



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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No. 7/6 San Diego State at Fresno State Postgame Quotes Save Mart Center | Fresno, Calif. January 14, 2020

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"It was hard fought. We knew it would be, and only a coach could appreciate it because the defense was so good both ways. Points were hard to come by. Our defense in the first half was as good as you're going to see. They shot 28 percent from the field. We shot 48 and then in the second half we held them to 44 percent which is pretty dang good too. They shot 35 percent for the game, so our defense was the anchor and we made enough timely plays to make sure we escaped here with a victory."

On the seeming difficulty in playing against Fresno State:

"Justin (Hutson) is a really good coach and yeah, he knows us, and he made everything hard. We like assisted baskets, but they don't help (on defense). They stay out on shooters and they make you score over there bigs one-on-one. So, from a coaching standpoint, it's frustrating at times because I want the kids to move the ball and kick it out and get Jordan (Schakel) threes but they're (Fresno State defenders) not leaving Jordan. They're not leaving anybody. So, a lot of the offense today was created one-on-one and attacking the basket and not having an ability to kick the ball out because they weren't helping. We had to make some timely plays attacking to the basket, and we did."

On the play of Fresno State's Orlando Robinson:

"The sky's the limit for him. I mean, he's going to be a thorn in everybody's side, not only the Mountain West but around the country. He's a terrific player. He plays the right way and passes the ball. He's under control and he's going to be a first-team all-conference player before he's done here."

On the team's play and in particular Malachi Flynn:

"We knew what we were getting (with Malachi), and he's been everything he's was billed to be. We've got a good group; the whole team is good. We don't fear putting anybody in the game. They all play smart. We're really smart defensively. Rarely do we make a mistake. We know what we're doing, and these kids are locked in. For the most part they play mistake free basketball at the defensive end."

San Diego State Junior Guard Malachi Flynn

On his overall game:

"As a point guard you can't do one thing. There are no point guards that just score. That's not how it goes anymore. A lot of them can score but they also can find people and do things on defense. I just try to do a little bit everything for this team."

On if getting an assist is as rewarding as scoring:

"Yeah, definitely. It's rewarding when you set a guy up for an open shot or layup, so that definitely feels good. I'm trying to put guys in the right spots throughout the game. I didn't have too many (assists) today but that's just how it goes. But it's definitely good feeling."

San Diego State Senior Forward Yanni Wetzel

On the transition from the four to the five position:

"A lot of credit goes out to Nathan (Mensah) because I it's tough down there going against bigger guys and protecting the paint. He was really the anchor to our defense a lot of the time. So, yeah, a lot of credit goes out to Nate for handling this job. I'm kind of adapting to that role and, finding little niches, which I can use to my ability to get around those big guys."

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