



## **SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**

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### **Wyoming at San Diego State Postgame Quotes**

#### **San Diego State 81, Wyoming 65**

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 23, 2024

## **Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

### **Opening Statement:**

"It was just another game against Wyoming. Everything was expected last year at their place. They didn't guard Keshad Johnson. They sat down on Lamont Butler, and we found a way to win, and it was a close game. Today, they didn't guard our four man, Elijah Saunders and Jay Pal, sagged a little bit on some other guys, and our guys work on their game, so I don't mind them taking early threes. If they're making them, then maybe we blow the game open early, but we missed enough where it got to the point where we said, "Let's just tuck them in instead." We have all that in our offense where we come up on ball screens and tuck in those guys instead of having them on the perimeter where they can't help on Jaedon [LeDee] as much. They can't help on the guards when they're driving because they can't ignore a guy under the basket. That's an adjustment we made in the first half and carried over to the second half. They're dangerous offensively. They just put 98 on Nevada in their last game and made 13 threes. They made nine against us, and you wouldn't say, 'Boy, we lost them.' They were wide open, their step-back threes are hard threes off screens, so they shoot the ball at a high level. In the second half, they ended up shooting 35.5% from the field, which is good enough to build the lead. We turned the ball over twice, which is the lowest in program history. We took care of the ball and made enough timely plays to come out with a victory."

### **On what was said to the players at halftime:**

"These guys are veterans. You don't have to say a whole lot at halftime. We just give them a few adjustments. There's no rah-rah pep talk, they're ready to go. They play hard. They know they play the right way. The ball started going, and Darrion Trammell came in and was dynamic offensively. Lamont tied a career-high tonight with 23 points. These guys are hard to guard. They're very good players, so it's not for me to motivate them, it's for me to put them in positions to be successful. If they're frustrated with me, it's usually because I don't put them in enough situations where they can play their games. That's on me to try to put them in more situations where they can be dangerous."

### **On thoughts and plans for bye week:**

"I wish we had two weeks off. We need it. This is the perfect time for us, and we wanted to get a win into the bye week. 5-2 in the conference is going to be no worse than one game out of first place. 5-2 might be in first place by the time this week ends. That's the kind of conference the Mountain West is. We're going to take advantage of the bye week. We're going to fix things we need to work on. We don't have to concentrate on our opponent and keep fresh legs. We have some time to get better at a

few things and we will do that. When we have more time to get better, it makes us more successful as a program. We plan to cut the playbook down to only things that are working.”

## Senior Guard Lamont Butler

### **On the offensive boost by Darrion [Trammell] and Lamont’s double-figure game:**

“It’s definitely a boost to have Darrion and Lamont in double figures. We’re high-level players. We can do this, more often than not. Early in this season, we haven’t really been scoring much. We’ve been distributing and letting other guys get the shot. When we’re aggressive, it’s hard for other teams to guard us, our wings, and Jaedon [LeDee]. It makes us that much more dynamic.”

### **On his history of big scoring nights vs Wyoming:**

“Coach Dutcher said their game plan was to sag off. Back in Wyoming last year, they sagged off me, and I could knock down shots. This game, they sagged off a little bit and instead of just jacking up threes, I got into the paint and was able to get downhill in transition, which opened up my game a little bit more. Credit to my coaches and teammates for putting me in that position.”

## Senior Guard Darrion Trammell

### **On Coach Dutcher’s views of shot selection:**

“Shot selection was definitely a green light from Coach. If you believe in it, he’s going to believe in it. That’s the beauty of playing here. I’ve had a good mix of coaches that reel guys in. For him, it’s just about believing in yourself. He believes in the work that we put in. He knows we’re in the gym. At that point, it’s just being confident and knowing that your coach is confident in you.”

### **On his momentum going into the second half:**

“I was just taking what Wyoming gave me. They were ducking under a lot. I didn’t really settle. I wanted to keep going downhill and getting in the paint. We talked about that at halftime – getting in the paint.”

## Wyoming Head Coach Jeff Linder

### **Opening statement:**

“There are no moral victories, but I liked our effort and performance in one of the tougher places in the country to play against a very experienced team. Our guys battled hard and probably wore down a little bit. Give credit to San Diego State; that’s what they do to teams. As we made our way from the Nevada game and this game, there were a lot of good things to take away from both. We’re getting better. Obviously, not having another body like Kobe Newton in a game like this definitely hurts. We’ll go back and we’ll learn from this one and then turn around and get ready for Colorado State in the Border War on Saturday.”

### **On the difference between the first half and the second half:**

"The difference was that in the first half, we were able to keep them out of the paint. We did a good job of understanding the scouting report. In the second half, they just got into the paint too much and that's obviously why they shot 66%."

**-SDSU-**