



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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UC San Diego at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 62, UC San Diego 46

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | December 20, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Today was a tale of offense and defense. Our defense was sensational. Our offense was pretty good in the first half, but the second half was just hard to watch. I told the team it was like watching the early cavemen wanting to fight a grizzly bear, he just went out and tried to fight him hand to hand and it didn't work so well. That's what our offense was like. We have to evolve like the human being and stalk our prey and make it a little easier to kill that grizzly bear because killing it with hand-to-hand combat is not very smart. That's what our offense felt like. We have got to get better. And we will. I also told them, I've coached youth camp for many years, and you watch a kid get better in one day at a skill or a team get better in one week, the task is not that hard. We just have to get a little smarter, play a little bit more patiently on offense, and it will come. But the defensive performance was sensational, and the first half offense was pretty good."

On entering conference play:

"I have three days to get ready for Air Force and that's a whole different game. They switch every screen, and every game is like a puzzle depending on how they play you. I think we've got a pretty good offensive team, obviously we're not finishing around the basket today, that would've made life easier. Jaedon was 1-7 around the rim, Nate missed a couple in close, Micah drove in and couldn't finish, we have to finish some of those. The ball has to go in, we're getting it to where we want to get it but at some level, we have to finish it and put it in the basket. We weren't getting to the foul line, so we have to get better. I know we have the pieces to get better, and that's the main thing, if you don't have the pieces and you try to get better, that's not going to work. The veterans know what a grind it is, how hard it is. Everyone was thinking the Mountain West was going to be down, but everyone's put up really good records. The league is very balanced top to bottom, so there are going to be a lot of competitive games in the conference this year."

On getting post players involved:

"Nate obviously hasn't practiced in a week; he did a walk through today and they played after he hadn't been on the floor since Kennesaw State, and I think it showed. We have to get him back into rhythm. We have to play inside out at some point, that's what they did. We tried to front them because when nothing else works, we knew they tried to throw it inside to slow the game down. We have to do that too."

San Diego State Senior Guard Darrion Trammell

On the progress of his hamstring injury:

"Yeah, I definitely feel like I'm getting there. I feel a lot more comfortable. It's not something I'm thinking about during the game anymore. So that's a good thing, especially going into the conference."

On playing team basketball:

"That's definitely been the biggest thing for me. Just letting the game come to me. I'm playing with a lot of great players. So, I mean, if you play the right way, the ball is going to find you. That's my favorite saying. So, I've just been owning up to that and let the ball find me and do what I do best."

On what he has heard about conference play:

"One thing I carry with me is, you can't just walk into a division one game and expect to be handed a win. I know we have some good teams in the Mountain West, some great competition. A couple teams went undefeated for a while. So, it's going to be tough, but I think we are ready for it."

San Diego State Senior Guard Adam Seiko

On having more time in between games and now getting into conference play:

"It's good to have some days off, especially with as hard of a preseason as we had, one of the toughest schedules in the country. Now we are focusing on the conference. It was good to get this one before the break. There's a lot of good teams in our conference. So, we've got to come back on the 25th, on Christmas Day, ready to go. I think we will, I know we will. Looking forward to conference, it's going to be exciting for us."

On past conference play and strength of this year's conference:

"I've been playing Mountain West for a while now, won a few championships, and it's hard to win the Mountain West. Especially with the road games, the altitude, you know, and the teams are significantly better this year. We are just going to have to be focused on each and every single game, every practice, and with the guys that we have, I believe we will be able to do it."

UC San Diego Head Coach Eric Olen

On tonight's matchup:

"We got off to a rough start. I thought once we settled in, we played a lot better. I thought for parts of the game, even big parts of the game, I feel like we at least dictated the shots that we wanted. At the beginning of the first half, I thought our lack of our ball security gave them some easier ones. I thought we were able to keep them from getting in the paint and force some jump shots. They made some, but there was enough defensive rebounds to hang around for part of the second half."

On the slow start to the game:

"I'm sure San Diego State has a lot to do with it. They are a very good basketball team, and they make everything difficult on that end of the floor. Portions of that were we just had a hard time scoring and that's not even unique to us when you are playing those guys."

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