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San Diego State-Brigham Young Postgame Quotes December 22, 2018

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays. Felt like old times in the building today; the atmosphere was incredible. To walk in there and see it full like that, a whiteout and the enthusiasm of the crowd—people want to know why you start well, and sometimes that energy in the building gives the team energy. I want to thank the fans for coming out. I told the players before the game, you know, the fans know more about this rivalry than you do because they've been here to sit through it, a lot of our longtime dedicated fans. I said, you have to know this is a rivalry. I'm telling you it is. It'd been one of the great ones in the Mountain West when we played them, and sometimes it's a rivalry when they beat you nine times in a row. Well, now we've got three in a row. That's the kind of talk that keeps a rivalry going, so we will look forward to returning to Provo next year and continuing a great, great basketball game for the fans—both fan bases."

On if he thought he'd be talking about an awesome offensive performance in a win over Brigham Young:

"If you were to tell me our game plan was to outscore BYU, I'd say that's not a very good game plan. But in the end, obviously I shouldn't say 'outscore' because outscoring is them is the game plan, but not in the 80s and 90s obviously. Our defense was good tonight. That's hard to say when a team shoots 50-something percent, but when you force 18 turnovers and you hold a player that is averaging 23 points and 10 rebounds below his average, and all the things you work on, you see come to life from the practice floor onto the game floor, it just feels good because the kids know when they work that hard and all the stuff they work on pays off in a win, then that creates more buy-in. They want to see results; we all want to see results. Sometimes, you don't get the results but you keep working hard. I said that the 10 days off between games were going to be really important to us, and I think we took good advantage of those 10 days and are playing pretty good basketball today."

On how far back he looks to find as complete a game as the team played today:

"Nothing this year. The fight coming back from Xavier, 19 down, was a heck of an effort. That just told me at the time, we've got a team with fight in them, that they're not going to give up. Then you look back a year ago, the two wins against Nevada the last 10 days of the season—how incredible was that? That was a great effort and energy from the team. We've seen it from these kids. Now it's the young kids trying to figure it out. When you've got veteran guards like Jeremy (Hemsley) and Devin (Watson), they look like veterans out there. They never look rattled. They keep everything under control and in front of them. The sophomores are getting better. Jordan Schakel, Matt Mitchell, Jalen McDaniels are getting better, but they're only sophomores, still. As much as they've played a lot of minutes, they're still young players. A guy like Nathan Mensah and Adam Seiko today, and Nolan Narain when he was needed—they all stepped up and they played well. We're slowly putting a team together. No matter what plan you think you have as a coach, sometimes it just takes whatever it takes. It might take all year to get to where you want to be. Some teams come out of the gates playing outstanding basketball. Every team is different, every journey is different and right now, I think we made a step forward, and we'll step out into the next game against Brown. I'm going to enjoy Christmas, but Brown is 8-4, so you say you've got an Ivy League team, well I say I've got an 8-4 Ivy League team I'm playing when I come back from Christmas. I'll enjoy this one tonight and enjoy my family for Christmas, and then start getting ready for Brown."

On why a game against Brigham Young has such a hyped feeling:

"I said to Coach Rose when he came in, 'It feels like we haven't missed a year.' To see him in the arena, full like it was, shaking hands before the game, I said it feels like we haven't missed a year. That's how the atmosphere felt. You saw it the same way. When we go to Provo next year — we haven't played there in four or five years — trust me, when we go there, their fan base will know. It will be equal to what it was today, if not more, when we go to Provo next year."

On keeping the momentum throughout the game:

"Continue to share the ball on offense. Move the ball, share the ball. We mostly talked defense [in the huddle]. Get stops. We talked a lot about concentrating throughout the game. Don't lose your concentration. They're going to make some plays. (BYU G TJ) Haws is going to make some shots. Don't drop your head, don't raise your hands, just move on to the next play. That's a sign of maturity. I thought even when they went on a little bit of a run, I thought the kids maintained their composure. Nate Mensah hit some really hard shots in that stretch. A 15-foot turnaround jump shot? I mean, those weren't untimely baskets. They were at a critical time in the game and he made three shots in a row that were incredible. Our kids stepped up and made some really big plays."

On Devin Watson:

"Devin's got a lot of moxie, that's how he plays. He wants the ball. I'm sure he wants more shots than he's getting, but he gets eight assists. Devin's so smart. He can play the game any way it needs to be played. If he gets hot, he can score the ball, but he can also get his teammates involved. It's such a fine line to walk as a scoring point guard, as to when you can take over a game. Sometimes it looks like the point guard is not sharing the ball. But then you look at his stats and he had eight assists again. I think he had seven the game before, so he's playing magnificent basketball right now."

On Jalen McDaniels' foul troubles and if it has to do with the lineup:

"No, he's basically guarding the same position he guard last year. When we start small like that, Matt's (Mitchell) been the one to take Yoeli (Childs) from the start and Jalen comes over with the post double. So he got a couple of careless ones again today. That early layup where he fouled a guy on, there wasn't a lot of contact, but just enough to get it. There were a couple here and there that I'm sure he thought were kind of on the edge, but they're fouls. So he has to learn to keep his hands off, show his hands, don't put his hands on people and just do the little things that keep you out of foul trouble."

On if he thinks Jalen McDaniels presses in the second half to make up for lost time on the bench:

"I think everybody presses. He wants to make a contribution to win. He doesn't want to feel like he's just out there. He wants to help contribute to victories, so I think he goes hard to the glass, maybe gets an over-the-back or trying to pursue the ball and do the things that help make him great playing with a high motor. Hopefully, we can keep him out of foul trouble more often."

On capitalizing on BYU's turnovers:

"Turnovers were big to the game. I tell the team this all the time, it's hard to win a half-court basketball game where you have to rely on your half-court offense to produce all of your points. So I said, you have to get fast-break baskets or you have to get second-chance points. You have to pound the offensive glass and get a put-back. And even though that sounds like it's a half-court offense, it's after the shot goes up, can you go get it and get a put-back. So when we can create turnovers and get a couple of fast-breaks to go with our half-court offense, then we score this many points. If we just get slowed down in the half-court, like USD slowed us down, then it's hard to grind it out in games like that sometimes."

On if the team is developing an offensive identity:

"Yeah, we're playing great offense right now, and the thing that we're doing best is sharing the ball. The reason we're shooting so well on threes is because we're getting assisted threes. We're driving in and stepping straight into the three or driving on the fast-break and throwing into the corners. We're stepping into the shot. We're not shooting off screens or running off a double and shooting. We're not shooting off the dribble or stopping behind a ball screen. Every three we get has got to be assisted I think. Not many guys are getting an unassisted three."

Sophomore Forward Matt Mitchell

On the last time the team has played this well:

"I would say the same (as Devin). The atmosphere and the way we played, we put a full and complete game together as a unit."

On game plan against Yoeli Childs:

"Just give him tough baskets. Get the ball out of his hands, we know he's a good passer and he made some good passes, but it was get some hands and get some deflections and make him make tough shots."

On how the team forced Childs to commit six turnovers:

"Activity and awareness. It was the activity of the people in the double and the awareness of the other three guys that were on the floor."

On being able to answer BYU's second-half runs:

"I think it was one, our game plan, and two, the way we move the ball. We played together. I think that every time they came back with an answer I think we came back with ball movement and team play. That helped us answer their runs."

On his personal first-half performance:

"(I had) an opportunity to be aggressive. When the right play was there to make, I feel like I made that play. Of course, you're going to miss some, and I did, I just feel like it was the opportunity to be aggressive."

On the team playing a different style of basketball from the team's traditional defense-first reputation:

"We want to be an all-around threat. We may not be that now, but we will be."

San Diego State senior guard Devin Watson

On the last time the team has played this well:

"I would say against Xavier. Everybody was very involved, we used each other, I feel like we got back to that."

On the team's three-point shooting performance:

"It feels good (to be in a rhythm). Just seeing the ball go in the basket, knowing that other guys are scoring too and the defense is on their toes. It makes us happy and it keeps us going."

On the energy of tonight's game:

"Playing against BYU is a fun game. Their play style, they like to run and gun and shoot the ball, they don't care what the circumstance is. It's a fun game, the fans come out, and a fun atmosphere."

On the desire to beat BYU after losing to them four times at USF:

"I wanted to beat them. Every time I played against these guys they always had one or two on the team that I kind of become friendly with so I knew a couple on that team right there. So just playing against them, I knew I wanted to get one. I was 0-for-4, I had to get the last one and I'm glad I did it here with this group of guys."

On upcoming schedule:

"We don't really pay attention to that (the upcoming schedule). We see the next one ahead and come up with a game plan. After that one we do that for the next game. We don't really look too far ahead."

On "six-point play":

"That felt good. The play sort of broke down so I hit Jalen (McDaniels) and he gave it back to me. I didn't really see the rim at all but I hit the last one, so that one had to go up. It was a heat check."

On the team playing a different style of basketball from the team's traditional defense-first reputation:

"We're trying to do both. We're trying to play defense and be known for that and we can score the ball. We're trying to prove that we can do it on both ends of the court."

Brigham Young head coach Dave Rose

On the progress Brigham Young has made this season:

"I would say that as far as the team as a group and how the team is progressing, I would say it is probably where we thought it would be. But, wins and losses, maybe a little bit different. We've tried to integrate Nick (Emery) to this point."

On the SDSU-BYU matchup being renewed:

"There is a lot of emotion in the building. It's funny because none of these guys have ever been in here. They were 11 or 12 years old. We walked in the building last night and it seemed like we've been doing this forever. It didn't seem like that many years since we've been here. I'm glad we got this series going again."

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