



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Well, that was in a hurry. Seeing your name that fast. I thought I might have to sit in here for half an hour to see our name called. But we were called early, playing Charleston. Obviously, they've won 10 in a row, 31-3 I believe. We've got a common opponent; they beat Colorado State earlier in the year. They got beat by North Carolina, they beat Virginia Tech. They've played some high major schools and they've had some success. I don't know a thing about them other than their record and that we're going to see them in Orlando. We're going to do a lot of homework between now and tomorrow. When we practice to start getting ready for this event."

On the possibilities of traveling to different places:

"It's not ideal. You're traveling through time zones. You know, that's always tough. Obviously, a lot closer for them than it is for us. But we can't control that, all we can worry about are the things we can control and that's getting ready, preparing and trying to be our best when our best is required."

On getting the five seed:

"Someone said to me yesterday that we always seem to get a higher seed than the media thinks we're going to, and it happens again. I think most people thought we'd probably be a 6 seed. We ended up five seed, and I think deservedly so. We had a very good season. And our numbers spoke for themselves, our net ranking, our KenPom numbers. And so this seed is probably well deserved. And now it doesn't matter what the seeds are now, you have to go play, and the better team will win on Thursday, so we have to be prepared and we have to be the better team."

On what it's like to see the team get hyped up getting their name called:

"It never gets old to see your name go up on the board. And that's whether you're 63 like I am or a bunch of 20-year-olds that were in the building, seeing their name called many for the first time. So, it's an exciting moment and it never gets old and it was exciting for them. I know they jumped up. I thought we would have to spend a lot of time waiting to see our name, we're going south in Orlando, and we'll be ready to go."

On the buzz around the team:

"We started preaching the message that once it got to March, we have to play March basketball. That means if somebody beats us, they have to beat us at their best team, and we have to tip our hat to them. We can't beat ourselves. We have to play up to our standard. And I think for the most part we've done that. So that's what the message is going to be playing out Thursday. We have to play at our best. If they play better than that, then we'll tip our hat to them but at our best we're pretty hard to beat."

On if the team will visit any theme parks:

"No, no, all the excitement will be in the arena. We won't be spending any time in the theme parks."

On how the win yesterday helps the momentum going forward:

"You know it's just momentum. You know, some teams lose earlier in the conference tournaments, and they use it to their advantage because they get more time spent on themselves. They have fresh legs when it gets to the NCAA. And the other route is to play the best and not lose a game and carry momentum into the NCAA. So that's the route we're carrying. And we've won a lot of games in a row. We've hung two banners and now we have to ride that momentum into the Thursday game."

On what it's like to construct a game plan against a team they don't normally play:

"You know there's always what you see on tape, and we'll have every game they played this year to watch. But then there's also the things that teams in their conference know that you have to take away. Sometimes you don't see anything on tape because the other team has spent a lot of time taking that away. We have to find what we don't see on tape. What teams are concentrating on when they play them and that they think it's important to take away from them. So that's what we look into, not only watch tape, but gather information."

San Diego State Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On how quickly they can get a grasp on College of Charleston:

"I think my coaches and I can do it in a couple of days, probably by Friday it's all laid out and ready to go."

On seeing their name pop up early:

"I kind of had a feeling it was going to be us right there. I don't know why. Just Orlando, Florida a little closer to home. So, I just thought maybe that'll be us."

On the impact of traveling on their performance:

"Oh, I think we'll be fine. I think we won't be going too fast; we'll be there a couple days before. We've got a job to do. We can't have an excuse for that."

On the chemistry of the team:

"I think we're hitting our stride at the right moment. We're playing our best basketball. It's the best time for us to play our best basketball. So, we go really deep like you said we have ten starters."

On how bad they want to get Dutcher his first NCAA tournament win:

"We want to win regardless. I didn't know it was going to be Dutch's first win, but it makes it that much."

On how the team feels after yesterday's win:

"Oh, we feel good. I mean that was yesterday. We enjoyed it last night. Moving on to new things."

San Diego State Senior Guard Adam Seiko

On how bad he wants to get Dutch into the NCAA tournament:

"Super bad. As many times I've been to the tournament during my time here, three times, some close games it's very important to get a win. We've won conference championships, but the next thing is to make him win the tournament. So we're excited to do that."

On what it's like to hear their name:

"It doesn't get old. It's always exciting to get to the tournament. It's something you worked for all year. I'm determined to just make a run. Hopefully we can get a win, we'll get to practice tomorrow and be tuned in."

On the concern of who could be the number one guy:

"Yeah, that happens to a lot of teams and with our team and how deep we are, I talked about it yesterday. Every guy on the team has led our team in scoring in big games. So, our team is excited for each other, whoever plays well, for them and we want to play well as a team."

On the momentum of the team and how they can carry it into Thursday:

"We have some good momentum right now, coming off the regular season title, the conference title. We still got some work to do, the next two days in some areas, those situations, defensive, offensive, all of those to work. So, we're excited to practice."

On how experience helps the team:

"Yeah, experience is very important, especially, as going there a few times now. We know what it takes to win, to close the game down the stretch. Up, down so it'll be good to watch film from last year, see what you need to work as far as situations."

On what it's like to play a team they know almost nothing about:

"It's exciting. You know it's just like your preseason before you get to conference, you play teams usually that you're not used to your actual like conference. So, it should be fun to go out and run our action."

On what he knows about Charleston:

"I heard they won the season. They're probably well coached, disciplined. So, we can't put anything behind this. We can't take it easy; anybody can win at any time."

San Diego State Senior Guard Matt Bradley

On going to Orlando:

"It's nice. It's beautiful out there. It is far away from home, but Aztec fans will still show up."

On preparing for a team they don't know a lot about:

"The first thing you look at is their record. They're 31-3, I believe, so obviously they know how to win games, they won their last ten. They're a really talented team but like you said, we've just got to do what we do and play the way we play. We're going to watch film and change some things up but the way we defend ultimately wins games. When we're able to knock down shots and step up with confidence, we're going to be really dangerous. I think we're just going to do what we do."

On when they know who will be the leading scorer that game:

"Our team is really unselfish. Like you said, we have eight guys that are capable of being the leading scorer for us. We can change it up and our coaches do a good job of detailing plays to certain guys. We're unselfish so we don't mind somebody else

being the main dude for a game or two or whatever the case may be. We're just trying to win and people will find that out before the game in Orlando."

On the defense buying time to see who has the hot hand:

"That happened in the Mountain West tournament. We weren't really on offensively, but our defense allowed guys to close, including myself, and make timely plays. Our defense travels no matter who we're supposed to be guarding."

On how the win over Utah State set the tone for the next game:

"I remember this day right now, like it was yesterday, last year as far as when we lost in Vegas. When we were getting ready for the tournament, the atmosphere was kind of off, our energy was off. Now, coming off a big win like that, we're ready to face anybody. That's really important going out there to Orlando and playing a good Charleston team. Everybody's doing good right now."

On the mental preparation for Charleston:

"We'll be watching film and getting much needed rest. We just played three games in three days. People have to catch up on their sleep cycle, hydrate and all those types of things. Film, touching up on things that we need to get better at amongst ourselves. It's definitely physical but also mental."

On traveling across three time zones:

"I think the way our schedule is set up this year, it has us really battle tested as far as conditions like these. Like you mentioned, Hawai'i earlier in the year, playing in the mountains at high elevation, we never really had a fear of going as far as all the games we've played throughout the year. I think that's just another thing we just attack head on. We're ready for it. Like I said, it is going to be a challenge playing with a three-hour time difference and we have to get adjusted to it as quickly as possible."

On hearing their name called on the selection show:

"It was really special. I remember last year when they announced that we were playing Creighton, we were really excited. Like I said, since we didn't win that Mountain West tournament, we were coming off a loss and weren't really feeling too well and sure of ourselves. Right now, our heads are in the clouds. We know we put in the work to get to this moment, to capture this. To me, to have this last moment with the guys was really special."

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