



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Cal Poly at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. Dec. 28, 2019

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well for the game after Christmas, I thought our energy was good. We just couldn't make a shot. We had some open looks and we shared the ball well but when the ball is not going in obviously, it becomes a challenge. Cal Poly played. They played physical and they played a very good first half. They had a lead late in the first half, but then we made some energy plays and that's what can happen when you have a building like this. We have fans in the building, and they generate the energy for the team sometimes, so when we made a play the building got loud and we went on a little roll. Basketball is a game of runs. We want enough runs to have a comfortable lead in the second half and come out with a victory.

"We played good basketball, but not great basketball. We got outrebounded which is a byproduct of missing as many shots as we did. We missed so many shots that there were more defensive rebounds for them to grab. On a positive note, we forced 23 turnovers. Our defense was good as they (Cal Poly) shot below 40 percent for the game. I thought our post play needed to be better. Yanni (Wetzell) missing easy shots in the first half was hard, and I think we have to be stronger in there (the post). But the best thing about being a coach is there's always something to work on. So now we have to we'll get back together tomorrow; we'll probably just watch tape and talk about the good and bad from today's game."

On if he is excited about this win and his team's upcoming schedule:

"As a coach, I'm in the locker room trying to always know what lies ahead. I'm always thinking about two games from now or a game from now. I take pleasure in the win, our goal was to have an undefeated December and we did that. We got to take great pleasure in that we're going into the new year as one of three undefeated teams left in the country."

San Diego State Senior Forward Yanni Wetzell

On what changed in the last two minutes of the first half:

It's always tough playing after Christmas break and getting back in the routine. In the first half we played a bit lackadaisical. It was a close game with about two minutes to go in the half and then we really stepped it up a little bit. So the energy picked up the hustle picked up and we went into the half up seven or eight. We had a good halftime chat and came out firing in the second half.

San Diego State Junior Guard Jordan Schakel

On what changed in the last two minutes of the first half:

"I think it started with Yanni's (Wetzell) steal. I think that gave us a lot of energy. I heard the crowd get back into it and then I think Malachi (Flynn) maybe got a deflection off them and we were able to convert a couple of easy baskets. I think that that Yanni's play was the one that really got us going. What happened. Yeah. I just saw the number.

On what you feel needs to be worked on before the Fresno State game:

I'd say rebounding, post defense, and our shadow (defensive sets). We want to keep getting better at those. That wears teams down, so we just need to keep refining it and keep making it as good as possible.

Cal Poly Head Coach John Smith

Opening statement:

"I told the staff that at the end of the game I thought we got a little bit better, but we have to still understand the importance of taking care of the ball (and accumulating) 23 turnovers. I know they're a great defensive team, but some of those were unforced. Trying to finish halves stronger; in the first half, we let them go on a 9-0 run and those types of things kill you and kill your momentum. We have to learn how to finish halves better."

On hanging close with SDSU:

"The guys really followed the game plan to a T. There are some things that we tried to do against them to take away their strengths and we did it for about 18 minutes and then it fell apart.

"It should be fun. This an opportunity for us to showcase ourselves and just play basketball.' That's what I talked about to the guys when we got down here. Nine-hour drive; be grateful we have a chance to play the No. 15-ranked team in front of a great crowd and have a chance to shut them up. That's what it's all about. Have fun with, learn from it."