



**SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS**  
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**Director of Athletics John David Wicker on the hiring process:**

**On speaking with the team:**

We talked to the seniors and listened to what they had to say about what's great about our program and what would they like to see different about our program? And the fan base had some opinions as well, so we certainly listened to those comments as well. We wanted to go out and find the best head coach that was going to win on the field and bring excitement. We knew we needed to be better offensively. We've obviously had our struggles offensively. We've been very defensive minded over the last 13 to 15 years. So, it was exciting and we interviewed people on both sides of the ball. We talked to people that were defensive minded, offensive minded, and really drilled into how they would handle the other side of the ball. Sean [Lewis] really stood out with a lot of great experience. He's got head coaching experience and comes from a great offensive background and like what he has to say

**On Lewis' situation at Colorado factoring in:**

Yeah, we talked about it. I talked to some folks in Colorado who felt very comfortable with Sean Lewis as a football coach and as a head coach. Sometimes you have different philosophies about different things, and I think as Sean said, it was a good experience for him. You take something from everything that you do, and I think Shawn articulated the great things that he's going to take from his experience in Colorado and make us better.

**On what the fans were saying and the role it played:**

We have a very passionate fan base who sent me a lot of love letters. I think more than anything, they want to see excitement on the field. We've got this fantastic new stadium that, I will argue is the best stadium in the state or the best stadium experience in the country, especially at the collegiate level. Now it's putting that energy similar to what we have in Viejas and having it at Snapdragon Stadium. That was something that we heard a lot about. They love the defense, but they wanted to see more excitement on the other side of it.

**On what he liked most about Lewis:**

The offensive minded head coaching experience. How he handles the student athlete experience. How important it is not just on a football field, but in the classroom and within life; he's a great family man. He wants to have his family in the building, and all the coaches and staff have their family in the building and that's something that is who we are.

On the current coaching staff:

At this point, all of our coaches are still under contract. Sean will have the opportunity to meet with everybody and determine who he may want to retain or not, and if he chooses not to retain somebody we will still honor the contract and the terms. And they have the ability to then find the best situation for them.

On SDSU being the best group of five job:

We talked about this being the best group five job, definitely on the west coast. This job is better than some power five jobs on the West Coast, and probably better than some power five jobs throughout the country as you look at pathway to college football playoff. If it's purely about coaching salary, then no we're not going to be there with some but if you look at the ability to be successful and achieve at a high level. There's some obstacles out there; Boise State is close to that and then you look at what James Madison did this year what Tulane has been doing. So we looked at it from that standpoint. As far as Power Five, we will continue to work on that and see what might happen with the alliance with the PAC. We're going to keep putting our best foot forward and figure it out what that next step is.