



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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San Diego State vs. UNLV Postgame Quotes

UNLV 74, San Diego State 67

Thomas & Mack Center | Las Vegas, Nev. | March 4, 2025

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"It was a tough defeat tonight. I put on the board, like I always do in March, win with defense and rebounding, and we let them shoot 65.2 percent in the second half. They out rebounded us, and we didn't display the toughness to get over the hump this game, and we've been tough all year. We've been down in a lot of games and found a way to fight back. They've won six out of seven. They're playing really good basketball. They make six threes a game, and they made 12 tonight against us, and that's what they did against Nevada. They made some step back, some tough threes, some well-earned shots, and when the ball is going in like that, it's tough to win. We have to see if we can answer the call, bounce back, and find a way to play our best at home on senior night against Nevada. I thought we looked tired at times. I told them that I thought we didn't look energetic. I think it was fatigue more than anything. The trip to Laramie was delayed back and we got in here with one day of prep, and I thought we looked tired, and that's not taking anything away from UNLV. They played great. They played good defense, and they played really good offense. That's not taking away from them. I just thought we looked fatigued tonight for the first time in a long time."

On what it does to the Aztecs' NCAA Tournament chances:

"I don't know. We have to win games. We have to go out and try to win on Saturday, on senior night, and then see where it puts us. We've been playing good basketball, and this is a tough place to play. We wanted to win, but we missed a lot of threes against them. We've taken more threes against them than anybody. We took 29 tonight and 28 the first game. We had some open looks, and we didn't make them, and I thought that it looked a lot like the Nevada game. Nevada had a lot of feet set looks that didn't go in. UNLV was making hard threes, one on one, step backs, pull ups, and that's what they did against us. We had good looks that we didn't make, and they played fantastic on offense."

On if the Aztecs missed something defensively or if UNLV was just making hard shots:

"It's not all hard shots. We have to play with great energy. I think anybody that watched [Julian] Rishwain and [Jaden] Henley play today would say, "Shoot, those guys are good." They're bigger guards. We have smaller guards, and they size us up and step back. And I don't think any of them were like step in, one, two, threes. The majority of their threes were off the dribble, and those are hard to guard when you're making threes off the bounce."

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On the team's mood:

"Hopefully, it's ordinary and they're ready to get back and compete on Saturday. They know what's on the line, they know how they have to play. This is a two-game Mountain West road trip, and we found a way to squeak one out at Wyoming. This one, we hung in there and had a lead in the second half, but obviously didn't make enough plays to win the game."

Sophomore Guard Miles Byrd**Opening statement:**

"It was a tough loss. We had a lot on the line. We're well aware that we needed to come out and get this one done. You have to tip your cap to them. They made double their game average with 12 threes. They made a lot of tough ones, some late, some momentum killers. You've got to give them credit. They played well. Shout out to them."

On how frustrating it is to face a team shooting that well:

"A lot of it was self-imposed. As a team, we pride ourselves on how we pick up defensively, and how we turn guys and make it hard. They are without their point guard right now. We were allowing them to be a little too comfortable and get to what they wanted. When you're down a Dedan Thomas type of guy, everybody gets a lot more freedom. Everyone's going to play a lot better. Shout out to Julian Rishwain, who was 6-of-9 from 3 and scored 26 points, his career high. He played well."

On the difficulty of UNLV's shots:

"I think we played good defense. We could have picked up the pressure a little bit. As much as it hurts to keep saying, I think the lack of maturity with our team is showing at the start of games. We come out flat too much. We know what it is to be San Diego State in this conference. Every team wants to give you their best shot."

On his stat line:

"We know the type of defense they play and that the skip pass is going to be there. I was stepping in with confidence, and at the end of the day, I think it comes down to me being able to hit shots for our team, and I wasn't able to do that today. I think all of us can say that there were at least three or four shots that we took that we want to get back. There are also two or three shots that I took that I know I should make 90% of the time. That's the game of basketball. That's why you play it and that's why you love it."

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