



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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No. 24 San Diego State at No. 23 Arizona State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 80, Arizona State 68

Desert Financial Arena | Tempe, Ariz.

Dec. 10, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

On his feelings on the team's offensive flow against Arizona State:

"I'm finding some things that get us in a rhythm. I knew they were going to pressure, so we couldn't run a lot of our sets because they were on the ball so hard. Coach Fisher told me a long time ago, 'you attack pressure.' If they wanted to pick up full court and pressure the ball, we had to go by (them) and make plays. It's as easy as that sometimes, don't out-coach yourself, don't think you have to run a set play every time down the floor. If you have space, and they're pressuring too far up the floor, then attack that pressure."

On the importance of rebounding and second chance points in the game:

"Rebounding was critical. The amazing thing is we only sent two to the glass most of the time. We were so concerned about their fast break (that) I wanted three guards back on (defense). We sent the power forward and the center to the glass and those guys did a great job on their own, securing us a lot of offensive rebounds. It was a real key to the game."

On the play of Matt Mitchell:

"I thought Matt (was) more under control (during) the second half. He couldn't make a jump shot; I think his shoulder is bothering him a little bit. We'll get that taken care over the next eight days, but he finds other ways to score. He attacks the basket with great strength and draws fouls, and I think he's doing a better job under control. They're calling so many offensive fouls on him, maybe not all of them correct (calls), but I want him aggressive, I want him attacking and drawing contact."

On how the Aztecs played better than Arizona State in the second half in an up-tempo style:

"I don't want to be confusing. We want to play fast, we want to run and prevent them (our opponents) from running, so every chance we get to run, I want to run. We did a good job (of that tonight), that's how we spurred ahead. That second unit came in and got a fast break layup, fast break layup, fast break three, and that broke the game open. So, I'm not trying to play slow; I'm trying to play as fast as we can offensively, but at the same time not let them do the same thing, (and) I thought we accomplished that today."

San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel

On how he was able to have such an efficient shooting night:

"We knew there were going to be a lot of driving gaps today. I just had to get in there (and) play under control. The coaches stressed all week, 'just get in there, play under control, and there'll be open shots (and) kick outs,' and late in the game I was able to get to a couple pull ups."

On if Nathan Mensah's success inside opened things up for him outside:

"I think so, and the whole game Nathan was just being a beast, so I think it all played a part. We all had a good game, and I think they had to pick and choose, and a couple of times I think they just got lost and I was able to knock (shots) down."

On how satisfying this win was for a team that wasn't ranked in the preseason:

"We looked at our schedule before the season started, and we liked every game that we had in (non-conference play). We know it's going to be very tough, very challenging, and that's why everyone on this roster came to San Diego State, playing games like this, playing Pac-12 opponents, and we're just happy for our performance today."

San Diego State Junior Forward Nathan Mensah

On how this game might have been a turning point for him:

"Before the season started, I felt like the one thing I was lacking was being aggressive from freshman year to sophomore year, so this year I took it upon myself to be more aggressive. I think I just have to keep my foot on the gas, not retreat from the performance I had tonight, because I feel like my coaches will hold me accountable (for) this type of performance for the rest of the year."

On how San Diego State seems to thrive on the road when other teams struggle:

"(We have the) mindset that anytime we get on the road, the opponent, the crowd, and everyone is against us, so it's like, 'we're all we've got.' You have to prove everyone wrong, silence the crowd as quick as possible, so that's like a boost that we use, anytime we (play) on the road."

On what Arizona State was doing that lent itself to him have success on the offensive end:

"I noticed (that) their (center) was trying to help too much, so that (left) me open like two or three times. From there, (I was) trying to just attack the rim all the time."

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