



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State-University of San Diego Postgame Quotes December 5, 2018

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well, not to be cliché, but it was a tale of two halves. It really was. The shooting percentage, just everything down the stat line. I think we shot 56-59 percent in the first half, they shot 35 second half. They shot 56, we shot 22. They played with great experience. They looked like they didn't panic. They played their system. They played their game and they played very well. We pressed our game and the team wanted to please me. They wanted to throw it inside and they knew that's where I wanted it, but they tried to force it in sometimes instead of playing the second side. We maybe showed a little bit of our youthfulness at times and lost a very tough game, but I told them in the locker room, 'We can't obsess over it, we can't linger on it.' We play again on Saturday. So, we played at Illinois State, we traveled, we played USD today, and then we practice tomorrow, travel on Friday and play Cal. So, we can't let USD cost us the Cal game. That's just the nature of basketball. It's not the NBA where you just have to move on and play, it's college so it's a little more emotional at times, but we need to get over the emotion of it. It has to hurt to lose, we have to want to learn from our mistakes, but we have to make corrections quickly and move on and play another game on Saturday. There's no magic potion that's going to change the team from Wednesday to Saturday. We just have to do the things we do better and continue to defend at a high level and rebound better. We didn't rebound the ball today, especially on missed free throws. There are lessons to be learned, but not to be obsessed about."

On the main contributor to the loss tonight:

"I think the guys got frustrated in the second half, and that's the way basketball works. When the ball doesn't go in and you're not shooting very well, you get frustrated on the defensive end. We tried to get stops, they played really hard. We just didn't score enough. What did we score the second half? Twenty-eight points. That's not going to win very many games. We weren't very efficient offensively in the second half. Too much one-on-one play. I like the fact that we got into the double bonus early, I think we got into the double bonus really early in the second half, but couldn't take advantage of it even though we shot a lot of free throws. We could have really attacked in the paint, maybe draw a couple fouls and try to get to the line more. When you watch tape when you win, it's not as good as you thought it was and when you lose it's not going to be as bad as I thought it was, it's going to be somewhere in between. It's early in the year and there's going to be teachable moments and, like I said, the thing I love about my team is they want to be taught. They're not excuse-makers, they're not pointing fingers anywhere else. They want to be taught, so they'll look to us to watch the tape and find out what we can learn from the game today."

On Jalen McDaniels:

"Jalen got in foul trouble. The flagrant, he was just trying to swim over the top when he was defending in the post. It was a flagrant one, it wasn't an intentional foul. He just got him with an elbow, but there was never any intent to hit him. Then obviously the talking we can't have. He knows better than that. He can't get that type of technical where all of a sudden it's a personal foul and then he fouls out of the game. It's a teachable moment and he'll learn from it and we won't have that happen again this year."

On Jordan Schakel's foul trouble:

"Jordan didn't get much opportunity today. He had a couple of tough foul calls. That's just the way it is, they were bang-bang foul calls and sometimes they go against you. I don't think it was anything really missed, but I'll look back at the tape. I thought he ran in to somebody and you

know, it's two guys hitting at the same time and then a guy trips and then you got two fouls. It's frustrating. I don't think they got him reaching or anything like that. It's just unfortunate. There was a lot of fouls called this game. We shot 30 free throws and they shot 30 free throws. That's 60 free throws between the two teams. I don't know if that is an exorbitant amount, but they had two guys foul out and we had three guys foul out. To me it didn't seem like it was an overly physical game. You know what I'm saying? I don't think guys were in there fighting that hard. It was just called that way where a lot of guys got in foul trouble."

On SDSU going with a big lineup while USD went small:

"We were going big in the fact that we had our starting lineup of Matt (Mitchell) and Jalen (McDaniels) in there. So that's our starting four and five and then Jalen got in foul trouble and then I had to decide if I wanted to put Nathan (Mensah) on (USD forward Isaiah) Pineiro, while and he was still in. So, I didn't put Nathan in there. I thought I'd be better off staying small and putting Matt on him. So, when they brought some of their bigger guys in off the bench when Pineiro got in foul trouble, then I put Nathan in to play a like-sized guy and then Matt switches between the power forward and small forward anyway. I then mixed in AG (Aguiek Arop) in there in a bit. I tried to keep some size in there, but I didn't want to play our five man on Pineiro because he is so dynamic attacking the basket. I thought even though [Pineiro] had 21 that Matt did a real nice job on him in a lot of situations, contesting his shots and playing him pretty tough."

On playing a lot of zone in the first half:

"I just thought with them having four guards in there that their shooting might be a little more dangerous. Like I said, they were 0-for-11 in the first half from three and then they hit seven in the second half. It's not like it was just one guy. (USD guard Olin) Carter is a prolific shooter and he had two, and one of them was very tough on Devin (Watson) where he was pinned down and shot in right on the catch. Then they had five other guys make a three, so it wasn't like one guy you could focus on so all of a sudden you have six guys making threes in the second half and you are more concerned with the zone at that point, especially with (USD guard) Finn (Sullivan) in there. He's another shooter so they didn't have a five man. Just Pineiro and four shooters really, so that was a little bit of a concern with the zone. I thought we did zone effectively in the second half at times."

Thoughts on playing USD in nonconference:

"It was a hard game and the game was going to be hard no matter what, but it was made harder because we traveled across the country. We didn't practice Friday, we played Saturday, we didn't practice Sunday and then we had two-day prep and we traveled across the country. That's not an excuse. USD outplayed us, but the travel made the game tougher. Obviously, USD is a very good team and they have scheduled accordingly. They are playing three Pac-12 teams and an SEC team. This is their year. They have two fifth-year seniors, two fourth-year seniors and a fourth-year junior in the starting lineup so this is their time. They played hard and they played like they wanted to make a statement. This was not one that was obviously scheduled by me. We kind of got scheduled into this and that's fine, it's a good game. Obviously the RPI would've helped us this year. In the end, this probably won't be a bad loss because their RPI is going to be strong. If this was past years when they were in the 150s or 160s, it would be a horrible loss."

On how USD's experience worked against SDSU:

"They've said it for a long time, they don't get shaken in any situation because they've got two fifth-year seniors, two fourth-year seniors and a fourth-year junior in the starting lineup. And experience is key. You want to be old in college basketball if you can, and they're as old as it comes. They might be, with that lineup, the oldest team in college basketball. Nevada has got to be right up there with them, they've got like four fifth-year starters in the lineup. That experience pays off when they didn't get rattled. I thought my senior guards were pretty solid. Devin Watson played good, Jeremy was solid defensively. Some of the younger kids got frustrated and they made a couple younger man mistakes, but that's why I'm here. I'm here to coach them and get them better."

On if this is a loss to make SDSU reevaluate their plan:

"No, I said earlier, the beauty in the beast of basketball is we play in two days at Cal. So, I'm sitting here with a week thinking, 'Well, we're going to do this and we're going to do that.' We can't let the loss today cost us Saturday's game. You have to have a short memory and move. There's going to be a teachable moment or two. When you watch tape, you're going to find you thought you played so good and you weren't that good. Maybe you made a couple good plays here and there. Or when you lose you think, 'Man, we played terrible.' There were a lot of things we did great that we can teach to. That's just part of coaching: you're never as good as you think you are or as bad as you think you are. We'll continue to improve because the kids buy into what we're doing."

Senior Guard Devin Watson

On his half-court lob to Jalen McDaniels for a dunk:

"I think it was a nice play."

On loss moving forward:

"We've just got to figure it out."

Senior Guard Jeremy Hemsley

On shooting percentage in the second half compared to the first:

"I would say Devin (Watson) was on one out there, really playing with heart. Me, being the other senior guard, I didn't help him out, out there. He was basically out there alone. He was our only source of offense out there. We did a lot of forcing out there on the offensive end. [Coach Dutcher] said we had the ball on one side out there during the game, and he's right, but like I said, I feel like I let my team down tonight. I didn't play like a senior should play, and I left my guys hanging, so that was the outcome of that."

On the struggles with rebounding:

"We didn't take it personal. They were tougher than us. We rebounded soft. I hate to use that word, but that's how we rebounded. We rebounded just real soft, and we've got to go in there with a fight. We can't keep getting outrebounded because you see what the outcome is every time."

University of San Diego Head Coach Sam Scholl

On what was going through his game once the clock hit zero:

"I was just excited about us taking a really good step forward with this program and the process of what we're trying to do. It's a day-by-day process of building a championship level program, and that was a big step tonight."

On coming back from a deficit at the half:

"One of the things I've liked so much about this group so far is not once have we ever panicked. There's been a lot of different situations throughout the course of the season. We've been in down seven, down eight – at [University of Washington], at Ole Miss – and never once have our guys panicked. We certainly haven't done some things great, but we've never panicked. When we went in the locker room, we just trust our reps and trust each other."

On G Finn Sullivan stepping up.

"It's awesome. We need our bench. It's a long season. We can't play six guys 38, 39 minutes. We need a bench when foul trouble happens like it did tonight. To see the way Finn Sullivan stepped up, the way Akim-Jamal Jonah stepped up, the way Emanuel Hylton, Joey Calcaterra, Andrew Ferguson – they made small impacts, but their impacts nonetheless on the game was great."

On if the victory feels different:

"I think so. Certainly, when you beat a really good team and a really good program, certainly you're going to feel good about it. You feel like your team is taking a step forward. This is a great game when you get the chance to play against a great program like San Diego State. To come out with a win, it feels really good."

On if this was a statement game to the city of San Diego:

"I hope so. I hope what they saw tonight that there's a team that plays for each other and that they enjoy watching that. We're trying to be the most connected team on the floor every time we play and so hopefully people see that and want to come see it again."

On his favorite moment:

"My favorite moment was probably when the win happened and how we handled it. We didn't go run and storm the floor because these are the kind of wins our program is supposed to get and supposed to aspire to. I think that was probably my favorite moment. We didn't act like we won

the National Championship. At the end of the day it's a good win against a really good program. It's a great step forward for us, but we have a lot to learn, and we have another game coming up."

University of San Diego Guard Isaiah Wright

On what this win means:

"It's a rivalry. It's always going to be a battle between the both of us. State came out and gave us a good punch, and we figured out a way to win."

On needing the challenge:

"In the second half, for some reason this team has the resiliency to keep calm and push through and stick to the game plan to execute, and that's what we did in the second half."

On atmosphere in the locker room:

"You already know, it was all joy in there. It was a good time. We're happy we won and now it's on to the next."

On what this win says about the team:

"USD is building. We're trying to build this program to a program where everyone knows that we're a good program. That's what we're trying to do — keep on building each game."

University of San Diego Guard Isaiah Pineiro

On what it was like when the clock hit zero:

"It was a good win. Big emotions in this game. We battled through. It was a close game throughout the whole game. We stuck with it though, and we didn't get too high — didn't get too low. We felt accomplished."

On if anyone in their locker room was surprised with the win:

"No. Definitely not. We knew going into this game that they're a really good team, but we're a really good team also, and if we play the way we do, we can play against anyone."

On there being a lot of emotion on the court:

"We're two-and-two. They got us the last two years. We get a little disrespected sometimes, so it was a good win."

On matching up against Jalen McDaniels:

"It's great. As a competitor, you want to play against the best people. He tested the NBA waters last year, and that's where I'm striving to get to. It was good."

On what this win means:

"It's a big win, but at the end of the day, it's just another win. Hopefully next year they can continue it, but as of right now in the season, it's just another win for us."

On playing more difficult teams this season:

"It's a great win when you start talking about RPI and all that. They won their tournament last year, so they're going to do good this year. As of right now, we're rooting for them so this win means more at the end of the season."