

San Diego State Postgame Quotes vs. Fresno State
San Diego, Calif | Viejas Arena
Thursday, March 3, 2022

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"I don't think I can remember all the plays that happened. It was such a scramble at the end. I can't remember who shot what or who missed what. It wasn't pretty, but it was a beautiful victory."

On Keshad's Johnson's block at the end of the second overtime:

"They came off that high ball screen and you can't help very long off Orlando Robinson because he will pop out and shoot a three. They left a guy under the basket, and we had to decide, can you come and attack the ball? A couple plays before that guy almost had a tip-in because we came over, so it's the fine line. If you come over, you have to make a play because if they miss, they're all alone on the backside rebound. Keshad timed it up, got a piece of it and it was a game winning play."

On all the close games the Aztecs have played:

"There's been a lot of them, and I told them in a locker after the game, 'That was so much fun, I think we'll do it again on Saturday.' We don't have time to really enjoy this. We have to get up tomorrow, go to practice and fly to Reno. We'll celebrate it tonight, but we have to go back to work, and we've got to win another game."

On the final play of regulation and if SDSU tried to foul:

"It's a fine line. Usually if it's under a certain amount of time, we tell the refs we're going to foul but there were 20 some seconds to go in the game when they brought it up, so we weren't going to foul. All of a sudden it got down to eight or nine seconds, we yelled foul, but the refs sometimes don't want to determine the game. Even though I think we fouled them, they didn't want to call it, so I can't blame them for that. A lot of times they want to know if you are going to foul up three. They asked that question and I didn't comment. We didn't talk about it because there was too much time in the game. Then we scrambled and tried to foul them, and they hit a three and you just roll your eyes."

On the performances of Tahirou Diabate and Joshua Tomaic:

"They're great defensively. We didn't double at all. We played one-on-one straight up with maybe the best big man in the conference and our guys did a great job. Yeah he scored but golly, it's one-on-one with a big-time player so he's going to score but I think by and large, we did a good job of denying him and pushing him further from the basket."

Matt Bradley, San Diego State senior guard

On the team's emotions after the win:

"It was a hard-fought game. We fought up in Wyoming and had a little time to prepare. We came here knowing Fresno State was looking to bounce back from the way we beat them up in their house. It was tough, hats off to them. They competed hard. We fought to the end, and we got it done and I'm really happy for our guys."

On his basket to force overtime:

"I feel like when I can get my shot off, I'm going to find them. The rim seemed really wide open for me, it was a big hole. I kept shooting and I was just trusting that they kept coming back to me and they're telling me like, we've got to win this game. Miss or make, I just need to do what I need to do and luckily they fell through for me."

Keshad Johnson, San Diego State junior forward

On his mentality:

"I'm grateful for my teammates and my coaches. They were able to get me out of the mindset of worrying about that last play, getting on to the next play and getting the job done. I was grateful enough to come back and get the opportunity to help my team contribute to the win with the block."

On the seniors:

"They were ready, they were prepared, and they stepped up to the challenge. We all know [Orlando] Robinson is a great big in our league. Joshua at the end of the game, he got switched onto the ball and he made a good play to help us out. I just want to thank all my seniors. I learned a lot from them throughout the years."

On the student section:

"It's crazy, this was probably one of the most packed games of the year and you could feel that, when we made shots everyone went crazy. The Show was there, and we needed that extra boost."

On the end of the 2nd overtime:

"There's not too much going through your mind. It's like a real blank moment. It's hard to pinpoint what's really going on. You're just in the middle of the game and believe it or not everything seems to be moving in slow motion. We were just glad that the shot fell short, and then time expired."

Fresno State Head Coach Justin Hutson

Opening statement:

"What an incredible college basketball game. What a resilient performance by our young men and our coaching staff. We as coaches are proud of our guys, and we appreciate their fight. As a staff you're just trying to put your best players in the best position to win. In our program practice matters, and the guys have been practicing well for the last two or three weeks, and I'm proud of the effort we showed."

On the physical battle between the two teams:

"You get back to the hotel and you rest. You get on that plane tomorrow and you stay positive, you love on your guys. You talk a lot about the good stuff that we did. This is one where you erase the stuff that you didn't like. As a coach you are always going to analyze, you're going to say great job, way to compete, and go play Wyoming."

On moving forward:

"They hurt, you put your all into something and it's going to hurt sometimes. But that's what we signed up for. We have always responded well, and it doesn't always have to be a win for you to respond well. You respond by your togetherness and your effort in the next one."

On the possessions at the end of the first and second overtimes:

"The end of the first overtime we had a little less time, so we knew we had to get something quick because they were going to double team. In the second overtime, we missed Orlando [Robinson], we missed him. We flipped the screen, to put him in the post with the other four high, told them to throw him the ball and tell him to score. He was wide open down low, but we missed him. We didn't give him enough time to settle down there and we threw the ball back up top, and I told the guys that's on me."