



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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

Wyoming at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.

Jan. 21, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"Sometimes games look just like you think they're going to look. That's playing Wyoming tonight. We know they have the ability to run a lot of clock at the offensive end. They screen the ball, they ball screen, they cut, they move. So they're very patient. It's a low possession game. On the board I put up there seven or under threes. At their place they had five, I think tonight they had six. They hit some hard ones but they can shoot the three. I just felt there weren't enough tough twos in the game for them to beat us in our building. So they scored some tough twos but we didn't give them the number of threes they needed to come out with a win, which would've probably been 12, 14 threes. We gave them six for the game so that was pretty good defense. Offensively they zoned us. They matched up and played three-two and matched out of it. We did a really good job. We scored at different things within our offense. We threw it inside to Yanni and Nolan. That was productive. We set ball screens which got our guards downhill and that was productive. We just moved the ball and drove gaps and we ended up shooting 54 percent for the game which is really good. We shot really well from the three, nine for 20, which is really good shooting. So I thought we had a really solid offensive game. The reason the points weren't high is because the possessions weren't that high. It was a low possession game and they dictated that. In the first half we were able to press them a bit and create a turnover or two to open up a little space between us at halftime. Then they just battle along the second half and played a pretty good game. They're a good team and that's hard to say because they haven't won a game. But I've watched them lose to UNLV when they missed free throws down the stretch. I watched them take Nevada to the last play of the game. We always have respect for our opponents. We never overlook anybody. We never feel like we're just going to step out there and win with talent. We have to prepare for everybody. Everybody has a shot to be good and our guys do a good job preparing no matter who the opponent is or what their record is."

On Wyoming's improved scoring against SDSU:

"We gave up some second shots that I didn't much care for. We got refused on the baseline. I was pretty heated in a timeout or two and I just told them I'm mad and it has nothing to do with this game. There are going to be possessions down the road in a one or two possession game and those things can't happen. So understand when I tell you this, I'm happy we're ahead, I'm happy we're winning, we're playing pretty good but we have bigger goals ahead of us. We can't make the mistakes we're making right now. It's just teaching moments to try to make a point to them on the game floor that things that happen out there can't happen in a close game. Even in a factory you have moments where you can say it can't happen two games from now. We're in a tough stretch, we know that. Three out of the next four are on the road and this is a proving ground now that we're back on the road to see if we can continue to take care of business away from Viejas."

On 20-0 feat:

"It's a tremendous honor to be compared to such a great team, but this team has its own identity and its own goals. It feels good, but like they said, they don't hang banners for 20-0, only for conference championships. We're trying to win a Mountain West title, that's our goal right now."

On reasons for increased team shooting percentages:

"I think it helps playing with big men that can pass the ball. You have to find shots so when Yanni gets it, if they double him, he gets someone an open shot every time, and Nolan too. Nolan's a very good passing big man. So you have to have shooters but you have to find ways to get those shots. Sometimes you have to set a ball screen and have everybody roll and then lift the guy in the corner and get a shot. We kind of know where our shooters are, we know how to find them. We play unselfish. I don't think you really see a lot of selfish play out there from the Aztecs. We usually move that ball really well and create open shots for a teammate."

On [Arop] injury update:

"I haven't talked to Sergio the doctor but [Arop] told the team after the game that he was fine. I take that to mean that he's available to play. We'll find out what it is, if he was just scared because he tweaked it a little. We'll talk to the doctors and Sergio, our trainer, and find out more. We have a day off tomorrow so we'll get a little bit of an update tomorrow."

On any extra offensive preparation during preseason:

"We have probably better shooters one through four out there with [Mitchell] at the power forward right now. We have [Schakel], [Mitchell], [Feagin] and [Flynn], those guys can all shoot the ball. You look at our last game before this [Wetzell] hit two threes straight on. So the three point shot is a weapon for us but we have to shoot it well because we don't get to the foul line that much. We have to do a better job at times getting to the foul line. Of the things offensively, I don't think we're a pretty good offensive rebounding team at times. We don't get many putbacks so that's something I'd like to see us get better at moving forward. Someone has to go in there. It can be a guard, I don't care who it is. Someone has to go in there and pick up a second chance opportunity. So those are areas we need to work on but as far as shooting the ball we shoot the ball extremely well."

On school starting back up:

"Sometimes I think it's good to be in a routine too where you don't just have practice and trying to find something to do for the rest of the day. I like the fact that they're going to class, after class they come over, get something to eat and practice. I think a routine is good for them sometimes. It is what it is, school starts and we're going to school. We'll get them back in that routine and get them comfortable with that as we continue to play good basketball."

San Diego State Junior Forward Matt Mitchell

On teams improved scoring:

"I think our spacing is just great. I think the coaches did a great job with our offense and setting it up and as players we just fully bought in from the summer. So our spacing is great and we all work together on the same page. Nobody is selfish on this team. Nobody's selfish we all want everybody to shine so if Malachi has 30 points. I mean we're all happy from the last guy down on the bench."

On potentially being best team in SDSU history:

"No, not at all. Not for me personally, but as a team, we're on the same page. It's one game at a time. I'm just taking it that way, but at the same time, it would be great to be one of the best teams here, but the season is not over and we've got to keep pushing."

On being one of top SDSU teams in history:

"Oh yeah, definitely I think that's great and that's great notability to have and to be up there but we don't get a banner for being 20-0 so we've got to keep pushing."

On difference in playing Wyoming for the second time:

"I think they get credit for both times. I think just at the end of the day, we just did our best to impose our will, but at the same time, just like Malachi said, Everybody wants to give somebody their first loss."

On transfers' impacts:

"A great deal. Yanni is a force on offensive end and the defensive end. Malachi and KJ distribute the ball, as well as score, and they do it at a high rate- a high level. So they've meant a lot to us and we're grateful."

On scouting report against SDSU :

"Man, I don't know. That is a very good question, but at the same time, I feel like maybe trying to get us off our game and be a little bit more selfish. Trying to place into the one-on-one game, but I feel like we share the ball too well to let a team dictate how we play."

On if he hears The Show:

"A little bit before the game. You notice what they do, their signs and what not and it's a great deal. The audience and the crowd, the entire environment, is great for the team. But during the game, no, I'm locked in I'm just pushing away I'm ready to go."

San Diego State Junior Guard Malachi Flynn

On 20-0 start:

"Yes, it's good. It's good to just realize that we are up there with arguably the best team here but like we've said previously, they didn't stop there. They went on to a sweet 16 so we got a lot more work to do to even be in the in the conversation with that team still. So we're just going take it one game at a time."

On taking advantage of offensive opportunities:

"Yeah, like Matt said the spacing is a used thing and we're all unselfish. We all make the one more plays and we all trust each other. So if someone's hot we'll keep giving it to them. So I think it's just a variety of things and we're just clicking right now we, I think we have good chemistry, on that side of the book."

On shot behind his head:

"I mean he just found me, I just threw it up. I wasn't even really trying to make it, I just looked up and it ended up going in. That was crazy."

On opponents giving SDSU first loss:

"Teams are going to see our record obviously and will want to end it. Any team in the country wants to give somebody their first loss. We know coming into each game that it's going to be tough. But I think that's just preparing us so I think it's good for us to be honest."

On Wyoming's improved play:

"I mean we definitely have to give them credit. Number zero hit a couple tough threes. But then, we definitely had some lapses on the offensive end and we gave up a lot of offensive rebounds that led to some kick outs and layups so I think it's a little bit of both, but we definitely can't discredit what they did."

On [Arop's] injury:

"I think we're just concerned for his health. Just trying to make sure he's, he's 100% healthy so I mean we all asked him after game if he's alright, so the main thing is just his health."

On [Arop's] injury:

"Yeah, definitely. It hurts, to see somebody go down after you know they've dealt with injuries. It happens but he'll continue to fight we know that."

Wyoming Head Coach Allen Edwards

Opening Statement:

"This was a tremendous atmosphere [Viejas Arena]. Obviously, a top five team in the country and deservedly so. I think they truly play well together. I think they do have a special talent in the kid Flynn, and I don't mean that just by points, but by just him being on the floor. They shot the ball well especially in the second half. And, you know, I felt like every time we had an opportunity to cut it to single digits we either gave up a three or we

the turned the basketball over that led to them having something so we could never get over the hump. Even with that, I mean you credit them in a sense of them staying the course and understanding how they have to go about winning basketball games and that's what they do on the deepest end of the floor, and then sharing on Offense. They're a really good basketball team, Coach Dutcher is doing a great job with these guys."

On the impact of playing at Viejas Arena:

"You know what, actually, I enjoyed it because we're a young group. And I felt like we haven't we haven't seen this yet, in a sense of atmosphere on the road, whether at home in the NTE tournament. Obviously, we haven't been to New Mexico yet, but just from an environment standpoint. You kind of want your guys to go through it to see how they react. And I was not disappointed in my team's fight you know they're just better you know at the end of the day and I, I tell guys sometimes they don't matter how much you try to motivate them, you try to put your team in the best position to compete and win the game. But sometimes it seems just better, and I think they are. But I did love our guys ability to try to fight and get better as, as it went on."

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."

-SDSU-