



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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### San Diego State at San Jose State Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 81, San Jose State 78

Provident Credit Union Event Center | San Jose, Calif. | January 9, 2024

## Head Coach Brian Dutcher

### Opening Statement:

"It's hard to win a college basketball game. As crazy as it may sound, this is exactly how I thought the game would go. They're dynamic offensively. The only thing I thought we might be able to do was tire out the point guard. He is a warrior. He went full court pressure with Darrion [Trammell] and Lamont [Butler] guarding him 90 feet the entire game. He stood up to it and was aggressive down the end, attacking the basket and looked like he had fresh legs. That's a credit to him and the strength and conditioning that he has gone through to put himself in that kind of position. We knew that it was going to be this kind of game. I don't want to look like "Oh, you were overlooking San Jose for New Mexico." That's the furthest thing from the fact. Tim Miles has got a good team this year. They just have not won the close game. That's the difference between having the year we're having and the year they're having."

### On what was so difficult about guarding San Jose State:

"[Their offense] gets you extending because they shoot it from multiple positions. What they do, and we haven't faced it a lot this year, is they're catching to the dribble. They're already starting to drive as they catch the ball. They're curling their cuts and they're already starting downhill as the ball hits their hands. We tried to prepare for that but obviously you have to get better at guarding that. I thought we did a good job. When we had them at a standstill, when we had them switch ball screens, I thought we did a good job keeping them in front of us. I thought they hurt us in the first half catching to the dribble."

### On Jay Pal's performance:

"he went from goat and I'm not saying Greatest of All Time to hero. He messed the switch up. Like we said all game, when they switch so many ball screens, there's going to be confusion whether you should switch or not switch. That's when he should've switched. We talked about switching it. He didn't switch but we also talked about "We're going to make mistakes, don't quit on a play." Don't look at each other and say "Oh, you should have been there. I should have done this. Just keep playing." To his credit, he kept playing and made a timely block."

### On San Diego State's mentality:

"Just fix it. Have a fix it mentality. That's what we did and even the play down the stretch where Micah [Parrish] had stripped the ball on a basic inbounds. Throw it into the guard. We hadn't had success all game and he knocked it off his leg to get us another possession and one less for them. We made plays down the stretch to win this game."

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## Senior Forward Jaedon LeDee

### **On the game being close:**

"Credit to San Jose State. They played their butts off. Their offense is really hard to guard and they shot to mess up the ball. Credit to them."

### **On if the team was worried about a lose that would hurt its resume:**

"For sure. We went into the locker room talking about how we can't get these back. We came out, especially with the core group that was playing last year in the Final Four, we're used to tight games. We had to keep going and keep wearing them down."

### **On Jay Pal's performance:**

"Jay Pal is coming along as the season is going. He brings energy on the glass. He's so skilled and he just made a huge play at the end, a game-winning play."

### **On the final play:**

I saw my man screened out and I think there was a second screen behind me. I wasn't sure what happened, they might have had two on the ball. Like coach just said, you don't stop playing. He made an awesome play."

### **On San Diego State winning a lot of close games:**

I think that's due some of the experience that we have. We have a lot of experienced guys on the team. We don't get rattled when things get going. We just stay the course and we pulled one out tonight."

**-SDSU-**