



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Utah vs. San Diego State Postgame Quotes

Staples Center | Los Angeles, Calif.

Dec. 21, 2019

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"We had a good prep time, more than Utah had obviously. They played Kentucky in a great game. We came off 10 days with exams and we had San Diego Christian and I mean no disrespect to San Diego Christian, but we were prepping for Utah. So we had a long prep period and like Yann said, it was almost too much. We watched so much tape and did so much. I felt all that extra prep time probably helped us. We're very talented offensively, but the character of this team is reflected at the defensive end. I think Utah was shooting 50 percent from the field and I think we held them in the 30s. This is a defensive-minded team and if we continue to do that, I want to say we'll find a way to score enough points to win as long as our defensive rebounding stays where it is. We made the next step defensively. We were sensational defensively today, and I'm just proud of how hard our guys played."

On the team's experience playing against its third Power 5 opponent this year:

"I've got a veteran team. You know, I said I wanted us to be older this year, and we're older. These guys have played in these moments. They're not in awe. Coming to Staples Center is fun, but we were focused on the game. They weren't like little kids running around Staples Center even though they were kids having some fun. But they're a focused group, they're a mature group. That's got us the start that we've had. I've always said the key to Aztec basketball is getting better as the year goes on. If we can take where we're at now and continue to get better, we should be a pretty formidable team."

On the team's toughness and versatility:

"We have a versatile group, you know, we can play inside out. Throw it to Nathan (Mensah), Yann (Wetzell), Joel (Mensah) and Nolan (Narain) and Matt (Mitchell) is big and strong, so we can go inside. And then we can go outside with Malachi (Flynn), KJ (Feagin) and Jordan (Schakel). So we have a really good inside out attack, we're not one dimensional. If we're struggling from the perimeter, we can go inside. If we're struggling inside, we can go to a perimeter game. We kind of mixed the best of both of them today."

On the team's defensive approach today:

"We knew Timmy Allen was going to be the nightmare matchup because he can really attack the basket off the dribble and very good at the background game. The thing he hadn't done was make 3s. He was only 1-for-8 coming into the game, and I think he made three 3s. But we know Timmy's good. He shot 60 percent as a freshman last year in the Pac-12, so we know he's a high-level player. We mixed bodies on him everywhere from Malachi to Yann. Everybody on the team played him. But we gave enough assistance where we were able to double-up a little on him and not give up a lot of 3s."

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San Diego State Junior Guard Malachi Flynn

Opening Statement:

"It's definitely a great feeling coming into Staples Center after watching all the Laker games as a kid. Obviously, a huge environment, one of the biggest markets. It's fun to come to an event here and come out with a win."

On what sitting out a year enabled him to do:

"It did a lot (of good). It allowed me to grow in a lot of different areas, learn the offense, learn how we want to play and just get better individually. It was definitely huge to have the year off and just come back this season and get right to it."

On overcoming the drought from three-point range:

"We have a lot of good shooters. We were getting a lot of good looks when we were 0-for-10 (in one stretch), but we missed a couple of easy ones. That's just who we are. We're going to keep shooting. We've got a lot of shooters on the floor. Then when one person gets hot, it's contagious. We just kept going."

San Diego State Junior Forward Matt Mitchell

On the team's defensive performance:

"The scout that the coaches put together was amazing. All it took for us was to go out and execute. When you set your mind to it and go about the scout and the game plan the exact way, I feel you're going to give yourself the best chance (to win)."

On what the coaches said to the players after Utah trimmed the Aztecs' lead to eight points:

"They just said we have to stick together. It's our game and we've got to win it with our defense."

San Diego State Senior Forward Yanni Wetzell

On the game:

"It was a pretty awesome experience coming here to L.A. and being able to play in Staples Center. It's a dream that a lot of kids have growing up, so it was an unreal experience. We had four days to scout for Utah. I mean, we prepped to the point of nausea as coach would say, and we came here and executed. We're happy to accomplish that."

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