



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State vs. San Jose State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 71, San Jose State 68

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 28, 2025

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"I've said from the start of the year that this is a gritty team. They got down by 21 and found a way to fight their way back to within 12 at halftime, played even early in the second half, and then went on a run. This was in large part due to how they play and in large part due to the environment here, which is second to none. Our fans get behind us. They hang in there with us. These are young kids playing their hearts out. They make mistakes and we made a lot of them. We had 11 turnovers in the first half. We were trying to go too fast. When they make 15 threes out of 31 shots in a game, you don't think you are going to win. That's a hard thing to overcome, but we found a way to do it. It was a lot like Air Force. They went ahead early, and we tried to go too fast. We tried to get ten points in one possession and that's not going to happen. As we settled in and started running more offense, sharing and moving the ball, we found more opportunities to score. We weren't perfect, but we moved the ball better. We had 16 assists, and Nick Boyd had an incredible line. He had 9 rebounds, 5 assists, and scored the ball. He had a full floor game for us tonight. I got on Byrd in the first half and told him at halftime that he had to play better. He was pressing the game too hard. He responded and I wouldn't have done it if I didn't think he could handle it. He's in his third year in the program. I got on him maybe a bit too much, and to his credit, he came out and performed really well in the second half. He hit timely threes and got the momentum going for us. This was a good home victory for us against a San Jose State team that plays everybody close and just hasn't gotten over the hurdle. They are a good team and really good offensively."

On Miles Byrd's performance:

"As good as Miles is, he is the top guy on the scouting report now, so he's going to draw two or three defenders. I used to have that talk with Jalen McDaniels, when he went from role player to star player, and they started doubling him. I told him that now you have to become a player who gets everyone involved. Pass the ball and it will find its way back to you. He went on to play in the NBA. Miles can be the same guy."

On Magoon Gwath's performance:

"He makes every play on the floor, not afraid to shoot it, not afraid to drive it, and he gets in there and rebounds. He'll set the screen. He's in the second half of his freshman year and is showing strides that he's more comfortable. He knows how to drive and kick and when to attack. He's getting a better feel for minutes and as he continues to grow, we continue to get better."

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Freshman Forward Magoon Gwath

On taking more aggressive shots:

"My shots have been falling more in my workout, so I have a little more confidence. I'm just trying to take the right ones and the ones I'm comfortable taking and that worked out well."

On his description of the game:

"It was a really hard-fought game. They punched us in the mouth to start and we all regrouped together and came back to get a hard-fought win."

Sophomore Guard Miles Byrd

On how he stayed composed during the second half:

"It's pretty easy to stay composed when everything is going your way. It's staying with it in the first half and trying to fight through the frustration. A lot of the teams in the league started playing me really physically, which has led to me getting off to a slow start in the past few games. I just got to stay with it and trust my team. They did a great job of getting on me the right way, telling me to stay in the game, they need me, and they'll come out in the second half."

On the team's success on the road this season:

"The type of personalities on our team is that we like being the villains. You're able to walk into another person's arena and try to go get one in front of them and it feels good. On the other hand, after being here for three years, I know what Viejas is like. You're not supposed to lose in Viejas, which has been stressed to us multiple times. We're not allowed to drop one more here this year. We're going to try to value Viejas as much as possible."

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