

## 2018 MOUNTAIN WEST MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINAL #2 (March 9, 2018)

### GAME NOTES

**Final Score: No. 3 Seed New Mexico 83, No. 7 Seed Utah State 68**

- New Mexico advances to the championship game of the MW Tournament for the sixth time in program history, and the first time since 2014. The Lobos are 4-1 all-time in the title contest and have won in each of their last four appearances (2005, 2012, 2013, 2014).
- The winner of the MW Championship title game between New Mexico and San Diego State will secure its league-best fifth crown. The Lobos and Aztecs have met twice before in the title tilt in 2012 and 2014, both of which were won by UNM.
- Saturday's championship game will feature a pair of coaches in their first season at the helm of their respective programs, **Brian Dutcher** (SDSU) and **Paul Weir** (UNM).
- This is the first time since 2013 that a No. 3 seed has advanced to the championship game of the Mountain West Tournament. No. 3 seeds are 1-3 in the title game, with the only win coming in 2004 when Utah knocked off No. 4 seed UNLV.
- New Mexico enters the title contest riding a season-best seven game win streak.
- The Lobos are now 18-14 all-time in the Conference tournament, including a 6-2 ledger in the semifinal round.
- New Mexico improved its all-time record versus Utah State to 11-23. Friday's matchup was the first between the Lobos and Aggies in the MW Championship.
- Utah State was held to just 25 points in the first half, matching its second-lowest total of the season in the opening 20 minutes of play.
- After falling behind 20-12 at the 9:45 mark of the first half, the Lobos ended the stanza on a 25-5 run to take a 12-point lead into the intermission.
- New Mexico continued its run at the beginning of the second half, opening the stanza on a 14-5 spurt to push its lead to a game-high 23 points (53-30).
- **Troy Simmons** led four players in double-digit scoring for the Lobos with 17 points.
- Utah State's **Sam Merrill** tied with Simmons for the game high in points with 17.
- The New Mexico bench produced 26 points compared to just five for the Utah State reserves.
- The Lobos held a 10-point edge in points off turnovers, 23-13.