



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. Colorado State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 75, Colorado State 60

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 14, 2025

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Tonight was a nice bounce-back win. It helped to be at home in front of our home crowd. We knew Colorado State was dangerous. The key to the game was taking away fast break baskets. Last year here, they were up 15-2, and I had to take my first timeout. They scored 44 points on us in the first half. They ran us out of our building. We did a good job of not giving them fast break baskets. We made it a half-court game. The other key stat was a team that had 24 assists in their last game, we forced 20 turnovers and only nine assists. We forced them to commit a lot of turnovers, and [Miles] Byrd obviously matched a Mountain West record for us in steals. He had seven. We told Miles, 'Be careful, they're going to back cut. They're going to back cut.' He can't help himself to the point where I don't leave my wallet in the locker room. He's stealing so much, I make sure I keep an eye on him. Byrd was sensational, and the bench, we got great production off the bench. Wayne McKinney III came in and scored a lot of first-half baskets. Pharaoh [Compton] was 4-4, and if Pharaoh could have made some free throws, he was 0-7, he could have had a monster game. I don't worry about that going forward. Pharaoh's a good free-throw shooter. We just have to get him in there and get his confidence up. I'm really happy with this bounce-back win. Three games in seven days is never easy, and we found a way to get two wins. We'll move forward, take a day off, and spend two days getting ready for UNLV on Saturday."

On Miles Byrd's growth this past year:

"He's a great leader. He and Nick [Boyd] are the vocal leaders of the team. Anybody who watches him play would say he plays unafraid. In some of those shots, he pulls up on the fast break from NBA range and beyond. He is unafraid. When they go in, we're really good. He was making them again today. He rolled up unafraid and knocked them down. Then I have to talk to him late in the game. With a lead, that may not be the shot we want when we're up 14 or 16 points with three or four minutes to go. We may want to run some clock at that time. It's just teaching and learning and trying to hold him to the standard that I think they need to play to late in the game."

On his thoughts at the midpoint of the season:

"I like that this team comes to work every day and they're coachable. They don't make excuses, and they want to get better. That leaves a lot of pressure on the coaches to find ways to make them better. They can't do it on their own. We have to tell

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them what we want, and what we think they can improve on, and they're willing to do it. That puts a lot of heat on us to make sure that we're making decisions and telling them the right way to play because they're going to do what we ask them to do. They're a really coachable group."

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Sophomore Guard Miles Byrd

On how the team's chemistry has evolved over the past three games in seven days:

"It's a conference game, and conference is always going to be a grind. You might play on Saturday and have to come back and play on Tuesday like we just did. As a group, we do a good job every time we're in the gym. We're close-knit and working hard. We have great energy with what we do, which helps with our chemistry. At the end of the day, we're all talented hoopers and we love coming down to the court. It's hard to get a bunch of guys who are well-played at basketball and love doing what they do to break up and fall apart."

On how he approaches working with referees that are new to him:

"They always say 'never let the refs into the game,' so at the end of the day, I don't think the crew really matters. It's about how we come into the game and what our mentality is. It's honestly cool to meet some new refs."

Sophomore Guard BJ Davis

On if he wants to keep up with half-court buzzer shots:

"I definitely love opportunities like that. If I can get good looks, I will try to create them every time. I worked on this as a kid, you know, just back there shooting threes and twos, so it goes way back. It's cool to do it on a bigger stage."

On what he likes about the team so far and what he thinks the team can still do better:

"What I like about the team so far is that they have made me a better man and player. For that, I can never give enough thanks. On the flip side, we have to continue to work and not get complacent. We have to try to have the same motivated mindset each day, which is the hardest thing to do. If we can do that, the sky is the limit."