



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State-Chaminade Postgame Quotes November 1, 2018

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well I said in my press conference this week that the defense was ahead of the offense, and I proved to be correct. I've got to do a better job making the D perform offensively. We tried to press our games too much and the ball didn't move freely. It looked like a struggle offensively at times. That being said, we got to the free-throw line 26 times. I know we're a better free-throw shooter than we showed tonight. I know defensively in the first half, they made I think nine threes in the first half. I knew they were going to do it. I saw they had shot 30 threes against Hawaii in their full scrimmage. So, I knew they were going to shoot a lot of threes and we made the adjustment at half time. I knew we might have to do it where we switch every ball screen. In the first half, we didn't switch ball screens, they were popping the five. 50 seconds they had a pick and pop five man. We were stopping and getting out of position, and they were driving and kicking a lot. We made a defensive adjustment for the second half. They pop it hard to get open threes; I think they made three in the second half. I thought our defense was way ahead of our offense at this point, but I know I've got good offensive players. I've got to put them in better positions to be successful."

On struggles of SDSU's offense:

"We didn't move the ball freely enough. We try to press our games too much on the dribble. We dribbled into traffic and couldn't get it out and make plays. I think when we did move the ball, we had driving angles and we had ways to attack the basket. We drew a lot of fouls, we were getting into the paint and drawing fouls and so it's tough to get assists. We're driving into their palms as soon as it goes into the basket and so there's no kick out. There was a lot of attacking with fowling at the end of it. Like I said, we shot 26 free throws to their nine and if we made a halfway decent percentage other than low fifties then we'll have a little easier time with it next time. We got to the foul line, we just need to make more of them."

On if this game was a learning moment:

"I think they're all good learning moments. I was hoping it would be a game like this. Like I said, I played everybody I had and gave them all two minutes. I like to be tested like this, to have a close game leading into the season. It would serve nobody to have an exhibition game where you're out there winning by 20 or 30 and then reality sets in and you're in a close game. So, I like the fact that it was a close game and that we had to get stops in order to win and that we had to make plays down the stretch and make shots in order to win, so I thought that was good for us."

On if he's worried about a close game with a Division II team:

"Not really. I have a smile on myself. I see some of these plays we're making, I know it's not in our nature, I know we've got to get better. I know it's early in the year and I've got a young team. There's always a learning curve. I knew going in, offensively, we're not where we need to be, so I've got a lot of work to do to help these guys get in a better position to make plays, and that's more on me than it is them."

On if the turnovers tonight were similar to the turnovers at USC:

"Driving into traffic too much. We have to find a way move the ball whether it's a skip and quit putting it into tough places where we're trying to drive in between two and three people. That's everybody. We have to move the ball freer and get it side-to-side. It's always easier to attack if you reverse the ball a couple times. You walk the fine line of being aggressive, but not putting it in that position. I thought our shooting percentage

was good. Obviously, we shot 50 percent for the game. They shot 37, so numbers that way are good. We shot three times as many free throws as they shot. Obviously, the rebound is a bit of a concern. We got out-rebounded. We've worked on that this week. I think we've gotten better at that. I think they had five turnovers the first half. We forced them into 12 the second half, so obviously our defense picked up. Just the strategic change helped us a lot."

Sophomore Forward Matt Mitchell

Thoughts on the game:

"I feel like, just as coach said, offensively we didn't flow enough. It was hard for us to score in the first half."

On the positives from tonight's exhibition:

"Just getting to play against another team and not playing against each other as much. It was good to reach another stepping stone in learning just to see where we are in the season before the season opener. I feel like heading into Tuesday it was good to have this."

Sophomore Guard Jordan Schakel

Thoughts on the game:

"I agree with what Matt said. I think the adjustments that we made at halftime helped us. We picked it up, played harder and listened to what the coaches had to say. I think this will serve us well moving forward. I think we just need to continue to get better as always and just focus on practice and the season opener."

Chaminade Head Coach Eric Bovaird

On the team's performance:

"I thought we played well. We had a couple bad stretches. We had a bad stretch to start the second half where we didn't score for six minutes, and that really cost us the game in my opinion. I thought San Diego State made some good adjustments at halftime. They're not used to guarding a team like us with five guys that can step out and shoot the three. They made some really good adjustments and really turned it up defensively in the second half. It was much harder for us to score. I give them credit along those lines. It was fun. It was a great atmosphere and we look forward to coming back here someday hopefully."

On if he was impressed with the battle they gave San Diego State:

"We view them [San Diego State] as a high, major team. To be able to come in as a Division II team that just started practice 12 days ago—or whatever it's been—and to come in here and hang with a really good team like that. I'm proud of our guys."

Positive takeaways from tonight's exhibition game:

"Guys being able to make adjustments on the fly. I have eight of our sixteen guys that are brand new that I did not have. For them to be able to make adjustments as the game goes and to be able to execute it was good."

On areas they can improve before the start of season:

"Being able to adjust to—most teams don't switch against us, and they started switching every screen, every ball screen. Being able to make adjustments and take advantage of mismatches—we'll continue to work on."

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