



## **SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**

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### **Nevada at San Diego State Postgame Quotes**

**San Diego State 71, Nevada 59**

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 17, 2024

## **Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

### **Opening Statement:**

"It was a really good win tonight against Nevada, a very good 15-2 team. They're well-coached, disciplined, and have really good players. The home crowd had a lot to do with the win. We got ahead 12 points and wish it would have stayed that way all game, and everyone could have relaxed and had an easy time of it. But basketball is a game of runs. We knew Nevada was capable of putting together a run, and they did. They had good defense in the half-court and we had a tough time scoring (early in the second half). They came down (court) and Kenan Blackshear either scored or found Tré Coleman, who had four threes. I think (Coleman) shoots 26% from three on the year. Part of the strategy was to help off Tré, but he made us pay for that. Our defense and rebounding were the difference in the game, and that's Aztec basketball. We outrebounded them by 19, had 20 offensive rebounds, and got timely stops that led to fast breaks. The fast break baskets were the difference in the game, getting up and down the floor on a blocked shot, on a turnover, on a pressure. The fast break was how we created enough offense to build the lead back and get out of here with the win today."

### **On Michael Cage's jersey being returned to the rafters:**

"Michael Cage looks like he could have come out and played 40 minutes today. The guy's incredible. He looks like he just got done playing in the NBA. I've known Michael for a long time. He's a proud Aztec. I know it meant a lot to him to come back. Obviously, his number had already been retired, but to have it put up in Viejas was an honor that was well deserved amongst the others who had that honor today. It was great having him in the building."

### **On the good offensive rebounding performance tonight:**

"We didn't get any offensive rebounds at New Mexico, hardly. They killed us on the offensive glass. With every miss, it seemed like they got the rebound. Rebounding is a major concern of mine. When we have a rebounding performance like this, it helps us get a victory. Now we are going to Boise State and they're one of the bigger teams in the league. There will be pressure again for us to rebound in order to win the game. They're very good at rebounding the ball."

### **On not changing the starting lineup:**

"You can't be afraid to change the lineup, but it has to be for the right reasons. Everybody has to buy in and know why you're doing it. Players have to not fall off because they go to the bench or get too excited because they come to the starting lineup. It's just a feel thing for me, I try to get a feel for who's productive and what's the best lineup on the floor at what time. I

always say, 'Don't be concerned with who starts the game, be concerned with who finishes the game.' That's more important than anything."

## Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

### **On the teams rebounding efforts:**

"Coach Dutch always says 'defensive rebounding is our staple at San Diego State.' We didn't feel like we did our best rebounding during the game prior. We really drew it in practice, and that was the focus of our game today and we got it done."

### **On Jay Pal's ability to get to the rim:**

"Jay Pal has a great nose for the ball. He's just playing well, he's figuring it out. We are getting along towards the season and I think he's just found his groove."

## Junior Guard Reese Waters

### **On going 6-of-8 at the free throw line:**

"I don't like missing any free throws. I was 6-of-8, I have to go 8-of-8. That's just my mentality about it."

### **On his experience playing against Jarod Lucas in prior years:**

"Jarod Lucas is a really good player. He can shoot, he uses his body well coming off screens. He's a vet, he knows how to get around. He knows how to use his body. It's always fun playing against somebody like that. Today, we were able to do it as a team. I wouldn't just take the credit for it. Everybody that guarded him did a pretty good job, same with Kenan Blackshear. I'm glad that we came out with a W."

## Nevada Head Coach Steve Alford

### **Opening statement:**

"We played hard. We had a tough start. For whatever reason, we don't start very well in this building and they got off to a good start. After halftime, our guys played well and did a lot of good things. We tied it with six or seven minutes to go and then our board play was atrocious again. We have to keep working in that area. We gave up 20 offensive rebounds. It's hard to win when you allow 20 offensive rebounds and you go 7-17 from the free-throw line. Those were the two biggest glaring areas today."

### **On missing rebounds and free throws:**

"These guys know they can play with anybody. I told them that I was super proud of the effort from that standpoint, but the effort on the glass is hurting us right now. We have to figure that out. We're giving up way too much on the offensive backboard, and compounding that with a lot of missed foul shots, it will be hard to win in this building."