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NEWS RELEASE

San Diego State-Creighton Postgame Quotes

San Diego State Head Coach Steve Fisher

(from the postgame radio interview)

On the game:

"Creighton is very good, they are very well coached and they made plays down the stretch when they had to and we came up a play short. It was two good teams competing. We lost to a good team.

"We had some mental breakdowns and gave them some open threes."

On SDSU's defense:

"I think what happened is they started playing better defense.

"We felt we were tired and we weren't quite good enough tonight. I would say on the flip of that, Creighton made plays and were able to come back. I'm sure they are in their locker room celebrating being down only four points at halftime compared to being down 16 or 17."

On Creighton:

"They work well together. They really have a nice blend of older veterans and young guys that have experience. That is what makes a good basketball team. And unfortunately for us, they came into our building and played a little bit better than we did. That doesn't happen often, and hasn't happened often, but it happened tonight."

(from the postgame press conference)

Opening Statement:

"This was a really good basketball game against a very good team. The two teams fought and played very hard. Ebbs and flows are there with what we do. We jumped out and looked like world leaders and had a 17-point lead, and, to their credit, they came right back at us and punched us in the nose and got their own run as the first half ended. There are times when you have to make a play and we missed a couple of free-throws when they had their run going. Good teams are able to get pounded and come back - they're a good team and so are we. I thought that late in the game, we allowed too much dribble-drive to the rim. They got to the rim too easily and we gave them two offensive rebounds for baskets; you can't do that if you want to win a late, close game. We've won late, close games but tonight, we didn't. We made the plays that allowed them to run off the floor the way we have our last four games. We need to learn, have resolve, come back anxious and come back together. I know that we'll have a hard game on Sunday, but we will be ready to play. This one, for all of us, is disappointing, but they have good merit in terms of what people say about them. They are a good basketball team, a well-coached team."

On team's energy during the second half:

"They're a very good running team. I think the pace of the game probably creates the fatigue. As I evaluate my own plays, maybe I should have done more substitutions, been more liberal with substituting players, guys with shorter stretches. We tried to do that some, but this team runs on makes and they run on misses. They pushed that ball hard and they make you guard all spots on the floor. As those last couple minutes came down, you've got to bend your legs. You've got to bow you back and, as we say, guard your yard and not give them straight line drives. We gave them two or three in a row. When they shoot and miss, you've got to find a way (to get a rebound). It may not be your man, but you've got to rebound the ball. They had one big put-back and then around rebound put-back. Two put-backs down the stretch and then we didn't rebound with five seconds to go. The little things become big things and those were the kind of plays we were able to make in some of the other games. We weren't able to make and Creighton made them tonight."

San Diego State guard Xavier Thames:

On the game tonight:

"They just made shots, they're a good team. They're ranked for a reason. We didn't get out on their shooters and they just started making shots, great for them."

San Diego State forward Tim Shelton:

On how this game impacts Sunday's game:

"Personally, we're hungry. We definitely want respect and we definitely want to win games. We don't like losing at home at all. Rarely people come and score seventy points on us in our home gym. We're going to be hungry and ready to go on Sunday. We hope the fans are excited, too. We know the student section is sold out."

On the last five minutes of the game:

"They fought back, that's a sign of a great team, a NCAA Tournament (team) to come into a place like this and be able to execute like that. Hats off to them, credit to them. Also, we just have to recognize things we need to work on, getting stops on the stretch, if we want to be a great team."

Creighton Head Coach Greg McDermott

On the game:

"We hadn't played this season as soft as we played early in the game and San Diego State deserves a lot of credit for that. They really threw the first punch and I was starting to wonder if we were going to respond. But obviously the last eight minutes of the first half was the key to the game. If we don't inch back into that before halftime, they've got all the momentum going to the locker room. I'm really proud of the way we finished, we executed some offense pretty well late and we made them take a few tough shots, but to their credit they hit them."

On the play of Ethan Wragge:

"He was huge, we had to have somebody step up that hadn't stepped up. And the way they were guarding us and the attention they were paying to Doug (McDermott) with the double teams and some of the switching, we decided to go with that small lineup with Doug and Ethan. Once I figured that out, we had some good things that happened offensively. Up to that point, we really struggled."

On if this falls under the category of a resume win:

"This is a great environment, similar to some that we play in our league. It's not like we haven't seen anything like this before, but this is a win you have to find a way to get. San Diego State is going to win a lot of games before the years out because their guard play is so good and they can beat you in a lot of different ways. I knew this would be a tough one and if you'd have told me we were going to be down 17, I would have told you you're crazy to think we can come back and beat this team on their floor being behind that much. So it's a huge win for our program and it comes at a good time."

Creighton guard Antoine Young

On their comeback:

"I don't think we panicked at all. We just weren't doing the things we needed to do and came out a little soft and weren't playing physical. The second half we came out and were a little more physical on attacks, usually what we do, and got us back into it."

On the team's mentality at halftime:

"We're never concerned with anything. We always expect ourselves to win in any type of ball game. I think that's the difference between this team and last year, we always think we can win. ... The second half we just came out and attacked right away."

Creighton forward Doug McDermott

On his improvement over the last two seasons:

"I just have to continue to go out and play and not worry about everyone on the outside; just continue to play with my teammates and continue to get wins."

On the team reacted to the close game:

“(We did) Pretty well. We were down 31-14 at one point. I think last year we would have all just hung our heads and given into what they were doing to us. We just didn’t give up. This feels so good right now considering where we were last year and where we’re at today, it is just a night and day difference.”

On the last five minutes:

“It was huge. We just have a lot of confidence in our offense. We got a lot of different weapons and Antoine (Young) showed what he can do and I think he’s back to what he was like last year. It’s good to see and Ethan Wragge was huge for us tonight. I think the biggest part of the game was his offensive rebound. I think we just have so many weapons on offense and I don’t think teams can key on just one area because we have so many different options.”

-SDSU-