



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State at Air Force Postgame Quotes January 12, 2019

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

On the game:

"When we have shot this bad from three (point range), we have not had a prayer in these games. We tried to establish, like we have in the past when we are not scoring well from the outside, an inside game. We threw it in to Matt (Mitchell). We threw it in to Jalen (McDaniels). We tried to go inside some and had some success with that. When we finally hit a couple of threes, it was too late in the game. It cut it to four points late."

On the Air Force defense:

"I explained to the team before we came here that this (Air Force) is a defensive game plan much like USD, much like Brown played against us. They are going to pack the paint and when we drive, we have to drive for others. When we got behind, after spending two days on that (plan), we were driving and forcing some really hard shots. In the second half, the kids knew we could not survive like that and they settled in and moved the ball and they drove and they kicked it and we had better opportunities. We missed some but we had better opportunities."

On having only seven assists:

"When we are playing at our best, like BYU and Wyoming, it's 20 assists each of those games. Tonight, it's seven assists and that tells the story for us because we are not a great one-on-one team. We are better as a whole than we are individually. We have to play the right way as a team in order to win."

On the rebounding struggles:

"It has been an Achilles all year. We started the game in a zone and we got stops but they got a ton of offensive rebounds against the zone. We had our bigger lineup in and they were still picking up too many offensive rebounds at the start of the game. I will be interested to see how many they got after we went man. I thought we did a decent job playing man. At the end of the day, Air Force shoots 39 percent, but we only shoot 38. We hold them under 40 percent from the field, get beat up on the glass and like I said not enough assisted baskets. Not enough sharing of the ball. Not enough moving of the ball. Even though we shot 50 percent in the second half we could not overcome selfish one-on-one play in the first half. I don't want to say selfish because they are selfish. I want to say selfish because of frustration. Everyone (was) trying to press their game to help the team win but not doing it the right way."

Air Force Head Coach Dave Pilipovich

On the game:

"Wow. That was fun. I give all the credit to our team because we did not play real well at Colorado State. We struggled versus their pressure and we struggled versus their athleticism. I thought we got punched a little and we wobbled. Not today. We held that team to 14 points in the first half. We guarded. We played hard. We were on the floor. We were Air Force. That was fun to watch. Wow. That was good. We had a 17-point (actually 16-point) lead and we get a breakaway, with AJ Walker with the layup and we miss it. They go on a 10-0 run. It goes down to seven. I am starting to see Army on their jerseys out there. I look at two guys sitting behind me, two distinguished gentlemen, and they say, 'don't worry we are going to be o.k.' I'm glad they knew."

On bouncing back after Colorado State:

"We practiced hard on Thursday and Friday. They could have put their heads down after Tuesday's game and pouted. They played so hard in practice Thursday and Friday. I don't know if this a record or not but we had two players with double-doubles. Those guys dominated the glass. We only had 10 turnovers. Wow this is fun. This was a fun game. AJ Walker had 19 points and he was pretty good today as a ball-handling guard. He did some good things as a freshman. It was just neat."

On coaching at Air Force:

"What makes this place special is the people here, our athletic director, our administration, our former coaches (and) our current coaches. I got a text message yesterday from Coach Fisher DeBerry."

On moving forward:

"I love our guys today. I didn't love them all that much on Tuesday night. I liked them a lot but I didn't love them a lot. I love them tonight. I think this group has a chance. We just got to stay healthy and get moving better and keep word hard and who knows."

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