



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | @AZTECSPR | #GOAZTECS

### Tennessee State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. November 25, 2019

#### San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

##### Opening Statement:

"I wrote on the whiteboard before the game that defense and rebounds win championships. That was prophetic because we did not have any offensive rhythm at all today. Our defense carried us and we rebounded enough to come out with a win against a very scrappy Tennessee State team. What a great crowd we had tonight to get us through those tough stretches — home court advantage is everything. The Aztec fans showed up today and supported their Aztecs and spurred us to a win.

We broke the game open when we finally got a few fast break opportunities. We forced 18 turnovers and some of those in the second half we were able to run out on and get some fast break opportunities. Our bench is extremely deep. And you don't have to look any further than Adam Seiko. Adam played four minutes in the last game and then came in today and hit three 3's and made timely plays and played tough defense. Joel Mensah came in and gave us good minutes. Aguek Arop came in fighting through illness and gave us some quality minutes. We needed every single player we have on the team today to step up and make important plays for us. I'm proud of the job our bench did.

Offensively, we're missing too many open shots. We need to make some of those. We didn't have a rhythm in the fact that we were over-dribbling the ball a little bit, we did not trust in what we were doing in practice and have it transfer to the game. We looked out of sorts. We have to over the next couple of days, not change a lot, but get them back to the basics of what we do as an Aztec offense, get them moving and moving the ball better and spacing the floor and hopefully the offense will be better when we take the floor against Creighton."

##### On the 10-minute dry spell:

"I'll have to go back and watch the tape — it was too much standing around probably. We got off to a great start. We have offenses that we run out of certain positions on the floor and we didn't get into it. We held the ball too long, dribbled it one extra time, and it didn't move freely. It wasn't the fact that they were selfish, they just need to recognize quicker that when everyone is in these spots this is what we can run. They froze up at times and they were in space where they could have run two or three plays out of a certain space on the floor and they didn't get into the plays. They tried to attack downhill on the dribble. I don't mind that, I want them to attack on the dribble, but not all the time. There were times when we were running our secondary break or our flow offense where we could have swung it and doubled away or swung it and chase ball screen or could of dribble hand off but we didn't do any of that, we just dribbled the ball and dribbled the air out of it sometimes. It has to move freer and we have to get into our sets better. It's tough to yell that from the bench. I don't want to coach them from the bench. There are certain games where we see it and they get into it on their own, and that's the goal, they have to see it and get into it in order for us to be as good as we want to be offensively."

##### On team's performance:

"We need every guy on the team today to step up and make important plays for us. I'm proud of the job the bench did. Offensively, we're missing too many open shots. We didn't have a rhythm. I thought we were over-dribbling the ball, we didn't trust in what we were doing in practice - we looked out of sorts. Over the next couple of days we need to - not change a lot - but get back to the basics of what we do as an Aztec offense."

**On TSU's performance:**

"They're well-coached. Their scouting report was great, honestly. They took certain things away, they denied certain passes and we had to make adjustments as we went along. We had to find a rhythm offensively that we were comfortable with. For a lot of our set pieces, they did a really great job at denying certain passes that made it tough to get through it."

**On Adam Seiko's work ethic:**

"He practices hard. He doesn't let not playing affect how he plays in practice. Some guys might be weak-minded and give up in practice, or just go through the motions - that's not Adam at all. We had great faith when we did call his number that he'd be ready to respond and he did. Not only with his performance on the floor, but talking in the timeout, as well."

## San Diego State Sophomore Guard Adam Seiko

**On tonight's performance:**

"I put a lot of work in and I always want to stay ready. Shots weren't falling for all of our guys tonight, so as long as I can always step up and have that opportunity then I surely will, and that's what I did today."

"I'm just a grinder. I'm always confident in my game and I let my defense play my game for me. I love my teammates. I love my guards. They're great guards. They find me to hit open shots. It's great playing with them and I just need to step up when I can, and that's what I do."

**On mentality going into the game:**

"Whenever I'm on the bench, I just tell myself, 'Stay ready, stay ready.' I'm confident in my shot and I put in my work every day. Coming into the game, I always want to raise the defensive intensity - always. I also want to make my first open shot, and it went in, so that felt good."

**On playing Tennessee State early on in the season:**

"It's definitely good for us to get that kind of competition early in the year because we next we go to Vegas and we're going to see big teams like Creighton and potentially Texas Tech, so having this set before we go down there was definitely good for us to see."

## San Diego State Senior Forward Yanni Wetzell

**On Adam Seiko's work ethic:**

"Adam's probably one of the hardest workers I've seen, hands down. He's ready every time he gets the opportunity. Every time coach puts him in, he's had lockdown defense. He's a massive asset to our team."

**On impact of Seiko's strong offense:**

"His threes were a huge push for us. Adam's a team guy, so when he hits those threes it gets the whole team riled up, so it's an awesome feeling."

**On what sparked the run at the end of the game:**

"I think if we can manage to get stops and get out in transition, like Matt Mitchell got that layup, that ignited that run that we had. That was the burst that we needed."

## Tennessee State Head Coach Brian Collins

**Opening Statement:**

"First of all, San Diego State is an unbelievable team. I think they're well coached. They were the preseason number two pick in the Mountain West Conference. For us to come out here and battle them, as one of the top teams in the Mountain West, says a lot about our guys.

**On back and forth nature of game:**

"I think that's a testament to our team's defense. We've played two high-major teams in San Diego State and Texas Tech. In both games, we held them under 35 percent shooting. Our defense was able to hold on in both of those games to keep us in the game. In the second half, when we cut it to one (point), we went dry. We had a chance to take the lead, to put the momentum on our side. That's going to be the maturation of this team. Even though we have an older team, with a lot of experience, we're still a new team. We're not the best version of ourselves. You'll see that in conference play."

**On close losses:**

"In the Texas Tech game, we were down two in the second half with 13 or 14 minutes to go. Same thing tonight, we were down one with the chance to take the lead. Both games were the type that can give our team confidence going into games where we will play teams on our level. If we can keep that same type of intensity, we will give ourselves a chance to win a lot of games."

**-SDSU-**