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San Diego State Men's Basketball Press Conference

Dec. 7, 2021

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We're back to work. Obviously, the trip back from Michigan was fine. We got back the night of the game, gave them Sunday off and got back to work yesterday. I like what I saw in practice. They were spirited. They have a desire to get better. We're learning lessons along the way and hopefully can build on the base that we have here and put a good performance on tomorrow night against Cal State Fullerton."

On if not having Lamont Butler available for the Michigan game was the major contributing factor in the loss:

"I think not having Lamont hurt us. He's a starter. He's a very good player. But we can't use that as an excuse. Trey (Pulliam) wore down a little bit, playing 38 minutes. That's a lot, especially when they pick him up full court, pressure him the whole game and then he has to guard at a high level at the other end. So, I think fatigue has something to do with it. But we turned the ball over too much. Six turnovers at halftime, which was fine, but 10 in the second half, which is too many to win a road game and Michigan took advantage of all our turnovers."

On the timeframe to get Butler back after the wrist injury:

"I think we'll get him x-rayed again in week three. So, we're a couple of weeks from getting an x-ray and seeing where he's at, at that time. Hopefully we'll have him back anywhere from three weeks to five weeks. I'm not sure (exactly when), it all depends on how he's healing and I what the doctors say."

On the status of Tahirou Diabate:

"He remains out for medical concerns, so we won't have him at practice. Hopefully we'll have a better indication this weekend as to what his status is, but he is out with medical concerns."

On how San Diego State tries to stop Cal State Fullerton's three top scorers:

"Honestly, (E.J.) Anosike, a Tennessee transfer, is very good. He scores in and around the basket. Sometimes Nathan's length can bother a player like that, but he shoots a fallaway jump shot that's hard to get to. So, he's very dangerous. They have guards that attack to the rim, play close outs, (Cal State Fullerton head coach) Dedrique Taylor done a great job with that program. And so they'll create concerns for us and that's why we're spending the next two days getting ready for everything they'll throw at us."

On if Cal State Fullerton's desire to play slowly will benefit the Aztecs:

"I think they'd like to run, but teams have done a good job getting back (on them) They're starting for guards, so that leads itself to a little bit more up tempo. So they're not playing to slow down. If they get an early look, they'll take it both jump shot or drive, so we have to do a good job of staying in front of them...body in front of a body...and then finishing our possessions with a rebound."

On his and his family's experience returning to Ann Arbor, Mich.:

"Obviously Jan (his wife) and the girls had a really nice time. They got to see more of the city and houses we lived in when they were younger. I didn't get to do a lot of that, I was there for work. I'm trying to win a basketball game. I did see familiar faces before the game. After the game people wait around and say hello. That was really nice to know that people in your lives are still there even though you don't see them as much as you'd like. So, in that regards it was it was really nice to see familiar faces and old friends."

On if he had time to speak with Michigan coach Juwan Howard at length at any point:

"I didn't really talk to him, other than on the floor. We texted back and forth a little bit after the game, but they have a game tonight in Lincoln, Nebraska. So, they were up and practicing the next day where we took Sunday off. So, he was right back to work. He started watching Nebraska tape, just like I started watching Fullerton. So, when you're in the heart of the season, the only thing that matters is your team. He was getting his team ready to play and I'm sure when the season's over, we'll get together and enjoy some conversation about the game. He'll obviously have a lot more to say than I will, but that's part of winning and losing."

On if he feels Matt Bradley is developing a level of comfort in the offensive side of the ball:

"Yeah, I think he's getting more comfortable. He's seeing where he has opportunities to attack within our offense, to make plays for himself and others. I like the job Matt does passing the ball too. He's not just a scorer. He is a very good passer on penetration. So we're trying to find him ways to get downhill more efficiently and not to be dancing quite as long up top, although I like him dancing occasionally. I don't want it all the time. I like to see him get down to where he can finish, take the quick three or else make a play for his teammates."