

# Santa Clara at New Mexico

7 p.m., Saturday, the Pit. **TV:** None. **Radio:** 770 AM/96.3 FM. **Streaming:** TheMW.com. **Line:** Broncos by 2½.

## Santa Clara Broncos (8-1, 0-0 West Coast Conference)

**Coach:** Herb Sendek (169-121, 10th season at Santa Clara; 582-416, 32nd season overall)

### Projected starters

|                   | Pos. | Ht. | Year | PPG  | RPG  | APG  |
|-------------------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 0 Brenton Knapper | PG   | 6-0 | Sr.  | 8.8  | 1.8* | 3.1  |
| 1 Chris Hammond   | G    | 6-4 | So.  | 16.6 | 3.9  | 1.5* |
| 8 Elijah Mahi     | G    | 6-7 | Sr.  | 13.2 | 4.3  | 2.8  |
| 44 Jake Ensminger | F    | 6-9 | Jr.  | 7.3  | 7.6  | 4.1  |
| 12 Buckky Oboye   | C    | 7-1 | So.  | 9.8  | 3.4  | 2.0^ |

### Reserves

|                   | Pos. | Ht.  | Year | PPG | RPG | APG  |
|-------------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 2 Sash Gavalyugov | G    | 6-3  | Fr.  | 7.9 | 2.4 | 2.6  |
| 3 F. Chukwudebelu | F    | 6-10 | Fr.  | 3.1 | 2.1 | 0.8^ |
| 7 KJ Cochran      | G    | 6-5  | Fr.  | 6.0 | 1.5 | 0.6  |
| 15 Thierry Darlan | F    | 6-8  | Jr.  | 5.7 | 4.7 | 1.0^ |
| 22 Allen Graves   | F    | 6-9  | Fr.  | 9.4 | 6.2 | 2.0* |

### \*Steals ^Blocks

**What you need to know about the Broncos:** Both leading rebounder and assist man Jake Ensminger and leading scorer Christian Hammond missed Wednesday's game against Utah Tech with injuries. And while it remains unclear whether they will play on Saturday, Lobos coach Eric Olen, on Friday, said his team is preparing as if both will play and certainly sounded as though that is his full expectation. The Broncos, with double-digit wins under their belt against the likes of Richard Pitino's Xavier, Nico Medved's Minnesota and Steve Alford's Nevada, enter the game with a NET rating of 37th in the country — higher than any Mountain West team. They are 10th in the nation in offensive rebounding, 51st in offensive efficiency and 73rd in defensive efficiency. They balance their scoring between 2s and 3s, but go to the free throw line (thus, they draw fouls) at one of the lowest rates in the country.

## New Mexico Lobos (6-2, 0-0 Mountain West)

**Coach:** Eric Olen (246-121, 13th season overall; 6-2, 1st season at UNM)

### Projected starters

|                    | Pos. | Ht. | Year | PPG  | RPG  | APG  |
|--------------------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| 1 Deyton Albury    | PG   | 6-3 | Sr.  | 11.3 | 3.4  | 2.7  |
| 23 Jake Hall       | G    | 6-4 | Fr.  | 14.4 | 2.1  | 1.6  |
| 8 Chris Howell     | G    | 6-6 | Sr.  | 5.3  | 1.9* | 4.0  |
| 5 Antonio Chol     | F    | 6-9 | Jr.  | 10.8 | 3.5  | 0.9^ |
| 10 Tomislav Buljan | F    | 6-9 | Fr.  | 11.7 | 11.1 | 1.0* |

### Reserves

|                    | Pos. | Ht.  | Year | PPG  | RPG  | APG  |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 0 Kevin Patton Jr. | G    | 6-8  | Jr.  | 3.3  | 2.4  | 0.9  |
| 2 Tajavis Miller   | G    | 6-4  | Sr.  | 6.7  | 2.7  | 0.8* |
| 3 Luke Haupt       | G    | 6-7  | Sr.  | 4.5  | 3.5  | 2.4  |
| 4 Uriah Tenette    | G    | 5-11 | Fr.  | 11.1 | 1.9* | 1.9  |
| 29 Timeo Pons      | G    | 6-9  | Fr.  | 3.7  | 0.7  | 1.0  |
| 31 Milos Vicentic  | F    | 6-7  | Sr.  | 3.5  | 1.5  | 0.3  |
| 35 JT Rock         | C    | 7-1  | So.  | 3.6  | 2.4  | 0.6^ |

### \*Steals ^Blocks

**What you need to know about the Lobos:** UNM is expected to get Tomislav Buljan back for Saturday's game. He missed Monday's game against New Mexico Highlands, but went through pregame warmups and essentially was good enough to go had that not been a Division II opponent. There's not much to read into Monday's game, other than the Lobos' reserve players look like they would be ready if called upon. New Mexico is still geared defensively at stopping teams from scoring in the paint, leading to plenty of outside looks. UNM opponents get 40% of their scoring off 3-pointers, the ninth-highest percentage in the country. So, as Lobos fans know, there is risk that if the Broncos get hot from deep, it could be an issue.