



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State Postgame Quotes vs. Illinois State

Final Score: San Diego State 75, Illinois State 65

Quotes from interviews on XTRA Sports 1360

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

On tonight's performance:

"All credit to the kids. I told them when they play that way they make the game look really good. They are out there talking to one another. They are talking about things that just happened. They fix it on their own and that is a sign of a really good team. If they can continue to fix things on their own on the court and have us help them time-to-time then we have a chance to be pretty good."

On the play of the starting backcourt:

"Devin is the competitor and Jeremy plays with a smile on his face, he is just so relaxed and takes great joy in playing the game and they end up with 40 points for us and 10 assists between them. If you are going to play well on the road it is usually senior guard play and we got great senior guard play. Then you throw in our improved conversion defense. I thought we did a good job getting back. You talk about rebounding and that was huge concern for us and we outrebounded them. The areas we challenged them to get better at, we got better at. As a coach you always feel really good about that."

On the quick start:

"Playing from the front is the way to do it. We never relinquished the lead. We just kept it up there and hit some really timely threes against their zone. Everybody contributed all the way down to Aguek's (Arop) fallaway jump shot and rebound. The only thing we didn't do well was shoot three throws and I know we are a good free throw shooting team. That will get better."

On getting the road victory with a young team:

"I am really proud to take a young team on the road for the first time and come out of it with our first true road win and that bodes well for us this season if we continue to improve like that."

On the play of Nathan Mensah:

"Nathan followed an 11-rebound performance against Jackson State with 10 tonight. If we put a double-digit rebounder out there like that and he can clear the glass, that is going to help solve our rebounding problems. And AG (Aguek Arop) did a good job. They are just getting up to speed. AG missed nine or 10 days of practice. Nathan missed a month. They are catching up as quickly as they can. Now Joel Mensah and Ed Chang are working hard in practice too and they are more than capable of contributing I just have to find where and when I can give them those minutes."

Senior guard Jeremy Hemsley

On the game plan and the role of the seniors:

"The game plan was to take it personally on defense. Look at the guy across from you and know that he is not going to just come in and do what he wants to. I think we did a good job of that."

On trying to be a leader for the younger players:

"I think Devin and I did a good job of being the seniors on the team and leading the younger guys. Trying to set an example and basically being a big brother out there. It was a fun game. I really love playing basketball."

On being a leader and talking to the younger players on the court:

"I remember my freshman year I had guys like Winston (Shepard) and Angelo (Chol) and if I made a mistake, they were quick to come over to me and tell me everything is good. I tried to learn from those guys as a freshman and apply it as a senior now to the younger guys."

On the first road game for the five freshmen:

"This is the first road trip for a lot of the freshmen. I remember my first road trip. I couldn't believe how loud it was. How much the fans hated us. Being a senior, now it is fun. I get chills thinking about games like this. It is a lot of fun."

On the next game, against USD:

"They are a good team. We do not take them lightly. My freshman year we lost that game at Petco Park. We all know this is a team that we can not take lightly. We will be ready and know that it will be a challenge every time we play them."

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