

## Spartans secure tournament positioning after victory

SAN JOSE, Calif. – The San Jose State Spartans punched their ticket to a first-round bye in the Mountain West Conference tournament with an emphatic 83-65 victory over the Utah State Aggies at the Event Center. Emily Vann led all scorers with 20 points as the Spartans pulled away in the fourth quarter.

The Spartans were especially effective from beyond the three-point arc, shooting 40 percent from downtown. Four Spartans ended up in double figures, with Dezz Ramos adding 17 points, followed by 15 points from Paris Baird and 11 points from Nyre Harris. Rachel Brewster led the Aggies with 16 points, but it wasn't enough as the Spartans proved to have too much offense down the stretch.

The game was tied at the end of a first quarter largely dominated by the Aggies. From there, San Jose State gained a two-point lead into halftime, before furthering the gap in the third and fourth quarters. The Spartans ended up leading for over 24 minutes of the contest behind a strong bench effort. San Jose State also took advantage of numerous second chance opportunities to the tune of 19 second chance points.

With the victory the Spartans guaranteed themselves a top-five finish in the Mountain West Conference and a bye in the first round of the conference tournament. The Spartans also swept the season series with the Aggies for the second time in the series' history and the first time since the 2005-2006 season. Up next for San Jose State is the home finale against Wyoming on Mar. 1, while the Aggies will return to Logan, Utah to take on Air Force the same night.