



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. Wyoming Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 80, Wyoming 75

Arena-Auditorium | Laramie, Wyo. | January 7, 2023

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

On how the team played Hunter Maldonado:

"Yeah, we doubled him for a while. A couple times we went too early, and he kicked out for three, but we got to it. You've got to try to keep them off balance. If you'd play a whole game and never go, he's going to get comfortable. And then if you double every time, he's going to get comfortable. So, I thought we did about as good a job as we could of mixing and matching our defenses.

"I can't imagine what it would be like if they were at full strength, it would have been a lot harder. But at the end of the day, they're still playing two-man basketball. They run in isolation for Maldonado running a high pick and roll with shooters space. So, you know, I thought we did a good job; finding it away to win in a tough place to play."

On the play of junior guard Lamont Butler:

"If he starts the game 0-of-2, then they're packed in the paint the whole game, but when he makes a few, then they say, 'well Lamont defeated the strategy', and he did. He played with confidence, and I think that with guys that played for Steve (Fisher) and I over the years, they don't play afraid offensively. Keshad (Johnson) missed a couple of second half, but he didn't hesitate to take it and I like that. Do I want him shoot 1000 threes? No, but it's same with Lamont. If Lamont was sitting there going, they're leaving me open. I can't shoot. Then we would have never won the game. Someone has to step up unguarded and make shots and tonight it was Lamont."

On how Wyoming defended Lamont Butler and how the Aztecs attacked the Cowboys:

"Yeah, they decided not to guard Lamont and he had a career high 23. And then they didn't guard Keshad (Johnson) and he was 3-of-6 the first half. But then the second half he missed a couple so then we thought, instead of letting them off the hook, we play our four-guard lineup. We played (Adam) Seiko with the power four to space the floor more so Matt could attack and there'd be less help in the paint."

On the different lineups the Aztecs used against Wyoming, and the play of Jaedon LeDee:

"Yeah, who's ever playing better (was on the floor). Nate (Mensah) sprained his ankle early in the game and I think he tweaked it again and he went out there and played. But I thought Jaden (LeDee) was just healthier and fresher. And so we went with Jaden. He made some big plays (scoring eight points) and nine rebounds. He made some big plays for us down the

stretch.”

San Diego State Junior Guard Lamont Butler

On how he felt when Wyoming didn't guard him tight:

“I feel like I put too much work in the summer just to let people guard me like that, so I was confident in my shot. My coaches and teammates, they all wanted me to shoot it, so I just kept shooting it and today it fell. I feel like I can shoot the ball at a high level. I hadn't been shooting as well as I wanted to this year but today, I was just unconscious; just shooting without giving a care and they fell today and I'm proud.”

On if he anticipated Wyoming was going to give him a lot of open looks:

“Oh, yeah, they guarded me the same way last year. I didn't shoot as much last year, but the coaches believed in me and it was just let me fire it off.”

On the play of forward Jaedon LeDee:

“He was just a force down low today. Every time we pass to him down there, he was getting a foul or he was getting bucket. That helped us a lot, especially because there were smaller today. So, it was big time for us and big time for him to help.”

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