



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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Arizona State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 65, Arizona State 63

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

Nov. 18, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"All right. Good game. That's my statement. No, no, it was a hard-fought game. You know, I don't know if either team played up to what the coaches think their potential is, but both teams played hard and they competed at a high level. Sometimes that's enough and it was tonight. We competed and fought and toughed out a win. We'll learn from it. It's always better to learn from a win than a loss. So we have lessons to learn, we'll get better but it's an exciting way in front of a fantastic crowd. I forget what this crowd is like when you miss it for a whole year and then to get into the building and have this kind of Aztec support, I don't think anyone in the country has it like this. It was fantastic. You think the back-to-back games, we had at BYU 20,000 and 12,000 plus here tonight. That's the kind of atmosphere any kid dreams to play in front of and you know, our team had it back-to-back games."

On the chaos in the last 10 seconds:

"You sit there, and you say, 'we have to body on a body.' We can't give them a clean look. Then all of a sudden you look up and it's a scramble, scrambling around and there's a guy open in the corner and to our credit, we ran it down. He had an open look, but we were flying to the corner. So we'll look back on tape and say we should have done this and we can't give any look at the end of the game. But to their credit they moved the ball and found the guy in the corner for a good look. With the game on the line and I just remember we flew to the corner and I'm glad we didn't fall. We passed the test without falling and escaped with a victory."

On crowd and hard to beat in Viejas Arena:

"We're hard to beat in this building when it's full and it's full most of the time. Last year, obviously the exception was with COVID, but they help us. They help us through rough moments. They get behind us and they don't get on us ever; they're not a negative crowd. If we're not playing well, they just stay with us. They stay behind us, and they motivate us to put up that fight to get back in the game and that's what we did tonight. I thought the crowd was really important tonight. They were everything to us. Some of these guys are playing in front of them for the first time. All the sophomores, freshmen and new players are finally experiencing this."

San Diego State Senior Guard Trey Pulliam

On his floater in the lane:

"Honestly, I've been doing a floater my whole life. Growing up I was always kind of the younger guy and I always played up. I've always been athletic, but I grew slowly. So I had to figure out a way just to score and that was just an easy way for me to score. I hear that every guard that wants to play pro should have that shot."

San Diego State Sophomore Guard Lamont Butler

On his impressions of Viejas Arena

"It was great. The environment, the intensity of the game, and UCR came out and really battled. I'm from San Bernardino, so playing against a local team felt really nice to do. It was amazing. I've been without fans for over a year and playing in front of fans such as the Aztecs. There's nothing like it, so I really enjoyed myself."

On his performance

"I felt good. Against St. Katherine, we won by a good margin, but they weren't a pushover. Playing in that game, I felt like that was my first game even though it was an exhibition. So, I was able to get all my kinks out. And even in this game, you know, I learned that although I played pretty well, I still have a lot of growth and I'm just happy about the team win."

On how he felt in his first game

"I felt pretty good. From the jump, I was able to be really composed. I didn't have any pregame nerves. I felt like I got that out the way in the exhibition. I felt like I was in pretty good shape. I'm learning how to treat my body in my fourth year, and I believe that it is just going to just get even better from here."

San Diego State Junior Guard Keshad Johnson

On the play of Nathan Mensah:

"Nate is very efficient. He doesn't force anything. When the ball comes his way, he's ready for it, and he's ready to make that big play. He might not always say give me the ball, but when the ball gets to him, he's ready to score. So, it's our job to realize that and feed him more and give him more play calls."

On what was different tonight from the last two games:

"You're not going to always have a have a great day, especially in basketball. So, I'm patient. I stay the course and give maximum effort. That's the one thing I really can control is your effort and the energy you put out there on the court."

On what he did in the JAM the morning after the UC Riverside game:

"I was there at 7:30. It's the next play mentality that Coach Dutcher always talks about, and I got home thinking that instead of just beating myself up (about not playing well), I'd just come back in the morning and get shots. Just focus on the next day. I've got to be better, hold myself accountable."

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