



## SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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## 2014-15 San Diego State Men's Basketball Preseason Accolades (as of Oct. 16)

### National Rankings

- No. 13 by Athlon Sports
- No. 14 by Gary Parrish (CBSSports.com, May 7)
- No. 15 by Jeff Eisenberg (Yahoo! Sports, Oct. 6)
- No. 15 by Scott Gleeson (USA Today, April 22)
- No. 16 by Mike DeCourcy (Sporting News, Oct. 2)
- No. 16 by Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook
- No. 17 by USA Today Coaches Poll
- No. 17 by Blue Ribbon
- No. 17 by Dick Vitale (ESPN.com, Sept. 30)
- No. 17 by Jason McIntyre (The Big Lead, April 8)
- No. 18 by Rob Dauster (NBCSports.com, Oct. 15)
- No. 19 by Reid Forgrave (FOXSports.com, Oct. 15)
- No. 20 by Eamonn Brennan (ESPN.com, April 28)
- No. 20 by Ryan Fagan (The Sporting News, April 9)
- No. 21 by Jon Rothstein (CBS Sports Network, April 14)
- No. 25 by Jason King (Bleacher Report, Aug. 13)
- No. 19 on ESPN.com's College Basketball Future Power Rankings (most success over next three seasons; Sept. 10)
- No. 4 defense nationally by John Gasaway (ESPN.com, Sept. 18)

### Postseason Predictions

- NCAA Sweet 16 and No. 4 seed by Athlon Sports
- NCAA tournament participant by Lindy's Sports

### Mountain West Rankings

- No. 1 by MW Preseason Media Poll
- No. 1 by Jeff Nusser (ESPN.com, Oct. 1)
- No. 1 by Lindy's Sports
- No. 1 by Athlon Sports
- No. 1 by Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook
- No. 1 by Jon Rothstein (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### Individual

#### **Winston Shepard**

- MW Player of the Year by Lindy's Sports

- MW Player of the Year by Athlon Sports
- All-MW by MW Preseason Media Poll
- All-MW First Team by Lindy's Sports
- All-MW by Athlon Sports
- All-MW by Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook
- All-MW First Team (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)
- No. 4 small forward nationally by Lindy's Sports
- Top-20 Wing Player (Chris Johnson, SI.com, Sept. 3)

### **Dwayne Polee II**

- All-MW by MW Preseason Media Poll
- All-MW by Athlon Sports
- All-MW by Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook
- All-MW Second Team by Lindy's Sports
- Difference Maker by Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook
- One of 5 Breakout MW Players (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### **Angelo Chol**

- MW Preseason Newcomer of the Year by MW Preseason Media Poll
- All-MW Newcomer Team by Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook
- One of 12 in Sporting News' Dynamic Dozen (Mike DeCourcy, Sporting News, July 31)
- One of 10 Impact MW Transfers (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### **Skylar Spencer**

- No. 25 center nationally by Lindy's Sports
- All-MW Third Team by Lindy's Sports

### **Zylan Cheatham**

- No. 70 on Athlon Sports' Class of 2014: Top 250
- No. 100 on Lindy's Sports' Top 100 Incoming Freshmen
- One of 10 Impact MW Freshmen (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### **Trey Kell**

- No. 42 on Lindy's Sports' Top 100 Incoming Freshmen
- No. 82 on Athlon Sports' Class of 2014: Top 250
- One of five underrated freshmen to know in 2014 (Paul Biancardi, ESPN.com, Sept. 1)
- One of 10 Impact MW Freshmen (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### **Malik Pope**

- No. 51 on Athlon Sports' Class of 2014: Top 250
- One of 10 Impact MW Freshmen (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### **Kevin Zabo**

- No. 166 on Athlon Sports' Class of 2014: Top 250
- One of 10 Impact MW Freshmen (Jon Rothstein, CBS Sports Network, July 23)

### **What They're Saying**

"The Aztecs are seeking their 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive 20-win campaign. A knack for reloading and the ability to get players to sell out defensively have been trademarks of the program's recent successful run. The names change, role players develop into standouts and the victories follow. San Diego State is easily the class of the Mountain West entering this season." — Athlon Sports

"The Aztecs lost their leading scorer (Xavier Thames) and rebounder (Josh Davis). But they'll compete for the Mountain West title thanks to the return of Winston Shepard, Dwayne Polee II and JJ O'Brien." — Jason King, Bleacher Report (Aug. 13)

"Yet even if (Winston Shepard) can't replicate Thames' production, Shepard and a strong supporting cast should again make San Diego State one of the top teams on the West Coast." — Chris Johnson, SI.com (Sept. 3)

"He can beat you off the dribble and finish in traffic at the rim or he can bury the three-pointer with range. (Dwayne) Polee's dual-threat offensive capacity makes him a very tough cover for the rest of the Mountain West, which has few teams that can match up with him athletically." — Steve Carp, Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook and Las Vegas Review-Journal

"(Trey) Kell joins a loaded San Diego State roster and will have an immediate influence as an accurate long-range shooter, as well as with his ability to score inside the arc. What most don't realize is Kell's ability to impact the game with his basketball knowledge by making reads and cuts to get open for his jumper, which will make him stand out as an offensive weapon. With excellent size at 6-4 and a strong frame, contact and physicality won't be a problem. When it comes to being productive and dangerous from the perimeter, Kell could be the answer for the Aztecs." — Paul Biancardi, ESPN.com (Sept. 1)

"The non-conference schedules assembled by San Diego State and UNLV both feature numerous marquee opponents, but the difference is that the Aztecs are much better equipped to handle it." — Jeff Eisenberg, Yahoo! Sports (Sept. 10)

"(Steve Fisher has) built SDSU into a magnet for overlooked West Coast talent, taken his teams deep into the NCAA tournament, built one of the rowdiest and most dedicated fan bases in the country and established the Aztecs as an undoubtable top-25 team no matter the makeup of his roster. Not too shabby." — Eamonn Brennan, ESPN.com (Sept. 10)

"SDSU faces a huge question mark at the point guard position in the wake of Xavier Thames' departure. Then again, Steve Fisher returns six veterans from last season's eight-man rotation and adds Arizona transfer Angelo Chol and three top-100 freshmen. VCU gets all the publicity for takeaways but SDSU creates a similar degree of statistical havoc, albeit at a less frenzied pace." — John Gasaway, ESPN.com (Sept. 18)

**-SDSU-**