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5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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Cal State Fullerton at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 83, Cal State Fullerton 57

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | November 6, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We're off and running, the journey has begun again. It's going to be a fun one. I had great comfort starting the year with Lamont Butler, Micah Parrish and Jaedon LeDee out there, who have played in meaningful games. I was a little concerned about not having Darrion [Trammell] because if I got four guys that played in the Final Four with last year's team, it feels really good. I know that young guys are going to take time whether they're transfers or they've been in the program, it's all new to them. It's trying to get them up to speed, and knowing guys like Jaedon played great, Lamont played great, Parrish played great, and then throwing Darrion out there and you're really a group to start. Then you get the guys who are in the program like Demarshay Johnson, Elijah Saunders and Miles Byrd, who were here last year and getting their feet wet for the first time playing meaningful minutes. Then you throw in Reese Waters and Jay Pal, transfers. You throw in the freshmen Miles Heide and BJ Davis and you're mixing a lot of different pieces in there and you're learning as they go. The key to any season is to win while you learn, if that happens it will be a lot of fun. We learned lessons and we won tonight, but we're going to learn lessons and lose at some point too. It's what you do with those lessons, it's the first step in the journey. It has begun and I am happy with the outcome. We've challenged ourselves so we'll be ready for the next one and the next challenge."

On San Diego State's poor three-point shooting:

"I would like to see more threes go in. They were step-in threes. You have to take it every time you get step-in threes. In some of them, we might have caught the ball and got a little off balance and still took it, but we had some wide-open shots that we didn't make and if we're going to be really good, we have to make those shots. Micah made them tonight, and Reese is capable of making them. I'm not a guy that is going to micromanage wide-open shots if they are wide open, and they are step-in threes. I don't like the ones where they are step-backs and they are creating threes that are off rhythm. But if they shoot a rhythm three, I have to live with the results of some of those."

On how challenging Cal State Fullerton is as an opening opponent:

"They had three starters back from a 20-win team. One of their players was hurt like Darrion was. We got off to a good start, and they withstood it which they did on the glass. They had 11 or 12 offensive rebounds in the first half. That was the gamble they took. They sent multiple guys in the glass and when they didn't get it, we had fast breaks. We had two on one and three on two and we took advantage of them. We were down 9 or 10 rebounds at halftime, and then ended up tied in rebounds for the game. And that's a big difference. All of a sudden, we stopped giving them offensive rebounds. We rebound and we start

running down court and then the game broke open because we had fast breaks because of the number of the people they were committing to the offensive glass.”

Senior Guard Micah Parrish

On his mindset after early foul trouble:

“I know this year I have to set the tone. That’s something that we talked about all the time, set the tone. So I feel like that’s like my job. Come out here, set the tone, be the focal point on defense, get the energy going on offense and things like that. I let my teammates down by getting those fouls early, but I was trying to be aggressive and set the tone. It happens.”

On his improved shooting:

“I don’t think I’m a shooter. I’m a bucket, a basketball player. Everybody might say I’m a shooter, but I don’t think I’m a shooter because I was never a shooter before. I learned how to shoot. I know when you shoot shots, sometimes they don’t go in and sometimes they’re going for a stretch so you just have to stay consistent. Stay in the gym. That’s what I do. The work is always going to show so I just have to believe in myself.”

On the team’s energy level:

“I think that’s who we are. We play hard and work hard. We try to play with a lot of energy, try to play with defense. I feel like defense is how we set the tone. One of my goals this year is to be on the defensive team and things like that. I know I have to set the tone with the defense with Lamont, Jaedon, Reese, Darrion, and all of them. I feel like if we continue doing that, everyone will buy in, and everyone will feed off the energy. So that’s all I’m trying to do.”

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On how it feels to get the season underway:

“Feels good. I felt really good. The crowd did great tonight, it looked like it was sold out. We really responded to the energy and all the things they gave to us. I’m just glad we got a dub on this banner night.”

On how the team’s effort was contagious:

“That’s what makes us, San Diego State, we’re going to play hard. I mean, we have San Diego State across our chest. It means a lot to us and all the people that have been here and been playing. That’s what we are going to do every game. We will play hard. We will give it all that we got.”