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San Diego State vs. Grand Canyon Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 73, Grand Canyon 79

GCU Arena | Phoenix, Ariz. | December 5, 2023

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We didn't make enough plays to win a game like this. We played well in the second half. We shot 48% and scored one more basket than them. They beat us at the foul line. We both made eight threes. Rebounding was a little difference, but we had 13 offensive and they had 10. The difference was that they scored on theirs and we didn't score on ours. Jaedon [LeDee] was getting in there. He draws contact but not enough for them to give him a call. It's almost like Matt Bradley last year. Because he's so big and strong, sometimes they don't reward it. They think that you're big and strong and you should be able to finish that or you're strong so we're not going to give it to you. I don't know if they were fouls or not. I thought that we got as good a whistle as you're ever going to get. The refs were an A-plus crew. This is something that's happened not just to Jaedon in this game. It's a lot of games where he's getting rebounds and he's going up through but he's not getting the basket. He's not getting to the foul line. That's something we're going to have to work on: giving him something better to do when he gets it in there, shot, fake it and get it up back up or kick it out for threes because we're not being rewarded enough on our offensive rebounds. Down the stretch, I thought we fouled too much. We fouled every time down the stretch. With 2:30 to go, three minutes to go, we needed stops. We fouled and put them on the line too much. These are all areas we can grow from. I think we'll get better as we go on. I'm pleased with our offense. I think we're running good stuff. I told them after the game, we can't manufacture everything with our set play calls and what we run. We have to get a long rebound and get a basket. We have to get a second chance opportunity. I think they got more of those than we did. When we got a stop and they got a rebound, especially at the end of the first half, they ended up turning theirs in the baskets. Even though we had more offensive rebounds, we didn't turn ours into enough points."

On the environment in GCU Arena:

"It's loud. It's energetic. They give their team energy. I think if we played this in Viejas and it's a close game, maybe we come out on the other end. That's not to take away from either team's performance. There's a reason that home teams are hard to beat in college basketball and this is a team that has been to the NCAA tournament two of the last three years too. This is an NCAA tournament quality team. This is a good team on their home floor. We played well but not well enough to win."

On Grand Canyon shooting so well in the second half:

"They made they made a lot of good jump shots. [Tyon] Grant-Foster had four assists on the year and he had five tonight."

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We played good defense and he gave it up tonight. He's just been going downhill and scoring the ball. He gave it up today and that's a big improvement for their team and their future, his ability to make plays for other players. Everyone knows he can score. For a guy that had four assists in seven games, he had five tonight and that was a big difference. He was the guy that ended up throwing it to [Collin Moore] for a lot of threes."

-SDSU-