



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

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

**San Diego State 74, Fresno State 47**

Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | January 3, 2024

## **Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

### **Opening Statement:**

"It was a good way to open conference. It was a complete performance. When we guard like that, hold the opposition to 30 percent shooting somewhere in that range, outrebound by 11, and then shoot 50 percent from the field at home, then we're hard to beat. The key to our success though, is the defense and the rebounding. Last year we played them, and it was 45-43 for the final score and it was hard to come by points. We've proven we're capable of winning in many different games because our defense and rebounding usually carry us. That was good tonight, and you had a great offensive performance and you get the outcome that happened."

### **On what part of Fresno State presents a challenge:**

"Their head coach Justin Hutson is a very, very good coach. When you have a margin like this, you lose sight of that. But they defend at a high level. There's a reason we only scored 45 points last year. They guard us at a really high level. Today we executed well. We ran our stuff at a high level and made open shots. We made open threes and then, of course, Jaedon LeDee got going. He's capable of creating his own shot outside of the offense – just flash up to the elbow and go one-on-one with a spread floor, and he's dangerous. The combination of good offense and good players allowed us to score enough points to make it comfortable."

### **On taking conference matchups one game at a time:**

"One game at a time. Fresno is a good team. We were fortunate to get them here. There'll be tough at their place, and (UNLV) will be a good team. We'll just get ready for (UNLV), and then who's ever after that . . . San Jose (State). Then we'll get ready for them. Once we get through the first half of the league, then we'll know how everybody is. Until we play them, we won't know. We're getting ready one at a time and they're all good."

## **Senior Forward Micah Parrish**

### **On the shift of energy in tonight's game:**

"It started in practice. It is the first game of the conference, so all of the coaches were on edge letting us know that this is when the season really starts. It's important for us to win these conference games, especially at the beginning of the schedule. When we have home games, we try to go undefeated at home because we know away games in this conference are very tough. It

was just how urgent all of the coaching staff was. As players, we had to turn it up a notch in practice, so we all know what effects it had.

**On his mentality going into tonight's game after a rough game personally at Gonzaga:**

"Gonzaga just wasn't my game. But we won and that's all that matters at the end of the day. We won. My teammates played well. Darrion [Trammell] had a boost off the bench; He played really well. Reese [Waters] played a really good game. Jay Pal and Miles [Heide] came in and played really well. My teammates picked up for me and that's what I needed from them. My mentality on tonight's game is that everybody's going to have one of those games throughout the year. I hate that it had that it had to be against Gonzaga, but at least we got the win.

## Senior Guard Lamont Butler

**On his mindset during the game:**

"I try to be aggressive. I have to play with my instincts. I know the right reads to make and what passes to make. I am trying to do that consistently and be aggressive and get to the rim, get to the paint, and create plays for myself or others."

**On Jaedon LeDee's performance in tonight's game:**

"Jaedon is a difference maker. He creates a lot of tension just because of his scoring progress. He got it going in the second half, a little bit more than the first half, but he's always a threat on the court. We always know he will get it going at some point, and he was also effective on defense. The offense is great, but defensively, he's been really good for us too."

## Fresno State Head Coach Justin Hutson

**Opening Statement:**

"We've got good guys, but we've got to be able to play in front of the crowd. The ball stays on one side of the floor. We drive in there, and if the first shot's not open, we just toss it back in. You've seen this movie before, and then you settle down in the second half when your butt is already kicked, and you change it from side to side, and you take good shots. If you miss them, okay, but their defense was so good we missed free throws. We were 5-15 from the line. We can't even make a free throw. Our guys kept fighting. They kept fighting, and they played hard. There were some stretches where we gave up some easy baskets and didn't do some stuff, but that's going to happen playing a Top 25 team in front of 12,000 people."

**On how good SDSU is compared to last year's team:**

"SDSU is probably a little more explosive scoring. I think sometimes you miss [Nathan] Mensah at the rim. I mean, you put Mensah and Keshad [Johson] and [Lamont] Butler – you're going to have a pretty damn good defensive team. They score the ball in stretches, where you look and say, and not only the great stuff that they run but also getting stuff on their own."

**-SDSU-**