



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State Men's Basketball vs. San Diego November 30, 2017

SDSU head coach Brian Dutcher

On tonight's performance:

"I wish we had taken better care of the ball. 17 turnovers, but the opponent had a lot to do with that. They pressured us around the floor and did a good job with their defense. I think we surprised them a bit by playing as much zone as we did. Our numbers dropped, obviously, with Max Montana and Trey Kell unavailable, so we got by playing with a lot of 2-3 zone, and if you follow the Aztecs, that's not usually our M.O. But we've been working on it, and I thought it really help us win the game."

On the bench players' performance:

"The bench did a good job. If anybody has been to any of my press conferences, I've said it all year that we're 11 deep and we have 11 guys that can play. That got put to the test today, we played all the guys available we had, and they all stepped up. Montaque Gill-Caesar even got in and missed some shots but had two timely free throws and played hard. We all guarded really hard. Justin Hutson is one of the best defensive coaches in the country. He gives them a game plan, and if they follow it, we usually have pretty good success. I thought they followed the defensive game plan, they were a little sloppy offensively, but made enough timely shots. Devin Watson, what's there to say, a magnificent performance. He had 26 points and carried us in that first half until other guys got involved. Once we got the other guys involved it got a little easier, but Devin was absolutely outstanding tonight."

On Trey Kell's status pregame:

"I thought Trey was going to play today. He actually wore a walking boot over here, but he went through warmups, and wanted to play. Then he came in with 20 minutes on the clock and said he couldn't go. We had practiced all week with Jeremy (Hemsley) in that spot. When we started the game, Jeremy had practiced in that spot for two days and was prepared for it and did a great job guarding ball screens all game."

On matchup against USD:

"It's just another game for the Aztecs. We've played undefeated Washington State, undefeated Georgia, undefeated San Diego, we're going to play 7-1 Bradley on Sunday, Arizona State is undefeated, so we've played a really challenging schedule. It's not taking anything away from this game in particular, but, we're already focused on the next one. We've had a challenging nonconference schedule and it will continue after Bradley with Cal and Gonzaga coming to our place. We're going to be tested coming into the conference and this was a good test for us tonight."

Junior guard Devin Watson

On the team's success tonight:

"We came out here and executed the gameplan, it was a big game and we got the job done."

On personal success tonight:

"I was just in my rhythm tonight. They were laying off me sometimes and I was hitting my jumpers, getting my teammates the ball, just a good win."

On the matchup vs. USD:

"I'm glad we got the win. It was a big win, great atmosphere, they play hard, we play hard, it was a fun night."

On team's defensive performance:

"That's definitely what the focus was on tonight. The gameplan was to watch their shooters, their guards like to go downhill and we knew we had to stop them so they couldn't kick it to their shooters."

On the bench players performance:

"It was fun for everyone tonight. Everyone stepped up, everyone did their job and did what they had to. Trey (Kell) was out and the other guys stepped up, Jeremy (Hemsley), Matt (Mitchell), it was just a great game overall."

Junior guard Jeremy Hemsley

On team's performance:

I think we struggled on offense. That was a low-scoring game for this year's team. I think we did a good job defensively, and I think we followed the game plan pretty well and I'm glad we got the win. Everyone played hard and I think we took a step forward."

On the matchup vs. USD:

"I think they're the ones who think it's a rivalry. We don't try to act like it's a rivalry or hype up any game. I think the rivalry game is more them, we just had to go out there and make sure we didn't blow off a game like we did in my freshman year with them at Petco Park."

On rebounding after last weekend's Wooden Legacy defeat against Washington State:

"I think it's a good bounceback for all of us. It felt good for me cause I have been struggling a lot so what I try to do is go as hard as I can on defense and let the offense come to me and not force it. I think I did a good job of that today and we had Devin (Watson) play out of his mind and lead us. It was a good bounceback."

On players stepping up in absence of Trey Kell:

"Matt (Mitchell) had a pretty good game, Malik (Pope) played really well defensively, Kam (Rooks) did a good job, too. Everyone stepped up when they had to following Trey's injury."

On looking forward to next few games:

"Just trying to be more consistent. Like I said, I've been struggling a lot this year, and just going with the mindset of 'I'm the best defensive player on the court' and I know that will take care of my offense."