



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

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**San Diego State Men's Basketball Press Conference  
March 26, 2024**

### **Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

#### **Opening Statement:**

"We're excited to get off to Boston. The good news is we're not playing the Celtics, but the bad news is that we're playing UConn. We're up for the challenge. It's like playing a road game. I'm sure it will be packed with UConn fans. Our Aztec faithful will travel the best they can but we're ready for the challenge. We're looking forward to it and we'll try to come out of there with a couple of victories."

#### **On playing UConn in a rematch of last year's title game:**

"As much as the teams played each other a year ago, there are a lot of new pieces on both teams, which will make it interesting. Last year, we had their lead down to five points with about five minutes to go before they closed us out. If we can keep it close and give ourselves an opportunity to win the game at the end, I like our chances."

#### **On UConn's forwards:**

"They have two big men, that's the problem. If you get the first one in foul trouble, they have another one just as good coming off the bench. They're dynamic athletically. They dunk everything around the rim, block shots and change the game defensively so we're going to have to pay attention and not just throw shots up there but throw good shots up there."

#### **On the hostile environment:**

"Hopefully, Iowa State and Illinois have a lot of fans there because I know they'd rather play San Diego State than UConn. Hopefully, we'll have all the fan bases there cheering for the Aztecs. We played in hostile environments all year, every place we go is a sellout. We've played in these kinds of environments, so I think we'll be ready for it."

#### **On the team's hot starts in the last two games:**

"I must be doing a better job of coaching. We're scoring the ball earlier. When you make shots, everything looks easier. We made shots and got off to good starts and hopefully that will continue against UConn."

### **Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee**

#### **On the keys to beating UConn:**

"They're a different team than last year. We watched some film, and they get back in transition really well so we have to get back in transition. They play physically. They're a good team, we're a good team, so we just have to go out there and fight."

**On UConn's center:**

"He's real big. I have to use my speed and athleticism to make a move and use what I do differently than him."

**On playing in a hostile environment:**

"It's fine. It's the Sweet 16. It's going to be what it's going to be. We just have to go out there and play and have fun. It's do or die so no matter who is out there, we have to go out and play."

## **Senior Guard Lamont Butler**

**On playing in the Sweet 16 and the short turnaround:**

"I'm really excited for a chance to be in the Sweet 16. That is a blessing. We're really excited. Quick turnaround but we're locked in. There are not too many times you get to play the number one team in the country. UConn is a really good team but we're up for the challenge."

**On playing UConn in a rematch of last year's title game:**

"They got us last year in the National Championship game. Of course, we wanted to win the national championship. We have to go through them again to get to where we want to be. We can't wait. It's a new year. We lost to those guys last year so now it's time for us to get back. We're going out there with a positive mindset. Everybody is locked in so we're going to be good."

**On beating the top ranked team in last year's Sweet 16:**

"We know we can do it. We did it last year and we can do it again. We've got the right pieces so we just have to lock in and follow the game plan and go out there and win."

**-SDSU-**