

# Aztec Coaches



MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION



*Brian Dutcher, after 18 seasons as an assistant at SDSU, enters his first season as head coach.*

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# Seamless

# Transition

## Aztec Head Coach Brian Dutcher

### Overall Division I Coaching Experience

**Overall: 619-307 (28 Seasons) ♦ San Diego State: 386-209 (18 Seasons)**

**NCAA Champion ♦ Three NCAA Final Four Appearances**

**16 NCAA Tournament Berths ♦ 23 Postseason Appearances ♦ 11 Conference Championships**

**B**rian Dutcher, a long-time San Diego State men's basketball assistant coach, is entering his first season as head coach following Steve Fisher's retirement announcement on April 11, 2017. Dutcher, who was on Montezuma Mesa for all of Fisher's 18 seasons, held the title of associate head coach/head coach in waiting the previous six years and is the program's 15th head coach.

Over the course of his time at San Diego State, Dutcher helped the Aztecs reach the postseason 13 times, including

eight trips to the NCAA tournament, win a conference-best 10 Mountain West titles and record 12 seasons of at least 20 victories.

Since 2008-09, Dutcher and SDSU twice advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 (2011, 2014) and NIT semifinal round (2009, 2016), won at least 25 games seven times and captured seven MW championships (five regular season, two tournament).

Dutcher arrived at SDSU shortly after Fisher was hired on March 26, 1999. In his first year in "America's Finest City," the Aztecs won only five games, but improved upon their win total from the

season before. After that, San Diego State posted a 14-14 record in 2000-01, before winning the 2002 MW Championship, earning an NCAA tournament bid and finishing with a 21-12 record. The 2002-03 campaign saw SDSU receive an NIT invitation, which culminated in the program's first Division I postseason victory.

After helping attract the first McDonald's All-American to the 2002-03 squad, Dutcher assisted in securing the signatures of future starters and all-league performers Brandon Heath and Marcus Slaughter. The duo started their first two seasons on The Mesa, leading





## Collegiate Coaching Experience

### 1984-85 Graduate Assistant, Illinois

Coached under Lou Henson, who retired as Illinois' all-time leader in victories and was a 2015 National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame inductee... Helped the Illini to a pair of NCAA Sweet 16 appearances and a 1984 Big Ten championship.

### 1986-88 Assistant Coach, South Dakota State

Helped the Division II program go from eight wins his first season (8-20; 3-15 NCC) to 16 his second (16-12; 7-11 NCC) to 21 his third and final year (21-9; 13-5 NCC)... The 21-9 team advanced to the NCAA South Central Regional and went 1-1.

### 1989-98 Assistant Coach, Michigan

Part of a Wolverine coaching staff that helped Michigan win its only national championship to date in men's basketball (1989)... Guided the Wolverines to three of the school's five national championship game appearances... Guided Michigan to the postseason all 10 years while in Ann Arbor (8 NCAA, 2 NIT)... Helped UM win both an NCAA and NIT championship... Coached the Wolverines to a 233-98 record in 10 seasons.

### 1999-2017 Asst. Coach; Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting, SDSU

Played a role in one of the greatest turnarounds in college basketball history by taking a program that won four games the year before his arrival to four Mountain West tournament championships, six MW regular-season titles, eight NCAA tournament berths and five appearances in the postseason NIT... Team went 5-23 his first season (1999-00) and has gone on to post a .500 or better record 15 times... Helped SDSU win 20 or more games in 12 of the last 16 seasons.

### 2017-Present Head Coach, San Diego State

Enters his first season as head coach, six seasons after he was named the Aztecs' associate head coach/head coach in waiting... The 2017-18 campaign will represent his 19th year at San Diego State.

to the 2005-06 season that produced the school's first Mountain West regular-season and tournament title sweep.

The Aztecs advanced to the NCAA tournament and ultimately won a then-school-record 24 games. That appearance led to a string of 10 consecutive postseason berths.

From the 2006-07 campaign through 2008-09, San Diego State registered 20 or more wins and went to three straight NITs. In 2009, the Aztecs advanced to the NIT semifinals and broke the previous school record with 26 victories.

The run to the NIT semifinals was a springboard to the most successful run in SDSU basketball history. Led by future NBA first-round draft pick and NBA champion Kawhi Leonard, the 2009-10 Aztecs won the MW Championship, advanced to the NCAA tournament and fell four points shy of moving on to the second round before finishing with a 25-9 record.

The NCAA experience from the 2009-10 squad proved fruitful in 2010-11 when it returned all five starters, including Leonard, and a freshman named Jamaal Franklin, who would turn out to be a future MW Player of the Year and NBA draft selection. With Dutcher on staff, SDSU won its first 20 games of the year, shared the MW regular-season title and captured the MW tournament crown. The Aztecs moved on to the NCAA tournament as a No. 2 seed and won the program's first Division I NCAA tournament game. San Diego State, which was ranked as high as No. 4 and received first-place votes at one point in the season, advanced to the Sweet 16 and fell to the eventual national champion, finishing with a school-record 34 wins, a mark that still stands today. The Aztecs' also found themselves in the final top-25 polls, ranking sixth in the AP and 11th in the USA Today Coaches Poll.

Five months after SDSU's record-setting 2010-11 campaign, the University elevated Dutcher from associate head coach to associate head coach/head coach in waiting.

In his first season with his new title, Dutcher and the Aztecs advanced to the 2011-12 NCAA tournament as an at-large team and recorded 26 wins. The next season, SDSU was again an at-large selection to the 2013 NCAA tournament, moved on to the round of 32 for the second time in three years and finished with 23 victories.

Another NCAA Sweet 16 run was

in the cards in Dutcher's third season as the head coach in waiting. The Aztecs opened the season by winning 21 of their first 22 games, including 20 in a row at one point, and were led by seniors Xavier Thames, who would become an NBA draft pick, and Josh Davis. SDSU won the program's second outright Mountain West regular-season title and later swept through two games in Spokane, Washington, to secure its second Sweet 16 appearance in four seasons. San Diego State compiled 31 wins and finished the season ranked 13th in the AP and 12th in the Coaches after rising to as high as fifth nationally in both polls.

The 2014-15 campaign saw the Aztecs spend their fifth straight season in the top 25. In the process of winning 27 games, San Diego State grabbed its second straight MW regular-season crown and earned an at-large invitation to the NCAA tournament where they defeated St. John's in the round of 64. One season later, the Aztecs found themselves in the NIT after winning the MW by three games with a 16-2 record. Nevertheless, San Diego State won three games and qualified for the NIT national semifinals, eventually logging 28 victories.

More recently, San Diego State completed the 2016-17 slate with a 19-14 record despite experiencing a rash of injuries. The 2016 Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic champions will enter 2017-18 as one of 12 teams to have won at least 19 games in 12 consecutive seasons.

Before Dutcher arrived at San Diego State, he served as assistant coach and later associate head coach at Michigan under Fisher. He spent 10 seasons on the Wolverine staff, establishing himself as one of the nation's top assistant coaches. His first year in Ann Arbor was 1989 and resulted in a national title for Michigan as he assisted then-interim head coach Fisher on the bench.

The Bloomington, Minn., native led UM's recruiting efforts in 1990-91 when the Wolverines inked Juwan Howard, Ray Jackson, Jimmy King, Jalen Rose and Chris Webber. The "Fab Five" is considered perhaps the best recruiting class in NCAA history. Dutcher helped lead that group to nearly 100 wins, two berths in the NCAA championship game and a regional final over a four-year period. He was also on the Michigan staff for an NIT championship (1997).

Dutcher's recruiting prowess, however, was demonstrated by more than just the "Fab Five" haul. Michigan had

# Brian Dutcher



MOUNTAIN WEST-RECORD 10-TIME CONFERENCE CHAMPION

the nation's top-ranked recruiting class in 1993-94 and in 1994-95, with a group that included Maurice Taylor and Jerod Ward. The accomplishment marked the first time that a university had the nation's top class in consecutive years, according to recruiting analyst Bob Gibbons.

Dutcher was born Oct. 30, 1959, in Alpena, Mich. He attended Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minn., and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in physical education from Minnesota in 1982. While an undergraduate, he worked for his father, then-Gopher head coach Jim Dutcher. He then spent one season in the prep ranks at Apple Valley (Minn.) High School before becoming a graduate assistant at Illinois, where he earned his master's degree in physical education and athletic administration.

While in Champaign, Dutcher helped Lou Henson lead the Illini to a Big Ten championship, two appearances in the Sweet 16 and one regional final.

Dutcher's first full-time coaching

job came at South Dakota State, where he spent three seasons helping turn around the Division II program before departing in 1988 for Michigan.

His final season in Ann Arbor ended with the Wolverines claiming the first-ever Big Ten Tournament championship.

Dutcher and his wife Jan have two daughters, Erin and Liza.



COACHES ▶ BRIAN DUTCHER

AZTEC BASKETBALL MEDIA GUIDE

## Brian Dutcher Division I Coaching History

Year	School	Position	W-L	Pct.	Conference		Postseason/Honors
					W-L	Pct.	
1988-89	Michigan	Assistant Coach	30-7	.811	12-6	.667	NCAA Champions
1989-90	Michigan	Assistant Coach	23-8	.742	12-6	.667	NCAA Second Round
1990-91	Michigan	Assistant Coach	14-15	.483	7-11	.389	NIT First Round
1991-92	Michigan	Assistant Coach	25-9	.735	11-7	.611	NCAA Runner-Up
1992-93	Michigan	Assistant Coach	31-5	.861	15-3	.833	NCAA Runner-Up
1993-94	Michigan	Assistant Coach	24-8	.750	13-5	.722	NCAA Regional Finalist
1994-95	Michigan	Assistant Coach	17-14	.548	11-7	.611	NCAA First Round
1995-96	Michigan	Assistant Coach	20-12	.625	10-8	.556	NCAA First Round
1996-97	Michigan	Assistant Coach	24-11	.686	9-9	.500	NIT Champions
1997-98	Michigan	Assistant Coach	25-9	.735	11-5	.688	NCAA Second Round/Big Ten Tournament Champions
<b>10 Seasons at UM</b>			<b>233-98</b>	<b>.704</b>	<b>111-67</b>	<b>.624</b>	<b>8 NCAA Tournaments, 10 Postseason Appearances</b>

Year	School	Position	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	Postseason/Notes
1999-00	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	5-23	.179	0-14	.000	
2000-01	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	14-14	.500	4-10	.286	8th-most improved team in the country (Sagarin Ratings)
2001-02	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	21-12	.636	7-7	.500	NCAA First Round; Aztecs' first NCAA trip since 1985
2002-03	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	16-14	.533	6-8	.429	NIT Second Round; First win in D-I postseason tourney
2003-04	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	14-16	.467	5-9	.357	Overcame loss of four starters for fourth straight season w/14 wins
2004-05	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	11-18	.379	4-10	.286	Young Aztecs drop seven games by four pts. or less or in OT
2005-06	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	24-9	.727	13-3	.813	NCAA First Round; MW regular season and tourney champions
2006-07	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	22-11	.667	10-6	.625	NIT Second Round; First road win in D-I postseason tournament
2007-08	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	20-13	.606	9-7	.563	NIT First Round; Third straight 20-win season
2008-09	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	26-10	.722	11-5	.688	NIT Semifinals; Then SDSU-record 26 victories
2009-10	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	25-9	.735	11-5	.688	NCAA First Round; MW tournament champions
2010-11	San Diego State	Assistant Head Coach	34-3	.919	14-2	.875	NCAA Sweet 16; MW reg.-season, tourney champs; SDSU-record 34 wins
2011-12	San Diego State	Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting	26-8	.765	10-4	.714	NCAA Second Round; MW regular-season champions
2012-13	San Diego State	Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting	23-11	.676	9-7	.563	NCAA Third Round; Fifth straight 23+ win season
2013-14	San Diego State	Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting	31-5	.861	16-2	.889	NCAA Sweet 16; MW regular-season champions
2014-15	San Diego State	Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting	27-9	.750	14-4	.778	NCAA Third Round; MW co-regular-season champions
2015-16	San Diego State	Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting	28-10	.737	16-2	.889	NIT Semifinals; MW regular-season champions
2016-17	San Diego State	Assoc. HC/HC in Waiting	19-14	.576	9-9	.500	Lost 28 games due to injury; 2-11 in games decided by eight pts. or less
<b>18 Seasons at SDSU</b>			<b>386-209</b>	<b>.649</b>	<b>168-114</b>	<b>.596</b>	<b>8 NCAA Tournaments, 13 Postseason Appearances</b>

	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.	Postseason/Honors
<b>28-Season Career Totals</b>	<b>619-307</b>	<b>.668</b>	<b>279-181</b>	<b>.607</b>	<b>16 NCAA Tournaments, 23 Postseason Appearances</b>





## Justin Hutson

Associate Head Coach

### Birthdate

Oct. 16, 1971

### Education

1994 – B.S. degree from CSU Bakersfield.  
1995 - teaching credential from CSU Bakersfield.  
2009 - M.A. degree from CSU Bakersfield.

### Children

Jada (15) and Janae (13)

### Record Breakdown

SDSU assistant: 232-84  
Division I career: 298-144

# Justin Hutson

## Associate Head Coach - 10th Season at SDSU CSU Bakersfield '94

Justin Hutson enters his fifth season of his second stint at San Diego State after returning to Montezuma Mesa following a two-year stay at UNLV where he was the associate head coach. This year is his 10th overall at SDSU (2006-11, 2013-present), but his first as the Aztecs' associate head coach after being elevated from assistant coach in May 2017.

Upon returning to San Diego State, the Aztecs won the Mountain West regular-season championship in 2014 and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament before finishing with a No. 13/12 national ranking.

In the last three seasons, which have produced a pair of additional MW regular-season titles, the Aztecs appeared in the third round of the 2015 NCAA tournament and went to the semifinals of the 2016 NIT. Since his return, San Diego State has averaged 26.3 victories.

SDSU's defensive numbers also improved to an elite level when he decided to rejoin the Aztec coaching staff. As the defensive coordinator, San Diego State has finished in the top 15 nationally in both scoring defense and field-goal percentage defense all four seasons. San Diego State finished second in scoring defense in 2014 and 2015, third in 2016 and 15th last year. As far as field-goal percentage defense, the Aztecs were eighth in 2014, seventh in 2015, first in 2016, and eighth in 2017.

In his two years at UNLV, Hutson helped the Rebels to a pair of 25-win seasons and two NCAA appearances. He played a key role in helping UNLV bring in a highly regarded incoming class in 2012-13, which included the 2013 No. 1 overall NBA Draft selection, Anthony Bennett, a player Hutson recruited.

During his first stint at San Diego State, Hutson helped elevate the Aztecs to the national program it has become. In five seasons, SDSU won three MW titles and earned postseason berths in each of those campaigns, including 2010-11.

That year, San Diego State won 20 straight games to begin the season, won the MW regular-season and tour-

namment titles, and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament before finishing with a school-record 34 victories. SDSU ended the year ranked No. 6/11 nationally.

In both of his stints, Hutson has played a pivotal part in San Diego State's recruiting efforts as the team's recruiting coordinator. He was the point person in recruiting future All-Americans and NBA Draft picks Kawhi Leonard, Jamaal Franklin and Xavier Thames, while also helping land D.J. Gay, who left SDSU as the school's all-time leader in career wins, and Chase Tapley, who was a four-year starter. More recently, Hutson led the charge in the Aztecs inking Malik Pope and Jeremy Hemsley, who both are returning starters.

In a poll of Division I coaches conducted by ESPN's Jeff Goodman in the summer of 2013, Hutson was considered the eighth-best recruiting assistant nationally and the best on the West Coast. More recently, ESPN's Adam Finkelstein listed Hutson as a top up-and-coming recruiter (May 2014), while Miles Simon placed him on his west region ultimate coaching staff (May 2014).

Before arriving at SDSU in July 2006, Hutson served as an assistant coach at Cal Poly.

The Mustangs went 10-19 in 2005-06, doubling their previous season's win total. He was responsible for recruiting the 2006 Big West

Freshman of the Year and landing two freshmen on the Big West all-freshmen team, along with bringing two first-team all-Big West selections and the defensive player of the year to San Luis Obispo in 2006-07.

Prior to his stint at Cal Poly, Hutson served as the head varsity coach at Bakersfield High where he led the Drillers to a CIF Central Section title and four appearances in the playoffs in four seasons. His 2004 team was ranked as high as No. 22 in the nation and fourth in California, while his 2003 squad finished the season with a 25-5 record and won the section title. Prior to entering the high school ranks, he was an assistant coach at his alma mater CSU Bakersfield for two seasons (1999-00).

As a collegiate player, Hutson enjoyed a storied career, winning two NCAA Division II championships at CSU Bakersfield. In the 1993 championship season, the Roadrunners were undefeated with a 33-0 record and followed that up with a 27-6 record during the 1994 season.

A native of Bakersfield, Hutson earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1994 and a teaching credential in 1995 from CSU Bakersfield. He also received his master of arts in education from CSU Bakersfield in 2009.

Hutson has two children, Jada (15) and Janae (13).



## Dave Velasquez

Assistant Coach - 16th Season at SDSU  
San Diego State '07

**D**ave Velasquez enters his 16th season at San Diego State and fifth as an assistant coach. Prior to his appointment as an assistant coach, he spent six seasons as the program's director of player development.

Velasquez's responsibilities include recruiting, on-court coaching, skill development and academics.

As an assistant, Velasquez is heavily involved in player development. In his previous role, he spent countless hours with former and current Aztecs analyzing their performance in games and in practice on video. Currently, he applies those sessions on the practice floor.

Velasquez also plays a huge role in the performance of Aztecs in the classroom. The Bay Area native works directly with San Diego State's academic advisors, tutors and mentors to ensure standards are met.

What may go unnoticed is his relationship with players. As a former SDSU men's basketball student-athlete and recruit host, Velasquez understands all of the virtues that an Aztec basketball player possesses, which allows him to relate to the entire roster.

In his first season as an assistant, Velasquez helped ink a consensus top-15 recruiting class, while helping the Aztecs enjoy one of their finest seasons ever, which culminated in 31 wins, a Mountain West regular-season title and an NCAA Sweet 16 berth. He was also key in the development of Xavier Thames, who was a 2014 All-American, Mountain West Player of the Year and NBA draft pick.

In 2014-15, he coached SDSU to 27 victories, a second straight MW regular-season crown and an appearance in the third round of the NCAA tournament. Velasquez was also key in the Aztecs inking two four-star players for 2015-16, which resulted in 28 wins, another MW title and an appearance in the semifinals of the NIT. Last season, Velasquez helped secure another four-star player and three Division I transfers, while bringing in a three- and a four-star player for the 2017-18 campaign.

As San Diego State's director of player development, Velasquez assisted the basketball coaching staff with video breakdown, film exchange, travel, community service and handled many of the day-to-day office duties.

Prior to working as the director of player development, Velasquez was a student manager for the 2002-03 season before serving as head manager from 2003-07.

In 2002-03, San Diego State earned a berth to postseason NIT, where the Aztecs picked up their first Division I postseason tournament victory en route to an appearance in the second round.

Then in 2005-06, San Diego State won the Mountain West with a 13-3 league record before winning the MW tournament. As a result, the Aztecs advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the second time under head coach Steve Fisher and won a then school-record 24 games.

Fisher awarded Velasquez a scholarship in December 2006 and was added to the active roster in January 2007.

As an official playing member of

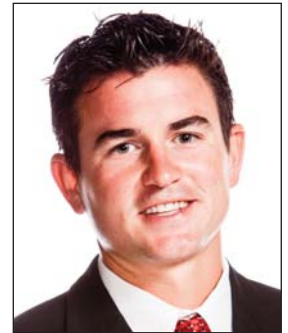
the team, Velasquez played in four games and recorded a steal. He was a member of a team that finished with a 22-11 record and advanced to the second round of the postseason NIT.

In Velasquez's five seasons as manager, the Aztecs went to the postseason three times and won 22 or more games twice.

Following his graduation from San Diego State in May 2007, Velasquez was hired at the University of the Pacific later that month. As the Tigers' graduate manager, he assisted with UOP's camps, created highlight tapes and coordinated film exchange before returning to his alma mater.

Since his return, SDSU has recorded nine more 20-win seasons and reached the postseason in nine of the last 10 years. More recently, Velasquez has helped the Aztecs earn an NCAA tournament berth in six of the last eight years, win the first six NCAA tournament games in program history and reach at least the second round of the Big Dance in four of the last seven seasons, including two Sweet 16 appearances.

Velasquez is married to the former Lindsay Ward.



**Dave Velasquez**

**Assistant Coach**

**Birthdate**

Oct. 14, 1983

**Education**

2007 – B.A. degree from San Diego State.

**Record Breakdown**

SDSU assistant: 105-38

SDSU staff: 232-117

SDSU player: 9-5

SDSU/Div. I career: 346-160







**Tim Shelton**

**Assistant Coach**

**Birthdate**

July 19, 1989

**Education**

2011 – B.A. degree from San Diego State.  
2013 - M.A. degree from San Diego State.

**Record Breakdown**

SDSU staff: 128-49  
SDSU player: 131-43  
SDSU/Div. I career: 259-92

# Tim Shelton

## Assistant Coach - 11th Season at SDSU San Diego State '11

**T**im Shelton continues his stint at San Diego State as a first-year assistant coach after being added to Brian Dutcher's coaching staff in May 2017.

In his role as an assistant coach, Shelton will be involved with recruiting, on-court coaching, player development and monitoring the Aztecs' academic efforts.

A native of Fresno, Shelton spent the last four seasons as SDSU's director of player development. In his role, he assisted with video breakdown, film exchange, travel and community service efforts. During his time, he helped the Aztecs to three postseason appearances, including a berth in the 2014 NCAA Sweet 16, and three Mountain West titles. San Diego State

also won 105 games (26.3 wins per year) in those four years.

Prior to his position on the Aztecs' support staff, Shelton played for San Diego State from 2007-08 to 2011-12. In those five seasons, Shelton played in 109 games and played a key role in SDSU reaching the postseason in each of those years, including three consecutive NCAA appearances to close out his career. He was also a member of the 2010-11 squad that reached the NCAA Sweet 16, won the Mountain West regular-season and tournament titles, and finished 34-3. In addition to the pair of MW titles won in 2011, Shelton was a part of Mountain West championship teams in 2010 (tournament) and 2012 (regular season).

In his final playing season (2011-12), Shelton began work toward his

master's degree and guided the Aztecs to 26 victories, which at the time was tied for the second-highest total in school history, all while earning Mountain West all-defensive team accolades. The next season, Shelton completed his master's degree coursework as a graduate manager and San Diego State advanced to the NCAA Round of 32 en route to 23 wins.

Over the course of his entire 10-year Aztec career, Shelton has helped the program to 259 wins (25.9 wins per year), seven Mountain West championships and nine postseason appearances (six NCAA).

Shelton earned his bachelor's degree in history from San Diego State in 2011 and his master's degree in educational leadership in 2013.





## Mark Fisher

Assistant to the Head Coach - 16th Season at SDSU  
Michigan '01

**M**ark Fisher enters his fifth season as assistant to the head coach and 16th overall at San Diego State. He is the son of former Aztec head coach Steve Fisher.

Prior to his current role, Fisher was an assistant coach who helped the Aztecs to eight consecutive 20-wins seasons, including five straight years with at least 23 victories, to go with eight consecutive postseason berths. Among the highlights during that stretch were 2011's 34-3 record and Sweet 16 appearance. In 2012-13, SDSU advanced to the NCAA tournament for the fourth year in a row and moved on to the third round for the second time in three seasons.

During his tenure as an assistant, Fisher helped secure the 2009-10 incoming class, which featured the California Player of the Year Kawhi Leonard. The 2009-10 incoming group was ranked No. 15 in the nation by The HOOP SCOOP Online and was rated as the No. 1 class among non-automatic qualifying BCS schools by The HOOP SCOOP Online and *Rivals.com*. *ESPN.com* slotted the Aztec incoming class at No. 4 in its "mid-major recruiting."

The hype was well deserved as Leonard became the first freshman in MW history to be named to the all-conference first team, all while earning league freshman of the year honors and MW tournament MVP accolades. Leonard additionally was one of only four freshmen nationally to lead his team in scoring and rebounding. In 2011, Leonard was an all-conference first-team pick, All-American and first-round NBA Draft pick. He and classmate, Chase Tapley, were also regulars in the starting lineup together for two seasons. Tapley, meanwhile, was a four-year starter, all-conference selection and one of the winningest players in Aztec history.

In addition, Fisher was also the lead recruiter for James Rahon, who helped SDSU win 83 games during his three years of eligibility, including three in the NCAA Tournament. With Rahon in the fold for 2010-11, Fisher helped secure a 6-5 guard in Jamaal

Franklin. Three years later, Franklin became a 2013 NBA Draft pick.

The 2012-13 group, which Fisher also help secure, was acknowledged as one of the best in the country as *Rivals.com* tabbed the class as the 24th-best nationally. Fisher helped sign freshman Matt Shrigley and was responsible for landing JJ O'Brien, a transfer who started 33 of 34 games in 2012-13.

As the director of operations, Fisher handled many of the day-to-day operations, including scheduling, summer camps and organizing all aspects of team travel. He also represented the basketball program with the athletic administration.

During his time supervising the team's schedule, the Aztecs played high-profile games against Arizona, California, Providence, Iowa State, Washington and Washington State among others. In addition, he arranged SDSU to play in the BP Top of the World Classic in Fairbanks, Alaska, the Shamrock Invitational in Moraga, Calif., the World Vision Classic in Fresno, Calif., and the prestigious John R. Wooden Classic in Anaheim, Calif., in past seasons.

In his four years as the team's schedule maker, the Aztecs won 92

games, for an average of 23 wins per season, and reached the postseason in each of those years.

In previous seasons, when SDSU had two assistant coaches, Fisher officially took on coaching responsibilities, including conducting individual workouts and off-campus recruiting.

Fisher graduated from the University of Michigan in December of 2001, with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Around basketball a majority of his life, Fisher amassed a variety of experience in a short period of time.

From 1998-2001, Fisher worked in a variety of capacities for Lincoln High School in Ann Arbor, Mich. He served as the varsity assistant head coach, head junior varsity coach and the head freshman coach during his tenure, assisting in all areas of the program.

He served as associate head coach for an Ann Arbor AAU team in the summer of 2001. Many of the players on that squad went on to play college basketball.

Fisher enjoys spending his vacation time at Devils Lake in Manitowish Beach, Michigan. He and his wife, Jill, live in Escondido with their son, Max.



Mark Fisher

Assistant to the Head Coach

**Birthdate**

Nov. 10, 1978

**Education**

2001 - B.A. degree from Michigan.

**Marital Status**

Married to Jill Fisher

**Children**

Max (4)

**Record Breakdown**

SDSU assistant: 154-54  
SDSU staff: 192-106  
SDSU/Div. I career: 346-160





## Matt Soria

**Assistant Athletic Director - Director of Basketball Operations**

**Birthdate**

Feb. 3, 1979

**Education**

2002 - B.A. degree from San Diego State.

2006 - M.A. degree from San Diego State.

**Marital Status**

Married to Melissa Soria

**Children**

Dylan (7) and Riley (4)

**Record Breakdown**

SDSU staff: 381-186

# Matt Soria

**Assistant A.D. - Director of Operations - 18th Season at SDSU San Diego State '02**

**M**att Soria begins his 18th year with the San Diego State men's basketball program and his 11th as the director of basketball operations. In 2015-16, Soria had assistant athletic director added to his title.

In November 2007, Soria was named the director of basketball operations after Mark Fisher, who previously held the position, was promoted to assistant coach.

Soria handles day-to-day operations, including scheduling, summer camps and organizing all aspects of team travel.

Prior to his current post, Soria was the basketball program's director of player development, a position he held for three years.

Soria assisted the basketball coaching staff with video breakdown, travel, community service and handled many of the day-to-day office duties.

During his three-year tenure as the director of player development, the Aztecs went a combined 57-38, won the 2006 Mountain West regular season and tournament championships, earned a berth to the 2006 NCAA tournament and advanced to the second round of the 2007 postseason NIT.

Prior to his promotion to director of player development, Soria was a three-year manager for the Aztecs, serving as the team's head manager for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons. Both of those seasons SDSU advanced to postseason play.

Soria graduated from San Diego

State with a bachelor's degree in political science in December 2002, and earned his master's degree in educational technology from SDSU in December 2006.

Soria played collegiate basketball for two seasons at Cabrillo College in Aptos, Calif., before transferring to San Diego State.

Soria, 38, is married to the former Melissa Schuetz. The couple has a seven-year-old son, Dylan, and a four-year old daughter, Riley. The Soria family resides in San Diego.





## JD Pollock

Director of Player Development - First Season at SDSU  
Kennesaw State '09

**J**D Pollock enters his first season at San Diego State as the program's director of player development. He joined the men's basketball coaching staff in September 2017.

Prior to SDSU, Pollock spent the previous three seasons at CSU Bakersfield where he was the Roadrunners' director of operations before being promoted to assistant coach. In his first two seasons, Pollock served as the director of operations and was responsible for all operation aspects of the program. In his second year as the director of operations, he helped CSUB to its first WAC tournament championship and a berth in the 2016 NCAA tournament.

Following its NCAA run, CSU Bakersfield elevated Pollock to assistant coach and the Roadrunners experienced similar success. In 2016-17,

Pollock helped CSUB to its first regular-season WAC title and a berth in the NIT, where it advanced to the national semifinals, becoming the first No. 8 seed to make it to Madison Square Garden and New York City.

In three seasons at CSU Bakersfield, Pollock helped the Roadrunners to a 64-37 record (30-12 WAC), including a 49-19 mark in his final two years.

Prior to his time in Bakersfield, Pollock had a similar career path at Central Arizona College where he was an assistant coach for two seasons (2011-13) before becoming the head coach for the 2013-14 campaign. As an assistant, he helped the 2012-13 Central Arizona squad post a school-record 30-5 record that saw them capture conference, region and district championships along the way. The next season he was named head coach

and ultimately helped CAC to a 64-31 record in three seasons and recruited/coached nine players that moved on to play Division I basketball, including two NJCAA All-Americans.

Pollock landed on the Coolidge, Arizona campus after a two-year stint at TCU where he was a graduate assistant for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons. While in Fort Worth, Pollock earned his master's degree, which came after a playing career at Kennesaw State. The 2008-09 team captain received his bachelor's degree later that year in sports management.

Pollock began his collegiate playing career at Berry College in Rome, Ga. In 2005, he ranked third nationally in NAIA in steals.

Pollock and his wife, Irene, live in San Diego.



JD Pollock

**Director of Player Development**

**Birthdate**  
May 23, 1986

**Education**  
2009 - B.S. degree from Kennesaw State.  
2011 - M.A. degree from TCU.

**Marital Status**  
Married to Irene Pollock

**Record Breakdown**  
Division I career: 64-37





## Sergio Ibarra

Associate Athletic Trainer

# Sergio Ibarra

### Associate Athletic Trainer - Second Season at SDSU Alfred University '06

**S**ergio Ibarra is in his second season with San Diego State as an associate athletic trainer with his primary focus on men's basketball and men's golf.

Ibarra handles all the medical needs for the men's basketball squad throughout the year. He also supervises and coordinates all rehabilitative efforts in case of injury.

A certified member of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), Ibarra comes to the Aztecs from his most recent stop as the head athletic trainer of the New York Cosmos Soccer Club, a North American Soccer League (NASL) team, in Uniondale, N.Y.

Ibarra has extensive collegiate experience with stops at the University of Bridgeport, Hofstra University, Westmont College, Elmira

College and Santa Barbara City College.

Along the way, Ibarra has also gained clinical experience throughout the state of New York and in California, more specifically Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

A former student-athlete, Ibarra was a four-year lacrosse player at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y., where he ultimately earned his bachelor's degree in athletic training, exercise science in 2006. On his way to obtaining his degree, Ibarra was a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and president of the Athletic Training Club in 2004-05.

From Alfred, Ibarra went

75 miles east to Elmira College in Elmira, New York where he successfully worked toward and obtained his master's degree in health service management in 2010.



## Randy Shelton

Strength and Conditioning Coach

# Randy Shelton

### Strength and Conditioning Coach - Eighth Season at SDSU San Diego State '00

**R**andy Shelton is in his eighth season at San Diego State as the men's basketball team's strength and conditioning coach.

During his seven seasons on Montezuma Mesa, the Aztecs have enjoyed the best seven-year run in school history thanks in large part to their effort in the weight room during the season and in the offseason. Over the last seven years, San Diego State has gone a combined 188-60, including a school-record 34 wins in 2011, won six Mountain West titles (five regular season, one tournament) and advanced to the NCAA tournament six times, including 2011 and 2014's appearance in the Sweet 16.

A 2000 graduate of San Diego State, Shelton is a member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association and is a Certified



Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS).

Shelton is married to the former

Waleska Valle and the couple has a son, Darren, and a daughter, Farah.



## Megan Taormina

**Learning Specialist/Academic Advisor  
4th Season at SDSU (San Diego State '10)**

**M**egan Taormina enters her fourth season at San Diego State and her second working with the men's basketball program as its academic advisor.

In her position, Taormina serves as a mentor and tutor in the SDSU Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) Department, teaches students skills and techniques to accommodate their learning disabilities, both in and out of the classroom, and assesses all incoming students for learning disabilities through educational assessments. Taormina also advises students regarding graduation requirements, choosing a degree program, and maintaining academic eligibility.

Following her graduation from SDSU, Taormina was an English skills tutor at nearby Grossmont College (2011-12), a research and teaching assistant at SDSU (2013), a SDICCA intern at Grossmont (2013), a teaching associate at San Diego State from 2012-13, and an adjunct instructor and learning workshops coordinator at Grossmont from 2013-15.

Taormina graduated summa cum laude from SDSU in 2010 with a bachelor of arts degree in English and comparative literature. In 2013, she completed her master of arts at San Diego State in English and comparative literature with a concentration in children's literature. She recently enrolled back in school at SDSU and is currently in the rehabilitation counseling program working towards her M.S.

Megan is married to Anthony Taormina and the couple lives in San Diego.

## Leana DeKock

**Administrative Assistant  
7th Season at SDSU (San Diego State '11)**

**L**eana DeKock enters her seventh season as the administrative assistant for the San Diego State basketball program.

DeKock handles administrative duties in the day-to-day operations of the San Diego State basketball office. She works closely with Brian Dutcher to organize his schedule.

In addition to assisting Dutcher, DeKock assists the staff with schedules, travel and recruiting responsibilities.

Leana and her husband, David, have two daughters, Mallory and Natalia.

## Adam Helmer

**Graduate Student Manager  
3rd Season at SDSU (San Diego State '13)**

**A**dam Helmer enters his third season as a member of the SDSU program, but his first as a graduate student manager. Helmer is working toward his master's degree in business management.

In his role, Helmer is responsible for statistical analysis, practice and scout team film, and social media. His previous two seasons with the Aztecs were spent as a student manager, traveling with the team exclusively during the 2016-17 campaign.

Prior to joining the program, Helmer earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from San Diego State in 2013, and then interned for the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks and Learfield Sports from 2014-15.



Megan Taormina



Leana DeKock

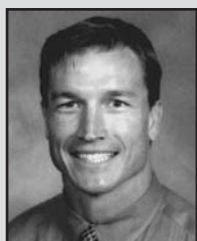


Adam Helmer

## SDSU Men's Basketball Doctors and Managers



**Christopher Behr**  
Head Orthopaedic Surgeon



**Alan Richburg**  
Team Physician



**Dennis Brown**  
Equipment Attendant



**Jakob Briner**  
Student Manager



**Kevin Butty**  
Student Manager



**Luke Jackson**  
Student Manager



**Peyman Mokhtari**  
Student Manager



**Jack Rydquist**  
Student Manager

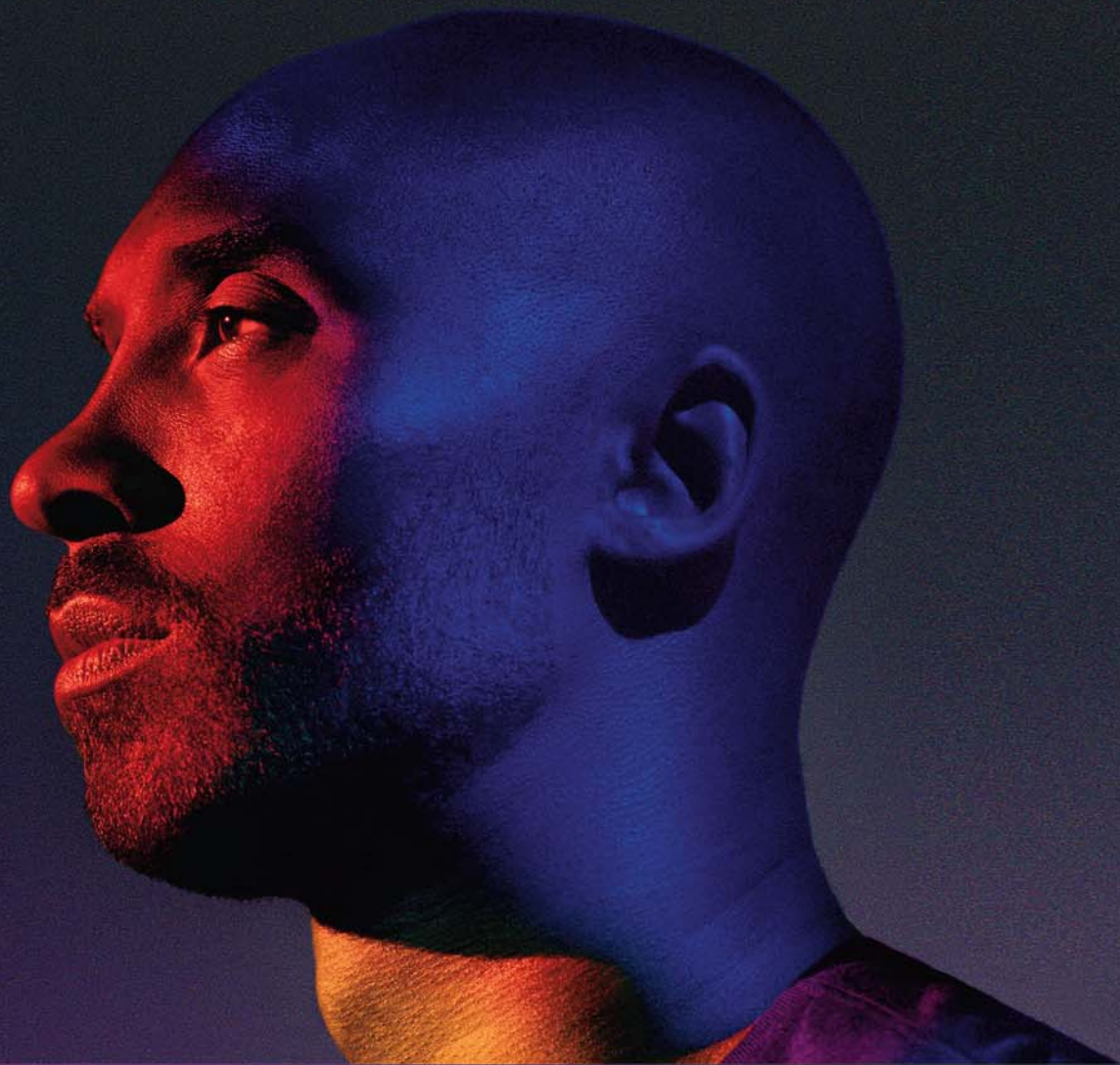


**Chris Salazar**  
Student Manager



**Adam Topp**  
Student Manager





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