



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

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### **Utah Valley at San Diego State Postgame Quotes**

**San Diego State 77, Utah Valley 66**

**Steve Fisher Court at Viejas Arena | San Diego, Calif. | December 3, 2025**

### **Head Coach Brian Dutcher**

#### **Opening Statement:**

"There goes part of our 59 points off the bench. They scored 77 and 59 off the bench. Three double-digit scorers off the bench, Pharaoh [Compton], Tae [Simmons] and BJ [Davis]. [Miles] Byrd got two IVs before the game today; he didn't practice for two days. He was sick, so he tried to come in, gut it out and play hard. [Miles] Heidi obviously went down, got undercut, fell on his back, so we couldn't use him. That's where our depth paid off for us. We had the depth to endure injuries, endure illness and still find a way to come out with a win. We fought and held a team to 66 points, so that's pretty good. We put in a game plan. We changed our ball screen coverage for this game and for three days we worked on it. We did a good job executing. I think our defense set the tone for their offense. They weren't running smoothly, and a lot of the things they did can be credited to how we defended them. Then we made a couple late game adjustments and we were able to follow those, too. We're making progress. I told them that we're not going to practice any different whether we win or lose. Practice is practice, and we have to get better. I'm not that guy. I tell them, 'Am I any different after a loss than I am after a win? No, I just come steady every day.' We have a steady program because we just work to get better. There are no highs and lows. Although we're disappointed when we lose, we're able to put it behind us quickly and move on to the next game, because you don't want to sit there and dwell on Troy. At some point in the season, you're going to feel pressure. We were feeling it a little bit early, trying to get our team better, and whether the outcome of these games change or not, we have to get better. We know that, and I thought we made a step in the right direction today."

#### **On starting two freshmen in the second half:**

"We started two freshmen in the second half within a veteran team. That's how much those guys are valued. Tae [Simmons] started the second half because of the way he rebounded in the first half. He made a lot of really big plays, but like a freshman, he broke down on a couple of defensive assignments late in the second half. With that being said, he's guarding their best player, Holcombe, who is the playmaker. [Jackson] Holcombe drives and makes plays for everyone, so that's a challenge when you put him, a freshman, on their best player. He did a good job responding for the most part. I'm pleased with the fact that we let them cut it to three, and we didn't give in or wilt. We found a way to play competitive basketball and built the lead back up in the last two minutes."

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**On BJ Davis coming off the bench:**

"Anybody who was watching the Aztecs play would say maybe the five best players aren't starting. BJ has obviously been one of our best players, but nobody else gives the spark he provides off the bench. He's been dynamic off the bench. He changes the rhythm of the game when he comes in. I try to tell BJ every day how much I value him, and I don't want him to be sad he's not starting when he's playing so well, because what he's providing us off the bench is immeasurably important."

**Freshman Forward Tae Simmons****On his performance:**

"We had good energy offensively, and I feel like it's the same on defense, just reading the ball. My mentality is just 'How bad do you really want it?' I felt I wanted it more than the other guy, so I was going to go get it."

**On bouncing back after the home court loss to Troy:**

"We take home court seriously. That's our mentality. You can't dwell on the losses, because then you're just going to hold yourself back."

**Junior Guard BJ Davis****On teammate Tae Simmons' performance tonight:**

"Tae was fantastic. For a freshman to be doing what he's doing, I think his ceiling is incredible. He's an amazing player, and for him to be this young is phenomenal."

**On Utah Valley's effort and defensive adjustments:**

"Utah Valley stuck through it the whole way and made some big shots. They stayed together, and they kept fighting through it all. We have to be more organized. The last few games, we've given up way too many points. Being SDSU, this is a defensive program. Coach has been harping on us all week about defense, playing hard, and having each other's back, which allows us to run on offense."

**Utah Valley Head Coach Todd Phillips****Opening Statement:**

"I was very proud of our guys. I thought our grit was there, and we were a pretty good defensive team. Obviously, I think they're an unbelievable offensive team. We actually guarded pretty well, so they didn't shoot it like they normally do from three tonight. We just kind of hung around and made some runs. San Diego State is a really good team of spurts, like, they jump on you and all of a sudden, it's 8-10 points. We talked about that for two days, like, 'Hey, if you can withstand those, stay in the game, and then you can make a run of your own.' They're playing a lot of guys right now, and so that also gets a little tricky sometimes, too, of the rhythm. You know, this guy now comes out, where's the rhythm of what's going on? So that was big for us to stay in the game."