



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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### [7] San Diego State vs. [2] New Mexico Postgame Quotes

San Diego State 67, New Mexico 56

Thomas & Mack Center | Las Vegas, Nev. | March 11, 2024

## Head Coach Stacie Terry-Hutson

### Opening Statement:

"I'm really proud of our team. I know I say that a lot, but I'm just overwhelmed with emotion how we're able to play for each other, play as hard as we are, and really proud of our defense. We've struggled on that side of the ball for the majority of the season, and these past two or three weeks we've really, really locked in. When you play defense like we have in late February and into March, you're going to give yourself a great chance to win. A couple of things that stand out to me are the rebounding differential and limiting the second-chance points. New Mexico is an outstanding rebounding team. And for us to beat them by 20, it helped by limiting the second-chance points. I'm excited for my girls to continue to play. I was talking to my staff. Only us in our circle, in our administration understand all the adversity that we've been through this year, so for them to have some success and be locked in is just really fun to watch."

### On her pregame message to the team:

"This is a great rivalry between the two of us. They play fast. We want to try to play fast. We just wanted to eliminate some of the mistakes that we made when we were in New Mexico. Our game goal was to limit the three. They have two of the best guards in the league in [Aniyah] Augmon and [Nyah] Wilson that can get downhill. We knew we were going to struggle to guard then one-on-one, so we were trying just to limit the free-throws. We gave them 34 free-throws at home. We didn't want to foul, and we just were really focused on taking away the three ball. You could see that little bit of emphasis on [Paula] Reus and obviously [Viane] Cumber because they're such great three-point shooters. We knew we couldn't necessarily take away what those guards were going to do, but we wanted to limit the threes, and I thought we did a good job of that and limiting the second chance points."

### On San Diego State's rebounding:

"It was just toughness. This team has decided they're going to play for each other and play hard, and we're playing at a high level because we're just playing hard. The bench is into it. The coaches are locked in, where the staff is putting together great game plans. There are still areas to improve. The game plan was executed for the most part but when they started to pressure us, we fell apart a little bit, so we have to get better there. We don't have a true point guard. We've been playing all year like that. Abby has done a great job filling in. She fouled out and without her, we were struggling a little bit bringing the ball up. I thought kids like Meghan Fiso, Kim Villalobos, those guys that are point forwards kind of helped bring the ball up. Jazlen Green, who's been with us for a couple months, is doing a great job, just giving us some poise on the court. I'm just proud of the team effort. Our bench has been great, and I think that is key in March."

**On SDSU spreading the ball around:**

"We talk a lot about that. If you know me as a head coach, you know I talk a lot about sharing the ball. That's back-to-back nights with 19 assists. Our offense is flowing. My husband is always telling me, 'Your team just moves the ball, and they get it to the different side of the floor.' You'll see me lose my mind when we start going one-on-one. We're just not that team. When we share the ball and move it like we have done, we give ourselves a good chance to at least get a quality shot."

**On Meghan Fiso's performance:**

"She told me she's watching a lot of Michael Jordan stuff right now. She's locked in. She's been fantastic for us. We always knew that she could score the ball, but what I've been really proud of these last two games is her defensive effort. She's really trying to defend, and because of that I can keep her on the floor. She's doing a great job defensively, and that's really been the separation in her game. But she can score it. She shoots the ball at a high level. She shoots the three. Her midrange is pretty good, and she understands what we're trying to do. I'm really proud of what she's been doing."

## Senior Guard Jada Lewis

**On if San Diego State had a chip on their shoulder:**

"Definitely, we do have a chip on our shoulder, especially as a seventh seed. We came to prove ourselves. Conference didn't go the way we wanted it to go, but now is the time to show what we can do for real."

**On SDSU's defense:**

"A big thing this game was win at the elbow against the guards, and that's what we did for the most part. We had some slip by, but other than that we won the elbow, and they had to do something different. I think we did pretty good on defense."

**On SDSU's hot start:**

"I was just going to say it's a game of runs. We would go on a run. We needed to limit their runs, and then keep going on our run. That's what we did."

**On holding New Mexico's two top scorers scoreless in the first half:**

"It was tough. We got into foul trouble a little early, so we had to step up. Our bench players really stepped up. We went deep today, and it was really fun to play and fun to see."

**On closing the game out:**

"We kept doing what worked for us. That's how we stuck with it."

## Senior Forward Kim Villalobos

**On if San Diego State had a chip on their shoulder:**

"We were tied with four teams, so being seventh, we definitely want to win the championship. We feel like we are that team that can do it. Everyone in the locker room believes the same thing. We always have a chip on our shoulder, but we have everything we need in the locker room."

**On SDSU's defense:**

"We were relying on our defense, just like we did yesterday, just like we did against Wyoming in our last conference game. I think it builds the momentum for our offense and we just trust each other on the floor. I think everyone did great on defense."

**On SDSU's hot start:**

"After we got that fast start, I think our key was just staying poised because, there is a lot of energy in a game, but anything can happen in March. It's March, like they say. It takes staying poised and understanding that it's a 40-minute game, not just five, but five spurts of offense."

**On holding New Mexico's two top scorers scoreless in the first half:**

"That's a prop to the guards because I know they're very fast guards. They're good players. Props to them and doing a great job on defense."

**On closing the game out:**

"We just trust each other, trust what we've put into the game, trust how far we've come. It's the quarterfinal. Just understanding that, like I said, it's a 40-minute game. Anything can happen"

**-SDSU-**