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5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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San Diego State-Cal State Dominguez Hills Postgame Quotes December 12, 2018

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I made some notes tonight, I'm going to read off of them, so bear with me. I want to thank everyone for being here tonight. I'd like to start by talking about the story that came out today. As a father of two wonderful daughters, my heart goes out to the two young women who came forward in Seattle. I acknowledge there are a lot people hurting right now and my heart goes out to all of them. I know you have a lot of questions that I am unable to answer right now because of the ongoing civil investigation. In regards to Jalen, I would like to say he is being treated with the same respect and due process as any other student on this campus would be treated in this type of situation. With that I'd like to talk about the game. It feels good to get a win. When you lose two games in a row, obviously you're trying to, first of all, get a win. The things I liked about what my team did today is they shared the ball. We had 36 baskets; I think 28 of them were assisted. So, we shared the ball and we played the right way. Obviously, we know our greatest deficiency is at the defensive end in rebounding the ball. We worked extremely hard to improve our defense, ball pressure and helping one another. I think we made great strides in that regard. The task over the next 10 days is to use it to get the team better. This is a rare opportunity when you have this many days in between games, and we have to take advantage of every minute of every day to try and get this team better. I think these guys are up for the challenge. I told them we can't have aches and pains. We have to be out on that practice floor and we have to determine what kind of team we're going to be over these next 10 days. That is the challenge for these two young men and they are up for it, I'm sure of that."

On the team's performance:

"I didn't think we got off to a real good start. We played even for the first couple minutes and it looked like, whether it was emotional or physical, they looked tired. Matt looked tired, Jalen looked tired, Jeremy was a little winded. I think when they caught their second wind, they played much better. Obviously, I'm using the bench tonight. I wanted to do that regardless of the score. It's something I haven't done and it may have been a mistake, but moving forward I have to give these guys quality minutes because my starters can't play all those minutes. It catches up to them at the end of games and maybe more so after a two-game road trip. I'm going to give the bench minutes. We may have to live through some mistakes, but in the long run I think it will help the team."

On Matt Mitchell being benched briefly then put back in:

"Yeah, sometimes maybe to catch their second wind if it's that fast, or sometimes maybe holding a kid more accountable—if he makes a mistake on the floor, he's going to come out. We have to have more accountability from the defensive end and we're trying to instill that in them. They need to know they're going to be rewarded for good play and if they make mistakes it's not personal. We can't have the same mistakes made over and over. When they make them, they come out, we correct them, and we get them back in the game."

On the team's three-point shots:

"We've been shooting the ball great from three. I think we shot in the high 50s at Cal; we've been a real dangerous three-point shooting team. So offensively, a lot of things we're doing are at a really high level, but it doesn't matter what you're doing offensively if you're not winning games. We played well offensively in the two losses for a large part of the game, but obviously we can't take any satisfaction in that if we end up with a loss. We're judged on winning and losing, not on our offensive and defensive numbers in the end. It's winning at the end of the game."

On playing a DII team after two losses:

"When they play together like that, I think everybody has fun. They're moving the ball and sharing it. We challenge them even though it was a division two team. I think they only had one offensive rebound in the first half and one three-point shot. In the second half, they might've ended up with three offensive rebounds and three three-point shots, but those are challenges. We said we can't give up all the threes and got to get above the arc. Even if they miss some, I wasn't very happy that we weren't up aggressively into the ball. There's are things we've tried to change as a coaching staff and demand more, but sometimes we come up with a game plan that doesn't work. When we're ducking under ball screens at Cal, they're going to be open from a lot of distance. Or we're ducking under and playing the drive. We have to find a way that's best suited for this team to play. That's not just a learning process for the players but for the coaches as well."

On defensive deficiencies:

"We've talked about concentration and that's what we've challenged them to do. It's to concentrate longer and that fatigue can't affect concentration. You can't have mental fatigue. Maybe you'll get physically fatigued, but we can't have mental fatigue. You have to concentrate every minute you're out there and we're trying to get them to concentrate longer both in games and in practice."

San Diego State Sophomore Forward Matt Mitchell**On what the team was doing well in the first half:**

"I think it was just us moving the ball a little bit better and locking in on defense, and playing as a team and following in the coaching staff's footsteps and what they told us to do. I think us just locking in and locking in for the rest of the game helped us go on that run."

On working on three-pointers, physically and mentally:

"For me it was just the mental part of it. My team did a great job of getting me open and finding me in transitions in the half-court sets. I think for me it's just more of a mental state. Just knowing that it'll go in and if it doesn't, keeping shooting. If you're open — shoot it; if not, just keep moving the ball and do something different."

On what the team did well overall tonight:

"Ball movement. As long as we're moving the ball, everybody's getting open shots and everybody's happy."

San Diego State Senior Guard Jeremy Hemsley**On any lasting effects of Cal loss:**

"Of course it was still on our mind and we didn't want to start this game the way we started the game against Cal, so of course it was something we were thinking about and it was something we still felt because we felt like we should've won that game. We obviously know we're better than what we showed last game and I think we did a good job of showing that today."

On if having a lead and playing well makes playing more enjoyable:

"I would say so. It's more fun when you see everybody just playing with the flow of the game and everybody just seems to have a smile on their face out there. I think being a basketball player, you want to see your teammates have that smile and you want to see your teammates do well, and I think we did that tonight."

On what the Aztecs are working on in the next 10 days:

"I think it will just have to be an emphasis on concentration. We have to come to practice knowing we can't be lackadaisical. Ten days, if we come into practice thinking it's a just day that we can take off, then we'll go into the game against BYU just doing the same thing, playing the way that we practiced. I think we have to take advantage of the time that we have and try to get better each day."

Cal State Dominguez Hills Head Coach Steve Becker**On the main takeaway from tonight's game:**

"When you go into these games, I think you have to have a fighter's mentality, and you need to focus on the things you can do better regardless of who you're going up against. I really wanted to do a much better job on the glass. We got out-rebounded severely. I just thought we needed to just play such a better basketball game, collectively. There are so many different things to touch on right now, but this is a great opportunity and experience for our guys that very few people get the opportunity to do — to come into Viejas and play in an environment like this. Hats off — I thought the Aztecs played great. I thought they hit on a lot of cylinders. It's just unfortunate we were the game to get them going."

On if they were at odds to begin with:

"Yeah. I think anytime you lose two, regardless of level, you're always extra motivated. It just so happens that that's the way it led prior to this one."

On playing Division I teams:

"We'll play two Division I games a year. We played Pepperdine earlier in the year and then these guys. I have some friends on the coaching staff that were kind of able to facilitate that, which was nice of them. It's always kind of a gauge. For us, even though it didn't quite show tonight, a lot of our guys have been recruited or played at Division I level, so a lot of them — often times when we play these games — have chips on their shoulders and want it that extra bit more. Unfortunately, that didn't happen tonight."

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