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San Diego State Men's Basketball Press Conference
November 23, 2026

Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening Statement:
"We've had a couple good days of practice and we're ready to head to Las Vegas for the Players Era event. Iowa State is a difficult opponent. They're well-coached and talented, and I think we're ready for the challenge. We have to make sure we rebound the basketball. They're big, strong and aggressive. That might be the deciding factor in the game: our ability to rebound against a big, strong team."

On how the team matches up against Iowa State:
"T.J. [Otzelberger] is a really good coach. They do some things out of the box that a lot of people don't do. They send the ball down the baseline, trap the baseline drive and create turnovers. They create 19 turnovers a game. They'll be lobbing the ball to the rim. We may see more lobs in this game than we see the rest of the year. They do some things we're going to have to prepare for, and I think we've done a good job prepping."

On how the exhibition game vs. Arizona prepared the team for Players Era:
"The Arizona game is probably the greatest example [of facing a higher quality opponent] with their size and strength. They got 20 offensive rebounds on us. We have to learn from history, or we'll be doomed to repeat it. We have to make sure that we do a good job of trying to keep the opposition off the glass. We have in practice, but this will be the test."

On not focusing on predicted win probabilities:
"I just look at the other team. I try to see if we match up physically with them. If we come up with the right game plan, then we'll have an opportunity to win the game. We've got good, talented players. I think we have a solid game plan, and we'll go out there and see what it looks like in Las Vegas."

Sophomore Forward Tae Simmons

On looking forward to the Players Era tournament:
"For most people, especially our team, it's the first time we get to experience the highest level of competition. The first five

[games of the season] are to test yourself a little bit. We've been talking about it in practice; this week is like you're moving up a weight class. I think it's true in the sense of the players and the teams that we'll play against and their schemes. It's more locked in. So, I'm excited to see how we face it because we haven't played a top team since Arizona and USC. Now that we're put together, I think we have a really good chance."

On what the team learned in the exhibition games vs. Arizona and USC:
"[We learned we needed to improve] our turnovers and rebounds. Our offensive capability this year is better than it has been in recent years, and now we know those mistakes, like 10 plus turnovers, are not going to be able to beat too many teams. We'll be able to beat lesser teams, and that's no offense to anybody. Our offense can carry us in certain aspects, but when we're getting out rebounded by 10 and we have 16 turnovers, that's just not going to win these games. These teams are not going to let that slide. We got outrebounded and had too many turnovers in those first two exhibition games, and that's why we lost. Now that we realize that, I think we've done a lot better in those areas."

On the matchup against Iowa State:
"[Iowa State is] super aggressive. The most aggressive I think we've played. In the film that we've been watching, they play super physical. They foul a lot, so that's something we have to deal with. They only average four threes a game, which is probably the lowest we'll face this season. The problem is they get about 41% of their misses, which is absolutely insane. That just shows that they're relentless on the boards, and it comes from all five players. We just need to realize rebounding is going to win the game. I think we're going to rebound well and cut down our turnovers"

Junior Guard Latrell Davis

On the benefit of facing tougher opponents early in the season:
"[A step up in competition] is going to be great for the team - a good test to get us ready for conference. We have some big teams in the Pac-12 that are well-put-together and know how to play basketball, so it's going to be good. The physicality is going to be different, the height is going to be different, and the way they scout is going to be different. It's just going to be a good test for us to see where we are as a team. We've done well so far, starting off 5-0, and we're looking to expand."

On his performance in the first five games:
"I'm happy with how I started [the season]. My defense can get better, but offensively, I'm doing what I can. My teammates are helping me get going with their praise and feeding me the ball. I'm getting put in the right positions, and they're helping me out immensely with my confidence."

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