



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

GOAZTECS.COM | [@GOAZTECS](https://twitter.com/GOAZTECS) | [#GOAZTECS](https://facebook.com/GOAZTECS)

San Diego State at New Mexico Postgame Quotes

No. 19/19 San Diego State 70, New Mexico 88

The Pit | Albuquerque, N.M. | January 13, 2024

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Hats off to the Lobos. They've done what they're supposed to do. They held home court in the Mountain West. We're going to have an NBA mentality. We're going to learn from up, we're going to put it behind us. We'll get ready for Nevada and our next game."

On rebounding struggles:

"That was our game plan. We were helping late and when you help late on the drives, then that puts them behind you and gives them angles to rebound. We knew that might be an issue we thought we could maybe overcome it. We gave up too many free throws and too many rebounds on the road to win a game. We had to win in one of those areas. There was a big free throw discrepancy in the first half. That was tough to overcome. Even though they were shooting a lower percentage, it put them on a line a lot."

On the atmosphere:

"The atmosphere was great. It's like every atmosphere we play in. We play in sold-out Brigham Young, sold-out Grand Canyon, sold-out UC San Diego sold-out Pit. This is what we're used to and it's hard to communicate with your team and makes a difference. That's what people face when they come to Viejas: a sold-out arena and makes it hard to play in. "

On the end of the first half:

"We got the ball to Jaedon [LeDee], he had tough time finishing and wasn't getting the foul line enough. I think he shot one free throw for a guy that drew 15 files in his last game. He wasn't getting enough foul calls, whether it was him or them or a combination of both. He didn't get to the line enough. You try to get to the line to stop some of these runs and we couldn't get to the foul line."

On inexperienced officials calling so many Aztec games this season:

"I mean, obviously, we saw a couple guys I haven't seen, but it's a hard job. Officiating is a hard job. They do the best they

can and sometimes the environment affects them too. Sometimes it doesn't, but I thought they did as good a job as they could. Obviously, we're wishing we got to the foul line more in the first half. Especially Jaedon, he draws a lot of contact and sometimes it's like we saw with Matt Bradley: just because you're big and strong doesn't mean you're not getting fouled. They just don't want to call as much when you're big and strong. Hopefully he'll get some more calls in our next game."

On the environment effecting the officials:

"I just think they got to make the right call. I have to go back and look at the tape. It's a hard game to officiate. I would never make an excuse for the officiating, but I just know that Jaden getting the line is important to our success."

On New Mexico's defense of Jaedon LeDee:

"They did a great job. I've never seen somebody block shots in one half. They had 11 block shots in the first half. So that's phenomenal, I think 14 for the game. When you're blocking that many shots, you're affecting the game and that was sensational on their part to be able to block that many shots in the first half."

On his message to the team in the second half:

Just that we have enough time. I think we were down 12 last year, maybe 14 last year in the second half and came back and won the game. It's a game of runs. We just could not get a run and stop enough of theirs to get back into the game. As the margin grows, the basket looks bigger. Shots they weren't making early in the game, when they were 18 ahead or 16 ahead, the basket looks the size of the ocean, everything goes in. If we could have cut the margin to single digits, maybe they would've struggled to make a few of those but once you get that kind of lead and they start rolling, it's hard to stop them.

On Jaelen House:

"He's a dynamic player. He's quick and aggressive and a very, very good player. So if he continues to play at that level in New Mexico have a great successful season."

On losing by 18 points:

"I mean, some of its metrics. They're playing for metrics, too. They wanted a big margin so that metrically it'll improve their NET ranking and their campaign rankings. They played for the big margin, and I would too. There was a day in college basketball when you're that far ahead, you don't worry about the margin, just winning. Now, with the metrics the way they are, margin is important. They continued to play aggressive with their starters all the way until the very end to the last minute of the game, which is smart. That's what I would do. I'm not condemning that. I'm just saying it's a new era in basketball where numbers matter."

Sophomore Guard Miles Byrd

On Saturday's game:

"They played really well. They've got a great fan base here that kept us on our toes the whole entire game. There were a few borderline calls that we didn't like and it took our focus off the game and allowed them to make a comeback. They were just

hitting their shots. Really good team.”

On the focus after borderline foul calls:

“As a team, we have to come together better and tell each other to calm down. We were in a position that we liked. They were able to capitalize when we're not focused. When we were a little lackadaisical, [Jamal] Mashburn and [Jaelen] House were able to get that mid-range and make some shots.”

On the stretch late in the first half where New Mexico came back:

“I think we might have turned the ball over three times or something in a row. We talked a lot as a team about how we can't turn the ball over against these guys because they do a really good job of being in transition. And that's what they did and they made it count.”

On his game developing as just a sophomore:

“I think I've got a lot of time. I've been fighting injuries for a whole entire season. I'm still trying to get to 100% and I think little confidence boosters like these are definitely going to help and allow me to come up with mentioned creative spark.”

-SDSU-