



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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

### Colorado State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

Colorado 70, San Diego State 67

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

Jan. 2, 2021

### San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

#### Opening Statement:

"Well, it was a tale of two halves obviously. We got off to a fantastic start had great momentum. We made enough mistakes at the end of the first half to let them back in the game. That is college basketball. There are always games like this with great swings of momentum. In the second half, we got off to another good start. It was back and forth. We built a seven-point lead with about a minute-and-ten (seconds) to go and (from there) credit to Colorado State. They made the plays (that) we did not down the stretch. We had an offensive rebound [by Colorado State] down seven that led to a layup. We had a 1-and-1 free throw we missed. They came down attacked off that miss and got a layup. And then obviously, we ran the shot clock down on the ball screen. Terrell Gomez got to the paint, got a shot up, missed it, and they hit a corner three with a foul for a four-point play and we were up three. So anything that could go wrong down the stretch went wrong. I thought our last shot down one was pretty good. We ball screened Matt [Mitchell]. Matt got down into the paint, trying to get a layup or a foul and it did not go in. Credit to Colorado State for making the plays to win the game. They deserved it. We did not make enough plays to win the game. Although we played magnificent in stretches, we did not play well enough for an entire game to deserve the win. So now the task at hand is put it behind us as quickly as we can, not let one loss cause two losses and be ready to move on and play it again in two days."

#### On the inability to maintain a 26-point lead:

"You see games like this all the time. And you know 26 is a big number obviously. But home court is not home court anymore without the fans in the building. We are (in) a familiar environment, but we did not have the fans in here that at times last year and in the past have spurred us on when we struggled at times in games. Losing a lead is not unique in college basketball. It happens all the time (and) unfortunately it happened to us today."

#### On what hurts the most from today's loss:

"Obviously, the loss in our first conference game (hurts the most). Like I said, as bad as we played at times, we had a seven-point lead with maybe, what a minute-five to go, so that should be enough to win the game. But we did not close the game. We did not make the plays down the stretch to close the game out. They did. At some point you have to say credit to them. We have to play better down the stretch and make more plays."

#### On Colorado State's late four-point play:

"That is college players making college plays. You know, we have made them in the past. We have made timely shots to win games and this was not our night to make it. It was theirs to make it. It was a very difficult shot. I wish we would not have fouled him on it. I think looking back at the replay we might have nicked him on the elbow. But credit to him for taking and making a hard corner three that was contested, overly contested. But you know, in college basketball at some point you have to make plays to win a game and they made the plays, and we didn't."

#### On the unique situation of playing Colorado State again on Monday:

"We are disappointed in a loss and we will know our opponent well just having played them. So we will see. I do not know how many adjustments I will make. I thought we made some good plays. When we (strayed) from our game plan at both ends of the floor, we got ourselves into trouble. So I think the game plan was fairly solid. We have to stick to it better and make more plays when winning is on the line."

## San Diego State Senior Forward Matt Mitchell

### On the swing of the game's momentum:

"We lost focus. That was one of our worst defensive games of the year, being backdoor-cut and just (constantly) out of position on defense. As a whole, we (the team) thought our offense was going well, but at times we got stumped. At the end of the day, we did not get the job done on the defensive end."

### On upcoming matchup with the Rams on Monday and playing the same opponent back-to-back:

"It will be good to have that game [Monday vs. Colorado State, 6 p.m. tip] and get back at it. I would not say I am glad to play them [Colorado State] again, but it is a two-game series and I am going to be ready for the game. The team is going to be ready to bounce back and put this loss behind us."

### On what he learned from today's game:

"We have to take better care down the stretch. I had a few turnovers that turned into (the chance at) transition (plays), whether it was a bucket or momentum swinging the other way [off his turnovers]. As Jordan (Schakel) said, it hurts (to lose). It always hurts to lose; you never want to lose. Going into the next game, we must be better prepared, and better prepared down the stretch and stay together."

"We have a lot of learning we can take (from this loss). We will get back into the film room and get together as a team and just get better."

## San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel

### On what he learned from today's game:

"We need to be down the stretch, myself included. We can not just make those (bad) plays and we must be better. It never feels good to lose a game up seven [with one minute to play], it never feels good to lose, ever."

### On the final foul of the game:

"I was surprised that they called it [a foul on the final made three-pointer of the game] but looking back at the film, I did touch him on the elbow. I got my hands up and I felt in the moment I did not foul him, but you always feel that way in the moment. I drifted too close to him but at the end of the day he [Colorado State's John Tonje] also just made a tough shot."

## Colorado State Head Coach Niko Medved

### Opening Statement:

"I love this team so much. It could not have gone worse [to start]. They really surprised us coming out. They were switching everything and pressuring. Did they make their first eight threes? It was like a blitzkrieg. We were like 'Oh my gosh, what are we going to do?.' Finally, in a timeout, we made up our mind and I said a few things I should not share. At some point, we just got to buck up. It is what it is. Finally, we started to get into a little bit of a rhythm and (that was) an awesome way for us to close out that [first] half. Guys started to get into a flow and took advantage of them [SDSU] a little bit with their pressure. I told the guys at halftime, I did not know if I believed it, but I said, 'We are going to find a way to win this game.' We fought like crazy. We were down eight with two [minutes] to go and I thought our execution with the late game stuff was awesome and John Tonje made two big plays and the guys just trusted what we did. What a great win for these guys and for our program."

**On what was going through your head during the first half:**

"To me, it speaks to the character of these guys. You do not quit and keep fighting. Most teams would have hung their heads and just allowed themselves to get beat and say, 'It is not our night,' and that is the easy thing to do, but they keep showing us so much about themselves and who they are as young men and just a phenomenal win. I have so much respect for San Diego State and for us to be able to go on the road and win after a short turnaround was just awesome."

**On David Roddy's play and playing a small lineup:**

"We made the decision quickly to go small and that's kind of what changed the game and we started to get in a bit of a flow offensively. Matt Mitchell is a terrific player, but I thought we did a pretty good job on him. We made him work. He was 5-for-14 and we turned him over five times, so I thought we did a pretty good job with our team defense. David Roddy was just phenomenal. He rebounds, he is such a matchup problem and I thought we did a good job at times of taking advantage of their switching once we figured it out. We were bringing help and passing it out and creating offense. We kind of got them running around a little bit whereas in the first half they really had us stagnated. So, we were able to turn the tables in the middle of the game which is very difficult to do but shows you a lot about this group of guys."

**On the locker room atmosphere after the game:**

"There's nothing like being in there and seeing the joy on the faces of everyone involved to be able to steal a game like this is just awesome. I am so proud of them. We want to enjoy the heck out of this game here today, but when we wake up tomorrow, we have got another ball game. (San Diego State) is a terrific team, so we have got our work cut out for us on Monday."

**-SDSU-**