

UC Riverside at San Diego State Postgame Quotes San Diego State 66, UC Riverside 53 Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. Nov. 9, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Obviously, it's a very good Riverside team and we knew this would be a test. We prepared hard for it. They were good, but our defense over the years has been good and it was good again tonight. We knew they had to make a lot of threes to beat us. They caught us in some help situations where they kicked it out. They're well coached and they're disciplined, and they play the right way. We had enough grit and toughness about us to be productive at both ends of the floor. We shot the ball pretty well and we only took 11 threes, we were 2-for-11 from three. I thought we were efficient at the offensive end against the defense they were playing where they just kept the center under the basket. I thought Trey Pulliam did a good job getting to his mid-range game and Matt Bradley attacked the paint well. We played downhill against them and we weren't just stuck on the perimeter. We were aggressive getting downhill to the basket and I thought that helped us."

On his thoughts about the fans being back in the building:

"It was great. The student section, The Show, was outstanding. Our loyal fan base was in the building, and you know it's a different system now. We got tickets on their phones, we got testing protocols, and everybody was patient because they wanted to see their Aztecs play. When we get them in this building, we're hard to beat and they were great for us tonight from start to finish.

On Matt Bradley's performance:

"Matt Bradley is a gifted offensive player. As much as the defense does a good job on him, he's capable of bouncing up and making a shot at any time. He falls away, he elevates over the defenders, he is a very gifted offensive player. We have to continue to put him in space where he can be effective. As he gets more comfortable in the offense, I think he will be even more dangerous than he was tonight."

San Diego State Senior Guard Trey Pulliam

On his and Matt Bradley's aggressiveness on offense:

"The coaches brought [Matt] here to score the ball and put the ball in the hole. I've definitely been working on and being more aggressive and finding my spots. We've been playing good with each other. I like playing with him and I know he likes playing with me. We have good conversations on and off the court, so our chemistry is getting there."

On what they learned tonight:

"That we can fight through adversity. They went on a lot of runs and made some tough buckets and we just fought back and figured out how to defeat what they were doing. We just came together and got a good team win."

On playing at BYU on Friday:

"It's definitely a game that we want to win. We want to get that one back. My first year we played over there, and I liked the atmosphere."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

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."

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