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MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION



## The 2017-18 SDSU Men's Basketball Media Guide

The 2017-18 San Diego State University Men's Basketball Media Guide is a publication of the SDSU athletics media relations office. The publication was written, edited and designed by assistant athletic director/media relations director Darin Wong and senior associate athletic director/communications and media relations Mike May.

Assistance was provided by assistant athletic director/media relations Jamie McConeghy, assistant media relations directors Jim Solien, Jen Heisel and Martin Foley, media relations coordinator Lauren Weaver, *GoAztecs.com* senior writer Mick McGrane, Ryan Tewes and Eric Harding.

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# Media Information



MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION

## General Information

Location . . . . . San Diego, Calif., 92182  
 Founded . . . . . 1897  
 Enrollment . . . . . 33,726  
 Nickname . . . . . Aztecs  
 Colors . . . . . Scarlet and Black  
 PMS Color . . . . . 185  
 Arena . . . . . Viejas Arena at Aztec Bowl  
 Opened . . . . . 1997  
 Capacity . . . . . 12,414  
 Affiliation . . . . . NCAA Division I  
 Conference . . . . . Mountain West  
 President . . . . . Sally Roush  
 Athletics Director . . . . . John David Wicker  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . Mississippi State (1992)  
 Athletic Department Phone . . . . . 619-594-3019  
 Ticket Office Phone . . . . . 619-283-7378  
 or 619-283-SDSU

## History

Seasons of Basketball . . . . . Entering 97th  
 First Season of Basketball . . . . . 1921-22  
 All-Time Record . . . . . 1,442-1,101-1  
 NCAA Tournament Appearances . . . . . 13  
 Seasons of Div. I Basketball . . . . . Entering 48th  
 First Season of Div. I Basketball . . . . . 1970-71  
 All-Time Div. I Record . . . . . 754-656  
 NCAA Div. I Tournament Appearances . . . . . 11  
 Last NCAA Appearance . . . . . 2015  
 NIT Appearances . . . . . 6  
 Last NIT Appearance . . . . . 2016

## Media Relations

Sr. Assoc. AD/Communications & Media  
 Relations . . . . . Mike May  
 May Cell Phone . . . . . 619-957-8372  
 May E-mail . . . . . mmay@mail.sdsu.edu  
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 Wong Cell Phone . . . . . 310-489-2378  
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 SID Mailing Address . . . . . Aztec Media Relations  
 Fowler Athletics Center  
 5302 55th Street, Suite 3014  
 San Diego State University  
 San Diego, CA 92182  
 SID Main Office Number . . . . . 619-594-5547  
 SID Fax Number . . . . . 619-582-6541

## Basketball Staff

Head Coach . . . . . Brian Dutcher  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . Minnesota (1982)  
 Record at SDSU (Years) . . . . . 0-0 (1)  
 Record Overall (Years) . . . . . 0-0 (1)  
 Basketball Office Phone . . . . . 619-594-6249  
 Best Time to Contact Fisher . . . . . Contact May  
 Associate Head Coach . . . . . Justin Hutson  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . CSU Bakersfield (1994)  
 Assistant Coach . . . . . David Velasquez  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . San Diego State (2007)  
 Assistant Coach . . . . . Tim Shelton  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . San Diego State (2011)  
 Assistant to the Head Coach . . . . . Mark Fisher  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . Michigan (2001)  
 Director of Basketball Operations . . . . . Matt Soria  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . San Diego State (2002)  
 Director of Player Development . . . . . JD Pollock  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . Kennesaw State (2009)  
 Basketball Trainer . . . . . Sergio Ibarra  
 Alma Mater (Year) . . . . . Alfred University (2006)  
 Administrative Assistant . . . . . Leana DeKock

## Team Information

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Neu.</i>
2016-17 Record	19-14	10-4	4-9	5-1
2016-17 MW Record	9-9	6-3	3-6	
Mountain West Finish . . . . .	6th			
MW Tournament . . . . .	Semifinalist (2-1)			
Postseason . . . . .	N/A			
Postseason Finish . . . . .	N/A			
Final Top-25 Ranking . . . . .	NA (AP)/NA (Coaches)			
Starters Returning/Lost . . . . .	3/2			
Letterwinners Returning/Lost . . . . .	6/5			

## Media Information

Radio Station . . . . . 101.5 KGB/XTRA 1360 AM  
 Play-By-Play Announcer . . . . . Ted Leitner  
 PBP Phone Number . . . . . 858-560-6671  
 Video Footage Contact . . . . . Jason Bott  
 VFC Phone Number . . . . . 619-594-2428  
 Beat Writer . . . . . Mark Zeigler  
 San Diego Union-Tribune  
 619-293-1341

## Media Services

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 Website . . . . . GoAztecs.com  
 Twitter . . . . . @Aztec\_MBB  
 Facebook . . . . . facebook.com/goaztecs  
 Instagram . . . . . @aztec\_mbb  
 YouTube . . . . . youtube.com/goaztecscom

## 2017-18 Roster Breakdown

### Starters Returning (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Jeremy Hemsley	6-3	200	Jr.	G	12.9	2.4
Trey Kell	6-4	216	Sr.	G	13.2	4.9
Malik Pope	6-10	220	Sr.	F	11.0	6.1

### Total Letterwinners Returning (6)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Montaque Gill-Caesar	6-6	216	Jr.	G	3.3	1.8
Jeremy Hemsley	6-3	200	Jr.	G	12.9	2.4
Max Montana	6-9	210	Jr.	F	7.7	3.8
Trey Kell	6-4	216	Sr.	G	13.2	4.9
Nolan Narain	6-10	226	So.	F	1.4	1.0
Malik Pope	6-10	220	Sr.	F	11.0	6.1

### Others Returning (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Jalen McDaniels	6-10	195	Fr.	F	--	--
Devin Watson	6-1	172	Jr.	G	--	--

### Newcomers (6)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.
Patrick Fisher	6-4	200	So.	G
Matt Mitchell	6-6	230	Fr.	F
Kameron Rooks	7-1	266	Sr.	C
Jordan Schakel	6-6	195	Fr.	G
Adam Seiko	6-3	195	Fr.	G
Michael Sohikish	5-9	160	Jr.	G

### Starters Lost (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Dakarai Allen	6-5	200	Sr.	G	8.3	4.2
Zylan Cheatham	6-9	220	So.	F	9.1	6.3

### Total Letterwinners Lost (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Dakarai Allen	6-5	200	Sr.	G	8.3	4.2
Zylan Cheatham	6-9	220	So.	F	9.1	6.3
Valentine Izundu	6-10	240	Sr.	C	2.5	3.3
Matt Shrigley	6-6	190	Sr.	F	5.2	2.1
D'Erryl Williams	6-3	205	Sr.	G	1.6	1.9

### Others Lost (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Emmanuel Wilson	6-2	185	So.	G	0.3	0.3
Ben Perez	6-3	175	So.	G	--	--
Niksha Federico	6-7	200	Sr.	F	--	--

### Honors Candidates

Jeremy Hemsley - All-MW, All-Region  
 Trey Kell - All-MW, MW Player of the Year, All-Region  
 Malik Pope - All-MW, MW Player of the Year, All-Region  
 Devin Watson - All-MW, MW Newcomer of the Year, All-Region  
 Jalen McDaniels - All-MW, MW Freshman of the Year





## 2017-18 San Diego State Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Most Recent Div. I Season			Hometown (High School/Previous School)
							PPG	RPG	APG	
31	Montaque Gill-Caesar	G	6-6	216	Jr.	1L	3.3	1.8	0.2	Vaughan, Ontrario, Canada (Huntington Prep (W.Va.)/Missouri)
42	Jeremy Hemsley	G	6-3	200	Jr.	2L	12.9	2.4	2.1	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Damien High)
3	Trey Kell	G	6-4	216	Sr.	3L	13.2	4.9	2.9	San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine High)
5	Jalen McDaniels	F	6-10	195	Fr.	RS	--	--	--	Federal Way, Wash. (Federal Way High)
11	Matt Mitchell	F	6-6	230	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Riverside, Calif. (Roosevelt High)
10	Max Montana	F	6-9	210	Jr.	1L	7.7	3.8	0.4	Calabasas, Calif. (Wilbraham & Monson Academy (Mass.)/Indiana)
24	Nolan Narain	F	6-10	226	So.	1L	1.4	1.0	0.0	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (La Lumiere School (Ind.))
21	Malik Pope	F	6-10	220	Sr.	3L	11.0	6.1	1.5	Sacramento, Calif. (Laguna Creek High)
45	Kameron Rooks	C	7-1	266	Sr.	TR	4.9	4.5	0.3	San Marcos, Calif. (Mission Hills High/California)
20	Jordan Schakel	G	6-6	195	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Torrance, Calif. (Bishop Montgomery High)
2	Adam Seiko	G	6-3	195	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Boston, Mass. (Sierra Canyon High (Calif.))
4	Michael Sohikish	G	5-9	160	Jr.	HS	--	--	--	San Diego, Calif. (University City High)
0	Devin Watson	G	6-1	172	Jr.	TR	20.3	2.5	4.9	Oceanside, Calif. (El Camino High/San Francisco)

## 2017-18 San Diego State Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Most Recent Div. I Season			Hometown (High School/Previous School)
							PPG	RPG	APG	
0	Devin Watson	G	6-1	172	Jr.	TR	20.3	2.5	4.9	Oceanside, Calif. (El Camino High/San Francisco)
2	Adam Seiko	G	6-3	195	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Boston, Mass. (Sierra Canyon High (Calif.))
3	Trey Kell	G	6-4	216	Sr.	3L	13.2	4.9	2.9	San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine High)
4	Michael Sohikish	G	5-9	160	Jr.	HS	--	--	--	San Diego, Calif. (University City High)
5	Jalen McDaniels	F	6-10	195	Fr.	RS	--	--	--	Federal Way, Wash. (Federal Way High)
10	Max Montana	F	6-9	210	Jr.	1L	7.7	3.8	0.4	Calabasas, Calif. (Wilbraham & Monson Academy (Mass.)/Indiana)
11	Matt Mitchell	F	6-6	230	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Riverside, Calif. (Roosevelt High)
20	Jordan Schakel	G	6-6	195	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Torrance, Calif. (Bishop Montgomery High)
21	Malik Pope	F	6-10	220	Sr.	3L	11.0	6.1	1.5	Sacramento, Calif. (Laguna Creek High)
24	Nolan Narain	F	6-10	226	So.	1L	1.4	1.0	0.0	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (La Lumiere School (Ind.))
31	Montaque Gill-Caesar	G	6-6	216	Jr.	1L	3.3	1.8	0.2	Vaughan, Ontrario, Canada (Huntington Prep (W.Va.)/Missouri)
42	Jeremy Hemsley	G	6-3	200	Jr.	2L	12.9	2.4	2.1	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Damien High)
45	Kameron Rooks	C	7-1	266	Sr.	TR	4.9	4.5	0.3	San Marcos, Calif. (Mission Hills High/California)

**Head Coach:** Brian Dutcher (Minnesota, 1982), First Season (19th Season Overall at SDSU)  
**Associate Head Coach:** Justin Hutson (CSU Bakersfield, 1994), First Season (10th Season Overall at SDSU)  
**Assistant Coaches:** David Velasquez (San Diego State, 2007), Fifth Season (16th Season Overall at SDSU)  
 Tim Shelton (San Diego State, 2011), First Season (11th Season Overall at SDSU)  
**Assistant to the Head Coach:** Mark Fisher (Michigan, 2001), Fifth Season (16th Season Overall at SDSU)  
**Assistant A.D.-Dir. of Operations:** Matt Soria (San Diego State, 2002), 11th Season (18th Season Overall at SDSU)  
**Dir. of Player Development:** JD Pollock (Kennesaw State, 2009), First Season (First Season Overall at SDSU)

## Eligible in 2018-19

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Most Recent Div. I Season			Hometown (High School/Previous School)
							PPG	RPG	APG	
13	Patrick Fisher	G	6-4	200	So.	TR	2.0	0.0	0.0	Carlsbad, Calif. (Vermont Academy/Winthrop)

### ► Pronunciations

Montaque Gill-Caesar  
 Mahn-take Gill-Caesar  
 Jordan Schakel  
 Jordan SHACK-kull  
 Adam Seiko  
 Adam SAY-ko  
 Michael Sohikish  
 Michael so-HE-kish

### ► By Class

**Seniors (3)**  
 Trey Kell, Malik Pope, Kameron Rooks  
**Juniors (5)**  
 Montaque Gill-Caesar, Jeremy Hemsley, Max Montana, Michael Sohikish, Devin Watson

### Sophomores (2)

Patrick Fisher, Nolan Narain  
**Freshmen (4)**  
 Jalen McDaniels, Matt Mitchell, Jordan Schakel, Adam Seiko

### ► By Position

**Guards (7)**  
 Montaque Gill-Caesar, Jeremy Hemsley, Trey Kell, Jordan Schakel, Adam Seiko, Michael Sohikish, Devin Watson  
**Forwards (5)**  
 Jalen McDaniels, Matt

Mitchell, Max Montana, Nolan Narain, Malik Pope  
**Centers (1)**  
 Kameron Rooks

## The 2017-18 Season Outlook



# Fanning Flames of Winning Ways

By Mick McGrane

Even a head coach in waiting has a breaking point.

Of course, any coach whose team tumbles from three-time defending champion to sixth place has just cause for concern.

"We have to do things differently," Brian Dutcher said. "We can't sit here and say we finished in sixth place and say that's OK. It's about attitude. The guys coming back realize that every spot is up for grabs. We're not coming back from winning a fourth straight conference title. We won three in a row, so you get comfortable. But when you drop off like we did, the players need to know they better put their work in to improve their game and be ready to fight for their positions."

And so it begins.

After serving as Steve Fisher's right-hand man for the better part of 30 years, Brian Dutcher is now head coach of a San Diego State men's basketball program that has won more regular-season and tournament titles (10) than any team in Mountain West history. Only nine schools in the nation have posted a higher winning percentage (.758) since the beginning of the 2010-11 season.

But the 2016-17 campaign brought something foreign, something disconcerting. In failing to finish with a winning record in league play (9-9) for the first time since 2004-05, the Aztecs had nowhere to go but home after falling to Colorado State in the semifinals of the Mountain West tournament. No NCAA appearance, no NIT, no second chance. Never in the previous 11 seasons had SDSU failed to earn a postseason tournament berth.

And if the sky wasn't necessarily falling, neither was there a comfortable place to hide.

San Diego State doesn't do sixth place.

"I don't think our attitude diminished, I just think that when you've had a target on your back as long as we have and the success that we've had, that the conference finally broke through and put some losses on the Aztecs," said Dutcher, who spent six seasons as

the team's head coach in waiting before officially succeeding Fisher in April. "Now it's all about how we respond to a feeling that we've never had before. Now we're the hunter again instead of being the hunted. We're trying to climb back up the standings. We know who the teams are that beat us last year, and we're going to try to do everything we can to prepare to make another run at the title."

They'll do so without five players — Dakarai Allen, Zylan Cheatham, Matt Shrigley, Valentine Izundu and D'Erryl Williams — who combined for 69 starts last season. Indeed, the team's top scorer in 2017-18 may be someone who has yet to see a minute of playing time. While SDSU returns four players — Trey Kell, Jeremy Hemsley, Malik Pope and Max Hoetzel — who averaged a combined 26.4 minutes per game last season, it also adds fifth-year transfer Kameron Rooks; transfer Devin Watson; redshirt freshman Jalen McDaniels; and true freshmen Matt Mitchell, Jordan Schakel and Adam Seiko.

If jobs are up for grabs, there figures to be no shortage of grabbing.

"We're flipping half the roster, and that's a lot," Dutcher said. "We have 12 guys on scholarship and six have never taken the floor. You throw six guys in there that have never been on the floor and the competition is obviously going to be heavy."

Kell enters his final season at SDSU as the mainstay, having started 32 of 33 games last year. A product of San Diego's St. Augustine High, he led the team last season in scoring (13.2), assists (2.9), steals (1.4), free-throw percentage (.766) and minutes played (31.8). He was the Aztecs' leading scorer a team-high-tying 12 times, in rebounding five times and in assists a team-best 19 times. He paced SDSU with 24 double-figure scoring games and shared team-high honors with five 20-point efforts.

"Trey has really dedicated himself to this year," Dutcher said. "He's altered his diet, he's been more efficient in the weight room, and I think his body is going to be ready for the pounding of his senior year. I think he's done everything he can to get ready,





SAN DIEGO STATE

3

SAN DIEGO STATE  
24

CONCESSIONS

EXIT

# Team Breakdown

2016-17 Record	19-14
MW Record	9-9
MW Finish	6th
MW Tournament	2-1

## Starters Returning (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Jeremy Hemsley	6-3	200	Jr.	G	12.9	2.4
Trey Kell	6-4	216	Sr.	G	13.2	4.9
Malik Pope	6-10	220	Sr.	F	11.0	6.1

## Total Letterwinners Returning (6)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Montaque Gill-Caesar	6-6	216	Jr.	G	3.3	1.8
Jeremy Hemsley	6-3	200	Jr.	G	12.9	2.4
Max Montana	6-9	210	Jr.	F	7.7	3.8
Trey Kell	6-4	216	Sr.	G	13.2	4.9
Nolan Narain	6-10	226	So.	F	1.4	1.0
Malik Pope	6-10	220	Sr.	F	11.0	6.1

## Others Returning (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Jalen McDaniels	6-10	195	Fr.	F	--	--
Devin Watson	6-1	172	Jr.	G	--	--

## Newcomers (6)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.
Patrick Fisher	6-4	200	So.	G
Matt Mitchell	6-6	230	Fr.	F
Kameron Rooks	7-1	266	Sr.	C
Jordan Schakel	6-6	195	Fr.	G
Adam Seiko	6-3	195	Fr.	G
Michael Sohikish	5-9	160	Jr.	G

## Starters Lost (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Dakarai Allen	6-5	200	Sr.	G	8.3	4.2
Zylan Cheatham	6-9	220	So.	F	9.1	6.3

## Total Letterwinners Lost (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Dakarai Allen	6-5	200	Sr.	G	8.3	4.2
Zylan Cheatham	6-9	220	So.	F	9.1	6.3
Valentine Izundu	6-10	240	Sr.	C	2.5	3.3
Matt Shrigley	6-6	190	Sr.	F	5.2	2.1
D'Erryl Williams	6-3	205	Sr.	G	1.6	1.9

## Others Lost (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Emmanuel Wilson	6-2	185	So.	G	0.3	0.3
Ben Perez	6-3	175	So.	G	--	--
Niksha Federico	6-7	200	Sr.	F	--	--

Senior Malik Pope averaged 13.1 points and 7.1 rebounds, while shooting 46 percent, including 46.9 percent from three-point range, over his final 14 games of 2016-17.



including working very hard in the gym to improve his shooting and his stamina. Trey and Malik have done everything they've had to do to get ready for their senior years. Now it has to translate to the floor, and it's on the coaches to put them in positions where they can be successful and help get us wins."

Last season, wins proved particularly difficult to find in close games. In contests decided by eight or fewer points, the Aztecs were 2-11. Prior to 2016-17, SDSU was 50-22 in its previous 72 games that were decided by six or fewer points. The Aztecs also lost 24 games to injury from players who started at least one game during the season, earning them the dubious distinction of being dubbed the ninth unluckiest team in the nation by KenPom.com.

"I think the thing everyone realized was that when we had the lead with five minutes to go, we didn't lose games," Dutcher said. "Now, all of the sudden, we're losing close games. We know the games are going to be close; they're always close. We're not going to do anything from last year to this year and all of the sudden be winning by 20 points. We've got to find a way to win close games again. Whether that means coaches putting them in a better position to be successful, or putting the ball in a certain player's hands to make plays to close games out, that's what we have to do. We have to find a way to close games out, both at the offensive and defensive end."

Much of which will depend on a healthy Pope, who enters his final season having missed nine games due to injuries last year. When healthy, Pope arguably has proven to be the league's top talent. In SDSU's final 14 games of 2016-17, all of which he started, Pope averaged team high of 13.1 points, 7.1 rebounds and 1.7 assists while shooting 46.0 percent (46.9 from beyond the arc). In a span of three games in three days in the MW tournament, he averaged 17.7 points and 9.0 rebounds.

"I think Malik expects a lot of himself and we expect a lot out of him," Dutcher said. "He's delivered that at times, but I think the biggest thing for Malik is doing it on a consistent basis. We've all seen the games where he's the best player on the floor and the best player in the conference, but it has to be on a more consistent basis.

"Now, defenses are going to key on him and try to take him out of the game, but he still needs to find a way to push through and contribute to a

winning effort. If his points drop because he's drawing double teams, then he needs to get six to eight assists and 12 rebounds. He has to impact the game with more than just scoring, and I think he knows that. That's what you're supposed to get out of seniors. When they get to their senior year, there isn't much they haven't seen. And Malik has seen it all.

"Now we just need to keep him healthy. He missed nine games last year. It's tough when you miss that many games to get a rhythm to your game. Hopefully, we'll keep him healthy this year to the point where he's out there for a full season. If he's out there for a full season, we'll have a great year."

One that could exceed great with the addition of Watson, a tough-nosed Oceanside native who averaged 20.3 points at San Francisco as a sophomore in 2015-16. Watson, who sat out last season per NCAA transfer rules, earned first-team all-West Coast Conference honors two years ago after leading the Dons in scoring, assists (4.9), steals (27), field goals (192), three-pointers (65), free throws (159), free-throw percentage (.733) and minutes played (34.7). His scoring average of 20.3 ranked 27th in the nation.

"Devin is very, very good," Dutcher said. "It's not like looking at high school numbers where you project and say, 'Well, he put up pretty good numbers in high school, let's see how this translates to college.' His numbers are college numbers against good competition. When you average that many points and that many assists, those are college numbers against Gonzaga and Saint Mary's and other teams in a very good West Coast Conference. If he puts up anywhere near those numbers, it's going to have a huge impact for us."

And perhaps leave Dutcher with a conundrum. In addition to Kell and Watson, opponents must also deal with returning junior guard Jeremy Hemsley, whose career highs of 12.9 points and 2.1 assists last season could swell with Watson in the mix.

Is Dutcher entertaining thoughts of a three-guard lineup?

"On paper, you can throw a number of combinations out there," he said. "You look at it and say, 'Boy, this could be a really dangerous lineup,' or maybe there's another combination that could be really dangerous. But I told the guys that I want to see it in practice. Of course, everyone's going to say, 'Oh, that's going to be a great

lineup.' Well, if it is, you have to show me that you can beat the other lineup that you're going against. If you think this is the best lineup, then you better be productive with it. You better show me that you can play well together.

"Maybe we'll throw a big lineup out there with Malik and Jalen McDaniels and Kam Rooks with two guards. That would be a great lineup. But if I throw that lineup out there, we need to find out if it's productive. So, I think we'll scrimmage more this year. We'll go up and down more with different combinations. I don't want to be guessing about whether different combinations could be good together, I want to see it."

As with Watson, Rooks, too, has returned to his roots. A product of Mission Hills High in San Marcos where he was named the 22nd-best center in the country by ESPN, the 7-1 266-pound Rooks arrives having played three seasons at California (he was forced to redshirt in 2014-15 after suffering a torn ACL that sidelined him the entire year).

In 83 games (20 starts), Rooks, who averaged 17.9 points and 11 rebounds as a prep player, finished with 60 career blocks for the Golden Bears, 50 of which came in the last two seasons. Before missing 10 games due to injury from late November to early January last season, he was averaging 6.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 2.3 blocks while shooting 54.7 percent from the floor.

"Kam is in great shape," Dutcher said. "He's obviously mature and knows how important it is to put the work in. He's come home to play his senior year. And when you look at the fifth-year guys we've had, guys like Garrett Green and Josh Davis, both of them helped us win a conference title. Valentine (Izundu) provided us with a great defensive presence last year as a shot blocker. We've had great success with our fifth-year seniors and I don't see that being any different with Kam."

Other returning players who spent their first season with the Aztecs last year are junior forward Max Montana and junior guard Montaque Gill-Caesar. Though both were hampered by injuries last season, Montana, a transfer from Indiana, started 10 of the team's 29 games and delivered 52 three-pointers while averaging 7.7 points and 3.8 rebounds. Gill-Caesar, meanwhile, who sat out the 2014-15 season with Montana after transferring from Missouri, has shown the potential to score in a hurry. He had

## Career Games Played/Started

Player	GP	GS
Trey Kell	106	85
Malik Pope	93	37
Kameron Rooks	83	20
Jeremy Hemsley	69	56
Devin Watson	61	47
Max Montana	60	10
Montaque Gill-Caesar	53	15
Nolan Narain	9	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>270</b>

*Includes games played and games started at all Division I schools for eligible players this season.*

## SDSU's KenPom Defensive Adjusted Efficiency (Since '06-'07)

Season	National Rank
2006-07	18
2007-08	50
2008-09	22
2009-10	40
2010-11	2
2011-12	49
2012-13	17
2013-14	9
2014-15	4
2015-16	3
2016-17	29

*Junior Jeremy Hemsley averaged a career-high 12.9 points in 2016-17 and enters his third season as a two-year returning starter.*





# Season Outlook



MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION

12 points in 19 minutes against Savannah State last season and 12 points in 12 minutes against Wyoming.

"I think Montaque's opportunity was limited last year being behind Dakarai (Allen) and (Matt) Shrigley," Dutcher said. "He had little playing time to be able to show what he could do, and if he made a mistake it was magnified because he was a guy playing fewer minutes. I think he's had a pretty good summer, and he'll have the opportunity to get on the floor more and get some game minutes. People will be pleasantly surprised to find that he may be far better than they thought he was going to be."

The 6-10 McDaniels, who was named the Mountain West preseason Co-Freshman of the Year for 2016-17 before opting to redshirt, will now have the opportunity to display skills that helped him lead Federal Way (Wash.) High to consecutive Class 4A state titles. A four-star recruit, McDaniels averaged 21 points and 10 rebounds at Federal Way en route to earning first-team all-state honors.

"Jalen is a kid who is a lot like our other young guys who played on state championship teams," Dutcher said. "He's long, he's athletic and he knows how to play. You can't coach instinct, and Jalen has good instincts. He knows when to move the ball, he knows how to get to the right place on the floor. It will be a big transition, obviously, to go from being a practice player to being a (redshirt) freshman on the floor for the first time in a college game. I think he's going to be very good, but it will take some time for him to get comfortable out there."

"Nolan (6-10 redshirt sophomore) is another player who's going to get his chance. He's played behind our other bigs, and now he's going to get the chance to step out and show that he's a very good player, too."

Of SDSU's three true freshmen, much has been made of the arrival of Matt Mitchell, a 6-6, 225-pound wing from Riverside who was regarded as one of nation's premier players on the spring and summer AAU circuit. Mitchell, who averaged 25.5 points and 9.5 rebounds as a senior at Roosevelt High outside Corona, helped his team capture the CIF Southern California Regional championship and claim the CIF State Division I crown in 2017, before signing with the Aztecs in mid-August.

"Matt Mitchell is a very good player," Dutcher said. "To have a high school senior available that late

doesn't happen very often. Matt is a guy, much like our other freshmen, whose teams won a CIF state title. Jordan Schakel's team (Bishop Montgomery) won a state title. Adam Seiko played for Sierra Canyon, one of the top high school teams in the country. I like the fact that all three of our freshmen are coming from successful high school programs. They're used to winning and they've played with other good players. They weren't just the star of their team, they were surrounded by other good players. They not only know how to score, they know how to make other players around them better."

The 6-6 Schakel, regarded as a four-star wing by ESPN, helped Bishop Montgomery top Seiko's Sierra Canyon team in the CIF Southern Section Open Division semifinals. Schakel, whose high school team won a record 118 games during his career, joins the Aztecs after averaging 18.1 points and 7.1 rebounds as a senior. Seiko, a 6-4 guard, averaged 10.4 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.0 assists in his final year at Sierra Canyon.

Sophomore guard Patrick Fisher, a native of nearby Carlsbad, will sit out the 2017-18 season after transferring from Winthrop.

Meanwhile, for a first-year head coach, one whose role model spent 18 years hoisting San Diego State basketball from forgetful to first class, there is a learning curve all his own.

"I always think it's strange when coaches take over programs and the first thing they say is, 'We're going to change the culture,'" Dutcher said upon being named head coach. "I'm here to say I'm going to do my best to maintain the culture of Aztec basketball. It's a culture of academic excellence, it's a culture of family first.

And, most importantly, it's a culture of winning basketball. It's our charge as coaches and players to maintain the culture that Coach Fisher has set up for us. He's set us up for success. It's our responsibility to move forward, to take the lessons he's given us and keep the program moving forward.

"When we first went into homes they looked at us like we were crazy when we told them our goal was to go to a Final Four. They looked at us and thought, 'That's impossible; you've never hung one banner.' But if you don't have that dream, and if you don't have that goal of doing it, you have no chance of achieving it."

Words particularly applicable as the Aztecs prepare for the 2017-18 season.

"Obviously, our last game of the season (last year) took some time to sink in, because we thought we had a team good enough to go to the NCAA tournament, no matter what we did in the regular season," Dutcher said. "We lost a very close game to Colorado State (in the MW tournament semifinals), but when you look back it was kind of the way our year went. We lost a lot of close games."

"But it's not like it's going to take a major fix, because we're going to be in all of these games again. It's all a matter of whether we can find a way to close games out. People think the difference between first place and sixth place is a mile. It's not a mile. It's one-sixteenth of a mile. The distance is not that great to travel. We just have to travel that one-sixteenth of a mile, but it's the hardest one to travel. It's the last lap at the end of the race."

A race SDSU has long been accustomed to winning.

## One-Nine

Below is a list of the longest active 19-win seasons entering 2017-18.

Rk.	Team	Seasons
1.	Kansas	34
2.	Duke	21
3.	Gonzaga	20
4.	Louisville	16
	Wisconsin	16
6.	North Carolina	15
7.	VCU	14
8.	Akron	13
	Michigan State	13
10.	San Diego State	12
	Belmont	12
	Brigham Young	12

## Class of the MW

Below is a list of the most men's basketball championships (regular-season and tournament) won by current Mountain West teams entering 2017-18.

Rk.	Team	Titles
1.	San Diego State	10
2.	New Mexico	8
3.	UNLV	4
4.	Wyoming	3
5.	Nevada	2
6.	Air Force	1
	Boise State	1
	Colorado State	1
	Fresno State	1

## Among the Best

Below is a list of the highest winning percentages in the country since the start of the 2010-11 campaign and entering 2017-18.

Rk.	Team	Win Pct.
1.	Gonzaga	.841
2.	Wichita State	.829
3.	Kansas	.826
4.	Kentucky	.811
5.	Arizona	.800
6.	Duke	.799
7.	Louisville	.775
8.	North Carolina	.768
9.	Saint Mary's	.768
10.	San Diego State	.758



Junior Max Montana is coming off a season in which he averaged 7.7 points and knocked down 52 three-pointers, which was the second-highest total on the team.

# 2017-18 Schedule



MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time	TV
<b>Exhibition Game</b>					
Nov. 2	Thurs.	UC SAN DIEGO	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	
Nov. 10	Fri.	SAN DIEGO CHRISTIAN	Viejas Arena	TBD	TBD
Nov. 14	Tue.	at Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.	7 p.m. MT	Pac-12 Networks
Nov. 17	Fri.	MCNEESE STATE	Viejas Arena	TBD	TBD
Nov. 20	Mon.	EASTERN ILLINOIS	Viejas Arena	TBD	TBD
Wooden Legacy (Titan Gym; Fullerton, Calif.)					
Nov. 23	Thurs.	vs. Sacramento State	Fullerton, Calif.	10 p.m. PT	ESPNU
Nov. 24	Fri.	vs. Georgia/at Cal State Fullerton	Fullerton, Calif.	4/6:30 p.m. PT	ESPN2/ESPNEWS
Nov. 26	Sun.	TBD	Fullerton, Calif.	TBD	ESPN Networks
Nov. 30	Thurs.	at San Diego	San Diego, Calif.	7 p.m. PT	TBD
<b>Mountain West-Missouri Valley Challenge</b>					
Dec. 3	Sun.	BRADLEY	Viejas Arena	3 p.m. PT	MWN on STADIUM
Dec. 9	Sat.	CALIFORNIA	Viejas Arena	2 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Dec. 21	Thurs.	GONZAGA	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Dec. 27	Wed.	at Wyoming*	Laramie, Wyo.	7 p.m. MT	ESPN3
Dec. 30	Sat.	UTAH STATE*	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	ESPN3
Jan. 2	Tue.	at Colorado State*	Fort Collins, Colo.	7 p.m. MT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 9	Tue.	SAN JOSÉ STATE*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 13	Sat.	at Boise State*	Boise, Idaho	8 p.m. MT	ESPN2
Jan. 17	Wed.	FRESNO STATE*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	ESPNU/ESPN3
Jan. 20	Sat.	at New Mexico*	Albuquerque, N.M.	5 p.m. MT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 24	Wed.	COLORADO STATE*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 27	Sat.	at UNLV*	Las Vegas, Nev.	7 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 3	Sat.	AIR FORCE*	Viejas Arena	5 p.m. PT	ESPNU/ESPN3
Feb. 6	Tue.	at Fresno State*	Fresno, Calif.	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 10	Sat.	at Nevada*	Reno, Nev.	5 p.m. PT	ESPN2
Feb. 14	Wed.	WYOMING*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 17	Sat.	UNLV*	Viejas Arena	1 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 21	Wed.	at Air Force*	USAF Academy, Colo.	7:30 p.m. MT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 24	Sat.	at San José State*	San Jose, Calif.	7 p.m. PT	ESPNU/ESPN3
Feb. 27	Tue.	BOISE STATE*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
March 3	Sat.	NEVADA*	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
<b>Mountain West Championship (Thomas &amp; Mack Center; Las Vegas, Nev.)</b>					
March 7	Wed.	First Round	Las Vegas, Nev.	2/4:30/7 p.m. PT	TBD
March 8	Thurs.	Quarterfinal	Las Vegas, Nev.	12/2:30/6/8:30 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
March 9	Fri.	Semifinal	Las Vegas, Nev.	6/8:30 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
March 10	Sat.	Championship	Las Vegas, Nev.	3 p.m. PT	CBS

\* - Indicates Mountain West game. CAPS indicates home games at Viejas Arena. All times subject to change.

## 2018 NCAA Div. I Men's Basketball Championship Dates and Sites

### First Four

UD Arena  
Dayton, Ohio  
Host: Dayton  
March 13 and 14

### First/Second Rounds

PPG Paints Arena  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Host: Duquesne  
March 15 and 17

Intrust Bank Arena  
Wichita, Kan.  
Host: Wichita State, Missouri Valley  
March 15 and 17

American Airlines Center  
Dallas, Texas  
Hosts: Big 12  
March 15 and 17

Taco Bell Arena  
Boise, Idaho  
Host: Boise State  
March 15 and 17

Spectrum Center  
Charlotte, N.C.  
Host: Charlotte  
March 16 and 18

Little Caesars Arena  
Detroit, Mich.  
Hosts: Detroit  
March 16 and 18

Bridgestone Arena  
Nashville, Tenn.  
Host: Ohio Valley  
March 16 and 18

Viejas Arena  
San Diego, Calif.  
Host: San Diego State  
March 16 and 18

### Regionals

Philips Arena  
Atlanta, Ga.  
Host: Georgia Tech  
March 22 and 24

STAPLES Center  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Host: Pepperdine  
March 22 and 24

TD Garden  
Boston, Mass.  
Host: Boston College  
March 23 and 25

CenturyLink Center Omaha  
Omaha, Neb.  
Hosts: Creighton  
March 24 and 26

### Final Four

Alamodome  
San Antonio, Texas  
Host: Texas - San Antonio  
March 31 and 2

# Broadcast Roster



MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION

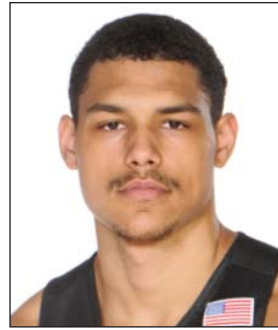
INTRODUCTION ► BROADCAST ROSTER



**0** **Devin Watson**  
Jr. • G • 6-1 • 172  
Oceanside, Calif.



**2** **Adam Seiko**  
Fr. • G • 6-3 • 195  
Boston, Mass.



**3** **Trey Kell**  
Sr. • G • 6-4 • 216  
San Diego, Calif.



**4** **Michael Sohikish**  
Jr. • G • 5-9 • 160  
San Diego, Calif.



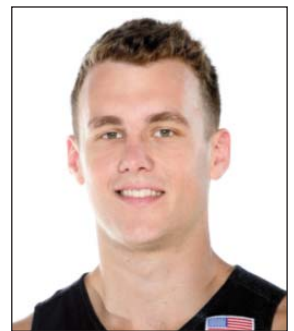
**5** **Jalen McDaniels**  
Fr. • F • 6-10 • 195  
Federal Way, Wash.



**10** **Max Montana**  
Jr. • F • 6-9 • 210  
Calabasas, Calif.



**11** **Matt Mitchell**  
Fr. • F • 6-6 • 230  
Riverside, Calif.



**13** **Patrick Fisher**  
So. • G • 6-4 • 200  
Carlsbad, Calif.



**20** **Jordan Schakel**  
Fr. • G • 6-6 • 195  
Torrance, Calif.



**21** **Malik Pope**  
Sr. • F • 6-10 • 220  
Sacramento, Calif.



**24** **Nolan Narain**  
So. • F • 6-10 • 226  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



**31** **Montaque Gill-Caesar**  
Jr. • G • 6-6 • 216  
Vaughan, Ontario, Canada



**42** **Jeremy Hemsley**  
Jr. • G • 6-3 • 200  
Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.



**45** **Kameron Rooks**  
Sr. • C • 7-1 • 266  
San Marcos, Calif.



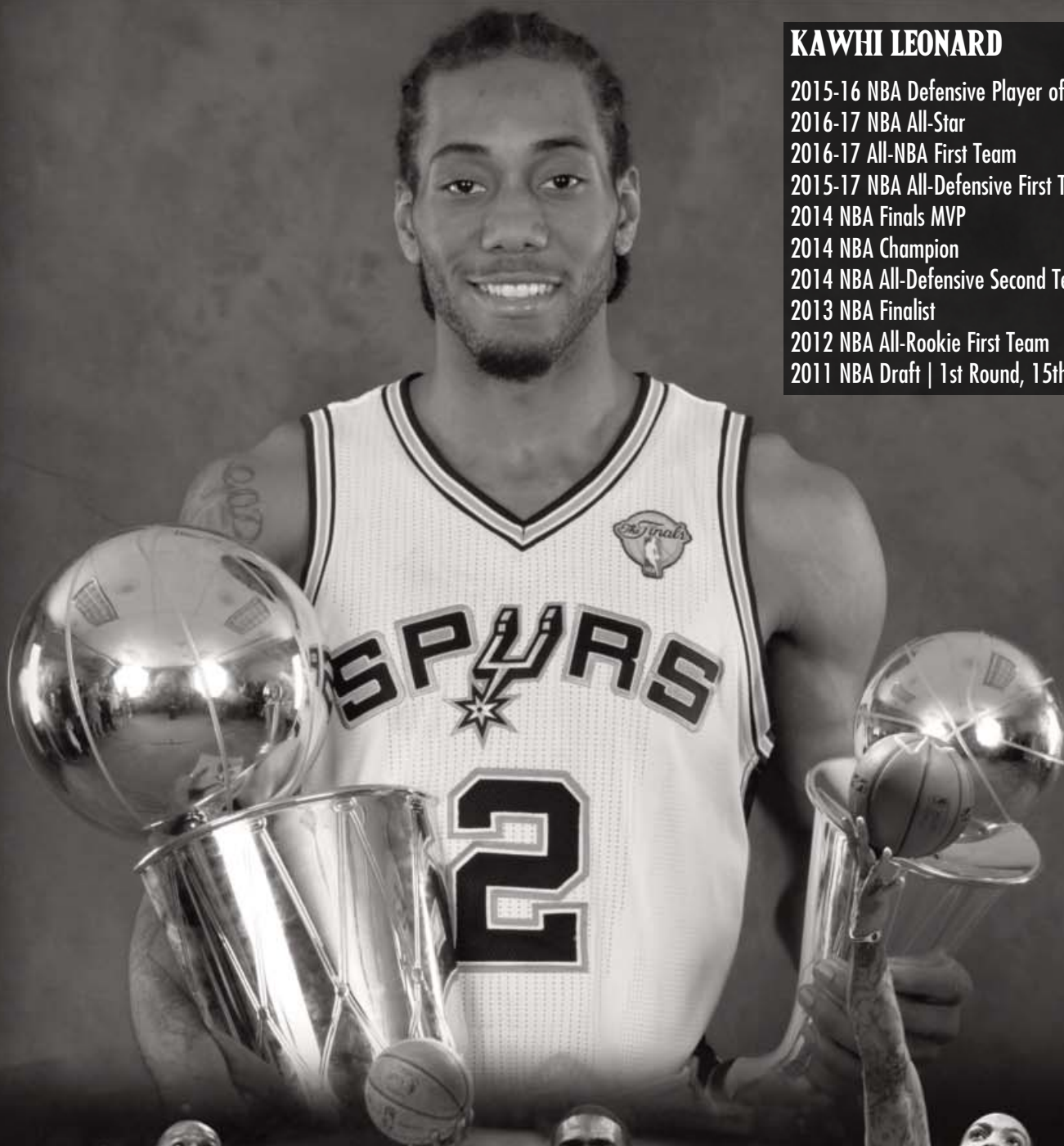
**Brian Dutcher**  
Head Coach

AZTEC BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE

# SAN DIEGO STATE'S MEN IN THE PROS

## KAWHI LEONARD

2015-16 NBA Defensive Player of the Year  
2016-17 NBA All-Star  
2016-17 All-NBA First Team  
2015-17 NBA All-Defensive First Team  
2014 NBA Finals MVP  
2014 NBA Champion  
2014 NBA All-Defensive Second Team  
2013 NBA Finalist  
2012 NBA All-Rookie First Team  
2011 NBA Draft | 1st Round, 15th pick



MARCUS SLAUGHTER



BRANDON HEATH

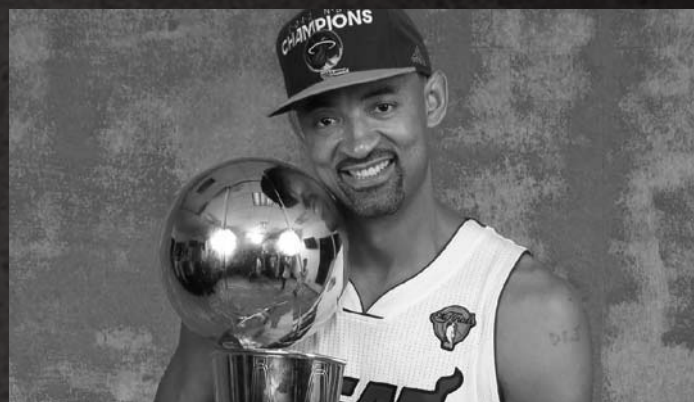


MALCOLM THOMAS

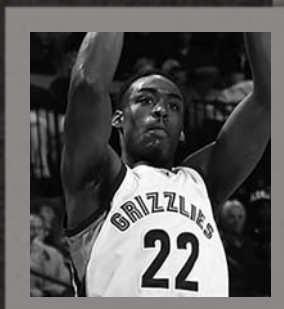


# AZTECS IN THE PROFESSIONAL RANKS SINCE 1999-2000

Player	Last Organization/Country
David Abramowitz	Mexico
Mohamed Abukar	Cyprus
Ryan Amoroso	Argentina
Tony Bland	Lebanon
Evan Burns	G-League — Sioux Falls
Mohamed Camara	IBL — Las Vegas
Brian Carlwell	Australia
Mehdi Cheriet	France
Angelo Chol	Portugal
Marcelo Correa	Uruguay
Josh Davis	Japan
Kelvin Davis	PBL — Providence
Jason Deutchman	Philippines
Myron Epps	ABA — South Valley
Al Faux	Austria
Jamaal Franklin	China
D.J. Gay	Ukraine
Garrett Green	Hungary
Jerome Habel	Mexico
Brandon Heath	Cyprus
Randy Holcomb	Japan
Michael Holper	Philippines
Kawhi Leonard	NBA — San Antonio Spurs
Mike Mackell	PBL — Rochester
Chris Manker	Iceland
Deandre Moore	Mexico
JJ O'Brien	G-League — Agua Caliente Clippers
Dwayne Polee	G-League — Long Island Nets
James Rahon	Japan
Aerick Sanders	Portugal
John Sharper	Macedonia
Winston Shepard	Hungary
Marcus Slaughter	Italy
Brandon Smith	Finland
Kyle Spain	France
Skylar Spencer	Malaysia
DeShawn Stephens	Italy
Chase Tapley	G-League — Tulsa
Xavier Thames	Israel
Malcolm Thomas	Russia
Lorenzo Wade	Lebanon
Billy White	Canada
Richie Williams	Germany



**JUWON HOWARD**  
2012 and 2013 NBA Champion | 19-Year NBA Veteran



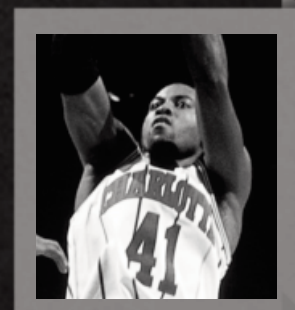
**JAMAAL FRANKLIN**  
2013 NBA Draft Pick - Memphis



**XAVIER THAMES**  
2014 NBA Draft Pick - Toronto



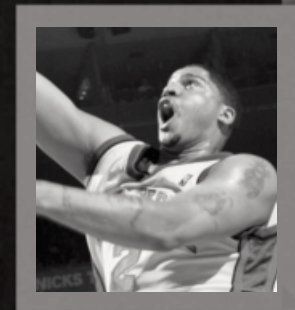
**KAWHI LEONARD**  
6-Year NBA Veteran



**GLEN RICE**  
15-Year NBA Veteran



**JALEN ROSE**  
13-Year NBA Veteran



**MAURICE TAYLOR**  
9-Year NBA Veteran

## DUTCHER'S NBA DRAFT PICKS

Includes players selected while an assistant coach

Year	Player	Year	Player
1989	Glen Rice	1995	Jimmy King
1990	Sean Higgins	1997	Maurice Taylor
	Terry Mills	1998	Robert Traylor
	Rumeal Robinson		Maceo Baston
1990	Loy Vaught	2002	Randy Holcomb
1993	Eric Riley	2011	Kawhi Leonard
	Chris Webber	2013	Jamaal Franklin
1994	Juwon Howard	2014	Xavier Thames
	Jalen Rose		



**ROBERT TRAYLOR**  
7-Year NBA Veteran



**LOY VAUGHT**  
11-Year NBA Veteran

# VIEJAS ARENA AT AZTEC BOWL

## TOP-5 COLLEGE BASKETBALL ATMOSPHERES

BY MIKE DECOURCY, SPORTING NEWS (JUNE 2013)

Rk.	School	Venue
1.	Kansas	Allen Fieldhouse
2.	Duke	Cameron Indoor Stadium
3.	Kentucky	Rupp Arena
4.	Wisconsin	Kohl Center
5.	San Diego State	Viejas Arena

"Viejas Arena is one tough place to play as a visitor. You feel like you are surrounded from above when that place rocks."

- Steve Lappas, CBS Sports Network

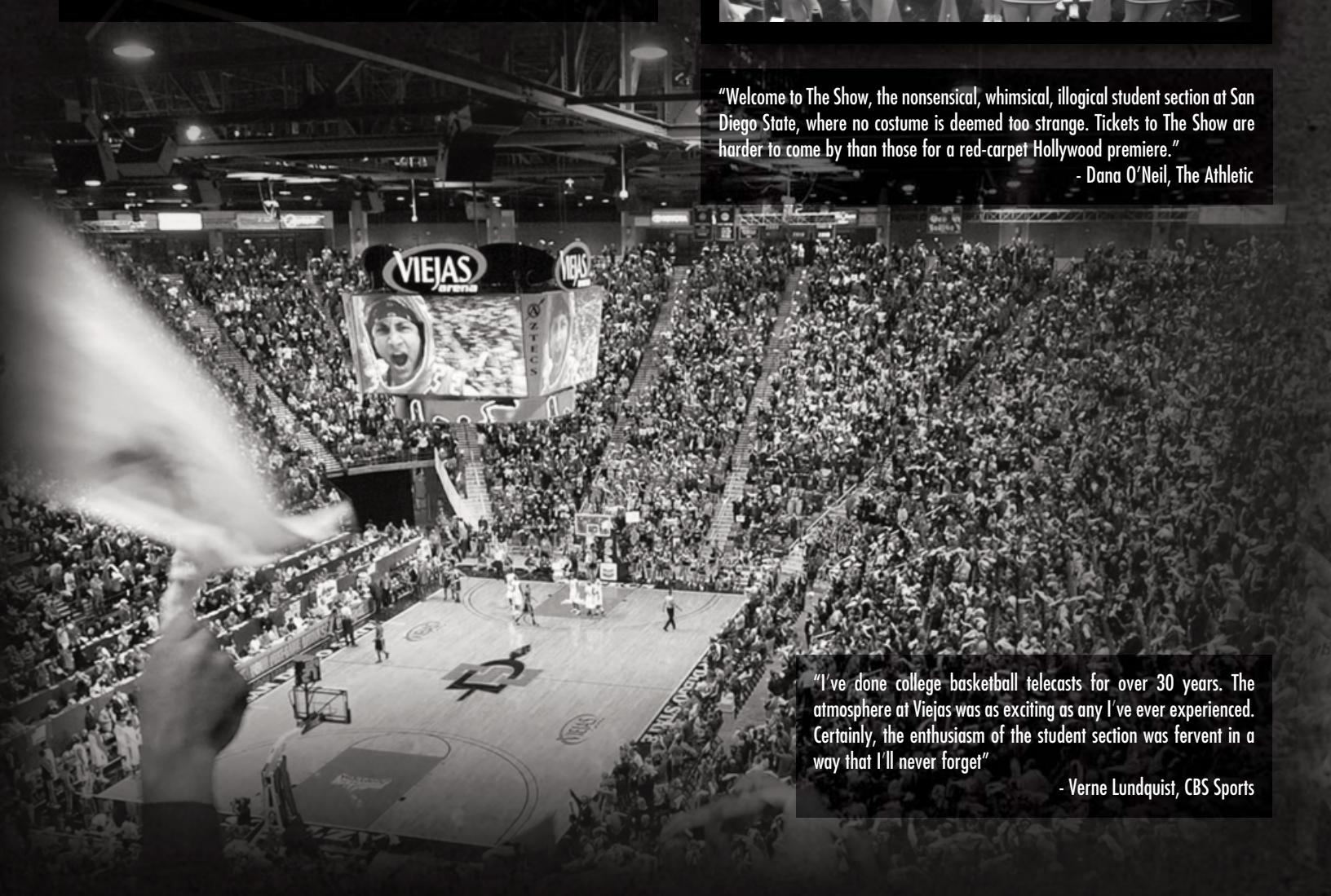


"Welcome to The Show, the nonsensical, whimsical, illogical student section at San Diego State, where no costume is deemed too strange. Tickets to The Show are harder to come by than those for a red-carpet Hollywood premiere."

- Dana O'Neil, The Athletic

"I've done college basketball telecasts for over 30 years. The atmosphere at Viejas was as exciting as any I've ever experienced. Certainly, the enthusiasm of the student section was fervent in a way that I'll never forget"

- Verne Lundquist, CBS Sports





"The atmosphere at Viejas Arena for a big game screams through the television, and when in person is quite a sight to see. You have to appreciate Viejas Arena, one of the best environments in the country."

- Andy Katz, College Basketball Reporter

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

- 119-15 SDSU's record in its last 134 home games
- 80 Played in front of 80 sold-out crowds in its last 86 regular-season home games
- 1 Ranked first in average home attendance in California for seven straight seasons



"The most creative student section in the MW is the foundation of a great atmosphere at Viejas Arena. Bananas, gorillas, little bananas - they all lose their mind when the Aztecs start to run and jump out of the building."

- Tom Hart, ESPN

# JEFF JACOBS JAM CENTER



"This has been a priority for some time and will help both basketball programs immensely. This will be another showcase facility for the athletic department as well as the University as a whole."

- Steve Fisher, Former SDSU Men's Basketball Head Coach



**AZTECS**  
BASKETBALL

San Diego State held a grand-opening ceremony for the 23,500-square foot Jeff Jacobs JAM Center on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2015. The event marked the official opening of the Aztecs' on-campus basketball performance center, which broke ground on Aug. 27, 2014.

Speaking before the ceremonial ribbon cutting was former SDSU president Elliot Hirshman, former men's basketball head coach Steve Fisher and former women's hoops senior guard Ahjalee Harvey.

Preliminary site work started in July 2014, just south of the Fowler Athletics Center and east of the football practice fields. The facility, which will support the continued growth and development of the SDSU men's and women's basketball teams, includes two full-length courts, eight baskets, locker rooms, film room, team lounges, athletic training room and coaches locker rooms.

Hundreds of supporters contributed to the effort to make the Jeff Jacobs JAM Center a reality. In addition to the naming gift from Jeff Jacobs, Hal and Debby Jacobs, Steve and Lisa Altman and Jim Morris, creating the name "JAM" Center, sizeable donations were made from the Manna Charitable Foundation and the Walter and Betty Zable Foundation. The total cost of the project was \$15 million.

The project was designed by JCJ Architecture and was built by The Hunt Construction Group.





## JEFF JACOBS JAM CENTER FEATURES

23,500 square feet

Two full-length courts

Eight baskets

Two scoreboards

Keiser strength equipment

Locker rooms

Film room

Team lounges

Athletic training room



"This is more than just a building, it is our classroom. This will provide an opportunity for our student-athletes to enhance their individual games, which will in turn benefit our programs. This also keeps SDSU competing at the highest level not only in basketball, but in recruiting as well."

- Stacie Terry, SDSU Women's Basketball Head Coach





## Mountain West

10807 New Allegiance Drive  
Suite 250  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Phone: (719) 488-4040  
Fax: (719) 487-7241

### This is the Mountain West

From its inception in 1999, the Mountain West has been committed to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, while promoting the academic missions of its member institutions. Progressive in its approach, the MW continues to cultivate opportunities for student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while fostering academic achievement and sportsmanship. Now in its 19th year, the MW has been assertive in its involvement with the NCAA governance structure and has taken a leadership role in the overall administration of intercollegiate athletics.

The Mountain West has marked several achievements during its first 18 years, most notably becoming the first to establish a sports television network dedicated solely to an intercollegiate athletic conference (The Mtn.). The Mountain West also was the first to experiment with the coaches' challenge in the college football instant replay system, and was the first non-automatic-qualifying BCS conference to participate in four BCS bowl games, winning three. In the inaugural year of the new College Football Playoff system, Boise State earned the automatic slot into a New Year's Six bowl game as the highest-ranked champion from the Group of Five 5 conferences. The Broncos defeated then 10th-ranked Arizona 38-30 in the VIZIO Fiesta Bowl. In 2011-12, the Mountain West was among the first conferences to implement a league-wide state-of-the-art basketball instant replay system.

Changes in the NCAA governance structure set the table for another Conference first, when two members of the MW Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) were included in the June 2014 meeting of the Mountain West Board of Directors. New Mexico track and field athlete Kendall Spencer, the national chair of the 2014-15 NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Air Force Academy volleyball player Emma Dridge joined the BOD members in this historic meeting to advance the discussion on student-athlete involvement in the NCAA and MW governance structure. During the last three academic years, MW student-athletes participated on monthly membership calls and have joined MW administrators in the annual Joint Council Spring Meetings in Arizona.

The Mountain West is well-represented within the new NCAA governance structure, including individuals who were appointed to serve on committees tasked with managing the day-to-day business of Division I athletics. Colorado State President Tony Frank currently sits on the DI Board of Directors, while MW Commissioner Craig Thompson and Fresno State Faculty Athletics Representative Dawn Lewis are members of the DI Council. Kendall Spencer, the former chair of the DI Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and UNM track & field athlete, was the first student-athlete in the history of the organization to serve on the Division I Board.

Additionally, the Mountain West was the first conference to have a member institution with No. 1 overall picks in both the NFL and NBA drafts in the same year (Utah's Alex Smith and Andrew Bogut, respectively in 2005). With UNLV's Anthony Bennett claiming the No. 1 pick in the 2013 NBA Draft, the Mountain West is one of three conferences to have multiple No. 1 NBA draft selections since 2000. Also, with San Diego State's Stephen Strasburg earning the No. 1 pick in the 2009 MLB Draft, the Mountain West is one of two conferences to have the No. 1 selection in each of the NFL, NBA and MLB drafts since the MW was founded in 1999.

The Mountain West is noted for its geographic diversity. Some of the most beautiful terrain and landscapes in the nation can be found within Mountain West boundaries, including the majestic Rocky Mountain range, which borders five MW institutions (Air Force, Boise State, Colorado State, New Mexico and Utah State). The high plains of Wyoming (elevation 7,220 feet – the highest Division I campus in the nation) contrast with the desert cities of Las Vegas and Reno, home to UNLV and Nevada, respectively, while Fresno State, San Diego State and San José State add a West coast influence with their locations in Central, Southern and Northern California. The inclusion of the Hawai'i football program extends the Mountain West footprint to the beautiful islands in the Pacific Ocean, while the addition of the women's soccer program at Colorado College gives the MW an additional presence in the Rocky Mountains.

### History

The Mountain West was conceived on May 26, 1998, when the presidents of eight institutions — Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, UNLV, Utah and Wyoming — decided to form a new NCAA Division I-A intercollegiate athletic conference. The split from a former 16-team conference re-established continuity and stability among the membership within the new league and signaled the continuation of its tradition-rich, long-standing athletic rivalries. Three of the MW's eight original members have been conference rivals since the 1960s (New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado State), while San Diego State (1978) and Air Force (1980) were longtime members as well. UNLV and TCU entered the fold in 1996 and the Rebels continued as one of the original eight institutions that formed the MW in 1999. TCU re-joined the group with its first year of competition in the Mountain West in 2005-06. With conference realignment sweeping the nation in recent years, the MW has been proactive in addressing membership changes. Boise State University joined the Mountain West in 2011-12, followed by Fresno State and the University of Nevada on July 1, 2012. Also on July 1, 2012, the University of Hawai'i became a football-only member of the Conference. On July 1, 2013, the Mountain West further expanded when San José State University and Utah State University joined the Conference, bringing to 11 the number of full-time member institutions and 12 football-playing members. On July 1, 2014, the Colorado College women's soccer program became the first non-football affiliate member of the Mountain West, expanding that sport to 12 Conference participants.

### Opportunity

The Mountain West provides a first-class athletic and academic experience for more than 5,100 student-athletes each year. Over the past 18 years, 42 Mountain West student-athletes have earned NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, and since the league's inception in 1999, an additional 36 student-athletes have been named MW Scholar-Athlete of the Year and awarded league-sponsored postgraduate scholarships. Four Mountain West student-athletes have earned distinction as Rhodes Scholars (Jessica Mellinger, Wyoming, and Delavane Diaz, Brittany Morreale and Rebecca Esselstein, Air Force).

Conference student-athletes are also given a voice regarding pertinent issues within the MW and NCAA governance structure through representation on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). The Mountain West SAAC is comprised of 24 members (22 student-athlete representatives, the MW representative to the Division I National SAAC and one faculty athletics representative). The committee reviews and reacts to legislation and to other topics referred by the Conference constituent groups or committees related to the student-athlete experience. Since the inclusion of two SAAC members at the June 2014 meeting of the MW Board of Directors, the Conference maintains its commitment to the participation of student-athletes in its governance structure, which is consistent with the Mountain West's focus on enhancing the student-athlete experience.