



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State at Colorado State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 71, Colorado State 79

Moby Arena | Fort Collins, Colo. | January 30, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well, obviously, I think we had a good game plan. The only thing we didn't do enough was post double. I didn't think it would have the effect that it had in this game, and they dominated us in the low post, back down game. We didn't double effectively. That's as much on us as it is on them. I pushed them to give more resistance. I didn't take an early timeout because I had already given them the game plan. I told him what it was going to be. I said that you have to have a certain degree of mental toughness to fight through stretches, to guard at a high level, to execute what we run. I saw that when we finally took a timeout and we were down I told him, 'Why am I going to take a timeout to tell you what I've already told you? You know what it is? This is exactly what I told you what's going to happen if you didn't do what I asked, and it's happened. The good news is that we have more than enough time to come back in the game. As disappointed as I am with the way we started, trust me, I believe that we will come back and have a chance to win this game.' To our credit, we fought back, and we ended up taking a lead in the second half. Then, they got back-to-back-to-back baskets, and we had two turnovers in three possessions and then they spread it out again. We're not mentally quite there, where we can survive on the road when we don't play our best."

On what happened after SDSU took the lead in the second half:

"We were down. I thought I didn't want to slip away even though was our last time out. When five minutes to go, I thought that they had built momentum and I had to try to stop it. We tried to run. They ran a play. It was the same play we ran, where they threw it in to [Patrick] Cartier for a layup. We ran the exact same play, and we threw it out of bounds. We turned it over. Same play. That's a difference in the game. We have to execute. They executed. They did enough to win and 15 turnovers is too many after two. They had 10. They shot 54 percent. They're a good team. I mean, this was a ranked team a week ago, on their home court. We have good kids, they want to do the right thing. [Miles] Heide got a lot of minutes for the first time in a hostile environment like this. As good as Elijah Saunders is getting, he still hasn't been through the rigors of a Mountain West season. He was on the bench last year. As much as he's a sophomore, he's getting real minutes in a tough environment. Jay Pal, Mountain West environment. I need one of those guys to step up in the game. And they all played okay in stretches. We didn't play well enough as a team. The bench was great. Yeah. [Miles] Byrd came in and was great. Darrion [Trammell] was solid. You'd shoot the ball and get one for eight. But the bench was on the plus and the starters were in the minus."

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On how offenses have attacked SDSU's power forwards:

"We do a better job post doubling so usually we don't let that guy score. We're going to make them score somewhere else. Like I said, we didn't focus enough on post double for this game. They really clear a side out. That was probably on the coaches as much as the players. If you know they're going there, then you have to support that guy more with a double and we've done that all year. We've been a good double team."

Senior Guard Lamont Butler

On his ankle injury:

"It's fine. It was just a good tweak at the end. It's all fine. I'm good."

On San Diego State's slow start:

"They came out hitting shots. [Nique] Clifford was great at the start of the game. He hit a couple of threes and got to the lane. We turned the ball over a little bit too much to start the game. For the whole game, we turned it over too much. They play well at home, the crowd got into it. We tried to battle back but it wasn't enough tonight."

On stepping up his game the last few games with defenses focusing on Jaedon LeDee:

"A little bit. I'm just trying to play my game. I'm just trying to be a little bit more aggressive. I know that the more aggressive I am, the better chance we have of winning the game. I'm able to get downhill and make plays for myself at the rim, make plays for others and get my shot off."

On how teams are defending Jaedon LeDee:

"Every night, he's getting double and triple teamed. He's taking up a lot of tension. He's doing a great job of battling through that and finding us and getting his stuff going as well."

On distributing the ball:

"It's a little switch. I'm a player that just wants to win the game. I'll do anything I need to do to win. If I need to get five or six assists to win, or if I need to get two or three steals to win, if I need to score 15 to 20 points. I'm going to do whatever it takes to win."

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