



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS
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Postgame Softball Notes – San Diego State at No. 15 overall seed Utah

Game 1 of NCAA Salt Lake City Super Regional | May 26, 2023 | Dumke Family Softball Stadium | Salt Lake City, Utah

Records: San Diego State (39-15); Utah (40-14)

Up Next: Game 2 of best-of-three game series | May 27, 2023 | 3 p.m. MT (2 p.m. PT) | ESPN

Big Notes

- San Diego State needs one victory (Saturday or if necessary game Sunday) to advance to its first Women's College World Series in program history.
- The Aztecs became the first team to win a NCAA Super Regional game in their debut since James Madison in 2016.
- SDSU won its first NCAA tournament road game in program history. San Diego State is now 1-10 all-time in NCAA tournament road games (Aztecs are 21-14 in neutral NCAA tourney games).
- SDSU beat its first nationally seeded team (top 16) in an NCAA tournament game in program history.
- San Diego State beat its first nationally ranked team of the season (now 1-5) and first since downing No. 22/20 LSU, 10-5, in the opener of the 2022 NCAA Tempe Regional (May 20, 2022).
- The Aztecs won their seventh consecutive game (all in the postseason). The seven-game winning streak is tied with Tennessee for the third-longest active streak in the country. SDSU snapped Utah's nine-game winning streak, which was the second-longest active streak heading into today.
- San Diego State improved to 39-15 (.722), currently the highest winning percentage in program history (No. 2 is a 44-17 season (.721) in 2008).
- Second-year head coach **Stacey Nuvean Deniz** improves to 78-31 (.716) as the Aztec head coach with two Mountain West championships, two NCAA tournament appearances and a 6-2 record in NCAA tournament games.
- SDSU has consecutive seasons with at least 39 wins since doing it in three straight years from 2001-03.
- San Diego State improved to 23-6 (.793) over its last 29 games.
- The Aztecs improved to 22-24 all-time in the NCAA tournament.
- SDSU has won four consecutive NCAA tournament games for the first time in program history.

Series Notes

- San Diego State improved to 34-49 all-time against Utah.
- The Aztecs won their third straight game against the Utes (last two meetings came in 2017 and 2012).

Team Notes

- SDSU is outscoring its opponent, 43-10, in the postseason this year, going 7-0.
- San Diego State is outscoring its opponents, 23-6, in the NCAA tournament this season.
- In four NCAA tournament games this season, Aztecs pitchers are 4-0 with a 1.00 ERA in 28 innings, striking out 26 against two walks and holding the opposition to a .186 average.
- In seven postseason games this year, SDSU pitchers are 7-0 with a 1.19 ERA in 47 innings, striking out 46 against nine walks and limiting their opponents to a .190 average.

- San Diego State won despite leaving 11 on base (Utah left two).
- The Aztecs combined for 92 pitches, while Utah's Mariah Lopez had 143 pitches.

Trends

- The Aztecs improved to 12-6 on the season against teams who made the NCAA tournament.
- SDSU improved to 30-6 on the season when only playing one game on the day.
- San Diego State improved to 19-4 this year when scoring in the first inning.
- The Aztecs improved to 28-5 this season when scoring first.
- SDSU improved to 37-6 on the year when leading at any point in the game.
- San Diego State also improved to 11-14 on the season when trailing in a game.
- The Aztecs improved to 32-3 on the season with 13 straight wins when leading after five innings.
- SDSU improved to 29-0 on the season with 51 consecutive victories when leading after six innings.
- San Diego State improved to 33-5 on the year when scoring just four or more runs.
- The Aztecs improved to 33-2 this year when outhitting their opponent.

Player Notes

*** Bella Espinoza, So., LF (2-for-4)**

Recorded her team-high 22nd multi-hit game of the season ... Recorded her 71st and 72nd hits of the season, the seventh most in SDSU single-season history ... Also broke her own single-season record with her 67th single (her second of the game) ... Is now 14-for-26 (.538) in the postseason this year with nine runs and four stolen bases in seven games.

*** AJ Murphy, So., 3B (1-for-2, 2 RBI, 2 BB)**

Had her second straight multi-RBI game of the postseason and sixth of the season ... Had her fifth game-winning RBI of the season and fourth go-ahead RBI ... Tied a career high with two walks (also vs. Memphis on Feb. 11, 2023).

*** Allie Light, Jr., RHP (4.0 IP, 3 R, 1 ER, 2 H, 0 BB, 2 K)**

Improved to 15-6 on the season, the eighth-best winning percentage (.714) in SDSU single-season history ... Is now 5-0 in six postseason appearances this year with a 1.88 ERA in 22 1/3 innings, striking out 20 against three walks and limiting the opponents to a .185 average.

*** Dee Dee Hernandez, So., LHP (3.0 IP, 3 H, 0 BB, 2 K, 1 SV)**

Extended her career-long scoreless inning streak to 19 2/3 innings ... Recorded her sixth save of the season, which is tied for second in SDSU's single-season history and one behind Allie Light's record of seven set this year ... Also logged the ninth save of her career, the fifth most in program history ... In six postseason appearances this year, she's 1-0 with two saves and a 0.00 ERA in 14 1/3 innings, striking out 11 without a walk, holding her opponents to a .212 average.

Other Notes

- First pitch was 8:05 p.m. MT.
- The temperature was 63 degrees at first pitch.
- Tonight's attendance was 2,723, the most in Dumke Family Softball Stadium history.
- CF **Macey Keester** had her 11th multi-hit game of the season after entering the game without a hit (0-for-9) in the NCAA tournament this season.
- 2B **Makena Brocki** recorded her 11th multi-hit game of the season.
- SS **Jillian Celis** scored her 42nd run of the season (No. 5 in SDSU single-season history) and 103rd of her career (No. 9 at SDSU).

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