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[7] San Diego State vs. [6] Boise State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 72, New Mexico 69

Thomas & Mack Center | Las Vegas, Nev. | March 12, 2024

## **Head Coach Stacie Terry-Hutson**

### **Opening Statement:**

"They tease me a lot because I say a couple of phrases, and they make fun of me all the time. One of them is imperative, and the other one is there's separation in the preparation. I thought our preparation for this tournament was exceptional. It started a couple of weeks ago, but definitely for this tournament. They were locked in with film today, and I'm just really happy for them. These young women have been through a lot, and it's just fun to have -- to see them have the success that they've had. The job is not done, but we will celebrate this win tonight."

### **On how proud she was of her team:**

"We were talking about it. We're playing with house money right now since we're in Vegas. We're just trying to get better every time we're on the floor. We're excited for the opportunity. I'm going in my head of mistakes that we made in tonight's game, but we were able to bounce back from those mistakes. You asked a question about what the message was going into the fourth quarter after the quick timeout. It was that it's going to be game of runs, and Boise State is a very, very good team, and they can hurt you in a lot of different ways. We were not being as disciplined as I would like them to have been. For them to fix it, go back and create a run of our own was really, really important. We needed to get some separation. They closed the gap again, but we were focused on getting stops and trying to rebound. They're bigger than us in almost all the positions, so it was going to take a little extra effort to keep them off the glass."

### **On how SDSU prepared for the tournament:**

"We've been preparing all season for this. We've been able to execute down the stretch, and that started probably a couple of months ago at New Mexico I thought we played a very mature, disciplined game even though we lost by three. Since then, they've just been really locked in, trying to learn, and been extremely coachable. When a player looks you in the eye and says, 'Yes, Coach, I got it,' it's really, really fun to work with those type of kids. They've been able to make changes on the fly, which is something that we struggled with early on, but they're doing a great job of that now. I want to say that my staff has done a phenomenal job preparing them, and they've been locked in with those scouts. But there was a lot of hours watching film and staying up late and getting up early, and my staff has done a great job preparing them."

### **On preparing for UNLV:**

"We're just going to try to go out there and present ourselves better than we did when we came last time. We're going to play our game and do the things we want to do and play hard and defend and hopefully come away with a championship."

**On when this run felt possible:**

"We've been very inconsistent. I want to reference that New Mexico game at The Pit. I thought that was a turn-around for me because we were able to make plays on the fly and coach on the fly and then react and respond and correct things. I thought then we had a chance to do something special. There was a little blip, like I said, when we came to Vegas last time, but then we turned around and beat a very good Wyoming team. We've been playing better defense, and I think that's been the catalyst. The team's leadership has been outstanding in the locker room, and those kids, they just don't want to go home."

**On Adryana Quezada's shot making ability:**

"She's a hard shot maker, and I get on her all the time because she's on the floor too darn much, but she makes big baskets at timely times, and she's hard to guard because we don't know when the shot is going up. She's going to pivot six times before she shoots it. She works on those things, and she's in the gym all the time. She's had a tough go at it, so it's been fun to watch her, and I'm really proud of her success."

## **Senior Forward Adryana Quezada**

**On her shot making in the second half:**

"It was pretty imperative, yes. It grew my confidence, but it just also was a testament to the confidence my teammates have instilled for me throughout the year, and I feel like tonight it showed."

## **Senior Forward Kim Villalobos**

**On how Quezada's performance affected her confidence:**

"I think to us it's not a shocker or anything new. We know AD[ryana Quezada] can do that on any night. It's really nice having a teammate you can rely on always and having her in your corner because it just feels like we'll win every game."

**On if this feels like a Cinderella run:**

"Not at all. We know what we have in the locker room. We have everything we need to win a championship, and that's what we came here to do."

**On how she feels about facing UNLV:**

"I'm really excited. We have all the momentum. Like I said, we have everything we need in the locker room, and we know they're a good team, but so are we. I'm just excited to play in the championship game."

## **Senior Guard Abby Prohaska**

**On how Quezada's performance affected her confidence:**

"I think it shows our depth. Every game we've played here, we've had one person, or a few people go off, and it's always different. A lot of people counted us out of this tournament. We came in No. 7, and here we are going to the championship. I am getting emotional because I'm just so proud of everything we've gone through to get to this moment."

**On the message before the fourth quarter:**

"Honestly, I feel like we weren't even worried. We have a lot of confidence in each other, and I think that's a big testament to where we're at right now. We believe in every single person on this team, and it shows when we're on the court because whenever AD[ryana Quezada] makes a shot or Kim or Jada [Lewis] or anybody else, we support that, and we celebrate that, and that's just so important. I think that plays a part in it too."

**On if they were excited for Coach Terry-Hutson's first Finals appearance:**

"We're beyond excited, and we're happy that we were the group to be able to do that."

## **Senior Guard Jada Lewis**

**On how Quezada's performance affected her confidence:**

"We get pretty hyped up when she makes shots, so I just love feeding her the ball and getting out the way, basically letting her work."

**On the turnover differential:**

"That was a big thing for us. I didn't know we had 20. That number is huge, and I think that's what got us the win. Our defense was great. I was proud of everybody that stepped on the floor today."

**-SDSU-**