the energy is contagious, and we feed off it. And, you know, when the opposing team makes a run, the crowd kind of brings us back into it so from that aspect. It's awesome."

## Boise State Head Coach Leon Rice

### **On playing in Viejas Arena:**

"Our first three Mountain West road games, at New Mexico, at Nevada, at Viejas. They're three of the toughest places to play right now in the country in a lot of ways so it energizes the home team. (Playing here and the fans) created a snowball that started going downhill and we couldn't stop it."

### **On grading their performance:**

"We had some decent looks to start the game and they all just popped in and popped out. It's always hard to get open looks against them because they're good defensively so I have to look at the film to figure out what the grade was but certainly they came out and blitzkrieged us."