



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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San Diego State at Arizona Postgame Quotes

Arizona 82, San Diego State 67

McKale Center at Alkeme Arena | Tucson, Ariz. | October 16, 2026

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:

"We played. We competed. I mean, it's the same thing as last year. We gave them 20 rebounds and turned it over 16 times. I think we did a good job in the first half not turning over, but this is the first time we've played together for a long period of time. So, we fought through some tough stretches, which I liked. We got tired, which is obvious. When you're out there with your first game on the road, in that first segment emotions are high. You start playing and you get winded, but I thought we did a good job gathering ourselves. I thought when we moved, we got some good offensive things done. As the game went on, we got a little tired and stood around too much, but I'm encouraged for a first scrimmage. It was Bear [Cherry]'s first game in over a year off and Latrell [Davis]' first game in over a year off. We know what those guys have. Bear had great numbers. He was 6-12 from the field, nine rebounds, double figure points. He had a good numbers game, but I have a higher expectation of him. Latrell was 0-8, but we've seen him not miss a shot in practice, so I don't worry about that. I just think he'll get going eventually here as he plays a little bit after missing a month with that shoulder."

On what needs to be improved offensively:

"We need to take better care of the ball. We had 16 turnovers. We need to move more and not stand still. Learn our plays better. When we ran our plays, we had great success, but we broke down and forgot our responsibilities on some of them. Bear [Cherry]'s up top, not rolling hard to the basket, and the ball goes to the low post. Not diving hard to the weak side. Just stuff that will happen over time. It's not a season-long problem. It's stuff that you see, and you work on. They're good kids. They're good players. They want to get better, and we just have to demand more of them in certain situations."

Sophomore Forward Tae Simmons

On the team's performance:

"We don't want to make any excuses. We lost, that's just the way it is. Thankfully, it's an exhibition game, so it's still technically a clean slate, but we can't be anything but encouraged. This is two of our Europeans' first time ever playing in America, Bear [Cherry]'s first game back in a whole entire year, Latrell [Davis]' first game, Elzie [Harrington]'s first game. The fact that we were able to be there with them that whole time kind of shows what we're careful of. I'm excited because playing such a good

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team at first shows where we're at, and now we can only go get better from here. We were out-rebounded, which again, like I've said before many times, Dutch says it all the time: we can't win if we get out-rebounded. I think it just comes with learning and just getting our stamina."

On a positive from tonight's game:

"In the first half, we moved the ball really well, and I think our defense was really good. Like I said, the struggle was just finishing with a rebound, but I feel like we were in our gaps. We made them take tough shots, and they're a good team, so they're going to make some of those tough shots. That's just the way it is. But I was really happy with our defense for the most part."

Senior Guard Isaiah Sy

On his takeaways from the team's performance:

"We had a couple injury problems. In the first exhibition, as you know, we just try to compete as hard as we can. I feel like we have a lot of adjustment to do, and for a first exhibition, I'm pretty happy with what the guys are showing. I feel like now we know the way we play. We have an expectation for what's coming."

On what he hopes to improve despite scoring 17 points:

"I feel like I could go way more to the board. I didn't participate enough in the defensive or offensive rebound, so I just need to improve on defense."

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