



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San José State at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 85, San José State 74

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

Feb. 8, 2021

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I thought we played well again tonight. After a layoff, I was concerned that we'd be a little rusty, but we weren't. Most impressively, we played a 40-minute game with only five turnovers. I think we only had one turnover at halftime, then we had 26 offensive rebounds and that's a big number. I wish we would have finished a few more (shots) around the basket, but we definitely attacked the glass against their zone. We did not shoot (three-pointers) like I'm used to seeing (us) shooting it. Our percentage was not what it has been and I think it was probably more of an anomaly than anything else. I think we will shoot the ball well against the zone (on Wednesday). I was happy with the ones that we were getting, (but) we just were not making enough of them. Overall, I am pleased with our performance, (but we) have to spend tomorrow trying to tune up some things. — Maybe we'll work on shooting and getting more shots up, work on playing some calls off one-on one. (San José State) did a good job driving us and attacking to the basket. But by in large, I was pleased with our performance tonight."

On the status of senior forward Matt Mitchell:

"Matt sprained his ankle a couple of days ago, so he hasn't done anything practice for two days. I was hoping we'd have him back, but he continues to get treatment. We're trying to get the swelling down, and he might be a game-time decision when we play again on Wednesday night."

On how dangerous the team is with its ability to be creative offensively by so many different players:

"We are dangerous. Obviously, Keshad (Johnson's) athleticism was shown today when he attacked the glass with that transition dunk. If that is not a highlight on every channel around town today, there is something wrong. We were good off the bench like always; we got great production. So whether they start or come off the bench, we have a deep team. We all know that, and they are all productive when they get the opportunity."

On what caused the shifts in energy tonight:

"I thought our energy was good. They (San José State) were aggressive offensively to start the game. Ww tried to jump on hedge-ball screens and they still got downhill on us. We made a quick adjustment early in the game, just switch one through five ball screens so we could keep a body in front of a body and I think that slowed them down where we could get some stops and get some momentum. Credit to them. They really attacked us on our hedge to start the game and so we had to make the first game-time adjustment (early) and I thought it was a good one."

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San Diego State Senior Guard Jordan Schakel

On Matt Mitchell not being available tonight:

"I always talk to Matt before the game. He's my guy. He always wants to play basketball, but I think tonight it was smart to keep getting rehab, keep getting treatment. He'll be back in no time."

On SDSU winning five straight games by at least 25 points:

"It's what we needed to do. It's what Coach (Dutcher) asked us to do. We're just coming out every night executing and trying to get better every time we step out on the floor no matter what."

On doing all the little things to help the Aztecs win tonight:

"I think that's what this program is built on, doing the little things. You don't win without the little things. It doesn't matter how many points you score, you have to do everything right. I think it's contagious. I think everyone plays that way. I think when (Aguek Arop) came in the game it was a close game and he got a big steal. It says he had five rebounds but it felt like 20. We all play like that. That's why we have success. We have to put the work in."

San Diego State Senior Forward Joshua Tomaic

On the dominance of the Aztec front court tonight:

"We just tried to stay locked in. Try to do the job that we had to do, rebound, bring energy to the team, and when it's our turn to shoot the ball, we've got to put the ball in the basket. We know that we have to play at a high level for the rest of the games. March is around the corner and it's time to lock in."

San José State Head Coach Jean Prioleau

On the game:

"Coach Dutcher does a great job with his program. They are extremely athletic and did a great job of rebounding today. They outrebounded us by a boat load. I thought the second half was ugly for both teams. Neither team shot it well in the second half. But again, it just shows how good San Diego State is because they can win when not shooting it very well. They can still pound the boards and they put us in foul trouble and went to the free-throw line a bunch themselves."

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