



**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

## **UNLV RUNNIN' REBELS VS. SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS**

**Game Time: 5:30pm ET**

**Selection: UNLV +5**

The Mountain West Conference has been one of the most entertaining leagues in the country all season long. The conference could get as many as six or seven teams into the NCAA tournament, and this week, the league converges on Las Vegas.

This, of course, is music to the ears of the Rebels and the UNLV fanbase, which will host the tournament at the Thomas and Mack Center. They do so with UNLV squarely on the NCAA bubble and probably needing at least one high-quality win to impress the committee. Right on cue, here comes perennial MWC powerhouse San Diego State for a rematch of a game nine days ago at this very gym...one where UNLV pulled off a 62-58 upset.

After a 9-9 start, the Rebels have won 10 of their last 12 games, and that victory over the Aztecs is one of several strong, high-quality wins. In direct contrast to their Sin City surroundings, they're by no means flashy. They do, however, defend like crazy. UNLV comes in off of a clunker against Nevada (another very good team), but prior to that game, none of their previous five opponents had shot better than 39% from the floor. Furthermore, they had an eight-game stretch in conference play, from Feb. 3 through March 2, where only one opponent shot better than 29% from beyond the arc.

San Diego State's approach wins lots of games. They, too, defend very well, and they'll try to drag opponents into physical, slower-paced, low-scoring games. However, that certainly didn't intimidate UNLV less than two weeks ago in this gym. The Aztecs might win, but given that the Rebels will have a home crowd behind them in what amounts to their biggest game of the season to date against a team they've shown they can beat, we'll gladly take the points and strap in for what's gearing up to be an absolute war.

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If a single game you purchased does not win based on the point spread, you will receive the next equivalent game FREE OF CHARGE.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: [wiz@wizardraceandsports.com](mailto:wiz@wizardraceandsports.com)

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