



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | @AZTECSPR | #GOAZTECS

SDSU Men's Basketball vs. No. 1/3 Duke – Preview Quotes **Nov. 16, 2018**

San Diego State Head Coach Brian Dutcher

Opening statement:

"Who's our next opponent? Oh, Duke, okay. We leave tomorrow bright and early. We'll get a chance to get into Maui, shoot in the gym a little bit. Get a feel for that. Then they'll have some festivities involved with the tournament, a player's party and then a banquet on Sunday. Then we will tip it off with Duke on Monday. It's nice to know we will have a national audience and we're ready to play."

On his confidence in his team heading into the tournament:

"I like my team a lot. It's early, it's November. My six veterans, I feel very good about. The freshmen, for their first major competition, we'll see how they respond, but my six returners, I feel as if they're ready for a game like this and excited to play it."

On takeaways from the last time SDSU faced Duke:

"We played them in the NCAA tournament a couple years back; I think it might have been the year they won the title. They're just very physical. You can watch on TV and see the athleticism, but until you see it first-hand, you don't realize how really athletic they are and how big they are at all those positions. We'll be prepared for that. We'll try to space the floor and find ways to create our offense, and then at the same time, try to keep them from running us, obviously getting easy baskets, make them earn everything they get in the half court. We're a pretty good defensive team, so that will be the goal: to make them score on the half court, take care of the ball and try to make it a one or two-possession game down the stretch."

On Duke's three standout freshmen:

"Well, everyone knows they're very talented, but they're freshmen, too. They're finding their way, learning how to play together. I think that's a big reason that Duke took the foreign trip this year. They went up to Canada and played three games so they could play together. They played two exhibition games instead of a closed scrimmage, so not unlike us with the freshmen, they're trying to put them into a cohesive unit. They've had great success the first three games, but Coach K knows it's a long season and freshmen are going to have a learning curve. Hopefully we will get them before that learning curve has kicked in and we'll be ready to take advantage of the situations, I hope."

On Duke's wins this season:

"I think the Kentucky win was really impressive. I think if you look at anybody Duke has ever played at home in the non-conference, they rarely lose games like that. I think the Kentucky game was the one that opened most people's eyes, but Kentucky is young and

talented, too. Both teams are trying to use early, big matchups in order to get their teams better for conference play, and that's what we'll do. We won't put everything into the game as far as if we don't come out successful, that it's a failure. This is great tournament in November where we're going to play three really good opponents in three days and hopefully learn something about ourselves, and what we're good at and what we have to get better at."

On if there's an advantage by playing these teams in Maui:

"I think there's a big advantage, including the sun and ocean. That's what we are most looking excited about."

On facing the type of play that Duke has been known for this season:

"Every game is different. First game we played was all zones, second game we played was basic man-to-man, and the third game we play will be pressure man-to-man. Each game — they're three different opponents, three different styles — that's a big learning curve. How we play against each style, what adjustments we make in practice, and leading into the game, what we think we can run and not run — we give these guys a game plan and they do their best to execute it. A lot of that is on the coaches too, where I have to put these guys in the best position to be successful where they're not just trying to fight and run a play, but that the plan we've drawn up is a solid one, both offensively and defensively."

On the field playing in the Maui Jim Maui Invitational this year:

"Six of the eight teams, I think, were in the NCAA Tournament last year. Three or four of them are ranked this year already. I'm not sure — how high is Gonzaga, three? So we have the number one and number three teams in the country in the same event, to go with another ranked team in Auburn. It's going to be great competition, no matter if you're fortunate enough to win three or if you're playing both teams 0-2 in that last game — every team in that tournament is capable of being an NCAA Tournament team come March."

On if he told the freshmen anything in particular heading into the tournament:

"Don't do anything I haven't seen in practice. Show me what you're going to do in practice, and then do the same thing in a game. Don't do anything I haven't seen in practice. Hopefully that will happen."

San Diego State Sophomore Guard Jordan Schakel

On their matchups vs. Duke:

"Yeah, we talked about the game plan and went over that these last two days at practice."

On if he told the freshmen anything in particular heading into the tournament:

"Just play their game. Be strong with the ball and be smart, and just be at peace with what you do and be confident. We've been practicing since July. You've been playing basketball your whole life and it's just another game so you just need to go out there and play to the best of your ability."

On if facing Duke is just another game on the schedule or if they think of them as the top team in the country:

"No, we are definitely playing Duke. We are playing a team that likes to run the transition, a team that likes to play pressure defense. That's what we know and that's what we've been preparing for, so we'll be ready on Monday."

San Diego State Sophomore Forward Jalen McDaniels

On if he's excited to be playing in Maui:

"Yeah. I've never been to Maui before, but two years ago, my freshman year, we went to Honolulu, and it was a fun experience. I'm looking forward to the same thing."

On if they're at all nervous to play Duke specifically:

"I don't think so. They're a great team, but I feel like we're just trying to come out and make a statement, just play our game. We're just playing basketball. We've just got to play harder than them and see what the outcome is."

On facing the type of play that Duke has been known for this season:

"They're a top-ranked team, so [with a] top-ranked team, you've just got to go at them. We compete, too, so we've just got to compete at the highest level."

On the transition defense and how they could find ways to stop them:

"Yeah, we worked on it the past two days at practice, just prepping for it, so we know what to expect."

On what will make it difficult to stop incoming transition:

"It just starts out with the shots you take. Take a bad shot and that's going to be an easier transition for them, so we've got to make sure that on offense, we take the best shot and just get back on D and sprint back."

On the field playing in the Maui Jim Maui Invitational this year:

"There's a lot of great teams in this tournament. It will just give us [a chance to] see where we're at. Each game is going out there and playing hard, competing and trying to get the 'dub.'"

-SDSU-