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San Diego State Men's Basketball Press Conference
March 18, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We've got to get ready for a very good UAB team today. We took a day off yesterday - rested and watched film. We walked through some things, but today it'll be an on-floor day where we have to get serious about our game prep. They're dangerous, talented, and well-coached. They really rebound the basketball, so they'll present a lot of challenges. Congratulations to Jaedon LeDee - All American third team. So happy for Jaedon. I'm just wondering why he wasn't on the first team. That's how good I think he is. Another day to get better and we're ready to take advantage of that."

On playing teams that are a part of different conferences:

"It's going to be nice playing a non-Mountain West team. Everybody knows everything about you in the Mountain West. Now, UAB will be well prepared for us but it's not like playing a conference opponent. I just want to wish all the Mountain West teams good luck in the tournament. I thought we were under-seeded as a conference. Obviously, we're pleased with our five seed. I thought the rest of the conference got under-seeded by and large."

On the preparation for UAB:

"It's just a lot of work. I've watched seven full games already on UAB. They're a very good team. I'm concerned a little bit because they play multiple defenses. They play a 1-3-1, man, a 2-3 man, and a switching man. They're hard to prepare for. There's a lot to be done. We'll take the next couple of days to prepare for them."

On the loss vs. New Mexico:

"I think it was more timely plays. We both missed shots, but they rebounded their missed shots. Offensive rebounds down the stretch cost us the game. It's cost us a couple of games this year. They're a very good rebounding team. We knew what it was but couldn't get the job done down the stretch on the defensive plays."

On the key to success for the NCAA Tournament:

"We need someone to step up and make shots. It's funny because against Utah State everybody made shots. I need one or two guys to step up - they don't all have to make them every game. Whether it's Reese Waters, Micah Parrish, Lamont Butler, or Darrion Trammell, someone needs to make shots. That's for everybody in the country. If you get open shots and miss them then you're always in danger of losing the game. Our job as coaches is to create open shots, and then hopefully their job as players is to make them."

Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

On being named a third-team AP All-American:

"It was good. It's a blessing. Now more hard work is coming up in life. I want to be a little higher, but it's all good. It's out of my control."

On entering the tournament with prior experience:

"It can definitely help. We've been in these tournament games before so we know how they can be. We know the ups and downs of them. I think that's really helpful."

Senior Guard Lamont Butler

On focusing on the defensive end for the tournament:

"That's our staple, so it kind of goes with our culture. Every year we're going to be at our top potential, especially in March because it is win-or-go-home. We don't want to go home; we are trying to win the whole thing."

On the difficulties of playing unfamiliar teams:

"It is different, but the key thing is to focus on ourselves in ways we can get better. Try to carry that over, watch them, and see what they do but focus on ourselves and try to get better."

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