



2019 AIR FORCE RESERVE MW MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTERFINAL GAME #3 (March 14, 2019)

GAME NOTES

Final Score: No. 2 Seed Utah State 91, No. 7 Seed New Mexico 83

- With the win, No. 2 seed Utah State advances to the semifinal of the Mountain West Men's Basketball Championship for the second-straight year. The Aggies will take on the winner of No. 3 Fresno State vs. No. 6 Air Force on Friday, March 15, at 8:30 p.m. PT.
- The 91 points for Utah State are a program-record in the Mountain West tournament.
- The Aggies scored 52 points in the second half, tied for the fourth-most points in a half in tournament history.
- In the game, Utah State shot 35-of-45 from the free throw line. The 35 made free throws set a single-game tournament record, surpassing the previous mark of 34 by UNLV vs. Air Force on March 9, 2016, while the 45 attempts are tied for the most in tournament history, also held by BYU vs. Wyoming on March 9, 2007.
- 2019 Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year **Neemias Queta** finished with six blocks, tying for the third-most blocks in tournament history and setting a freshman record. The six blocks were the most blocks in a Mountain West tournament game since UNLV's Joel Anthony had eight blocks vs. Colorado State on March 9, 2007.
- 2019 Mountain West Player of the Year **Sam Merrill** registered his 16th 20-point game of the season with a team-high 23 points and nine assists. Merrill went 11-of-12 from the free-throw line.
- Additionally, Merrill moved up to No. 6 on Utah State's single-season scoring record list, passing Shaler Halimon, who had 671 points in the 1967-68 season. Merrill is up to 675 points on the year.
- Utah State freshman forward **Justin Bean** registered his first-career double-double with 14 points and 15 rebounds, setting career highs in both categories.
- The Aggies pulled down 46 rebounds in the game, which is tied for the fourth-most single-game rebounds by a team in the MW Men's Basketball Championship history.
- In the first half, Utah State had more turnovers (15) than it averaged on the season coming into tonight (12.7). In the game, Utah State had a season-high 24 turnovers. The Aggies had previously been 0-2 this season when committing at least 20 turnovers in a game.

- New Mexico's pressure-defense racked up 12 steals, which is tied for the fifth-most in tournament history.
- Leading the way for the Lobos was senior guard **Anthony Mathis**, who had a career-high five steals, all in the first half. Mathis' previous career high had been four steals, set vs. Northern New Mexico on Nov. 11, 2017.
- New Mexico's sophomore forward **Vance Jackson** led the team in scoring for the second time in as many nights with 25 points to go along with five assists.
- It marked the fifth-consecutive double-digit scoring effort for Jackson, and the first time in his career that the sophomore has scored 20-plus points in back-to-back games. Over the last five games, Jackson averaged 17.6 points per game.