



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. No. 20 Colorado State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 79, Colorado State 49

Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif.

Jan. 8, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I don't have to make an understatement, that was a heck of a performance by the Aztecs this afternoon. We guarded at a high level, we rebounded at a high level, and then we got guys that played the right way. Offensively, I thought Matt Bradley got to his spots, and when he got to his spots, he was tough to stop. We shared the ball, I think we had five players in double figures. It was just a great all-around game. Both teams had a short prep. We weren't the only ones on short prep, they had a short prep, but they had to travel. So, I told the team before the game, this is probably in all likelihood a three-game series. We got game one, but we're going to see them at their place, and we know we'll probably see them in the conference tournament. We'll take tomorrow off, rest legs, and then get ready to make a really hard trip to Laramie, Wyoming on Wednesday."

On the team's defense:

"We were really good defensively. We switched ball screens, and kept a body in front of a body, and when you do that, they can't pull you in where they kick for three. So, we stayed extended, because we could guard one-on-one for a large part of this game. That's a credit to us defensively. We played them twice last year at our place and got big leads and they came back in both games, and they've been down as many as 20-25 points this year and won games. I don't think you can ever take a breath against them because they're so gifted offensively, but it seems today we finished the job. We didn't let them get that late run where they got back within striking distance and that's a credit to our concentration. We concentrated for a long period of time, and we got great contributions from everybody that played. The bench was great, and it was really gratifying to get this win, but it's one of many. That's why I tried to paint the picture that it's one of a three game series. We can't get too high on a win and too low on the loss. It's a long season."

On the play where Lamont Butler had a block that turned into a Chad Baker-Mazara dunk:

"It was a game winning play. Lamont running down a play, he didn't have to run down when we had the lead. AG (Aguék Arop) taking a late charge, Nate (Nathan Mensah) taking a charge. We were just making game-winning plays at the defensive end and then rebounding the ball. When we go big with Keshab [Johnson], AG and Nate all out there together, that's a pretty good rebounding lineup. They tried to zone us with that lineup, but we found a way to get to the rim and rebound. We have a lot of different ways to play with his team. Like I said, the beauty of this team is I still don't know what we're going to be. We didn't have Seiko tonight and didn't have Tomaic and we were bringing guys back. One guy missed five weeks, one guy missed two to three weeks, and we're still trying to find our rhythm, so I think our best basketball is still ahead of us."

On offensive adjustments in the second half:

"Matt Bradley was sensational. He got to a spot and was shooting contested shots over people from the foul line, three pointers and mid post. He was just going to work and when he's playing like that, he has to draw attention. Then if we miss shots, I don't know how many second chance opportunities we got for layups. We just grabbed the ball and laid it back in and that's a high percentage shot when you get a rebound and put it right back in. I thought we did a good job, and we shot the three well. Without Adam, that was my number one concern coming into the game, was would we shoot the three well enough? I think we made seven, so we got good enough shooting to force them to not just pack it in on us."

On sustaining effort defensively when short-handed:

"I think it's just our culture. We say from day one, when you get here, you're going to defend and rebound if you're going to play at San Diego State. That's it. You have to defend and rebound, and we don't use being short-handed as an excuse. I tell them I never worry about who I don't have, I just got to get the ones I have ready to play. That's all we've ever done. We don't sit there and make excuses that we don't have this guy or that guy. Now that doesn't mean we're going to win shorthanded all the time, but at least we're going to have a mindset where we're going to go out and compete at a high level we're not going to use it as an excuse."

On Lamont Butler and Trey Pulliam's performances:

"I thought Lamont looked good. I mean, he missed five weeks. So he's not going to be 100 percent yet with his timing. I think his health is getting toward 100 percent. Same with Trey (Pulliam). I think Trey missed close to three weeks. The last game he played was December 22 (vs. UC San Diego). What is it today, January 8? That's a long layoff, too. So they're going to take a while to get their timing back. They're always going to play hard. But there's a certain degree that goes into the feel of the game once you start playing and getting into rhythm. So I think that will come as they get back in and competing more."

On the significance of getting a big win against a team that was scheduled on short notice:

"It was big because it was a home game against a team that's going to compete for the (conference) title. So we can't give away a home game to Colorado State. We're going to go there, and we already know what that's going to be (like). Their building is raucous like ours right now. So it's a really good win at home that we had to have. And we could have gone to Colorado State and flip the script and try to steal one there and say, 'Well at least they got to come back to us.' That's how they feel. Obviously, they don't feel great about the way they played. But they know they have a good team, and they know they have us coming back to them. Both locker rooms I'm sure are saying the same thing. It's one of a series. We're not going to get too high or too low. We're going to stay the course. Both teams are good. It was competitive for a large part of the game. Then we just kind of got on a run; the crowd got behind us at the end, and we pushed the lead up. But in no way shape or form do I think I'm going to have that kind of game next time I see them."

On whether it's incumbent on the Mountain West to find a way to reschedule the Aztecs' two lost home games:

"I'd like a balance at the end of the year. I'd like an equal number of home games and road games. So whatever that is. You know, I'm not looking to play two more road games than home games at the end of the year. So the conference knows that. They're going to try to be balanced for everybody. So hopefully when they look at the formula moving forward that we'll have equal numbers. Whether we play all our games or not, I'm hoping that the number will be equal between home and road."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

On dominating #20 Colorado State (1-of-3 undefeated teams) being short-handed:

"Gotta give a lot of praise to Colorado State, we had a great week of practice knowing the competition we're going to step into. They have a great team and they're going to have a great season. We were really dialed in offensively and defensively all week, and it showed in the game. Having Lamont (Butler) come back and having Trey (Pulliam) back definitely helped and we're just going to keep on getting better from here."

On the flying block Lamont had that led to Chad Baker-Mazara's dunk:

"Yeah you know Lamont is a dog. He's going to get it done on both ends, offensively and defensively. He missed about five, six games and having him back you can tell there's a different feel in the game and on the floor with him. I'm glad to have him back and we got to keep pushing."

On the team not having everyone going into the matchup today against Colorado State and if it brings the team together more:

"Coach always says 'regardless of who's here, as long as we have five guys we're going to get the job done.' We had more than five and with the group we have we definitely dialed in and we knew we were counted out in this game so we trusted each other and we counted on each other. We stepped in the game and competed so I'm really happy for our guys."

On having strong defense and having numerous blocks throughout the team:

"It's crazy because like every game we step into you don't know how the offense will go and who's going to step up, but we know going in defensively what we're going to do and we're going to lock up, make a block, get the rebound and we're going to get stops. We picked it up a notch and we had a lot of blocks, we had a lot of rebounds and we gave their best players a hard time tonight, or this evening. So you know it's that San Diego State basketball."

On this being the Rams first away game and the atmosphere in Viejas:

"I really enjoyed the home environment. Every home game, it's a blast to play in and it definitely has an effect on the other team. You know the noise, the tactics, and the crowd tactics and all that. It gets us fired up when hearing the crowd behind us and as you know, that it's not just our team on our side, but the whole arena, so it's definitely fun to play."

San Diego State Sophomore Guard Lamont Butler

On flying out to cover the three and getting the ball out to Chad for the slam:

"Yeah, I thought we had a fast break. I think it was AG who got the steal and I was thinking now we're gonna get going. So I ran out quickly and then he turned the ball over. I was just trying to hustle back into the play and then (COLORADO STATE PLAYER) had the ball. So I went and made a play. Then I got into it and got the ball to Chad and he made a big time dunk."

On the team not having everyone going into the matchup today against Colorado State and if it brings the team together:

"Our focus went up a level. As people dropped, everybody had to be dialed in like Matt said. Everybody had to be dialed in with their match ups because like Matt also said, Colorado State is a great team. So we really had to lock into it. We competed at a high level today, regardless of who was out and we can't wait to have them back. But you know, we gotta keep going on for now."

On the team's defense on Colorado State's best player (David Roddy):

"We know that you can get going at any point and he's a really good player as you can see, but we were locking up on him, not just me, as a team defensively on him. We preach that all throughout the week leading up to this game."

On this being the Rams first away game and the atmosphere in Viejas:

"The atmosphere was awesome. They really got us going when it was close. We started going on the run and they got loud and they gave us more energy to keep locking in defensively and offensively. We gave them a show and we can't wait till school starts back up and we can get the show back. It was great out there."

Colorado State Head Coach Niko Medved

Opening Statement:

"(In the second half) they got going offensively. Matt Bradley hit some shots and I think they hit eight of their first nine threes and we let that affect our intensity and physicality on the defensive end and that just kind of overwhelmed us. As painful as this is we will learn from this and I have no doubt this team will respond."

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