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San Diego State vs. Fresno State Postgame Quotes

No. 21 San Diego State 45, Fresno State 43

Save Mart Center | Fresno, Calif. | February 15, 2023

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"Gutty...that's all you can say. I mean, I just feel like everybody has to win a game like this to have the kind of year you want to have. It wasn't like we decided to play that way, Fresno State made us play that way. They were great on defense, like we thought they would be. Both teams have a defensive culture and mindset. So, everyone will say, 'well, Orlando (Robinson) was gone. It should have had easier task' or 'they have a losing record.' I mean, they didn't play like a team that had a losing record to me. They played inspired, with pride and well coached. And it was a battle. And I'd like to look on the positives and say, our defense was incredible tonight. I mean, their two best players go we'll combine 1-of-18 from three and as a team they're two for 25 for the game. That doesn't just happen. They're not just missing open shots, they're contested. The only thing that was probably not great, was all the long rebounds. You know, they had 12 offensive rebounds. I think we had nine, but every long rebound, it just seemed to find them."

On closing a close game:

"At Colorado State, we won that in a close game. This was a close game. You've got to play some close games. We got big stops down the stretch and then, made just enough free throws to get the win. But I mean, we weren't great at the line. We had Jaden (LeDee) and Nate (Mensah) they five men and those guys have got to step up and make those. But they got Nate he got rebounds. It wasn't like we ran a play, and they grabbed them. We got a rebound and they grabbed the rebounder."

On if he was ever concerned that the team might not win:

"No, I just felt we're going to win the whole time. I just didn't think we're going to lose the game to be honest with you. We were playing good on defense, and we made just enough offensive plays to win the game. They (Fresno State) have had a lot of games like this. They haven't got on the other end of them. So, we found a way to get a hard-fought road win. If you look at it, and I don't know if it stands now, but going into this game, we're the only team in the conference with a winning record on the road. Everyone else was like three and three and puts us at six and one on the road. That's incredible. That doesn't just happen with luck. It doesn't just happen with the luck of the draw. We haven't played a couple of these teams on the road, but we are really tough on the road. And we were tough here tonight."

San Diego State Senior Forward Keshad Johnson

On playing Fresno State:

"Every time we play Fresno State, you know, it's a gritty game. Justin Hudson, who came from San Diego State, he carried the same coach that we carry. So, we knew what to expect going into this game. It was going to be a tough versus tough, whoever's going to be mentally and physically tough is going to come out with the win and thank God we did that."

On if he ever feels that for the team it's just not the Aztecs night:

"You're never supposed to think that as a basketball player. It's always a next play mentality. And the most important thing is just to come out with the win. You got to do what you got to do. Whether you had a bad game or not individually we all come together as a collective and get that W."

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