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Nevada at San Diego State Postgame Quotes Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. January 18th, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"It was a hard-fought win today. I mean the first half, they made seven threes, that was the number one key to the game: limit their three point makes, they make 10 a game. They had seven at halftime. I didn't want to be overly frustrated about it because I felt like a lot of them were contested, they just made some really good shots and that's what good players do. So sometimes you have to just say hats off to Nevada, Harris was phenomenal in the first half and I just said we're fortunate only to be down two points having, you know, given up seven threes at halftime. And then the second half our defense locked in and might have been the best of the season. They shot 14% the second half. And the first half, we had three stops in a row one time the second half, I think we did it six times we had three stops in a row. So our defense stepped up to the occasion. Offensively, Usually, we try a midball screen or this or that, and we find something that gives us a rhythm we just could never get into rhythm tonight. And unfortunately, the rhythm, I or fortunately was thrown into Gianni. But the problem is, we had a call set plays into it the team didn't realize it, in my opinion, where they could just make it easy. And so just throw it over here and throw it in to him without a play, because he's dominating the game I think he had 17 points and 16 rebounds, and he's not afraid to throw it out when he drew a double, but they didn't recognize it. So we have to get better that usually find the hot hand and we find something gives us rhythm and they know what it is I felt like today. Offensively we were out of rhythm most of the game. And a lot of it has to do with Nevada's defense they guarded the heck out of us and made everything hard, but proud of our effort, proud of the way that guys Hang in there. The crowd was incredible. I mean I can't imagine a team coming in here and being comfortable playing in this noise. They can't hear their coaches, they're trying to call timeout, they can't hear him call timeout. And it's just a great home court advantage when this building's full and rocking the way it is."

On SDSU's second half run:

"I mean we went with our defense, you know, so we get stops and then it takes the pressure off the offense when you get stops and all of a sudden you're up six and eight and 10 and then you can play a little freer, you know it's good to see Jordan start making some threes, you know at the end of the day, seemed like they made everything but both team made 10 threes for the game. So, we made our as I think more in the second half and made some timely ones and and everything was keyed by our defense and our rebounding."

On if this game was a learning moment:

"I think they're all good learning moments. I was hoping it would be a game like this. Like I said, I played everybody I had and gave them all two minutes. I like to be tested like this, to have a close game leading into the season. It would serve nobody to have an exhibition game where you're out there winning by 20 or 30 and then reality sets in and you're in a close game. So, I like the fact that it was a close game and that we had to get stops in order to win and that we had to make plays down the stretch and make shots in order to win, so I thought that was good for us."

On adjusting ball screens in game:

"We played a couple different ways to start the game we jumped out on ball screens, and then they hit the rolling post and moved it out of there and got some open looks. And then the end of the first half we just switched all ball screens, just to try to keep a body in front of a body. And I

thought that worked fine. And then the second half we played more traditionally what we do we just drop on a ball screen, try to let make them shoot mid-range pull up jump shots. And I thought Lindsay had some good looks, they didn't go in. And by doing that, I think we took away some of their three-point attempts."

On emotions trailing during halftime:

"Like I said I didn't overreact I didn't think I just told him hey this is what basketball is they make seven threes and you're only down to you're very fortunate. So now we just got to, you know, and I told him before we came out, you have to have a next play mentality, someone who looks like they had some frustration on their face I said you can't be frustrated. You know I'm not frustrated with you, you just got to move on to the next play and if you can do that you got a chance to be a really good player and a really good team you can't sit there and obsess over what went wrong in the first half because this is not the time to correct it. We just got to go out and play better the second half and believe in ourselves."

On Yannı Wetzel:

"Yanni came here because he wanted an opportunity to play on a good team. And I say this, if Jalen McDaniels would have come back then Yanni might not have come he was looking for a chance to come in and contribute on a good team and he wanted to play the power forward. So when Nathan went out we had a slide into the center so he's embraced it. I'm sure he'd rather play facing I mean he shot a couple threes and that's what he likes to do, be able to stretch out some and play inside out. And so we have to find ways to let them do that from the post position. But when we watch tape on Yanni when he was leaving Vanderbilt, we watched tape and Mark Fisher and I and the other guys we sat there and go This guy looks like he's a 16 and eight player. Now those weren't the numbers, he had at Vanderbilt but that's what his game looked like on tape, he knew how to play. How to post he knew how to move. And so we just, you know, we're fortunate to put them in positions where we can have some success."

On confidence of team's seniority:

"Yeah, they're a really smart team, you know, so we have a number of ways to play it and they all adjust and do it right away so their, their IQ is over the top. So what they lack in length or maybe athleticism in a position or do they make up for an intelligence and so intelligence makes you a step faster if you know where you're supposed to be you're there early. And you don't have to be a great athlete to get to where you're supposed to be if you're smart and this team's really smart."

On potentially becoming #1 this season:

"Like you said they're just numbers. I mean, you look up and three four and five lost. You know this week I think four and five lost two games this week. So as good as you're playing, you're always one week from a disaster in this business, you know, a team make shots and you lose a game and then you might drop another because you're on the road and that's just basketball. So we're fortunate, where we're at, but we're not naive enough to think that if we don't play well and we don't prepare well it couldn't happen to us. So we try to prep every day and just be the best version of ourselves."

San Diego State Senior Forward Yannı Wetzel

On halftime deficit:

"Yeah I'm not going to lie it was a little different at half time, that was the second time we faced being down at half time in 18 games so the energy was a little different but luckily we're an older group so we regathered and regrouped and came out aggressive in the second half. We just try to eliminate complacent, so we come every day, and we work every day, and we treat every day like if we were 0-0. So that's the biggest thing just not to get complacent. Not getting lackadaisical and just coming and working every day."

On his performance:

"Yeah, I think I was just that much more extra aggressive, we were down a couple in the half and I knew that as a fifth-year senior I got to step up and try and lead these guys a little. So I'm just trying to be as aggressive as I can on the boards. I'm just trying to adapt to it every day trying to get better at it and a lot of my credit goes to my guys, finding me in my positions, so I got a lot to thank my guys for. I haven't been rebounding to my ability so I'm glad I could put up some numbers today. A big shoutout to coach Dutch, he gives the players a lot of freedom, and he puts a lot of confidence in your game, so I'm playing with a lot more confidence and then obviously with my teammates around me, its allowing me to do what I'm doing at the moment so a lot of credit to them."

San Diego State Junior Guard Jordan Schakel

On halftime adjustments:

"We picked up our energy, that was the biggest thing. And we stuck to the game plan. We changed some things at half, but we just had confidence that if we kept working hard and kept sticking to our game plan that we could keep having good results. I think we scored the same amount of points in the second half (as in the first), but we just held them to a lot less points. We just put up better defense."

Nevada Head Coach Steve Alford

On the team's performance:

"I thought we played really hard it's just, they're very talented and they're playing at home and they came out swinging both halves and I thought we handled things in the first half pretty well. I thought that we guarded really, really well in the first half and we got some good shots, we made seven threes in the first half, and then was the second half like 5/34, so they stepped up their defense and we're a couple guys shy of scorers, you know, and I think that affects us, especially in games like this. We just couldn't score in the second half, and you make five field goals against a team like this, it will make it hard on you."

On what SDSU did differently in the second half:

"I don't think it was anything differently, other than there was a lot of tension on Jasmine and Jalen and I think there was in the beginning the game. We did a better job of getting those guys open they were fresh, we're asking those three guards to do a lot, and then Lindsay got in foul trouble. So that hurt. I couldn't get Jalen out in the first half. And I thought he wore down some, you know, so we're trying to alleviate some of that in practice with the guys and is sprained an ankle so we were really limited in the backcourt. But I thought Kane came in and played hard and gave us a lot of good minutes and they did everything they could for us it's just to me minutes. you know we're asking a lot of them."

On playing at Viejas:

"Oh, it's always been a great environment, I've been in here so many times, and they do a great job. They got great student section and a great following. Also, as far as home ports, it's a very, very difficult place to come into play and I thought the players for them did a good job starting the second half and the crowd got behind that and kind of accelerated things and we didn't handle that very well."

On areas they can improve before the start of season:

"Being able to adjust to—most teams don't switch against us, and they started switching every screen, every ball screen. Being able to make adjustments and take advantage of mismatches—we'll continue to work on."

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