

# Maui Jim Maui Invitational

Monday, November 19, 2018

## Brian Dutcher

## Devin Watson

## Jeremy Hemsley

San Diego State Aztecs

Duke - 90

SDSU - 64

MEGAN GODFREY: We'll start with an opening statement for coach, please.

BRIAN DUTCHER: First of all, I thought our Aztecs competed at a high level in the first half. A lot of the threes that we gave up were scouting report threes. I told them that. That was a coach's decision. We tried to pack the paint against Duke, tried to play that top nail help side, tried to collapse and make them kick and shoot perimeter threes and to their credit they made them. We watched the Army game, we thought they did a lot of the same things, tried to make it tough for them to penetrate and to their credit they were able to kick the ball out and shot the ball at a really high level from three-point range. When they did that, obviously they were tough to compete with. I told our kids at halftime we had to find a way to get three stops in a row. We got two to start the second half and then they went fast break, fast break, fast break. So our defense wasn't good enough today against a very, very good Duke team.

MEGAN GODFREY: Questions for the players, please.

**Q. For both guys, what were you guys impressions of the, of their four starting freshmen.**

JEREMY HEMSLEY: They're good players, it is plain and simple. They know how to play the game of basketball, they play it at a high level. I think they did a good job of just staying true to themselves and just playing their game, but they're good group of freshmen for sure.

**Q. For both, could you talk about what happened there at the end of the first half? It was, you had a guy on the line to make it a single digit game. You had kind of been trading baskets with them and then all of a sudden you're down 17.**

JEREMY HEMSLEY: I think we just had some defensive lapses there, the last three minutes or so in that first half and I think some guys just fell asleep a



little bit. We just lost track of guys and we just -- simple mistakes, silly mistakes, and I think we just, it was just a little mind lapses and things like that. It wasn't really anything like the game plan. It was really just on us as a team, the players on the court.

**Q. Devin, just talk about the same thing. What happened there at the end of the first half and at the beginning of the second half when you seemed to get back into it a little bit and they just put a big run on you.**

DEVIN WATSON: I would say I agree with Jeremy, just mental breakdowns, yeah, they hit shots and they got on a run. We got on a run too, but they hit shots, got to the free-throw line, so...

BRIAN DUTCHER: Some of the half court baskets we can live with because like I said we put them in the position -- yeah, we were slow on a close out or two, but the thing we wanted to do was prevent a lot of the fast break baskets which we knew would open the game up. And then they had that string where they had fast break, fast break, fast break, we didn't get all the way back and protect the rim and that kind of broke the game. It was, you know, they were always up double digits, but it kind of made it go from 15, 16 all of a sudden to 20, 21 and then the flood gates kind of opened from there.

**Q. Jeremy, how do you sort of process a game like this? You lose by 24, 26, do you live feel like you guys played reasonably well? Or do you feel like you guys played terrible and got what you deserved?**

JEREMY HEMSLEY: I don't think we played terrible, obviously there's a lot of things that we have to work on on the defensive end and I know the coaches will do a good job of handling that and telling us what we need to do better, but I don't think we played terrible at all. I think Duke just did a good job of being Duke and they knocked down a lot of open shots and we have to do a better job of just making it harder on guys and following the game plan that the coaches give us, whether it's hard or not.

MEGAN GODFREY: Take questions now for coach.

**Q. You got a quick turn around, so what are the things that you're going to try to do to kind of get**

**focused back on their feet getting ready to play tomorrow?**

BRIAN DUTCHER: When you play in under 24 hours it's all about mentality. You'll find out how tough your team is mentally. Because there's not going to be a lot of X's and O's. We'll give them a simple game plan like you would in a conference tournament where you play back-to-back-to-back. And we'll meet as coaches, we'll give them something before they go to dinner tonight real quick on personnel, then give them a final game plan before they go to bed tonight, and then we'll come out and play tomorrow. So I like the way my team played the game in the first half. I thought we really attacked them on the bounce. Obviously they got a lot of fouls, we put a lot of fouls on them, we got to the foul line a lot and really spread the floor. And I thought we played the right way, we drove and really moved the ball. I thought Devin Watson was sensational in the half and lot in the second half, he just seemed to find open areas, find open people, he got in the paint. So I liked the way we played offensively, I liked we made a few more shots, open shots that we got, but obviously they're long and athletic and tough to score over at times. But I liked the way we played offensively as far as sharing the ball, playing the right way and hopefully we'll carry that over into tomorrow. The danger I wanted, you know, I know my kids wanted to play against Duke, so I always ran the line of saying how long do I leave them in. They're young, it's early in the season and I felt like they wanted to be out there, so maybe I left them a little longer than I wanted to. But I got a real good group of kids and I think they will bounce back and be energetic and ready to go tomorrow morning.

**Q. A little -- expanding on that a little bit you talked about at the press conference wanting to, you didn't want to come here and not face Duke. After having experienced all that Duke is are you happy that you did get that chance to play them?**

BRIAN DUTCHER: Yeah, I mean, it's the ultimate measuring stick for us. We played the No. 1 team in the country, we did some things well, obviously there's some things that they do way better than we do. Sometimes that's just talent and it's obviously good coaching, Coach K knows what he's doing. I thought they played the game the right way, they moved the ball, they shared the ball, they executed their game plan and so I'm glad we got a chance to play them and obviously you want to come here and win this event. Last time we were here we played in the championship game against Arizona. I think I have been here five times. I came in 1988 with Michigan with Glen Rice and Terry Mills and Loy Vaught and we won it. So I've been here quite a bit and I've seen a lot of good teams and Duke's a very good team. But our task now is to find a way to win two games, to leave here with two

wins, and that's what our goal is.

**Q. Late in the first half in that section that Jeremy was talking about I think he had two fouls and Jordan had two fouls and you decided to both put them on the bench. Do you regret that, do you second guess yourself on that, seeing as sort of the defensive mistakes that led to those two threes?**

BRIAN DUTCHER: Yeah, I wish we would have kept it around 10 to 12. Then they hit the threes and they really expanded it, that last one in the corner. But that's just a case of Adam Seiko being six feet tall closing out a six foot seven guy in the corner. So he tried to get there early, but that lack of length in the close out and the contest -- he was there but he wasn't there because he wasn't tall enough to really contest that shot. So, he has to get there quicker if he's going to be smaller. So I thought our kids, the guys off the bench played hard, they tried to make the right plays, but Duke made a couple plays at the end of the half, I would have liked to have stayed closer in the game at a halftime, but they got comfortable and in the second half we got back-to-back stops and scored both times. I felt we could run Duke if we could get stops, but we couldn't get enough stops so they had us in a half court offense almost the entire game.

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Monday, November 19, 2018

## Mike Krzyzewski

## Tre Jones

## Cam Reddish

Duke Blue Devils

Duke - 90

SDSU - 64

MEGAN GODFREY: We'll start with an opening statement from coach.

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Yeah, we played well. I thought San Diego State was really ready for us. They have their veterans and their starting five. They're an outstanding, they're a really good team. Obviously Brian does a great job. They have a terrific program.

In the first half, one, just adjusting to the environment that they're playing in. It was really hot in there and for both teams, but it's tough to simulate that. So I thought the end of half was crucial. We got a perfect two for one. We had six points and ended. And then we started the second half poorly, then all of a sudden we rebounded and our transition game got going and we kind of exploded. But it was a good win for us, we beat a good team, and on to the second game.

MEGAN GODFREY: Take questions for the student-athletes, please.

**Q. For Tre and Cam, obviously you guys were big stars in high school but what has it been like dealing with just the buzz and the popularity and the hype since you've arrived at Duke?**

CAM REDDISH: For me I tried to really just ignore it. Just continue to just work hard, listen to coach, and basically trust my teammates and get better every day. Really just ignoring all the press.

TRE JONES: Like Cam said, trying to ignore it. We've got a lot of hype going around right now and the coaches been trying to keep us real humble, just trying to have us keep working hard and improving every single day so that we'll be ready for our next game.

**Q. Tre, tonight you had season high points. Early in the season you were kind of more of a distributor and a setting up for your team, but tonight you really started to cut to the basket and**



**score lot. What kind of went into your mindset in terms of just becoming the go-to scorer in the first half?**

TRE JONES: Right. I was just reading the defense. They were helping a lot off of me, trying to plug gaps on RJ and Cam and Zion's drives and that left open lanes for me to either attack or cut, and my teammates did a great job of finding me so I was an I believe to make those plays.

**Q. For both guys, coach told me yesterday that you guys not really aware that Duke came in here 15-0. You're now 16-0 in this building, Duke is. Were you guys aware of that, and what was it like to play in that atmosphere that coach was talking about in a gym that you probably watched games on before?**

CAM REDDISH: Yeah, it was a ton of fun. We went out there just played super hard like coach told us to do and I think as simple as that.

TRE JONES: Right. We don't really worry about the record. We worry about just ourselves right now and trying to come into every game ready to play. And so the coaches did a great job in preparing us for today's game and we're going to go back to the hotel and probably get prepared for tomorrow's game as well.

**Q. There seems to be such an effortless flow with you guys, not a lot that's forced, nobody seems to be worried about how many shots they're taking. Where does that come from and how much of that was based on the relationship that particularly the four freshmen had prior to getting to Duke?**

CAM REDDISH: For us the main goal is just to win. We all just want to win. We're going out there playing together trusting the coach, trusting each other and basically just playing together.

TRE JONES: The coaches do a great job in making sure that we're not worried about those things. We're worried about things that will actually make us better. So there's a lot of little things like playing defense, talking, getting back in transition, rebounding, things like that that will actually make us better rather than worrying about personal stats.

**Q. You guys you do move the ball fluidly. Obviously you as a point guard, that's expected, but there's some guys on this team that pass the**

**ball so well and seem to find each other really well so early. Why do you think you guys are so interconnected in terms of your offense?**

TRE JONES: Right. Like Cam said, we all just want to win at the end of the day. So I mean we're going to come in to every game prepared, but I mean we're going to do everything we can just to win. And so making that extra pass and passing up on good shots for great shots is a thing that we're going to be doing a lot.

**Q. For both players, Zion got in foul trouble a little bit early. You could see him a little frustrated. How do you kind of keep each other going when you get into those moments even though you were able to overcome it? How did you two kind of support him when he was clearly frustrated early on?**

CAM REDDISH: We talked to him, support him, encourage him. Obviously you guys know what he's capable of doing and we know what he's capable of doing, so just encouraging him and keeping his head up.

TRE JONES: It's a long game, and we just know that the next guy up is always going to be ready. So I mean we got Jack and Jav that came off the bench and gave us great minutes for Zion when he was in foul trouble, but coach doesn't sit anybody when they get two fouls. So Zion was still able to play some minutes there in the first half and contribute Ted really well.

**Q. You guys have seen Zion do some pretty crazy stuff. Do you ever get used to it? That windmill dunk today, how does that juice you guys up, and what do you think when he does something like that?**

CAM REDDISH: You know, yeah, you don't know what to think. It's crazy. Yeah, he's different and it's really fun to watch.

MEGAN GODFREY: Take questions now for coach.

**Q. What did you like about the first half, the way you guys played offense to get all those open 3-pointers and take advantage of that?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Yeah, they clogged the lane. By the way, I didn't notice it until they were asking questions, brought a smile to my face to see the chair for Jim O'Connell and God bless him. This was one of his favorite, favorites, and he was the only guy to ever come here and never see the beach. And even coaches on the day off or something, we walk the beach, he would, he wouldn't do that. So that's a cool thing.

Repeat your question. I was in a different mood. Oh the first half?

**Q. The first half the way you guys moved the ball on offense to get all those 3-pointers?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Well they clogged the lane. They did a little bit like what Army did to us and tried to get -- not less us penetrate completely to the bucket. And the one dribble penetration, as long as our guys were ready to shoot, they were ready to shoot and they knocked them down. I thought that was the differential in the first half. And it was, it, the last two possessions made it even more, because the two for one were the two threes. So the three-point shot was really the differential in the first half.

**Q. One of the things I've heard from coaches for years is that regardless of how talented your freshmen are it can be difficult, especially early, to rely this heavily on first-year players. Why do you think this is going so well?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Well it's gone well. We have had to rely on young players for a few years now, so we're accustomed to doing that. I'm not saying we're as advanced as this group is, but that's our culture right now and these guys are really good kids. They're really good basketball players. So because they're not positional, they, if you're positional you usually get anxious to touch the ball to score because you don't know how many times you're going to touch it. When it's position-less you're touching the ball and you're playing basketball and that's, that's our team this year. It's, so the ball finds the best shot and they like that because they're basketball players and their futures will be fine whether they average 18 or 14, as long as they keep learning how to play. So that helps us, the fact that we have four guys who can bring the ball up the court on a defensive rebound or steal. We talk about Zion and the windmill dunk, but, to me his lateral movement and the steals and his hands are more, are bigger than that. I mean that's a bang that he had five steals today, you know, and when he gets his hands on the ball he makes plays. And that's what Jack White did today. Jack got us about 12 to 14 extra possessions with eight rebounds and loose balls. So right now we have a team that has really good hands, really good hands. We just have to keep building our team on those strengths.

**Q. What are both the advantages and disadvantages of having such a short amount of time to prepare for a team like Auburn?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Well, it's for both teams. They have more veterans, but Maui puts you in unusual situations. I think overall those situations, if you handle them well get you better. If you don't handle them well, you lose. But you learn why you can lose. So it's the way it is. And everyone, some people say it's like a conference tournament, and it's not like a conference



tournament because you're not on a beach, you haven't flown 11 hours, you haven't, it's not a conference tournament. The other thing is, by the time you have a conference tournament you know the guys, you don't need a scouting report as much, you've played against that team probably twice. And so it's unusual. And so we get to see how our young guys do in that situation against a Top-10 team, a very well coached team.

**Q. You said you felt like you played really well. Can you get a sense winning about --**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: I don't know, what do you think?

**Q. I thought you did too.**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Okay, good.

**Q. But the question is can you get a sense of how good the other team is, how good San Diego State is?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Yeah, yeah, because, look, we had two plays right at the end of the half or else it's a 11-point game. And they started off the half, second half great, and then we do have explosive ability. If we can get a steal or get the defensive rebound, with our ball handlers they're very good in transition. They make, they almost always make the right play. I'm not sure how many teams have that many ball handlers. I hope we can get that in every game that we play. But, so then it's over, you know what I mean? It's over. So our team, if they do, that has the ability to knock a team out. And we're fortunate we did because if it keeps going they're well coached, Watson, McDaniels, Mitchell, those guys are good players. They won their league. They're an NCAA, those kids played in the NCAA tournament and almost beat Houston. I saw Watson knock down two threes against Houston to almost win that first round game as a 11th seed. So they will be good and their young guys are going to continue to get better because they have a program there. Steve and his staff, they have been there for 20 years, I think 20, yeah. And so they just play good basketball.

**Q. Many teams don't start the season looking like a well-tuned machine like your team. What is it about this crop of gentlemen that it appears that they have bought in and they have bought in early. What's so special about them?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Yeah, well they're over themselves. It's not about them. They're very secure and they have been parented well, they have been coached well, and so they understand being part of something bigger than them, but still being really good. The spotlight is bigger, their stuff will show if the spotlight's on the whole team. And their a pleasure, I mean they're really a pleasure to coach. They get

along so well. Hopefully we can stay healthy, do well again tomorrow, and continue to advance. But we recognize that the team we play tomorrow is capable, definitely capable of beating us and beating anybody, really. So that will be a good test for us.

**Q. You talked yesterday about the security that your upperclassmen have as well. Is there a way that you can talk to them? I mean, it's a big role for them to not be, to be deferential to the talent that they're up against, but also be leaders. Do you talk to them about handling that balance?**

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI: Yeah, we actually started that this summer, where every time we watched tape, and I told them we're going to elevate the role of the role player and the importance of that role player. And giving them examples. There are academy awards, Tony's for best supporting actor and Beyonce has a background group that all of a sudden they get really good, you might have your own group. And but -- do what Coach Wooden said a long time ago, do what you're capable of doing at the highest level and don't let what you don't do that well get in the way. And it's really simple great advice. The Canadian trip helped Jack find himself in that way. Javin, Marques, did not have a good trip, but he learned from it. And we need Alex, the other guys, Jack, Alex, Javin, Marques, Antonio, when you watch them, I think you can see they feel good about themselves and they have great interaction with their teammates. And their teammates applaud them. So it's a good thing. I mean it's one of those things we have great, great chemistry. And with secure people it's a lot easier and we have a very secure group in that way.