



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State-No. 6/6 Nevada Postgame Quotes February 20, 2019

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"That environment was incredible, it reminded me of a few years back. It was good to have the building packed like that and we've always had the best support. But to have the building full for the first time this year was really exciting. I think we treated the crowd to an old-fashioned Aztec win. We played a good second half offensively, although we turned it over too much. We only had three turnovers at halftime and ended up with 14 for the game, but we shot a better percentage the second half. I thought an interesting stat was that Nevada only had one basket from their starting five in the first half, so their bench scored all their points. We knew that was going to happen for the game and we withstood a couple runs. The kids shared the ball and played the right way. At times they might have over-dribbled it, but we didn't run a set play the second half. We ran a high ball screen to a spread offense so we could spread the floor and drive some. It was working so we stuck with it. The one time I called a set play, we entered the ball to the high post and they stole it, so I said enough of that, no more set plays. The kids were excited, but I said, 'Stay humble.' We're going to see them again in two weeks and they're a very good team and hopefully we see them in the conference tournament. This is one of hopefully three games against a very well-coached Nevada team that we'll see again in two weeks."

On beating a No. 6 team for the first time:

"They're getting better. We've won seven out of eight games, thirteen in a row in conference games at home. We're hard to beat in this building and the crowd is a big part of that. The freshmen are playing better at home than on the road, so we have to see if we can get them where they're as confident on the road as they are at home. Nathan (Mensah) got in some foul trouble but AG (Aguek Arop) was dynamic today. The stats never tell the full story, and I thought AG's defensive presence was incredible. Matt Mitchell, the job he did on Jordan Caroline was A-plus and Jordan Caroline has a chance to be the MVP of the conference. He did a good job guarding him one-on-one and obviously he had support and defensive help from his teammates, so we couldn't have done a better job on him. We're really excited about our defense and we continue to rebound at high level."

On Aguek Arop's ability:

"Length and energy. He's kind of like a young Jalen where he scores with energy and moves without the ball. He's finding creases and put-backs and he's out there free flowing and moving well. I just think he's so confident right now and just continuing to get better. Like I said, he can guard a guard, he can guard a center — which he did today — so he can guard multiple positions, which has always been a trademark of a good Aztec basketball player."

On adjustments for Jalen McDaniels at half-time:

"Just to stay in the game, hang in there and get to his spot so hopefully something would fall. Sometimes when you don't make a basket, there's a tendency to press your game. I thought he got to his spot a couple times in the second half, but you have to realize that Nevada knows he's our best player and they had their best defender on him. One of the Martin's was on him and he makes life tough for anybody, so some days it might not be your day to put up a double-double. [Jalen] played the right way and guarded hard. He didn't let the frustration on the offensive end affect him defensively, and he did play great defense."

On Jordan Schakel returning:

"You saw the three point shots. We haven't been making a lot of threes in the game so just to have another threat from three-point range, people are going to be fearful of what he's going to bring in other dimensions. For a guy that hasn't played in six games, I thought his game rhythm was incredible, so I was real pleased to have Jordan back."

On stopping the Nevada offense:

"I just thought we had a body in front of a body because they get downhill so well. I don't think they got to the rim a whole lot. They were shooting a lot of shots that were in front of us and I don't think they got a lot of layups either, which is what they're good at. I think we gave enough help and built a wall where we hoped they'd miss their threes. We tried to keep them in front of us as best we could and keep them away from the rim and I thought we did a good job with that."

San Diego State Guard Jeremy Hemsley**On postgame feeling:**

"It's good. It's a good win but we expect to win every game we play. We didn't come in expecting to lose, or us to not play how we have been playing, we just knew what we had to do and followed the game plan and we just did a good job of following that game plan. That's a good team. They got some dogs over there. That's a good win for sure. Of course we are happy, but we just want to keep it rolling and keep winning and keep improving ourselves."

On emotion, crowd and intensity:

"Games like that you dream of as a kid, watching on TV. It's crazy being out there. I remember during player intros before the game, I was looking at the crowd thinking that I can't believe I am here, that's just a crazy feeling. It's a crazy feeling to see that and to be able to be a part of it."

On court storm:

"I don't know, I think that was my first court storm that I have been a part of, but just seeing it, us as a collective, we just want to mean something to this city, and we play for the name on the front of our jerseys. It is an amazing feeling seeing all of those people out there rocking with you and wanting to see you do good, so it is definitely a good feeling."

On playing for the city:

"It's crazy because Devin [and I] have had so many conversations about just playing together and having moments like this, and his sit out year when he transferred, we had so many conversations like, waiting to live moments like this. Now that he is here, we just have to stay focused and stay in the gym, so it's crazy. We really do want to mean something to this city, and we want to prove ourselves constantly, and I think we are doing a good job of being humble and playing our games."

On team performance since Maui Invitational:

"I think we want it more, I am not saying we didn't want it in Maui, but we know our mistakes and being in that tournament was a good test to show us how you have to be if you want to be a good team and if you want to make it back to the tournament. We just have to play like some dogs and that is how the teams that we are playing against are, they are dogs and that's how we have to be."

On last year playing in front of Viejas crowd:

"I am just trying to take it all in, we have two more games at Viejas. I am just trying to enjoy every single moment of it, because I remember my first game at Viejas and I remember how it felt. I know that I am lucky to be here, and I love being here."

On if they can sense a frustration with Nevada losing to SDSU multiple times:

"I wouldn't say that. I wouldn't say that at all because that's a good team right there. I've seen them play so many times, and I know they don't get flustered. We played hard. It's hard when they have to match out intensity. That's a hard thing to do to, match intensity like that. That's a good team right there, and like I said, I have respect for everybody over there."

On guarding Nevada's Caleb and Cody Martin:

"Just playing players like that it will bring the best out of you. I guess I look forward to matchups like that. I think there were a few plays for sure where I led up and I let them get the upper hand on me, but they're good players. They don't stop. They're relentless, but I love playing against them. I love playing against players that can bring the best out of me. I love playing against high-level competition. My teammates are the same way, and I think it showed."

On if we should expect blocks every game:

"I'm just defending. I use defense to get me going. It keeps me engaged. It keeps me focused. Sometimes I'm able to read it. When we watch game film, they show us their shots, so I'm able to read what move they're going to do or what shot they're going to take before they even shoot the ball."

On what he said in the huddle when Nevada started coming back:

"Just don't let up. We have a good coach, and we have a point guard that handles the ball and handles pressure very well, so I don't think any of us were ever rattled. Especially with the ball in Devin [Watson]'s hands."

San Diego State Guard Devin Watson**On being first Aztec team to beat a Top 6-ranked team:**

"It's amazing. It's amazing. It will probably hit me when I get back to the room or something. It hasn't hit me yet."

On emotion, crowd and intensity:

"I feel like we were just calm during the whole storm. It felt like it was a storm and we were calm during the whole thing. You never saw one of us too antsy, we just move and take our time."

On playing for the city:

"This is why I came back, for games like this. Last year, the championship that we won and beating Nevada tonight, this is why I came back home and it is a great feeling."

On late season run compared to last season:

"I feel like we hit it a little earlier this time, so yeah I feel like we like to make big runs late and we are playing good basketball right now."

On this being his last year playing in front of Viejas crowd:

"It is a great atmosphere, I love it. These last few games, I am just taking it all in."

On what they did to take Nevada's Jordan Caroline out:

"Just guarded. Guarded well. We had guys like Matt (Mitchell) on them. AG [Aguek Arop] guarding a little bit. You know Matt and AG are as tough as they come, and I feel like they did a great job. They knew he liked to crash after every shot, and I just tried to tell Matt on every play, 'Matt, (Jordan) Caroline is going to go in.' I think that reminded him to hit him every time he came in, and we did a good job."

On playing Nevada:

It's definitely a fun matchup. These are the games I look forward to when we've got guys like Caleb (Martin), Cody (Martin) and (Jordan) Caroline. I look forward to it. We know them. We play them a lot in our conference, so these are the games I look forward to — knowing how good they are. We just know each other. They know us. We know them. It's like, who's going to bring it? It's going to be a battle in the end."

Nevada Head Coach Eric Musselman**On the game tonight:**

"I give San Diego State a ton of credit. I thought they played really hard. I thought they defended."

On what happened:

"We have to step up on a big stage and play. We've played in front of two really great crowds at New Mexico and here and we didn't play like we are capable of. I give San Diego State credit."

On what's ahead:

"We have to clean up a lot of stuff from tonight."

On how his team held down Jalen McDaniels:

"I thought Cody (Martin) did a great job guarding McDaniels, I really did. He did a phenomenal job and shut him down. That is one of the only good things. That and Jordan Brown played well as well."

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