



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State at Utah State Postgame Quotes February 26, 2019

Courtesy Utah State Media Relations Office

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

"Utah State did a great job defensively. They opened up and had us out of sorts a little bit. We got a little bit panicked when we got down, and shot the ball too quick. The rebounding is always the key. At our place we out-rebounded them, but they're out-rebounding teams by seven a game and they crushed us on the glass by 14. They had 14 offensive rebounds, so whenever we did get a stop, they had a second-chance opportunity. I think they've won 12 of their last 13 games, their last loss being to us. It's a good ball team. I think we'll see them again in the conference tournament and I hope we'll be a little bit better prepared."

Utah State Head Coach Craig Smith:

"It's a great victory for us. First, I want to credit all the Aggie fans for coming out tonight and supporting us. It was almost a sellout, and their presence was felt, no question about it. The energy is so contagious and willed our guys. It's amazing the impact that a crowd like that has on winning. It can be very daunting for an opponent. We experience the same thing when we go on the road to certain places. Our traditional fans are amazing and I thought the HURD was fantastic. Let's follow it up on Saturday with not a seat available in the Spectrum. It was fun to experience that. It was certainly electric and our guys fed off of that."

"They're a hot team, they've won eight out of nine, they've been very, very good. They just beat the defending champs (Nevada) a week ago, and they got the best of us two-and-a-half weeks ago. That was a very humbling game for us, but we got better from that game. Our guys responded in a major way. Obviously rebounding was a huge key. They manhandled us on the boards at their place with 14 offensive rebounds. To be able to hold a team like that to 35 percent - because they have so many weapons - and they only get seven offensive rebounds, that was the difference in the game."

"I thought we got a great spark from so many guys. Quinn Taylor was unbelievable tonight. We put him in some different positions. Neemi (Neemias Queta) had the four fouls, so we had some issues that way, but I thought Quinn was absolutely incredible. Seven offensive rebounds, 13 points, four assists in 30 minutes. Justin Bean was a big-time spark for us with 10 points, eight rebounds, five on the offensive end. I thought he set the tone especially to start the second half. Those two offensive rebound put-backs, they called a timeout, that put them at bay, so to speak."

"We're finding different ways to win. We started the game 1-for-19 from the 3-point line. Eight of you guys would have made them, they were pretty wide open. It is what it is. To be able to win like that, we couldn't do that two months ago. Now we're finding different ways to do that. Points in the paint was huge tonight. To be able to take advantage of that and loosen them up, I thought our offense was clicking in a great way, except for those missed threes."

Utah State Redshirt Freshman Forward Justin Bean:

"That was awesome. That's really all I can say to sum that up. It was electrifying, fans were amazing. You could definitely get a taste of what Spectrum Magic was. You could feel that from the very beginning tip-off. Coach Smith's arms are probably pretty sore from doing this (pumping up the crowd motion) the whole game, he's always trying to get the crowd into it. It starts with him at the helm, then we all pitched in and did our part. We really locked in on defense. That made the difference when we couldn't knock down shots."

Utah State Senior Forward Quinn Taylor:

"Tonight was a fun night. It was great to play out in the Spectrum in front of basically a sold-out crowd. Any time you can get that fan support, it really boosts us. I feel like we came out with an edge and played 40 minutes with that. One of the things Coach has been stressing throughout the year is that we want to be the toughest team anyone plays. We want them to leave the gym saying 'We don't want to see those guys again.' I think we did a great job of that tonight with our rebounding effort and our defensive effort. San Diego State is a great team, they've been playing really hot. We were able to force some of their players into situations that make them uncomfortable. It was a great game plan and we played with a lot of energy. It was fun."

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