

**Utah State Men's Basketball**  
**Postgame Quotes**  
**vs. San Diego State – Jan. 4, 2020**

**Utah State Head Coach Craig Smith**

"First of all, congratulations to San Diego State. That was a great win for them. Not many people have beaten us at our place. Unbelievable crowd, great atmosphere, it's one of the best atmospheres in college basketball. I want to thank our fans for coming out and helping us out. They're really good. They made a lot of big-time plays. They made a lot of plays late in the clock in the first half. You have to give them a lot of credit. It's hard to beat a quality team like that when they shoot 50.9 percent for the game.

"We had some self-inflicted things as well. From the free throw line, the first half we go 5-for-10, plus we miss a front end. We're one of the best free throw shooting teams in the country, and sometimes those things happen. We have to be able to consistently knock those down. Late in the game we made a good rally and gave ourselves a chance. The crowd was really into it and we were down seven. We just had some things that were self-inflicted, they didn't really cause us to do, we did it ourselves.

"They made us pay and that's what great teams do. I'm proud of our effort, we played our tails off. We had some good looks, they just didn't fall. We have to get that shored up. We've got to bounce back. We have three games in seven days. It's the first time in 52 games where we lost back-to-back games. It was a tough week for the Aggies, certainly, but we have no time to feel sorry for ourselves and sulk. It should hurt, it should be painful. When you play hard and you give it everything you got, it doesn't always turn out the way you want it to. I was proud of our effort and we're going to find out what we're really made of tomorrow and Monday. Clune Arena at Air Force is not an easy place to play, and they can put points up in a hurry."

**Utah State Senior Guard Sam Merrill**

"Lots of credit to San Diego State. They're a very good team, much improved. We didn't play our best. I thought our energy and mindset was much better from what happened on Wednesday, but we still didn't play our best. Credit to our crowd, who was fantastic. It's unfortunate that we disappointed them, but lots of credit to San Diego State, who's a very good team."

**Utah State Sophomore Center Neemias Queta**

"We played good, San Diego State just played better. Hats off to them. They hit big shots whenever they needed to. We're going to keep on climbing and get better with these losses. We're going to grow from them."

**San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

"Great team effort. The No. 1 key to the game was rebounding, the team that is plus-10 on the year on their opponents, and we outrebound them by four. We accomplished the first stat. We shared the ball, not as many assists as I thought we had, but we played well offensively. We found a lot of comfort in the high ball screen and it was good for us. Our kids executed. The No. 1 word on our board was trust. Trust yourself, trust your teammates, trust your coaches, and you're going to have good results."