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SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS



The 2015-16 SDSU Men's Basketball Media Guide

The 2015-16 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.

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Media Information



SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS

General Information

Location San Diego, Calif., 92182
 Founded 1897
 Enrollment 32,396
 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 Dr. Elliot Hirshman
 Alma Mater (Year) Yale (1983)
 Athletics Director Jim Sterk
 Alma Mater (Year) Western Washington (1980)
 Athletic Department Phone 619-594-3019
 Ticket Office Phone 619-283-7378
 or 619-283-SDSU

History

Seasons of Basketball Entering 95th
 First Season of Basketball 1921-22
 All-Time Record 1,395-1,077-1
 NCAA Tournament Appearances 13
 Seasons of Div. I Basketball Entering 46th
 First Season of Div. I Basketball 1970-71
 All-Time Div. I Record 707-632
 NCAA Div. I Tournament Appearances 11
 Last NCAA Appearance 2015
 NIT Appearances 5
 Last NIT Appearance 2009

Media Relations

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 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 Steve Fisher
 Alma Mater (Year) Illinois State (1967)
 Record at SDSU (Years) 339-185 (16)
 Record Overall (Years) 523-267 (24 full)
 Basketball Office Phone 619-594-6249
 Best Time to Contact Fisher Contact May
 Associate Head Coach/
 Head Coach in Waiting Brian Dutcher
 Alma Mater (Year) Minnesota (1982)
 Assistant Coach Justin Hutson
 Alma Mater (Year) CSU Bakersfield (1994)
 Assistant Coach David Velasquez
 Alma Mater (Year) San Diego State (2007)
 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 Tim Shelton
 Alma Mater (Year) San Diego State (2011)
 Basketball Trainer Tom Abdenour
 Alma Mater (Year) Wayne State (1976)
 Administrative Assistant Leana DeKock

Team Information

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Neu.</i>
2014-15 Record	27-9	16-1	7-5	4-3
2014-15 MW Record	14-4	8-1	6-3	
Mountain West Finish	T-1st			
MW Tournament	Finalist (2-1)			
Postseason	NCAA			
NCAA Finish	South, Third Round (1-1)			
Final Top-25 Ranking	.NA (AP)/RV (Coaches)			
Starters Returning/Lost	.3/2			
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	.8/5			

Media Information

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 Play-By-Play Announcer Ted Leitner
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 Video Footage Contact Jason Bott
 VFC Phone Number 619-594-2428
 Beat Writer Mark Zeigler
 San Diego Union-Tribune
 619-293-1341

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 SID Office Fax 619-582-6541
 Viejas Arena Press Row 619-265-5853
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 Twitter @GoAztecs/#AztecMBB
 Facebook facebook.com/goaztecs
 Instagram @GoAztecs
 YouTube youtube.com/goaztecscom

2015-16 Roster Breakdown

Starters Returning (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Winston Shepard	6-8	210	Sr.	F	11.1	5.3
Matt Shrigley	6-6	180	Jr.	F	5.1	1.6
Skylar Spencer	6-10	240	Sr.	F	3.7	5.1

Total Letterwinners Returning (8)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Dakarai Allen	6-5	195	Jr.	G	2.6	1.7
Angelo Chol	6-9	215	Sr.	F	4.4	3.1
Trey Kell	6-4	210	So.	G	5.6	2.8
Malik Pope	6-10	210	So.	F	5.1	2.7
Winston Shepard	6-8	210	Sr.	F	11.1	5.3
Matt Shrigley	6-6	180	Jr.	F	5.1	1.6
Skylar Spencer	6-10	240	Sr.	F	3.7	5.1
D'Erryl Williams	6-3	195	Jr.	G	1.1	0.7

Others Returning (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Zylan Cheatham	6-9	215	RFr.	F	--	--
Niksha Federico	6-7	190	Jr.	F	0.0	0.2
Parker U'u	6-5	220	Jr.	G	1.0	3.0

Newcomers (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.
Montaque Gill-Caesar	6-6	210	So.	G
Jeremy Hemsley	6-3	180	Fr.	G
Max Hoetzel	6-9	210	So.	F
Nolan Narain	6-9	220	Fr.	F
Ben Perez	6-3	175	Fr.	G

Starters Lost (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
JJ O'Brien	6-7	215	Sr.	F	10.3	5.2
Aqeel Quinn	6-3	200	Sr.	G	10.7	2.8

Total Letterwinners Lost (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
JJ O'Brien	6-7	215	Sr.	F	10.3	5.2
Dwayne Polee II	6-7	200	Sr.	F	7.8	2.6
Aqeel Quinn	6-3	200	Sr.	G	10.7	2.8
Ryan Staten	6-2	185	Sr.	G	0.0	0.2
Kevin Zabo	6-2	185	Fr.	G	2.6	1.0

Honors Candidates

Zylan Cheatham - MW Freshman of the Year,
 MW Newcomer of the Year
 Jeremy Hemsley - MW Freshman of the Year,
 MW Newcomer of the Year
 Trey Kell - All-MW
 Malik Pope - All-MW, All-Region
 Winston Shepard - All-MW, All-Region
 Skylar Spencer - All-MW, MW Defensive Player
 of the Year





2015-16 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	
4	Dakarai Allen	G	6-5	195	Jr.	2L	2.6	1.7	0.4	Elk Grove, Calif. (Sheldon High)
14	Zylan Cheatham	F	6-9	215	Fr.	RS	--	--	--	Phoenix, Ariz. (South Mountain High)
3	Angelo Chol	F	6-9	215	Sr.	1L	4.4	3.1	0.2	San Diego, Calif. (Hoover High/Arizona)
33	Niksha Federico	F	6-7	190	Jr.	SQ	0.0	0.2	0.0	San Diego, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic High)
42	Jeremy Hemsley	G	6-3	180	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Damien High)
12	Trey Kell	G	6-4	210	So.	1L	5.6	2.8	1.6	San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine High)
24	Nolan Narain	F	6-9	220	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (La Lumiere School (Ind.))
15	Ben Perez	G	6-3	175	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	San Marcos, Calif. (Air Force Prep Academy (Colo.))
21	Malik Pope	F	6-10	210	So.	1L	5.1	2.7	0.6	Sacramento, Calif. (Laguna Creek High)
13	Winston Shepard	F	6-8	210	Sr.	3L	11.1	5.3	1.9	Houston, Texas (Findlay Prep (Nev.))
20	Matt Shrigley	F	6-6	180	Jr.	2L	5.1	1.6	1.0	San Diego, Calif. (La Costa Canyon High)
0	Skylar Spencer	F	6-10	240	Sr.	3L	3.7	5.1	0.3	Inglewood, Calif. (Price High)
22	Parker U'u	G	6-5	220	Jr.	SQ	1.0	3.0	0.0	Sacramento, Calif. (Jesuit High/Hartford)
11	D'Erryl Williams	G	6-3	195	Jr.	2L	1.1	0.7	0.4	Sacramento, Calif. (Sheldon High)

2015-16 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	Skylar Spencer	F	6-10	240	Sr.	3L	3.7	5.1	0.3	Inglewood, Calif. (Price High)
3	Angelo Chol	F	6-9	215	Sr.	1L	4.4	3.1	0.2	San Diego, Calif. (Hoover High/Arizona)
4	Dakarai Allen	G	6-5	195	Jr.	2L	2.6	1.7	0.4	Elk Grove, Calif. (Sheldon High)
11	D'Erryl Williams	G	6-3	195	Jr.	2L	1.1	0.7	0.4	Sacramento, Calif. (Sheldon High)
12	Trey Kell	G	6-4	210	So.	1L	5.6	2.8	1.6	San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine High)
13	Winston Shepard	F	6-8	210	Sr.	3L	11.1	5.3	1.9	Houston, Texas (Findlay Prep (Nev.))
14	Zylan Cheatham	F	6-9	215	Fr.	RS	--	--	--	Phoenix, Ariz. (South Mountain High)
15	Ben Perez	G	6-3	175	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	San Marcos, Calif. (Air Force Prep Academy (Colo.))
20	Matt Shrigley	F	6-6	180	Jr.	2L	5.1	1.6	1.0	San Diego, Calif. (La Costa Canyon High)
21	Malik Pope	F	6-10	210	So.	1L	5.1	2.7	0.6	Sacramento, Calif. (Laguna Creek High)
22	Parker U'u	G	6-5	220	Jr.	SQ	1.0	3.0	0.0	Sacramento, Calif. (Jesuit High/Hartford)
24	Nolan Narain	F	6-9	220	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (La Lumiere School (Ind.))
33	Niksha Federico	F	6-7	190	Jr.	SQ	0.0	0.2	0.0	San Diego, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic High)
42	Jeremy Hemsley	G	6-3	180	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Damien High)

Head Coach: Steve Fisher (Illinois State, 1967)

Associate Head Coach/

Head Coach In Waiting: Brian Dutcher (Minnesota, 1982)

Assistant Coaches: Justin Hutson (CSU Bakersfield, 1994), David Velasquez (San Diego State, 2007)

Assistant to the Head Coach: Mark Fisher (Michigan, 2001)

Director of Operations: Matt Soria (San Diego State, 2002)

Director of Player Development: Tim Shelton (San Diego State, 2011)

Eligible in 2016-17

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Most Recent Div. I Season			Hometown (High School/Previous School)
							PPG	RPG	APG	
23	Montaque Gill-Caesar	G	6-6	210	So.	TR	9.1	3.0	0.5	Vaughan, Ontario, Canada (Huntington Prep (W.Va.)/Missouri)
10	Max Hoetzel	F	6-9	210	So.	TR	2.4	1.3	0.3	Calabasas, Calif. (Wilbraham & Monson Academy (Mass.)/Indiana)

► Pronunciations

Dakarai Allen
 Duh-kar-ree Allen
 Zylan Cheatham
 ZY-lin Cheat-um
 Niksha Federico
 NEEK-sha Federico
 Montaque Gill-Caesar
 Mahn-TACK Gill-Caesar
 Max Hoetzel
 Max HOTE-zull

Parker U'u

Parker You-you
 D'Erryl Williams
 DEE-air-ol Williams

► By Class

Seniors (3)
 Angelo Chol, Winston Shepard, Skylar Spencer
Juniors (5)
 Dakarai Allen, Niksha

Federico, Matt Shrigley,
 Parker U'u, D'Erryl Williams
Sophomore (4)
 Montaque Gill-Caesar,
 Max Hoetzel, Trey Kell,
 Malik Pope
Freshmen (4)
 Zylan Cheatham, Jeremy Hemsley, Nolan Narain,
 Ben Perez

► By Position

Guards (7)
 Dakarai Allen, Montaque Gill-Caesar, Jeremy Hemsley, Trey Kell, Ben Perez, Parker U'u, D'Erryl Williams
Forwards (8)
 Zylan Cheatham, Angelo Chol, Niksha Federico,
 Max Hoetzel, Nolan

Narain, Malik Pope,
 Winston Shepard, Matt Shrigley, Skylar Spencer
Centers (0)
 None

The 2015-16 Season Outlook



Standing Tall, Riding High

By Mick McGrane

Challenge begets chance begets the chase.

And where San Diego State men's basketball is concerned, the quest for yet another championship.

It has become standard procedure and modus operandi, the means by which all seasons are now measured.

As always, of course, there is change in the air, that time when guardianship of the program is transferred from the hands of former players to those entrusted to protect tradition.

In 2015-16, the transfer arguably includes a shift from deliberate to dynamic, a passing of the baton that while never de-emphasizing defense, will no less be infused by a lineup laden with athleticism.

Gone is the steadiness of Aqeel Quinn, the sturdiness of JJ O'Brien and the absolute courage of Dwayne Polee II, who in dealing with a heart ailment that sidelined him for 15 games, indeed became the heart of a team that won 25 or more games for the sixth time in seven years.

Yet the returning cast is far from unequipped to handle the rigors of a road marked by six straight trips to the NCAA tournament, the eighth-longest

active streak in the nation.

"I'm excited about our team; we expect to be good," said Coach Steve Fisher. "I've said before that we don't just have a team, we have a program. And we want to continue --- and I underline continue --- to show it. But to do that we have to get better.

"We lose three fifth-year seniors, three guys that were all basically starters, guys who were used to winning and who were a big part of that winning while they were here. But we've also got good talent returning. We've got veterans and we've got new kids. We've got no experience, we've got limited experience and then we've got a lot of experience."

As to the latter, the Aztecs, who finished 27-9 last season in garnering a share of the Mountain West regular-season title and advancing to the third round of the NCAA tournament, return two starters in senior forward Winston Shepard and senior center Skylar Spencer. That number would have been three of not for a knee injury suffered by junior forward Matt Shrigley in July. Shrigley, whose return for the 2015-16 season remains in question, started 17 of SDSU's final 21 games and was the team's second-lead-





San Diego State cut down nets for the second straight season in 2014-15 and claimed its Mountain West-leading ninth conference championship.

Senior Winston Shepard is coming off a 2014-15 campaign that saw him earn all-Mountain West second-team honors.

Team Breakdown

2014-15 Record	27-9
MW Record	14-4
MW Finish	T-1st
MW Tournament	2-1
NCAA Tournament	1-1

Starters Returning (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Winston Shepard	6-8	210	Sr.	F	11.1	5.3
Matt Shrigley	6-6	180	Jr.	F	5.1	1.6
Skylar Spencer	6-10	240	Sr.	F	3.7	5.1

Total Letterwinners Returning (8)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Dakarai Allen	6-5	195	Jr.	G	2.6	1.7
Angelo Chol	6-9	215	Sr.	F	4.4	3.1
Trey Kell	6-4	210	So.	G	5.6	2.8
Malik Pope	6-10	210	So.	F	5.1	2.7
Winston Shepard	6-8	210	Sr.	F	11.1	5.3
Matt Shrigley	6-6	180	Jr.	F	5.1	1.6
Skylar Spencer	6-10	240	Sr.	F	3.7	5.1
D'Erryl Williams	6-3	195	Jr.	G	1.1	0.7

Others Returning (3)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Zylan Cheatham	6-9	215	RFr.	F	--	--
Niksha Federico	6-7	190	Jr.	F	0.0	0.2
Parker U'u	6-5	220	Jr.	G	1.0	3.0

Newcomers (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.
Montaque Gill-Casear	6-6	210	So.	G
Jeremy Hemsley	6-3	180	Fr.	G
Max Hoetzel	6-9	210	So.	F
Nolan Narain	6-9	220	Fr.	F
Ben Perez	6-3	175	Fr.	G

Starters Lost (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
JJ O'Brien	6-7	215	Sr.	F	10.3	5.2
Aqeel Quinn	6-3	200	Sr.	G	10.7	2.8

Total Letterwinners Lost (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
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Dwayne Polee II	6-7	200	Sr.	F	7.8	2.6
Aqeel Quinn	6-3	200	Sr.	G	10.7	2.8
Ryan Staten	6-2	185	Sr.	G	0.0	0.2
Kevin Zabo	6-2	185	Fr.	G	2.6	1.0



Season Outlook



SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS

SDSU's KenPom Defensive Adjusted Efficiency *(Since 2006-07)*

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

ing three-point shooter.

"I feel terrible for Matt," Fisher said. "He's clearly one of our better shooters. If you were asked to rank the top three shooters on our team, he would rank one or two on most people's lists. The prognosis was that he would miss six months, which would put his chance of returning at February 1st. Will he be cleared to play by February 1st and then have to play himself back into shape? At that point in the season, we only have a month left before tournaments.

"I don't know what will happen, but I do know this: Matt has worked incredibly hard to do everything in his power to speed up the (recovery) time. I believe he's ahead of schedule in terms of his strength and flexibility, and there have been times where we've actually had to slow him down in the weight room. He's been relentless and I'm proud of him for that. I'm optimistic that he'll have an opportunity to play this season."

Shepard enters his final season at SDSU as the returning leader in scoring (11.1 ppg), rebounding (5.3) and assists (1.9). A second-team all-MW selection last season, Shepard, who averaged 12.3 points and 6.0 rebounds over the Aztecs' final nine games in 2014-15, has scored in double figures 23 times.

Spencer, meanwhile, who returns as SDSU's all-time leader in blocked shots, rejected 91 attempts last season, the 14th-highest total in the nation. He has never missed a game, playing in 106 consecutive contests.

And then comes the fall from senior to sophomore, which is considerably less precipitous than potentially show-stopping. With a year of experience in hand, the most-heralded freshmen class in Aztec history now takes center stage, with no promises that a rim or two won't be wrecked in the process.

The parade begins with forward

Malik Pope, who was seen by many as a potential, if not probable, first-round NBA selection following his freshman season. The 6-foot-10 Pope, who announced his intention to return to SDSU in April, was projected by at least one major publication as being as top 20 pick. This, despite the fact that he did not become a regular part of the Aztecs' rotation until January, largely a precautionary measure in the wake of Pope having twice broken his left leg as a five-star recruit at Laguna Creek High in the Sacramento suburb of Elk Grove.

The multi-dimensional Pope, who per 40 minutes averaged 13.9 points, 7.3 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 2.1 blocked shots, returns as the team's top three-point shooter. He finished 20-for-49 (40.8 percent) beyond the arc in 2014-15, including a stretch over the final 20 games in which he shot 47.4 percent (18-for-38).

And then there's the prospect of the Aztecs simultaneously unleashing the three-headed monster of Shepard, Pope and redshirt freshman Zylan Cheatham, who missed all of last season after suffering a broken foot. Cheatham, a highly-decorated 6-9 power forward, came to SDSU as a four-star recruit rated as the second-best player in Arizona by ESPN.com.

"Zylan gives us a superior athlete, and we've had those kinds of players in the past," Fisher said. "He's bulldog tough. He has incredible energy and stamina and competitive spirit. Our fans saw him last year with the kind of enthusiasm he showed on the bench and the way he energized our players who were on the floor. I think the fans are going to see the same thing this year in the way he plays. He's starved to get out on that floor and finally get his chance to play. It was not easy for him not being able to play last year."

Nor was it always easy for fellow freshman Trey Kell. Having arrived at SDSU as a local prep star at St. Augustine High, Kell became seen as a successor at point guard to Xavier Thames, who merely had been selected by the Toronto Raptors in the second round of the 2014 NBA Draft. It would have been a difficult act to follow for any player, much less a true freshman largely viewed as a shooting guard coming out of high school.

Nonetheless, Kell finished the season as the team's fourth-leading scorer (5.6 ppg) and also ranked third in assists (1.6). He was the team's lone freshman to start a game (15).

"Much was expected of Trey Kell



Malik Pope was 22-for-44 from the floor in his final 10 games and earned a USA Basketball U19 World Championship Team training camp invitation.

last year when he walked in the door," Fisher said. "We put the ball in his hands maybe more than we should have as a freshman, but I thought he did an admirable job. He's had an incredible spring, summer and early fall, so we expect Trey to have a terrific sophomore season. How much he has the ball in terms of bringing it up (the court) off of makes, I don't know."

What Fisher does know is that he successfully fended off a number of heavy hitters, including Arizona, Gonzaga and UConn, to secure the talents of incoming freshman Jeremy Hemsley. Viewed as a consensus four-star recruit by all major recruiting services, Hemsley, the *Los Angeles Times* Player of the Year, led Damien High in La Verne to last season's Division III state title as the team's point guard. At 6-3, Hemsley, a skilled passer who also averaged 21 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, is seen as a bigger version of Thames and a player who can cover multiple

Career Games Played/Started

Player	GP	GS
Skylar Spencer	106	72
Winston Shepard	102	72
Angelo Chol	98	0
Matt Shrigley	66	20
Dakarai Allen	62	1
D'Erryl Williams	37	0
Trey Kell	35	15
Malik Pope	31	0
Parker U'u	31	0
Niksha Federico	9	0
Totals	577	180

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

Trey Kell started 15 games as a true freshman in 2014-15, and is one of five Aztecs with starting experience at the Division I level.



Season Outlook



SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS



Dakarai Allen returns for his junior season for a San Diego State team that has finished second in the nation in scoring defense two consecutive years.

positions on defense.

"We really like Jeremy Hemsley," Fisher said. "He's a very good player, but we'll see just how good. Sometimes freshmen shine, sometimes it takes a while. But we like what we've seen with Jeremy so far and we think he'll have a great opportunity to be in the mix and in the rotation."

If Hemsley makes the most of that opportunity, he could be a major factor in helping the Aztecs improve on a shooting percentage (41.8) that last season ranked 263rd among the nation's 345 Division I teams.

"We must shoot the ball better from the perimeter and we must shoot it consistently better," Fisher said. "Now, I can give you three to five games from last season, and if that was all I showed you, you'd think we were one of the best shooting teams in America, including our (NCAA tournament) game against St. John's when we made (nine) threes. We looked like world-beaters. And that was from the

same team that scored 43 points the week before in the (Mountain West tournament) championship game against Wyoming.

"We've got to be able to make shots. I think we'll make more, but until we do that's what people are going to be waiting to see. We also need to find other ways to get points, whether it's offensive-rebound baskets or getting to the free-throw line more than we did last year, we've got to do a variety of things to score more points. But part of scoring points is that when you get a wide-open shot, you have to have guys who without hesitation can take it and make it."

Particularly given a merciless non-conference schedule that promises to provide Fisher and his staff all they need to know prior to league play. Following a matchup with Fisher's alma mater, Illinois State, to open the season on Nov. 13, the Aztecs travel to Utah just three days later to face a team expected to debut in the first top-25 poll of the season.

Another preseason top-25 opponent will be waiting in the wings when SDSU faces California in the Continental Tire Las Vegas Invitational on Nov. 26. If that's not a sufficient litmus test, the Aztecs could potentially face rugged Big 12 member West Virginia in the same event just 24 hours later.

Contests with potentially dangerous Long Beach State and a game with crosstown rival USD at Petco Park come the following week, serving only as preludes to the highly anticipated arrival of perennial heavyweight Kansas at Viejas Arena on Dec. 22.

"If you look at who we play and how good those teams potentially are, it's as good of a non-conference schedule as we've ever played, maybe the best," Fisher said. "It's really saying a mouthful in terms of quality, big-name opponents and it's going to be a challenge."

So is SDSU, the only team among California's 24 Division I programs to earn six straight trips to the NCAA tournament. Bolstered by the talents of reserves Angelo Chol, Dakarai Allen and D'Erryl Williams, the Aztecs enter the season as one of just nine teams nationally to advance to the Round of 32 each of the last three years. Among current Mountain West members, SDSU owns six of the league's last eight NCAA tournament victories.

And having won or shared five of the last six MW regular-season titles, the Aztecs know full well to brace themselves for the league's best punch.

"Because we've been good for a significant length of time, year after year after year, we go into the season expecting to be good," Fisher said. "I think there are other teams that think we're going to be good, too, and I like that others expect us to be successful."

"This is going to be a league where you better be good, you better play well and you better play especially well on the road if you want to win. And it doesn't hurt to stay reasonably healthy and get a little bit lucky. Our expectations will be high, our goals will be high and, hopefully, we'll be able to achieve them."

The challenge, the chance and the chase. It's on.

Regular Dancers

Below is a look at the longest active NCAA tournament streaks entering 2015-16.

Rk.	Team	Berths
1.	Kansas	26
2.	Duke	20
3.	Michigan State	18
4.	Gonzaga	17
	Wisconsin	17
6.	Louisville	9
7.	Ohio State	7
8.	San Diego State	6

Round of 32 Cubed

The following nine schools have appeared in the Round of 32 of NCAA tournament in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

- Arizona
- Gonzaga
- Kansas
- Louisville
- Michigan State
- North Carolina
- Oregon
- San Diego State
- Wichita State

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 the 2015-16 season.

Rk.	Team	Win Pct.
1.	Wichita State	.839
2.	Gonzaga	.831
3.	Duke	.829
4.	Kentucky	.816
5.	Kansas	.811
6.	Arizona	.799
7.	San Diego State	.797

2015-16 Schedule



SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time	TV
Exhibition					
Nov. 2	Mon.	CAL STATE SAN MARCOS	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	
Mountain West-Missouri Valley Challenge					
Nov. 13	Fri.	ILLINOIS STATE	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	ESPN3
ESPN College Hoops Tip-Off Marathon					
Nov. 16	Mon.	at Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah	7:30 p.m. MT	ESPN2
Nov. 18	Wed.	SAN DIEGO CHRISTIAN	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	FOX Sports San Diego
Continental Tire Las Vegas Invitational (Campus Sites and Orleans Arena - Las Vegas, Nev.)					
Nov. 21	Sat.	LITTLE ROCK	Viejas Arena	1 p.m. PT	FOX Sports San Diego
Nov. 23	Mon.	EAST CAROLINA	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	ESPN3
Nov. 26	Thu.	vs. California	Las Vegas, Nev.	9 p.m. PT	FOX Sports 1
Nov. 27	Fri.	vs. West Virginia or Richmond	Las Vegas, Nev.	5 or 7:30 p.m. PT	FOX Sports 1
Dec. 1	Tue.	at Long Beach State	Long Beach, Calif.	7:30 p.m. PT	Prime Ticket
Dec. 5	Sat.	vs. San Diego	Petco Park (San Diego, Calif.)	2 p.m. PT	FOX Sports San Diego
Dec. 7	Mon.	BIOLA	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	
Dec. 10	Thu.	NICHOLLS STATE	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	Campus Insiders
Dec. 18	Fri.	GRAND CANYON	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	Campus Insiders
Dec. 22	Tue.	KANSAS	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Dec. 30	Wed.	WYOMING*	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 2	Sat.	at Utah State*	Logan, Utah	8 p.m. MT	ESPNU or ESPN3
Jan. 6	Wed.	SAN JOSÉ STATE*	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	ESPN3
Jan. 13	Wed.	at Colorado State*	Fort Collins, Colo.	8 p.m. MT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 16	Sat.	at Boise State*	Boise, Idaho	8 p.m. MT	ESPN2 or ESPN3
Jan. 19	Tue.	FRESNO STATE*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	ESPNU or ESPN3
Jan. 23	Sat.	UTAH STATE*	Viejas Arena	3 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Jan. 26	Tue.	at Nevada*	Reno, Nev.	8 p.m. PT	ESPNU or ESPN3
Jan. 30	Sat.	at UNLV*	Las Vegas, Nev.	5 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 2	Tue.	COLORADO STATE*	Viejas Arena	8 p.m. PT	ESPN2 or ESPNU
Feb. 6	Sat.	NEW MEXICO*	Viejas Arena	1 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 10	Wed.	at Fresno State*	Fresno, Calif.	8 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 13	Sat.	AIR FORCE*	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 21	Sun.	at San José State*	San Jose, Calif.	1 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 24	Wed.	at Wyoming*	Laramie, Wyo.	8 p.m. MT	CBS Sports Network
Feb. 27	Sat.	BOISE STATE*	Viejas Arena	3 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
March 1	Tue.	at New Mexico*	Albuquerque, N.M.	7:30 p.m. MT	CBS Sports Network
March 5	Sat.	UNLV*	Viejas Arena	7 p.m. PT	CBS Sports Network
March 10-12	Thu.-Sat.	at MW Championship	Las Vegas, Nev.	TBD	TBD

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

2016 NCAA Div. I Men's Basketball Championship Dates and Sites

First Four

UD Arena
Dayton, Ohio
Host: Dayton
March 15 and 16

PNC Arena
Raleigh, N.C.
Host: NC State
March 17 and 19

Chesapeake Energy Arena
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Host: Big 12
March 18 and 20

United Center
Chicago, Ill.
Host: Big Ten
March 25 and 27

Second/Third Rounds

Dunkin' Donuts Center
Providence, R.I.
Host: Providence
March 17 and 19

Pepsi Center
Denver, Colo.
Host: Mountain West
March 17 and 19

Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena
Spokane, Wash.
Host: Idaho
March 18 and 20

Well Fargo Center
Philadelphia, Pa.
Host: La Salle
March 25 and 27

Wells Fargo Arena
Des Moines, Iowa
Host: Iowa State
March 17 and 19

Barclays Center
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Host: Atlantic 10
March 18 and 20

Regionals
Honda Center
Anaheim, Calif.
Host: Big West
March 24 and 26

Final Four
NRG Stadium
Houston, Texas
Host: Rice/Houston
April 2 and 4

Scottrade Center
St. Louis, Mo.
Host: Missouri Valley
March 18 and 20

KFC YUM! Center
Louisville, Ky.
Host: Louisville
March 24 and 26

2015-16 SCHEDULE < INTRODUCTION

AZTEC BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE

Broadcast Roster



SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS



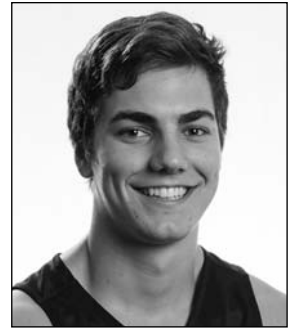
0 Skylar Spencer
Sr. • F • 6-10 • 240
Inglewood, Calif.



3 Angelo Chol
Sr. • F • 6-9 • 215
San Diego, Calif.



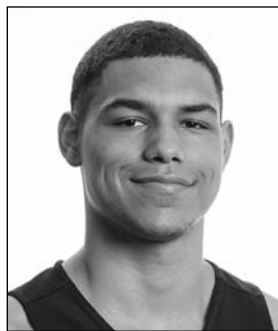
4 Dakarai Allen
Jr. • F • 6-5 • 195
Sacramento, Calif.



10 Max Hoetzel
So. • F • 6-9 • 210
Calabasas, Calif.



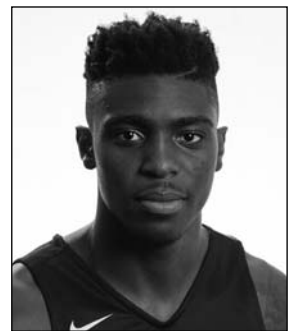
11 D'Erryl Williams
Jr. • G • 6-3 • 195
Sacramento, Calif.



12 Trey Kell
So. • G • 6-4 • 210
San Diego, Calif.



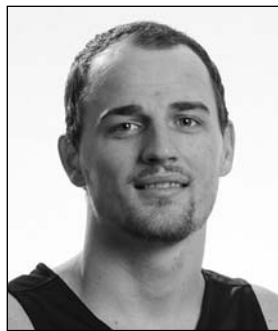
13 Winston Shepard
Sr. • F • 6-8 • 210
Houston, Texas



14 Zylan Cheatham
Fr. • F • 6-9 • 215
Phoenix, Ariz.



15 Ben Perez
Fr. • G • 6-3 • 175
San Marcos, Calif.



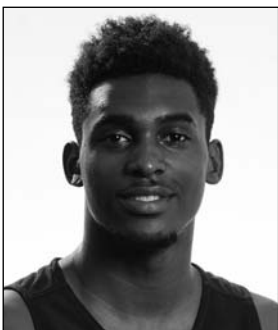
20 Matt Shrigley
Jr. • F • 6-6 • 180
San Diego, Calif.



21 Malik Pope
So. • F • 6-10 • 210
Sacramento, Calif.



22 Parker U'u
Jr. • G • 6-5 • 220
Sacramento, Calif.



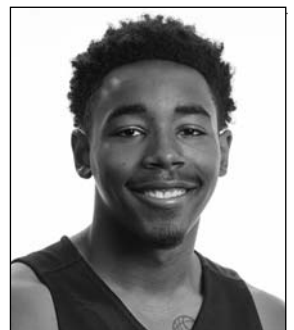
23 Montaque Gill-Caesar
So. • G • 6-6 • 210
Vaughan, Ontario, Canada



24 Nolan Narain
Fr. • F • 6-9 • 220
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



33 Niksha Federico
Jr. • F • 6-7 • 190
San Diego, Calif.



42 Jeremy Hemsley
Fr. • G • 6-3 • 180
Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

INTRODUCTION ► BROADCAST ROSTER

AZTEC BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE

STEVE FISHER



"Consistency is the key with Steve Fisher. He consistently brings in great players, consistently wins big games. His players respect his national championship, but just as importantly, relate to his teaching."

-Tom Hart, ESPN



"Steve Fisher is in the process of coaching SDSU during its Golden Era. Someday people will look back to these days as the best in the history of the basketball program. The job he has done is nothing short of amazing. Every year he establishes some new accomplishment for the program."

- Steve Lappas, CBS Sports Network

UPPER ECHELON

San Diego State enters the 2015-16 campaign as one of the elite programs in America.

4

SDSU is one of four teams in the country to have qualified for the NCAA tournament and win at least 23 games in six straight seasons.

7

San Diego State owns the seventh-best winning percentage nationally since the beginning of the 2010-11 campaign.

8

SDSU has advanced to the NCAA tournament six straight seasons, which is the eighth-longest active streak among Division I schools.

9

San Diego State is one of nine schools nationally to have appeared in the Round of 32 of the NCAA tournament the last three seasons.



"Some people may forget what an incredible job of rebuilding Steve Fisher did when he first got to San Diego State. The best evidence of that is now. When you think of Aztec basketball, you think of a winning program with quality players and post-season appearances."

— Fran Fraschilla, ESPN



NUMBER OF HEAD COACHES SINCE 1999-2000 (MW SCHOOLS)

San Diego State.....	1
Utah State.....	2
Boise State.....	3
Wyoming.....	3
Colorado State.....	4
Fresno State.....	4
Nevada.....	4
New Mexico.....	4
San Jose State.....	4
Air Force.....	6
UNLV.....	6

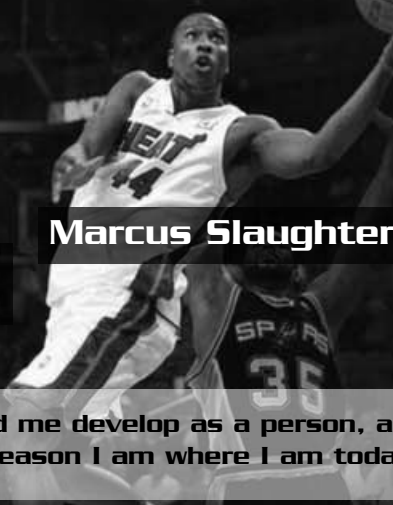
FISHER'S MEN IN THE PROS

Kawhi Leonard

2015 NBA Defensive Player of the Year
2015 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 |
Indiana Pacers



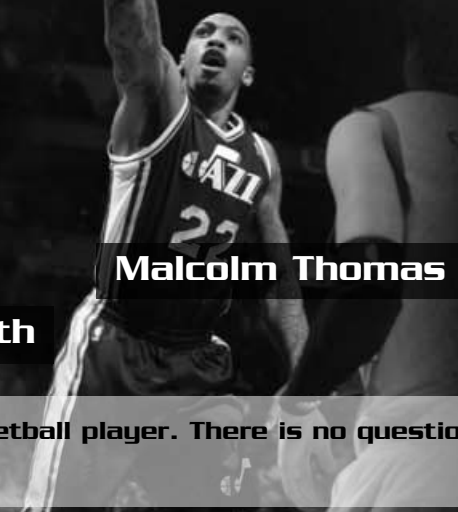
Chris Webber
15-Year NBA Veteran



Marcus Slaughter



Brandon Heath

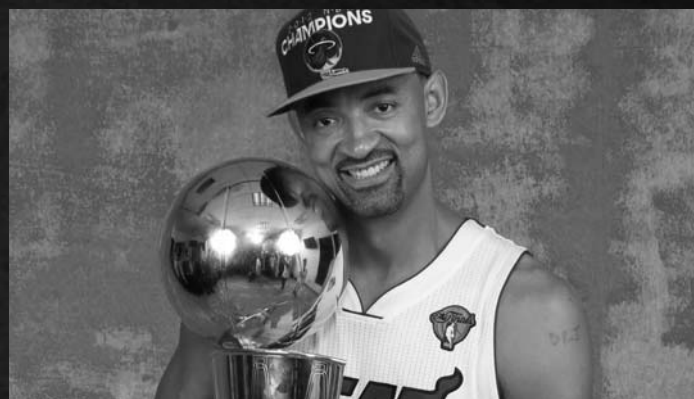


Malcolm Thomas

"Coach Fisher helped me develop as a person, a student and a basketball player. There is no question that he is a major reason I am where I am today." - Chris Webber

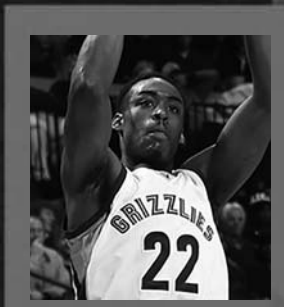
Fisher's Aztecs in the Professional Ranks

Player	Last Organization/Country
David Abramowitz	Mexico
Mohamed Abukar	Kosovo
Ryan Amoroso	Italy
Tony Bland	Lebanon
Evan Burns	D-League – Sioux Falls
Mohamed Camara	IBL – Las Vegas
Brian Carlwell	Japan
Mehdi Cheriet	France
Marcelo Correa	Uruguay
Josh Davis	Japan
Kelvin Davis	ABA – Connecticut
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	Poland
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	NBA – Utah Jazz
James Rahon	Japan
Aerick Sanders	Portugal
John Sharper	Macedonia
Marcus Slaughter	Turkey
Brandon Smith	Finland
Kyle Spain	France
DeShawn Stephens	Turkey
Chase Tapley	D-League – Tulsa
Xavier Thames	D-League – Fort Wayne
Malcolm Thomas	Puerto Rico
Lorenzo Wade	Argentina
Billy White	Israel
Richie Williams	Germany



Juwan Howard

2012 and 2013 NBA Champion | 19-Year NBA Veteran



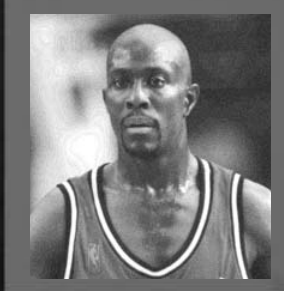
Jamaal Franklin

2013 NBA Draft Pick - Memphis



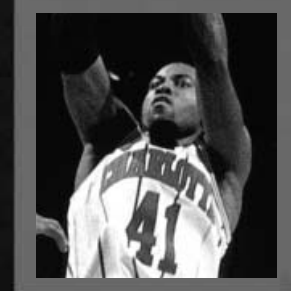
Xavier Thames

2014 NBA Draft Pick - Toronto



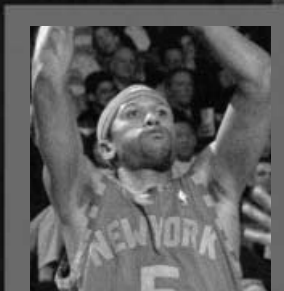
Gary Grant

13-Year NBA Veteran



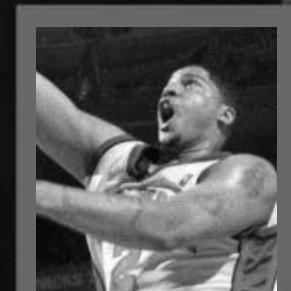
Glen Rice

15-Year NBA Veteran



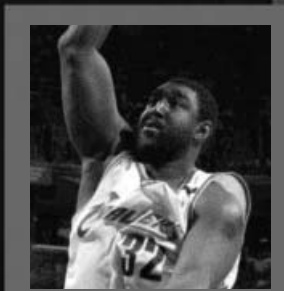
Jalen Rose

13-Year NBA Veteran



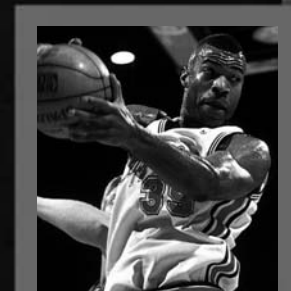
Maurice Taylor

9-Year NBA Veteran



Robert Traylor

7-Year NBA Veteran



Loy Vaught

11-Year NBA Veteran

Fisher's NBA Draft Picks

Includes players selected while an assistant coach

Year	Player	Year	Player
1982	Thad Gardner	1993	Eric Riley
1984	Dan Pelekoudas		Chris Webber
	Tim McCormick	1994	Juwan Howard
	Eric Turner		Jalen Rose
1986	Robert Henderson	1995	Jimmy King
	Richard Rellford	1997	Maurice Taylor
	Roy Tarpley	1998	Robert Traylor
	Butch Wade		Maceo Baston
1987	Antoine Joubert	2002	Randy Holcomb
1988	Gary Grant	2011	Kawhi Leonard
1989	Glen Rice	2013	Jamaal Franklin
1990	Sean Higgins	2014	Xavier Thames
	Terry Mills		
	Rumeal Robinson		
	Loy Vaught		

VIEJAS ARENA

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, ESPN.com



"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, ESPN.com

NUMBERS TO KNOW

- 93-7 SDSU's record in its last 100 home games
- 55 Consecutive home sellouts, including the entire 2015-16 campaign
- 1 Ranked first in average home attendance in California for five straight seasons



“The most creative student section in the MWC 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, 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 SDSU president Elliot Hirshman, men's basketball head coach Steve Fisher and 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 JCI 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



SIX CONSECUTIVE NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES ► NINE-TIME MW CHAMPIONS



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 17th 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 16 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 2014-15 academic year, MW student-athletes participated on monthly membership calls and were included in the 2015 Spring Joint Council Meetings in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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.

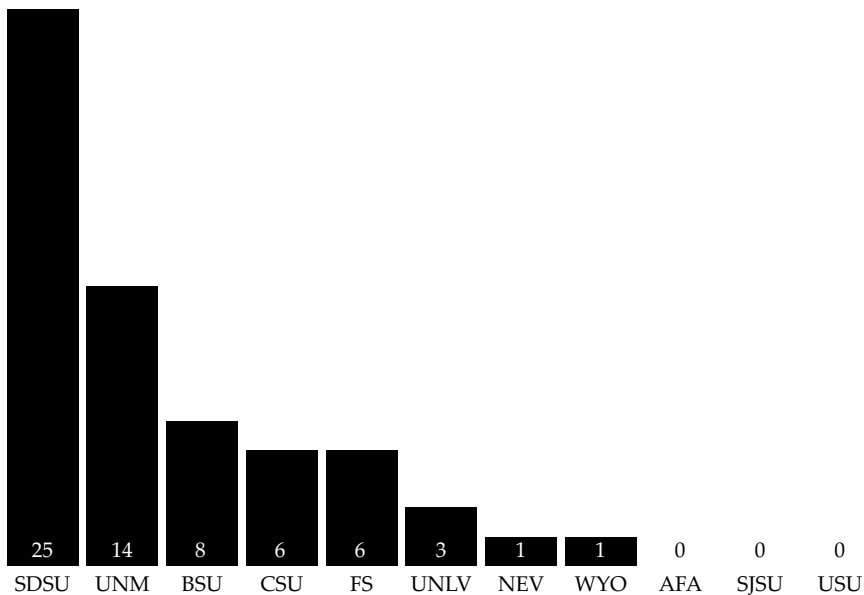
The Mountain West is noted for its geographic diversity. Some of the most beautiful terrain and landscapes in the nation can be found within Mountain West boundaries, including the majestic Rocky Mountain range, which borders five MW institutions (Air Force, Boise State, Colorado State, New Mexico and 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 Jose 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.

2014-15 Review

Mountain West men's basketball regular-season co-champions San Diego State and Boise State received at-large bids to the NCAA Tournament, joining MW tournament champion Wyoming who earned the league's automatic bid. It marked the 15th time in 16 years the Conference has sent multiple teams to the Big Dance. Colorado State also took part in postseason action, playing in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT).

SDSU in the Mountain West

San Diego State has enjoyed unprecedented success in the Mountain West since the beginning of the 2012-13 campaign. Since that season, through 2014-15, the Aztecs have won a conference-best 25 MW team championships (only includes sports SDSU competes in). Below is a look at the Mountain West team championships during that stretch.



Mountain West Leadership & Communications



Craig Thompson
Commissioner



Bret Gilliland
Deputy
Commissioner



Javan Hedlund
Assoc. Commissioner
Communications



Judy Willson
Assoc. Director of
Communications



Stuart Buchanan
Asst. Director of
Communications



Dwayne Groff
Asst. Director of
Communications