



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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

St. Katherine at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 83, Saint Katherine 41

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

Dec. 2, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I told the team this game would be good for us and (I believe) it was. I watched just enough tape on St. Katherine to know that they execute their offense, they run at a good pace and they run good stuff. Where they lack in talent, they make up for in execution and they showed us some things that we needed to learn today. They showed us a weakness or two that we had on the defensive end and it (the game) was a challenge. So, hats off to them, they came in and competed at a high level and, and we got better because of this game."

On Keith Dinwiddie Jr.'s play and his team's overall desire to learn:

"Keith (Dinwiddie Jr.) really shot the ball well (tonight). I told him on one (shot) in the second half where he shot a step back and turned down a three to shoot a step back, I told him 'this is not an end of the game three (point shot). If you don't have to first three, move the ball.' To his credit, right after I told him that, he made a couple of wonderful plays. he turned out a shot, got Adam (Seiko) a shot. (As coaches), we are all teachers and we are teaching as the game goes on. I have got a group of kids that want to learn and play the right way."

"I told the team at halftime that I was not surprised that Keith had the most shots on the team at the half. That is a good thing-- he can score the ball; he can shoot the ball at a high level and (he knows how to) create his own shot. He is continuing to grow defensively. I have told every freshman and transfer that has ever come here that if you want to get on the floor at San Diego State, you must play defense at an elite level. (If you do that) I will let you free flow on offense. Keith is going to score a lot of points in a San Diego State uniform. The key (to his success) is that he must help us win, and he is doing that. Keith is making steps forward every day in practice and on the game floor, and (tonight) we started to see some of that."

On Saint Katherine's play and how the team benefited from tonight's game:

"(Saint Katherine) moves at a good pace. They slip ball screens, if we switch the balls screens, they roll the post in and were able to find them (the post players) and (overall), they are just well-coached and they play the right way. What lack in size and strength, they make up for in execution. They got us on a few back cuts, they got us in a few moments when we were asleep and lost our man and turned it into a basketball. Those (plays where St. Katherine caught SDSU) are all teachable moments, and we will go back and watch the tape and learn from it. That is the key to basketball you cannot stay the same. You have to get better or you're going to get worse."

On implementing a zone defense and why it was not seen in tonight's game:

"We have been working on it (the zone defense), we even worked on it in practice today, even though it was a game day shoot around, we (still) spent 10 minutes in a hard zone. I like bits and pieces of it but we have to continue to work on it in practice and while I am not sure if we will see it in the preseason or not. We might see it as early as Pepperdine, but I really want to have one (a zone defense) when we start playing the same team on back-to-back games so that they (MW teams) don't get comfortable against us. (I want to get to a place) where we have a changeup to

throw against them and that could be just a minute or two of 2-3 zone, but if we can play it long they'll be extended. I want to try to disrupt the rhythm of the other team with a good zone (in the future).

"I wanted to work on some man-to-man stuff tonight, and I did not want to throw it (the team's zone defense) out there today. I thought for a minute I might want to (implement it), but we were playing our ball screen defense a different way the second half and that was more valuable leading into the Pepperdine game."

On his understanding of why the team has started games slowly:

"I don't know if the guys are anxious at the start and just want to try to get engaged in the game immediately, because sometimes when you want to get off to a good start, you press too hard (which causes a slow start on the scoring end). We need to relax a little bit and let the game come to us more at the start at the offensive end and not press so hard to make it (scoring) happen. Sometimes if you just play the right way it (scoring offense) happens on its own. I am not concerned about it in the long term because we have got a good talented team that plays the right way and hopefully we'll get off to a better start this coming Sunday against Pepperdine."

On his temperament when the team starts off slowly on offense:

"The younger Brian Dutcher might have been upset but I know I have got a good team. I know we play the right way. We must continue to try to be a better team every day. (Tonight), when we had lapses in concentration, we tried to extend our pressure too much out of our help positioning and other just small stuff. I told the team that St Katherine may not be as talented as them (San Diego State) but they run good stuff and they are going to be hard to guard in some aspects. Once we settled in and got comfortable with what they (Saint Katherine) were doing, we started to get stops, and obviously, the offense started to flow a little bit better as the half went on."

San Diego State Senior Guard Terrell Gomez

On his growth as a player and development of his shot at San Diego State:

"When I first got here, I had that feeling where I did not want to step on anyone's toes. I wanted to fit in so I was passing up a lot of open shots. Now, I am looking for my shot more, which is why they (Coach Dutcher and his staff) brought me here — to be myself and score the ball. I am also a willing passer too when defenders are closing in on me. I am just trying to continue to do those things (that I am good at), and just get better. Now that I have help on my team though (at San Diego State versus on his previous collegiate team), I can be even more efficient than what I was (at his previous institution)."

On the change in his scoring efficiency:

"I am now playing both ends of the floor. I have made some adjustments where if we had played St Katharine's last year [where he was a member of a different team], I would have scored 30 points. I am getting better and I am learning the game. I can and am willing to adjust to win. As long as I am able to get on the floor, and when (my play) is going to lead to wins and I can still be productive enough to where I am noticeable, I am happy."

San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel

On the value of playing St. Katherine and what the team learned:

"With our slow start tonight, we had to rely on our defense and our energy. Especially this year we got to bring our energy, we have got to create our own internal crowd because there is no chaos and there is no Show (student section) pushing us. We have to generate energy from ourselves and from the bench. That is the biggest adjustment for us playing at home and tonight was a learning experience in us just needing to have great energy."

On the improvement of his offensive game:

"I am just continuing to take steps (to grow my game) and have since I came here (to San Diego State). It helps a lot to have guys like Terrell (Gomez) and Matt (Mitchell) to share the ball with. On a team like this, it is easy to be aggressive. There are not going to be a lot of double teams (on defense) because we have a lot of good players."