

SAN TAN DROPS OPENER TO EDUPRIZE NATIONAL TEAM
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By Preston English
San Tan Media Relations Director

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Over the last two seasons, San Tan Charter School's varsity basketball program experienced a lot of success with multiple players who have gone on to play at the next level. To start their third season as a varsity program, most of those players have departed and the Roadrunners stepped up their competition level and faced a team who plays a national schedule and competes against the top teams in the nation regularly. That combination of factors led the Roadrunners (0-1) to an 81-57 defeat at the hands of EduPrize-Gilbert at the Ability 360 Gym in Phoenix.

"We came out sluggish and not ready to match their intensity," said Roadrunners head coach **Jay Gonzales**. "We gave them too many easy baskets and didn't make them work for their points."

EduPrize jumped out early, using a press and turning turnovers into quick points. They also utilized their athleticism to break the Roadrunners press and score. When the first quarter was all said and done, the Eagles had a 29-8 lead which proved to be too much for the Roadrunners to overcome. San Tan outscored EduPrize in the second quarter 24-22 and established they can play with a team of this caliber. Eduprize only outscored the Roadrunners by five points (53-48) after the first quarter.

"We made some better plays in the second quarter and into the second half," said Gonzales. "But we dug too big a hole in the first. We better figure out how to come out with more urgency or this is going to be a long season."

Junior guard **Jaylen Webb** (21 points, six rebounds) and senior forward **Joey Stephenson** (17 points, 7 rebounds) led the Roadrunners and kept them competitive.

"Jaylen did a good job of getting his shot tonight," said Gonzales. "He showed why he is one of the leaders of this team. He didn't back down from the challenge."

The Roadrunners did a good job of getting to the free throw line tonight, shooting 72 percent (18-25). Webb led the way with nine free throws (on 12 shots), followed by junior guard **Kris Sippel** who shot 5-6 from the charity stripe.

San Tan's early season Herculean schedule continues on Tuesday, November 20 as the Roadrunners travel to Tri-City Christian to face off against the only team to give them a contest last year (San Tan won by one point) and they return most of the players from that team. The game is the second of a men's and women's double header as San Tan's women's team faces off against the Tri-City women's team at 5:30 p.m. The men's matchup begins at 7 p.m.

-See box score below-

SAN TAN BASKETBALL
BOX SCORE vs. EduPrize-Gilbert
L 81-57

	San Tan Roadrunners	Total FG		3-Point		FT	A	Rebounds			F	Pt	A	TO	B	S
No.	Player	FG	FGA	FG	FGA			O	D	Tot						
2	Anthony Bautista	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	Jaylen Webb	5	13	2	6	9	12	1	5	6	3	21	1	8	0	2
5	Jadakiss Kirksey	2	5	2	5	0	1	1	0	1	2	6	0	0	0	0
10	Kahan Shoulders	2	6	1	3	0	2	3	4	7	3	5	0	4	1	3
12	Joey Stephenson	5	14	3	8	4	4	3	4	7	3	17	0	3	2	0
13	Dominic Soloroza	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
14	Elias Vargas	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0
15	Kris Sippel	1	4	0	2	5	6	1	1	2	2	7	0	1	0	1
34	Kerwin Danley	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
54	Dalton Emery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					TEAM REBOUNDS			1	1	2						
	TOTALS	15	49	8	25	18	25	12	15	27	21	56	1	18	3	6

TOTAL FG%	1st Half	<u>9-28, .321</u>	2nd Half	<u>6-21, .286</u>	Game	<u>15-49, .306</u>	Deadball Rebounds	<u>0</u>
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half	<u>5-13, .385</u>	2nd Half	<u>3-12, .250</u>	Game	<u>8-25, .320</u>		
FT %	1st Half	<u>10-14, .714</u>	2nd Half	<u>6-8, .750</u>	Game	<u>18-25, .720</u>		

For more information, contact San Tan Charter High School Media Relations Director **Preston English** at 480-222-0811 or at penglish@santanhs.com.

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