



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

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### **Head Basketball Coach Brian Dutcher:**

#### **Opening Statement:**

“Well, we’re excited to get a rivalry game on the schedule again. BYU, San Diego State, both fan bases love it, we love it as coaches. Mark Pope and I have spent a lot of time talking about this game, trying to keep it on the schedule because we know how valuable it is to both teams. Both of us coming off openers, we both got victories, obviously they were wishing they probably put more points on the board but we’re both works in progress. They want to play fast. They turned it over too much; they’ll correct some of that stuff. But with returning players like Traore, Spencer Johnson, and Gideon George, they’ve got a good mix of returners and newcomers like Rudi Williams and Waterman that they’re dangerous. Both teams are going to be good, the question is how good are we going to be early and we’re going to find that out on Friday.”

#### **On the need for both programs to play this game and if it will be harder to schedule when BYU joins the Big 12:**

“I’m not sure if it will or not, I think because the fan bases enjoy it so much, there’s some history to the game, that it’s an easy one to say yes to. We love playing BYU, and I think they enjoy playing us. I know they like playing us, they beat us in the last two, so they really like it. So, we’ll see what tomorrow holds. But I’d like to keep the series going if Coach Pope was up to it.”

#### **On any challenges for the first road game against Stanford on Tuesday:**

“It will be the first road game, which is always, now we have to get on a plane, we have to fly, stay in a hotel. The prep is different, the night before film session, and for the new guys, it’ll be a different experience. They’ve all played road games, obviously. But how we go about things might be different than they’re used to. So, it’ll be a new experience, a new way to get ready, and hopefully they’ll be up for that. I know Stanford’s going to be very good and very tough in their home building.”

#### **On Rudi Williams and his attributes:**

“Well, obviously Rudi made an official visit here to San Diego State before deciding on BYU so he’s a lights out shooter. He’s a really good playmaker, which he’s doing more of from BYU. To be honest with you, I don’t think he’s out looking for a shot right now. He’s trying to get his teammates involved. But I think as the season gets going, and he gets more comfortable, I think he’ll be hunting a shot a little bit more, which will be a good thing for them. And for him.”

**On the most serving memory of this rivalry:**

“Probably just the atmosphere of the game when Kawhi and Jimmer played in here, where the fans were lined up around campus around the building, 24 or 48 hours in advance. To have that atmosphere, obviously, I didn't like the outcome. They came in here and beat us. Jimmer was dynamic, and we played them a couple short weeks later a month later, for the Mountain West tournament championship, and we beat them in that game. So that's what rivalries are, you're going to lose some and win some. But every game is really competitive.”

**Senior Guard Adam Seiko**

**On if it is a rivalry for the players:**

“Yeah, we do believe it's a rivalry for us. With all the battles we have had in the past with them way before I came here, we've had some incredible battles when I was here, we lost the past two years to them disappointingly. This is a game that we definitely want to go in and use all of our time on the court so you can really understand what they do on the court. Everybody on this team feels that energy and the fans feel the energy, I'm pretty sure it's going to be sold out in here. So, we're ready to go for this one.”

**On what he remembers most about the game in Provo the year he started 26-0:**

“Leading up into that game we didn't really know what we were going to be as a team. Obviously, it was our first game. We knew we were going to be good. And they had a very solid team as well. They had a great group of guys. Jordan Schakel had a huge game, put us over the top. And we were able to come up with a win over there, especially in Provo, it's hard to win over there, it's super hard to win. So that was a great start to our incredible run. And hopefully we can get them back this year.

**On how his perspective has changed from being a young player to where he is now in his career:**

“Yeah, every season is different. I will say the same thing that I want to do every year when I come in is to be a communicator, to communicate to the new guys. When I was younger, I was more taking everything in or learning from the new guys, and now to be in that position that they were in, I can kind of see how it was for the freshmen. You know, the guys who didn't maybe get as much playing time. So, I can encourage these guys that I've been through the same thing. And then the transfers as well, you know, I've seen a lot of transfers. We have some really good transfers here as well. So, I just want to be a guy that always communicates as a leader, vocally and by example. They're all great listeners. They're all coachable guys. So, it's great to see them.”