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San Diego State Postgame Quotes vs. Boise State
Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.
Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022

BRIAN DUTCHER, San Diego State head coach

Opening Statement:

"Obviously, it was a disappointing finish to an old school basketball game. Defense was a premium, rebounding was a necessity. We knew coming into the game, both teams are elite defensively and that's what it looked like. I looked up at the TV timeout, I think with 11 minutes to go in the second half, and we had one point in the second half. I said I have to find a way to put you in better positions, but sometimes you have to just find a way to create a basket."

I told the team after the game, you have to have an NBA mentality. You have to have a short memory. You can reflect on the game tonight but tomorrow we go back to work because we play on Monday. It's hard to win a college basketball game, and we didn't end up on the winning end tonight, but we will prepare and we will be ready to play on Monday against UNLV."

On San Diego State's 13-0 run:

"They just have a certain toughness about them. Both teams do. We locked in. I think we took two charges in that stretch. We got deflections and turnovers. We fought for loose balls dove on the floor, made a couple plays and baskets were a premium. When we got down 11 we weren't going to go on a 22-point run today. We had to get a lot of stops in a row which we did to fight our way back into the game and I credit this team they did it you know and sometimes the hardest thing to do is play through frustration. There's no way a college basketball team can start the way we did the second half and not be frustrated. But to our credit, to these young guys' credit, they play through frustration and they concentrate. They know that they believe in themselves and their teammates. They found a way to fight back into a hard game. But again, Boise is the same way. You look at their defensive metrics. They're a very good defensive team. It was two really good defensive teams. If you came to see the Globetrotters and the Washington generals. It wasn't that both teams scored a total of maybe 80 points tonight. It was a defensive struggle."

On the final Seconds:

"We tried to drive down the baseline and hit Adam (Seiko) sneaking back around. He hit Lamont and Lamont drove baseline, we tried to sneak Adam back around on a screen and they sniffed it out. Then it's just moving the ball trying to create space to get one and that's what Matt does. That's what Shaver does. They're capable of creating space to get a shot up. I was confident that Matt would create enough space to get a shot up. Unfortunately, it didn't go in."

On the Offense:

"We got to get better on the fast break. We're not efficient enough on the fast break. We have to find out ways to be more effective because both teams are missing. A ton of shots. I will say this, they didn't get a lot of fast break baskets at us. I thought we had more opportunities where we had numbers getting downhill and we just couldn't get to the foul line and couldn't get baskets on the break enough. I'll go back and watch the tape and see what it really looks like, but I think we have to be more dangerous in the front court."

On the Mountain West Conference:

"Yeah, there's teams in this conference that are good. Wyoming won again. Boise is winning. Colorado State is winning. Fresno has a good team. We got a pretty good team. It's going to be that way in the Mountain West all season. I mean, a year ago we lost a 28-point lead to Colorado State and seemed like doom and gloom and then the next game we beat them so you got to just have a short memory. You have to try to get better every day in practice, and the results are going to be what they're going to be. But this is a tough team. We have a gritty team that competes at a high level. We saw this two years ago in the conference tournament, sometimes it comes to Malikai Flynn missing a shot and Sam Merrill making one. That's what it was a night Matt Bradley missed open three and Shaver made one and that's the result and that's how the game ends like that. His was two really good teams and one made a timely shot and one didn't.

LAMONT BUTLER, San Diego State sophomore guard**On not playing a game for two weeks impact the game:**

"I think so. Two weeks off and we all had to deal with the COVID issues. We are trying to get back into it. Just trying to find that rhythm again. I think we will be coming back with more wins in the next games."

On dealing with the two week period following the Colorado State game:

"It is frustrating. You know we got into a rhythm and we started finally playing well together and then we had to take that break but like I said we'll be back."

On if Boise State changed anything from the first to second half:

"No, it was similar. First half, we just had to find the little gaps and try to get in. We kind of came out a little sluggish but like I said we'll be back to. It was just a test. We will be good.

LEON RICE, Boise State head coach**On if he thought his team would win five games in an 11-day stretch as part of their 12-game winning streak:**

"I didn't look, I didn't look. I mean, obviously I'm aware, but when you start playing that game, (you say to yourself) 'oh boy, this is a tall mountain to climb.' That's what we've done with our guys. We didn't want to get overwhelmed and start looking (at all these games). Don't forget, it's out of the frying pan and into the fire. We've got Wyoming coming in and they're playing good basketball. I mean, they just keep coming, the hits just keep coming. We're just going to enjoy this one. We're going to get home tonight and try and get some recovery for these guys. These guys have been fighting and fighting right now."

On the physicality of tonight's game and if his team thrives on that style of play:

"I think you're right. We're built kind of for that. We play really physical, they're really physical, and I think both teams just banged it out. And we were fortunate to make those shots."

On the game's finish:

"I tell you what, it's the same soup just reheated with the end of that game. You know, timely threes. I kept telling Shave (Marcus Shaver Jr.) 'it's going to be all right, we've got this.' He had to work so hard just to get that shot. It's crazy how good both teams are defensively, it really is."