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San Diego State at No. 24 Michigan Postgame Quotes

No. 24 Michigan 72, San Diego State 58

Crisler Center | Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dec. 4, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I've challenged this team. I've given us a really difficult schedule. We set a game plan. Michigan had been struggling from three; they were shooting I think 29 percent for the year. (Michigan center Hunter) Dickinson had made one three all year and people basically weren't guarding him. And to his credit, he stepped up made three today. They (average) five as a team. I think they hit 11 today... 11-for-20. So when you run into a team that shoots that high percentage from three, especially in their home gym, it's hard to get a win. We played a solid first half. We wore down... Trey (Pulliam) wore down. All the things we put on the board; win the free throw battle, we led that at half (and) won that for the game. Win the rebounding war. We were up two rebounds in the first half, and I think they outrebounded us by three. So, we had some keys of the game. Taking away the three was not one of them. That was intentional, to try to pay attention to Dickinson and low post, to double him. Obviously, we rolled the dice, and they made a lot of threes today and that always wins college games. As a whole, we're pretty good at 3-point defense. I don't think we give up more than five a game when we concentrate on that. We had a different set of thoughts this game. We're going to give them some threes, and to their credit they stepped up and made them."

On the team's struggle with the Michigan press:

"I tried to make an adjustment at halftime that didn't get done on the floor. And Trey (Pulliam) wore down. Trey played 38 minutes today and not having Lamont (Butler) showed up. They pressured him and they wore him down. I was real happy with Trey's performance for having to play the minutes he played, but the pressure wore on him. The adjustment I made against the press did not work and we didn't practice it. I tried to do something on the blackboard at halftime that wasn't effective. And their press was an issue all game, but we're pretty good against press. This is not the first time we've seen it. Their length in their depth and the bench with fresh legs kind of wore us down."

On what it was like to look up and see the 1989 NCAA championship banner hanging in Crisler Center:

"Well, I want to hang one of those banners in Viejas. That's all I was thinking. It'd be nice to win one of those for San Diego State. So that's where all my energy and effort is right now to try to build on what Steve Fisher started. To believe the fact that if we do what we're supposed to do as a team, in recruiting and developing players, with the support we have, we want to hang one for ourselves. It was good to see one that I was a part of. I know how hard they are to get. But it was good to see familiar faces. Obviously (Michigan head coach) Juwan (Howard) is dear to me. He's family. And so one of us was going to celebrate today and it was him today. Hopefully it'll be me in another game down the road."

On if it was strange walking into Crisler Center:

"No, I mean, it's changed so much. It's not the same building. It's not the same place I left in 1998. This is the first time I've been back in here. Michigan has done a great job rebuilding this place, making it new, and I didn't get to see much of it. I saw the court, but I didn't get on the concourse. I didn't see the practice facility. This is a work trip. So there'll be another time when I come back. I'll let Juwan show me around. But right now, all my energy was trying to get the Aztecs a win and unfortunately, that didn't happen."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

On the play of Michigan center Hunter Dickinson:

"I played with him in high school at the Top 100 Camp. He was a freshman, and I was a junior. I think he was the youngest player at the camp and dude has been a beast since I've known him. He didn't surprise me one bit. He's talented player."

On what the team can take away from this game:

"Moving forward, as a team, I think we're just going keep growing mentally and physically. You know, checking our emotions when times get rough. It's game of runs, but we're going get back to work. Like I said, I think it's going show moving forward, how much better we're going to become because of this loss. So, we're going just keep working. Trust the process."

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