



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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UC San Diego at San Diego State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 63, UC San Diego, 58

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | November 6, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I liked this game much better than being 14 points down with nine minutes to go like we were last year against UCSD. We were holding on this year. We didn't have to come from so far behind. UCSD got ahead by five, and we're a young team, maybe not age-wise, but in time spent playing together. It reminded me of an Air Force game where they're playing a switching man or a match-up zone, and all the plays you've worked on against man aren't working. You have to find ways to generate offense, cut around, have IQ, play in space and figure it out on the fly. Sometimes you're disappointed with the play because you're only good at things you work on. The beauty of this win is that now we'll stack this game, so the next time we run into someone who plays as a match-up zone or a switching man, our thoughts will be clear, not only as players but as coaches. The next game we play will be nothing like this one, and we'll stack that one. As the season goes on, we will have played every defense you can play, and the next time we run into one, we're better prepared to handle it. I was fairly happy with what we did on the fly. We played a four-guard lineup, which we're going to do some this year, between Taj DeGourville and Miles Byrd with the other three guards. That's what we ended up going to tonight, and we played big for a while with Miles Heide and Pharaoh Compton. We thought our best chance in this game against zone was to be small. We took our chances and stayed small, and that was one of the reasons we were able to generate enough offense to win the game."

On Sophomore Miles Byrd having a chance at a breakout season:

"He's a dynamic player, and his energy is always high. The thing I liked best about Miles Byrd tonight is he only had one turnover. He's a guy that sometimes gets careless, but he was tight with the ball. He shot and he drove it in the paint. He made plays and he took care of the basketball. It was a huge improvement there. He's always been able to score the ball. He's shooting the three, which allows him to get downhill and also block shots. Miles is a dynamic player, and it was good to see him step up and make such good plays in the first game of his third year in the program."

On Freshman Magoon Gwath's debut:

"Magoon Gwath is dynamic when he is blocking shots. I wanted to see how quickly he fatigued. That's what I have to learn. How long can he play before it starts to diminish? When he gets

tired, he gets straight up and down, and he can't move his feet. Is he a guy that plays five minutes and then comes out? Is it a four-minute stretch? Is it a six-minute stretch? These are the things that I need to learn as a coach. The only way to learn is to play games and see when he hits that point. Everybody on the team hits a point where you have to go to the bench. No matter how well they're playing, they will hit that fatigue point. Magoon hit the fatigue point at the six-minute mark of the first half, and he looked really tired. The other coaches wanted me to take a time out because the team looked tired."

Sophomore Guard Miles Byrd

On how the energy switched similarly to last season's game against UCSD:

"We see it as a league game, like a cross-town rival. We came in today, and on the whiteboard in the locker room, it said, 'Winning is hard.' We know that, honestly. I was on the bench last season, and I saw the energy UCSD brought to their arena, and we knew that they were coming to this game confident and trying to win. We prepped hard, we respected them, and that's why we were able to come up with the win."

On how the plays made in this game will reflect down the line:

"It's early in the season, and it's our first win. We're not comfortable in these situations yet, but being in them allows us to become more comfortable. Down the line, when we have these tough league games on the road in front of a lot of fans, we're prepped."

Senior Forward Jared Coleman-Jones

On what it's like playing at Viejas Arena:

"It's just incredible to see the energy at Viejas. All over the country, you have places that bring this home court intensity. I came to Viejas, and I'm not even going to lie to you, it's unmatched."

On how the 2024 Sweet 16 Banners hanging in Viejas make him feel:

"Coming into this program being fresh, it's inspiring to see the standard that we're held to. To look up and be like, 'We have to do it again, and again, and again,' and be prepared to continue to win. It's great to see the banner there; it's a great reminder."

UC San Diego Head Coach Eric Olen

On his team's composure with leaders like Gray, McGhie, and Tait-Jones:

"We have an older group. Those guys – Hayden Gray, Tyler McGhie, and Aniwaniwa Tait-Jones, played a lot of basketball last season for us. They know what we're trying to do on the floor and are good basketball players. I know that maybe not everybody in the building expected us to play well, but we expect to have success when we take the floor. Our guys put a lot of work in. When they compete, they expect to have success."

On the components that his team can improve on:

"This game is terrific for San Diego basketball. Our level of competitiveness comes from knowing that we're playing a really good opponent that we have a lot of respect for, and we know that we have to compete at a high level to give ourselves an opportunity. We gave ourselves an opportunity, and San Diego State made a few more plays down the stretch. There are things that we have to do better at. We left some points on the board in the first half, around the basket and at the free-throw line. We had some opportunities that we didn't capitalize on, but that's how it goes, and some of that also has to do with their defense."

UC San Diego Head Coach Eric Olen

On how they could compete in the hostile Viejas environment:

"I believe in my guys. We worked all summer and fall for this. We can compete with anyone. At the end of the day, they put their shorts on just like we do."

On his hot streak in the second half:

"My teammates were giving me open looks. I'm thankful for them."

On UC San Diego's defense:

"I was proud of our defense. San Diego State is a great team, probably one of the best on our schedule, and we came in here and competed really hard."

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