

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

# AZTEC BASKETBALL

2010 NCAA Postseason Guide

D.J.  
**GAY**  
JUNIOR



MALCOLM  
**THOMAS**  
JUNIOR



BILLY  
**WHITE**  
JUNIOR



KAWHI  
**LEONARD**  
FRESHMAN



STEVE  
FISHER

**2010 MWC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS**

FIVE CONSECUTIVE POSTSEASON APPEARANCES  
21 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS 20 POSTSEASON APPEARANCES

# SDSU Quick Facts



FIVE STRAIGHT POSTSEASON APPEARANCES ► FIVE CONSECUTIVE 20-WIN SEASONS

## General Information

Location ..... San Diego, Calif., 92182  
 Founded ..... 1897  
 Enrollment ..... 34,360  
 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. Stephen Weber  
 Alma Mater (Year) ..... Bowling Green (1964)  
 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 ..... 89th  
 First Season of Basketball ..... 1921-22  
 All-Time Record ..... 1,255-1,041  
 NCAA Tournament Appearances ..... 9th  
 Seasons of Div. I Basketball ..... 40th  
 First Season of Div. I Basketball ..... 1970-71  
 All-Time Div. I Record ..... 566-595  
 NCAA Div. I Tournament Appearances ..... 6th  
 Last NCAA Appearance Before 2010 ..... 2006  
 NIT Appearances ..... 5  
 Last NIT Appearance ..... 2009

## Media Relations

Assistant AD/MBB ..... Mike May  
 SID Main Office Number ..... 619-594-5547  
 May Cell Phone ..... 619-957-8372  
 SID Fax Number ..... 619-582-6541  
 May E-mail ..... mmay@mail.sdsu.edu  
 Assistant MRD/MBB ..... Darin Wong  
 Wong E-mail ..... dwong@mail.sdsu.edu  
 SID Mailing Address ..... Aztec Media Relations  
 3014 Aztec Athletics Center  
 5302 55th Street  
 San Diego State University  
 San Diego, CA 92182

## Basketball Staff

Head Coach ..... Steve Fisher  
 Alma Mater (Year) ..... Illinois State (1967)  
 Record at SDSU (Years) ..... 198-148 (11)  
 Record Overall (Years) ..... 382-230 (19 full)  
 Basketball Office Phone ..... 619-594-6249  
 Best Time to Contact Fisher ..... Contact May  
 Assistant Head Coach ..... Brian Dutcher  
 Alma Mater (Year) ..... Minnesota (1982)  
 Assistant Coach ..... Justin Hutson  
 Alma Mater (Year) ..... CS Bakersfield (1994)  
 Assistant 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 ..... David Velasquez  
 Alma Mater (Year) ..... San Diego State (2007)  
 Basketball Trainer ..... Mark Haines  
 Alma Mater (Year) ..... Metropolitan State (1987)  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Marty Malano

## Team Information

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>	<i>Neu.</i>
2009-10 Record	25-8	14-1	9-7	2-0
2009-10 MWC Record	11-5	7-1	4-4	
Mountain West Finish	t-3th			
MWC Tournament	Champions (3-0)			

## Entering 2009-10

Starters Returning/Lost ..... 2/3  
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost ..... 7/7

## Media Information

Radio Station ..... AM 600 KOGO  
 Play-By-Play Announcer ..... Ted Leitner  
 PBP Phone Number ..... 858-560-6671  
 Video Footage Contact ..... David Berry  
 VFC Phone Number ..... 619-594-2428  
 Beat Writer ..... Kevin Gemmell  
 The San Diego Union-Tribune  
 619-293-1341

## Media Services

SID Office Phone ..... 619-594-5547  
 SID Office Fax ..... 619-582-6541  
 Viejas Arena Press Row ..... 619-265-5853  
 SDSU Athletics Website ..... www.GoAztecs.com

## 2009-10 Roster Breakdown

### Guards (5)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Kelvin Davis	6-3	220	Sr.	G	6.5	1.3
Jason Deutchman	6-6	220	Jr.	G	1.7	0.7
D.J. Gay	6-0	167	Jr.	G	10.3	*3.2
Tyrone Shelley	6-6	225	So.	G	6.3	3.6
Chase Tapley	6-2	205	Fr.	G	7.8	2.3

### Forwards (6)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Ben Kneller	6-6	200	Sr.	F	0.5	0.5
Kawhi Leonard	6-7	225	Fr.	F	12.8	9.9
Tim Shelton	6-7	248	So.	F	3.3	2.0
Malcolm Thomas	6-9	215	Jr.	F	11.0	7.8
Billy White	6-8	235	Jr.	F	11.2	4.4
Alec Williams	6-6	268	Fr.	F	1.9	1.2

### Centers (1)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Brian Carlwell	6-11	297	Jr.	C	4.8	2.7

### Redshirts (2)

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.	PPG	RPG
Mehdi Cheriet	6-9	218	Sr.	F		Redshirt
James Rahon	6-5	202	So.	G		Redshirt

\* - Indicates assists per game.

### Award Winners

D.J. Gay - All-MWC honorable mention  
 Kawhi Leonard - MWC freshman of the year, All-MWC first team, MWC tournament MVP, MWC all-tournament team, USBWA All-District IX, Sporting News All-Freshman second team  
 Malcolm Thomas - All-MWC second team  
 Billy White - All-MWC honorable mention, MWC all-tournament team  
 Kelvin Davis - V Foundation Comeback Award finalist

# AZTEC BASKETBALL

SAN DIEGO STATE MEDIA RELATIONS | 5302 55th STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | PHONE: (619) 594-5547 | FAX: (619) 582-6541



(11) (rv/rv) **San Diego State** (25-8; 11-5 Mountain West)  
vs. (6) (15/14) **Tennessee** (25-8; 11-5 Southeastern)

## Schedule

Overall: 25-8 MWC: 11-5  
Home: 14-1/Away: 9-7/Neutral: 2-0

N.14	UC San Diego	W, 77-52
N.16	at Saint Mary's	L, 58-80
N.19	Santa Clara	W, 86-53
N.23	at Fresno State	W, 62-58
N.25	at Pacific	L, 63-71
N.28	Northern Arizona	W, 89-48
D.2	at San Diego	ot-W, 69-62
D.5	at UCSB	W, 69-61
D.9	CS Fullerton	W, 82-68
D.12	Arizona	W, 63-46
D.19	at Arizona St.	L, 52-55
D.22	at Drake	ot-W, 76-73
D.29	UC Riverside	W, 58-53
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	W, 89-54
J.5	(15/14) UNM	W, 74-64
J.9	at Wyoming	L, 83-85
J.13	at UNLV	L, 66-76
J.16	TCU	W, 67-62
J.19	at Utah	W, 70-68
J.23	(14/13) BYU	L, 69-71
J.30	at Colorado St.	W, 64-52
F.2	Air Force	W, 70-48
F.6	at (15/23) UNM	ot-L, 86-88
F.10	Wyoming	W, 88-57
F.13	(23/25) UNLV	W, 68-58
F.16	at TCU	W, 68-51
F.20	Utah	W, 68-61
F.24	at (13/11) BYU	L, 68-82
M.3	Colorado St.	W, 68-55
M.6	at Air Force	W, 61-42
M.11	vs. Colorado St.	W, 72-71
M.12	vs. (8/8) UNM	W, 72-69
M.13	at UNLV	W, 55-45

**M.18 vs. (15/14) Tenn. 6:45 p.m.**  
*All times are Pacific*

Date	Thursday, March 18, 2010
Tipoff	9:45 p.m. ET (6:45 p.m. PT)
Location	Providence, R.I.
Arena	Dunkin' Donuts Center (12,500)
Television	CBS HD; Verne Lundquist, Bill Raftery
Radio	AM 600 KOGO; Ted Leitner
Live Stats	GoAztecs.com
Series	Tennessee leads, 2-0
Note	Aztecs' last win over an SEC team came on 12/21/85

	San Diego State	Tennessee
Record	25-8	25-8
Conf. Rec.	11-5/t-3rd	11-5 (3rd/East)
RPI	18	14
Sagarin	38	19
Last 5/10	5-0/9-1	4-1/7-3
Coach	Steve Fisher	Bruce Pearl
Career	382-230 (19th full)	440-129 (18th year)
at School	198-148 (11th season)	123-45 (5th year)

## San Diego State at the 2010 NCAA Basketball Championships, Providence, R.I.

Dates: March 18 and 20, 2010

**San Diego State Travel Plans:** The Aztecs will depart for the 2,561-mile journey to Providence, R.I., on Tuesday morning. Specifics are still being arranged by SDSU officials.

**Interviews/Practice Schedule:** San Diego State coach Steve Fisher and San Diego State players in the normal rotation will be available for media interviews on Wednesday at the Dunkin' Donuts Center (see schedule below). Fisher and select student-athletes will attend the news conference, while other players will be available during that time in the locker room. This will be the only availability for interviews on Wednesday or Thursday, prior to Thursday night's first-round game.

San Diego State assistant athletic director for media relations Mike May and assistant media relations director Darin Wong will be present in Providence, R.I. Any questions regarding San Diego State's schedule and/or availability may be directed to either of them.

### Wednesday Schedule (all times Eastern)

4:30	Tennessee Student-Athletes News Conference
4:45	Tennessee Coach Bruce Pearl News Conference
5:10-5:55	Tennessee Practice
6:00	► San Diego State Student-Athletes News Conference
6:15	► San Diego State Steve Fisher News Conference
6:40-7:20	► SDSU Practice

### Thursday Schedule (all times Eastern)

12:30 p.m.	(15) Robert Morris vs. (2) Villanova
2:50 p.m.	(10) Saint Mary's vs. (7) Richmond
7:25 p.m.	(14) Ohio vs. (3) Georgetown
9:45 p.m.	► (11) SDSU vs. (6) Tennessee

**Media Headquarters:** The Westin Providence (1 West Exchange Street, Providence, R.I. 02903). Phone: (401) 598-8000.

**Team Headquarters:** Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel (1850 Post Road, Warwick, R.I. 02886). Phone: (401) 738-4000.

## Aztecs At-A-Glance

No.	Name (Career G/GS)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	PPG	RPG	Misc.	Note	► - Probable Starters; Players in gold will not dress
0	Alec Williams (12/0)	F	6-6	268	Fr.	1.9	1.2	0.3 apg	Played in 12 gms. this season; CH 11 pts., 3-3 FGs vs. Pomona-Pitzer	
3	Tyrone Shelley (61/27)	G	6-6	225	So.	6.3	3.6	1.3 spg	9 double-digit scoring gms. this season; 33 stls. in last 26 gms. (1.3 spg)	
4	► Malcolm Thomas (65/60)	F	6-9	215	Jr.	11.0	7.8	54.8 FG	Last 7 gms.: 14.0 ppg, 62.1 FG pct.; 1st on team in blks. (50), 2nd in ast.	
5	Brian Carlwell (62/3)	C	6-11	297	Jr.	4.8	2.7	62.4 FG	13.2 ppg, 7.5 rpg per 40 minutes; Made 51 of last 79 FGA (64.6 pct.)	
15	► Kawhi Leonard (33/32)	F	6-7	225	Fr.	12.8	9.9	72.2 FT	MWC Tourney MVP; 15 double-doubles last 24 gms.; 10+ pts. in 5 strt. gms.	
20	Jason Deutchman (11/0)	G	6-6	220	Jr.	1.7	0.7	50.0 FG	Career-high 4 points vs. UC San Diego	
22	Chase Tapley (32/17)	G	6-2	205	Fr.	7.8	2.3	2.2 apg	13 double-digit scoring gms.; 49 assists, 26 turnovers last 19 games	
23	► D.J. Gay (102/82)	G	6-0	167	Jr.	10.3	2.2	3.2 apg	Played all but 83 secs. in last 4 gms.; 144 career 3FG (4th in SDSU history)	
24	Tim Shelton (47/18)	F	6-7	248	So.	3.3	2.0	1.4 apg	3 knee surgeries entering season; exploratory surgery 2/3/10, out for year	
32	► Billy White (97/87)	F	6-8	235	Jr.	11.2	4.4	58.8 FG	CH 28 pts. vs UNM Fri.; 17 10+ scoring gms. this season, incl. 7 of last 11	
33	Ben Kneller (2/0)	F	6-6	200	Sr.	0.5	0.5	50.0 FT	2nd student manager to suit up in Fisher era; 1-2 FT vs. CSU	
40	► Kelvin Davis (97/15)	G	6-3	220	Sr.	6.5	1.3	1.1 apg	Eight games with 10+ points; 35 3FGs, 36 2FGs this year	
42	Mehdi Cheriet (35/2)	F	6-9	218	Sr.	--	--	--	Will redshirt the 2009-10 season	

**Head Coach:** Steve Fisher (Illinois State, 1967) • 382-230 (19th full season overall) • 198-148 (11th season at SDSU)

**Assistant Head Coach:** Brian Dutcher (Minnesota, 1982) **Assistant Coaches:** Justin Hutson (CS Bakersfield, 1994), Mark Fisher (Michigan, 2001)

**Director of Operations:** Matt Soria (San Diego State, 2002) **Director of Player Development:** David Velasquez (San Diego State, 2007)

**Athletic Trainer:** Mark Haines (Metropolitan State College, 1987)

# San Diego State

2009-10 Record: 25-8; 11-5 MWC  
 2009 NIT Semifinal Participants

- The Aztecs have won at least 20 games in a school-record five straight seasons. That is tied for the 18th longest streak nationally.
- San Diego State has advanced to postseason play each of the last five seasons (2006 and 2010 NCAA, 2007-08-09 NIT).

**Trend:**  
 • - SDSU has won 40 of the last 44 dating back to the 2006-07 season when scoring at least 71 points.

**NCAA Rankings (through 3/11):** 13th in reb. margin, 20th in FG pct., 41st in scoring defense, 41st in scoring margin, 55th in FG pct. defense.

		PPG	RPG	APG	FG	3FG	FT	
<b>0</b>	<b>Alec Williams</b> Forward, 6-6, 268, Fr.-HS San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (JSerra High)	09-10 1.9 MWC 1.0	1.2 0.8	0.3 0.0	44.4 2/6	2/5 1/2	83.3 0/0	Played in 12 games this season, including 12 minutes last at Air Force (3-6-10)... Scored a career-high 11 points against Pomona-Pitzer, making all three of his FGAs... Made his first career 3FGA in that game... Has three turnover in 87 minutes of action this season... In season opener vs. UCSD, came off the bench and contributed 6 pts., 7 rebs.
<b>3</b>	<b>Tyrone Shelley</b> Guard, 6-6, 225, So.-TR San Diego, Calif. (Pepperdine)	09-10 6.3 MWC 4.6	3.6 3.9	0.6 0.8	44.4 44.6	26.2 22.7	52.5 42.9	Had right thumb surgery on Feb. 27, missed 2 games before returning to play in the MWC tourney... Playing through plantar fasciitis this season... 2nd on team in steals (37)... Had 10+ in a career-high six straight games (broken vs. CSUF)... Scored a season-high 17 points 3 times (at FSU, NAU, at UCSB)... Earned freshman All-America honors in 2008 while at Pepperdine.
<b>4</b>	<b>Malcolm Thomas</b> Forward, 6-9, 215, Jr.-JC San Diego, Calif. (San Diego City College)	09-10 11.0 MWC 11.9	7.8 8.6	2.2 2.6	54.8 57.6	2/5 1/2	52.2 51.7	<b>MWC Rank:</b> 2nd in blocks, 2nd in FG pct, 4th in reb., 9th in min. played, 17th in scoring, 11.8 ppg in last 20 gms... 2.5 app in last 24 games... 17 double-digit scoring games (four 20+) this season... Shot 50 percent or better 19 times this year... 10 career double-doubles... 23 pts., 13 rebs. at Utah (1-19-09)... Made 36 of last 58 FGA (62.1 pct.) and 90 of last 157 FGA (57.3 pct.).
<b>5</b>	<b>Brian Carlwell</b> Center, 6-11, 297, Jr.-TR Maywood, Ill. (Illinois)	09-10 4.8 MWC 5.2	2.7 2.6	0.5 0.9	62.4 62.7	1/1 1/1	55.6 56.3	Played in 62 career gms... Had scored in career-high 11 straight gms. (broken vs. Wyo.), streak is now at 18 of last 21... Shot 50 percent or better from the field in 14 of last 16 gms in which he has a FGA... Made 9 of his last 12 FTA (75.0 pct.)... 13.2 ppg and 7.5 rpg per 40 mins... Eligible after sitting out 08-09 following his transfer from Illinois.
<b>15</b>	<b>Kawhi Leonard</b> Forward, 6-7, 225, Fr.-HS Riverside, Calif. (King High)	09-10 12.8 MWC 14.4	9.9 9.6	1.9 1.8	46.0 48.4	21.6 24.2	72.2 71.0	<b>NCAA Rank (3/11):</b> 25th in double-doubles (4th among Fr.), 30th in reb. (3rd among Fr.), <b>MWC Rank:</b> 1st in reb., 5th in steals, 6th in scoring, 7th in FG pct. 16 double-doubles (broke M. Cage Fr. school record)... 1 of 4 freshmen in country to lead team in pts. & reb... Has 10 or more rebs. in 16 of last 25 gms (10.5 ppg)... 10+ pts. in 14 of last 15 gms. (14.7 ppg)... Made 5 of last 9 3FGs, 21 of last 24 FTs.
<b>20</b>	<b>Jason Deutchman</b> Guard, 6-6, 220, Jr.-1L Los Angeles, Calif. (Wisconsin-Milwaukee)	09-10 1.7 MWC --	0.7 --	0.0 --	50.0 --	00.0 --	75.0 --	Battled through countless knee injuries... Is one of the team's top catch-and-shoot players... Typically is the first player in the gym... Never leaves the gym without making 100 jump shots... Played in three games this year (UC San Diego, Santa Clara, NAU)... Career-high 4 pts. in 3 min. vs. UC San Diego... 1 pt. vs. NAU.
<b>22</b>	<b>Chase Tapley</b> Guard, 6-2, 205, Fr.-HS Sacramento, Calif. (Sacramento High)	09-10 7.8 MWC 9.0	2.3 2.5	2.2 2.5	50.5 49.5	38.9 40.8	71.4 68.4	Missed AFA game (broken left hand), but returned to play in three tournament gms... MWC Tourney: 24 pts., 9-12 FGs, 4-7 3FGs... Scored in double figures in 7 of last 13 gms... Made a 3FG in a 12 of last 17 gms. (24-53, 45.3 pct.)... 28 stl. last 19 gms... 49 ast. in last 18 gms. (2.7 apg)... 13 double-digit scoring gms... 10 TO-free gms... Made 34 of last 62 FGA (54.8 pct.).
<b>23</b>	<b>D.J. Gay</b> Guard, 6-0, 167, Jr.-2L Sun Valley, Calif. (Poly High)	09-10 10.3 MWC 10.7	2.2 2.3	3.2 3.5	36.6 36.4	38.3 41.9	70.2 67.6	<b>MWC Rank:</b> 2nd in minutes, 4th ATO ratio, 8th 3FG pct, 8th in assists. Played in all 102 games since stepping foot on campus... Started 82 career games... 144 career treys, 4th in school history... Made 54 of last 129 (41.9 pct.) 3FGA (last 27 gms)... Made a trey in 24 of his last 27 gms... Has 29 assists in his last 7 gms. (4.1 apg)... Scored 64 points in his last 6 gms. (10.7 ppg).
<b>24</b>	<b>Tim Shelton</b> Forward, 6-7, 248, So.-1L Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West High)	09-10 3.3 MWC 6.3	2.0 2.7	1.4 2.3	34.6 33.3	44.4 60.0	44.4 33.3	Played in only 9 games this season due to off-season knee surgery... Is expected to be out for the rest of the season after having knee surgery on Feb. 3... Made three three-point field goals in his last three games played (3-for-5, 60.0 pct.)... Season-high 8 pts., 4 reb., 3 ast. in 26 mins. vs. New Mexico... A leader on and off the court... Entered season as a career 50.8 percent FG shooter.
<b>32</b>	<b>Billy White</b> Forward, 6-8, 235, Jr.-2L Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley High)	09-10 11.2 MWC 8.9	4.4 3.6	1.4 1.8	58.8 52.7	28.6 1/8	63.5 66.7	<b>MWC Rank:</b> 1st in FG pct., 10th in blocked shots, 16th in scoring, 19th in reb., 10+ pts. in 7 of last 11 games (12.6 ppg)... Made 61.8 pct. of his 2FGA this season... 17 double-figure scoring games this year, 44 career double-figure games... Game-high 20 pts.; first 2 3FG vs. UOP... 918 career points (20th in SDSU DI history), 456 career rebounds (16th in SDSU DI history)... Career 61.9 FG pct.
<b>33</b>	<b>Ben Kneller</b> Forward, 6-6, 200, Sr.-HS Westlake Village, Calif. (Westlake High)	09-10 0.5 MWC 0.5	0.0 0.0	0.5 0.5	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	1/2 1/2	Last name is pronounced kuh-NELL-er... A four-year manager at SDSU... Becomes the second-ever manager in the Steve Fisher era to suit up for a game (David Velasquez - 2007)... A two-sport star (basketball, tennis) at Westlake HS in Westlake Village, Calif... Varsity basketball captain senior year at Westlake HS... Learned he would dress for the CSU (3-3-10) game at 2 p.m. the day of the game.
<b>40</b>	<b>Kelvin Davis</b> Guard, 6-3, 220, Sr.-1L Waterbury, Conn. (College of Southern Idaho)	09-10 6.5 MWC 6.6	1.3 1.4	1.1 1.1	39.0 36.7	28.0 23.1	66.0 76.0	Granted a 6th year from NCAA... Treated for Hodgkin's lymphoma last season, which limited him to 8 games... 2010 finalist for V Foundation Comeback Award... USBWA's 2009 Most Courageous Award recipient... 72 points in last 12 gms. (6.0 ppg) and 105 points in the last 16 gms. (6.6 ppg)... 8 gms. this season w/10+ pts (SDSU 8-0 in those gms)... 36-of-57 (63.2 pct.) 2FGs this season.

red indicates projected starter, black indicates reserve; gold indicates will not play.

## Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent (Television)	Time/Result	Note
N.14	UC SAN DIEGO	W, 77-52	► 3 players reached double figures in scoring, including Malcolm Thomas, who had 20 pts., 9 reb., 2 blks.
<b>ESPN College Hoops Tip-Off Marathon</b>			
N.16	at Saint Mary's (ESPN)	L, 58-80	► Malcolm Thomas leads the Aztecs again with 14 points and 8 rebounds; SDSU trailed, 42-21, at halftime
<b>West Coast Classic (hosted by Santa Clara; played at campus sites)</b>			
N.19	SANTA CLARA	W, 86-53	► Aztecs led by as many as 40 points on two occasions; White starts and has 17 points and 8 rebounds
N.23	at Fresno State	W, 62-58	► SDSU rallies from four-point deficit; Billy White goes for season-high 22 points, 8 rebounds
N.25	at Pacific (Big West TV)	L, 63-71	► White leads Aztecs for second straight game with his second consecutive 20-point performance (20 points)
N.28	NORTHERN ARIZONA	W, 89-48	► Six Aztecs score in double figures; Thomas (21 pts., 10 reb.) and Leonard (10 pts., 10 reb.) post double-doubles
D.2	at San Diego (4SD)	ot-W, 69-62	► Aztecs receive a career-high 22 points from D.J. Gay to win in overtime
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara	W, 69-61	► Won its fifth straight in the series; SDSU has four players score in double figures and shoots over 50 percent
D.9	CAL STATE FULLERTON	W, 82-68	► Kawhi Leonard posts second career double-double with career-high 23 points and 18 rebounds
D.12	ARIZONA (The Mtn.)	W, 63-46	► San Diego State snaps 7-game losing skid vs. Arizona; wins first game in series since 1983
D.19	at Arizona State (FS Arizona, FCS)	L, 52-55	► Leonard 11 reb., Thomas and White each have 10 reb., but Aztecs commit 24 turnovers; Tapley CH 17 pts.
D.22	at Drake	ot-W, 76-73	► Aztecs win NCAA Division I-best ninth straight overtime game; Gay scores game-high 18 points
D.29	UC RIVERSIDE	W, 58-53	► San Diego State wins eighth straight over UCR; White scores 13, Thomas blocks career-high six shots
D.31	POMONA-PITZER	W, 89-54	► Six Aztecs score in double figures; SDSU commits just 3 turnovers, hits 12 of 13 free throws
J.5	*No. 15/14 NEW MEXICO (The Mtn.)	W, 74-64	► Thomas puts up 18 points, 15 rebounds in helping Aztecs beat fifth-highest AP ranked team in school history
J.9	*at Wyoming (The Mtn., 4SD)	L, 83-85	► Leonard scores career-high 25 points as does Tapley with 17, but SDSU can't overcome 15 2nd-half turnovers
J.13	*at UNLV (CBS College)	L, 66-76	► Leonard goes for 13 points, 10 rebounds, but SDSU commits 20 turnovers and gives away 6-point halftime lead
J.16	*TCU (The Mtn.)	W, 67-62	► Aztecs rally from 14 down, which is tied for the second-largest come-from-behind win in Fisher era
J.19	*at Utah (The Mtn., 4SD)	W, 70-68	► SDSU wins at Utah for just the third-time ever; Thomas goes for 23 points and 13 rebounds
J.23	*No. 14/13 BRIGHAM YOUNG (The Mtn.)	L, 69-71	► SDSU's 14-game home court winning streak snapped; Leonard posts 16 points, 11 rebounds
J.30	*at Colorado State (The Mtn., 4SD)	W, 64-52	► SDSU wins back-to-back conference road games and for the fifth straight time at Moby Arena
F.2	*AIR FORCE (CBS College)	W, 70-48	► Four players score in double figures; Thomas finishes with fourth double-double of season (10 pts., 12 reb.)
F.6	*at No. 15/23 New Mexico (The Mtn., 4SD)	ot-L, 86-88	► San Diego State drops third MWC game by two points; Gay scores career-high 25 points
F.10	*WYOMING (The Mtn.)	W, 88-57	► Matched SDSU school record for largest margin of victory in MWC game (31 pts.); Leonard CH 26 points
F.13	*No. 23/25 UNLV (VERSUS)	W, 68-58	► Aztecs make season-best 23 free throws, 4 score in double figures; SDSU beats 2nd ranked opp. of 09-10
F.16	*at TCU (The Mtn., 4SD)	W, 68-51	► SDSU shoots a season-high 60.9 percent; Leonard scores 18, White 17 points, 9 rebounds
F.20	*UTAH (The Mtn., CBS College)	W, 68-61	► Thomas goes off for career-high 28 points; SDSU sweeps Utah for first time since 1982
F.24	*at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (CBS College)	L, 68-82	► Four players score in double figures; Leonard scores only 3 pts. after experiencing flu-like symptoms
M.3	*COLORADO STATE (The Mtn.)	W, 68-55	► Gay scores 16, Leonard adds 14 points, 15 rebounds; Student manager Kneller suits up, scores one point
M.6	*at Air Force (The Mtn.)	W, 61-42	► Thomas and Leonard each score 18 points, combine for 16 of team's 30 rebounds
<b>Conoco Mountain West Conference Basketball Championships (Thomas &amp; Mack Center, Las Vegas, Nev.)</b>			
M.11	vs. Colorado State (QF) (The Mtn., CBS C, 4SD)	W, 72-71	► Thomas, White, Tapley all score team-high 15 points to help SDSU advance
M.12	vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (SF) (CBS C, 4SD)	W, 72-69	► White scores a career-high 28 points, Leonard seals game with two FTs with 0.7 left in game
M.13	at UNLV (CH) (VERSUS)	W, 55-45	► Leonard grabs MWC tournament record 21 rebounds; Aztecs win third MWC tournament title
<b>NCAA Championships (Dunkin' Donuts Center, Providence, R.I.)</b>			
M.18	vs. (15/14) (6) Tennessee (1R) (CBS HD)	9:45 p.m. ET	► San Diego State looking for first-ever NCAA Tournament victory

\* - Indicates Mountain West Conference game.

## Aztecs Open NCAA Tournament Play 2,500 Miles From Home; Face 14th-Ranked Tennessee in First-Round Action Thursday in Providence, R.I.

Eleventh-seeded San Diego State (25-9 overall; 11-5 Mountain West Conference), tournament champions of the MWC, travels to Providence, R.I., for a match-up against sixth-seeded and 15th/14th-ranked Tennessee (25-9 overall; 11-5 Southeastern Conference) in the fourth first-round game at the Dunkin' Donuts Center on Thursday.

Game time is set for 9:45 p.m. ET (6:45 p.m. PT) and the contest will be televised in high definition by CBS. The CBS game can also be accessed for free via the Internet. Radio coverage of the contest can be heard on AM 600 KOGO.

The Aztecs are postseason bound for a school-record fifth consecutive season and are making their sixth all-time NCAA Tournament appearance in 40 seasons at the Division I level and first since 2006.

San Diego State head coach Steve Fisher has a young Aztec squad (only one senior on the active roster) playing its best basketball of the campaign. Last weekend, San Diego State claimed its MWC-record-tying third conference tournament title by defeating Colorado State (72-71), eighth-ranked New Mexico (72-69) and UNLV (55-45) on its home floor.

Freshman forward Kawhi Leonard earned tournament most valuable player honors, averaging 14.3 points, 13.0 rebounds and connecting on 10-of-11 free-throw attempts in the three games. The freshman pulled down a career-high and tournament-record 21 rebounds to go along with 16 points in the victory over UNLV in the championship game.

Joining Leonard on the all-tournament team was junior forward Billy White, who averaged a team-high 16.7 points, 2.3 rebounds and connected on 20-of-30 (66.7 percent) attempts from the field during the three games.

The Aztecs have won a season-high five consecutive games and nine of its last 10, dating back to the first week in February. During that span, San Diego State defeated eighth-ranked New Mexico, snapping the Lobos' 15-game winning streak, and claimed the conference title on UNLV's home court, where the Aztecs are 4-3 against UNLV in the same span the Rebels are 41-1 against all other teams.

What San Diego State has accomplished this season is nothing short of remarkable. After losing players that accounted for 4,291 points in their career following a record-breaking 26-win season and a trip to the postseason NIT semifinals a year ago, the Aztecs are on the verge of matching that win total. With a dress roster that includes 10 players, three of whom are freshmen, one of whom was exclusively a student-manager earlier this month and only two significant contributors from the record-setting team a year ago, San Diego State is in its program-record fifth straight postseason tournament.

The Aztecs have also overcome significant injuries, including a season-ending knee surgery to Tim Shelton, wrist and high-ankle injuries to Billy White, a broken right thumb to Tyrone Shelley, a broken fourth metacarpal on the left hand of Chase Tapley. In all, Aztec players have missed 32 games this season due to injury.

Despite all of that, San Diego State is in the NCAA Tournament with a school-record RPI of 18 and a group that will likely return all five starters and nine of its top 10 scorers next season.

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**All-Time San Diego State All-MWC Honorees**

<b>2001</b>	
Randy Holcomb	Newcomer Team
<b>2002</b>	
Randy Holcomb	First Team
Al Faux	Second Team
Tony Bland	Hon. Mention
<b>2003</b>	
Tony Bland	Second Team
Evan Burns	Hon. Mention
	Freshman of the Year
Mike Mackell	Hon. Mention
Deandre Moore	Hon. Mention
<b>2004</b>	
Aerick Sanders	Second Team
Brandon Heath	Hon. Mention
Marcus Slaughter	Hon. Mention
Wesley Stokes	Hon. Mention
<b>2005</b>	
Brandon Heath	Second Team
Marcus Slaughter	Second Team
Matt Thomas	Hon. Mention
<b>2006</b>	
Brandon Heath	First Team
	Player of the Year
Marcus Slaughter	First Team
Mohamed Abukar	Second Team
<b>2007</b>	
Brandon Heath	First Team
Mohamed Abukar	Second Team
Jerome Habel	Hon. Mention
Lorrenzo Wade	Hon. Mention
<b>2008</b>	
Lorrenzo Wade	First Team
Ryan Amoroso	Third Team
Billy White	Third Team
	Freshman of the Year
<b>2009</b>	
Lorrenzo Wade	Second Team
Kyle Spain	Second Team
Richie Williams	Third Team
	All-Defensive Team
Billy White	Hon. Mention
<b>2010</b>	
Kawhi Leonard	First Team
	Freshman of the Year
Malcolm Thomas	Second Team
D.J. Gay	Honorable Mention
Billy White	Honorable Mention

**Last Time Out**

LAS VEGAS (March 13, 2010) - San Diego State won its third Mountain West Conference tournament title and earned the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament with its 55-45 victory at UNLV.

Kawhi Leonard was named the tournament's most valuable player and led the team with 16 points and a career-high 21 rebounds, earning his 16th double-double of the season. The 21 boards set a new MWC tournament record, which was previously owned by former Aztec Marcus Slaughter (19; 2006).

The first half was abysmal as neither team scored for the first 4:08. Despite all the shooting woes, UNLV owned a 10-4 lead more than halfway through the first period, but SDSU answered by taking its own six-point cushion into the final 10 seconds. Unfortunately for the Aztecs, Justin Hawkins cut their lead in half as he hit a three as time expired. All told, the teams shot a combined 18-for-53 from the floor in the first 20 minutes.

Kelvin Davis started the second half off strong with a three-point shot providing San Diego State with its second six-point lead of the game. The battle for the lead continued for the rest of the half with Tre'Von Willis bringing UNLV to within four with 2:54 left in regulation.

After an SDSU turnover and a missed three by Willis, UNLV fouled Leonard three consecutive times and the MWC freshman of the year knocked down all six free throws and eight overall in the final 1:54 to secure the title.

San Diego State won its 25th game of the season, the second most victories by any Aztec squad in 89 seasons of SDSU basketball.

**Notes from the Game:**

- ▶ San Diego State wins its third Mountain West Conference tournament title (2002, 2006 and 2010). The Aztecs' three titles are tied with UNLV for the most in Mountain West Conference history. In two of San Diego State's title wins (2002 and 2010), San Diego State has had to defeat UNLV on its home court in the championship game to claim the title.
- ▶ Since the beginning of the 2005-06 season, UNLV is 44-5 at the Thomas & Mack Center against Mountain West Conference teams. During that time, the Aztecs are 4-3 at UNLV, while the rest of the league is a combined 1-41.

**What You Need to Know**

- ▶ San Diego State's record this season is even more impressive when considering how much the Aztecs lost last season due to graduation. Gone from last season are players that accounted for 4,291 points in their San Diego State career. That doesn't take into account Lorrenzo Wade's Louisville scoring or Ryan Amoroso's Marquette numbers. Some of the larger numbers from that group were provided by Kyle Spain (1,230), Wade (1,200), Richie Williams (883), also the MWC's all-time leader in assists and steals), Amoroso (624) and Matt Thomas (341).
- ▶ Despite suffering tremendous losses from last season's team, the Aztecs are 25-8 after 33 games. That is one game better than the Aztecs had after 33 games last season when San Diego State went on to win a school-record 26 games. The 25-8 record is the best record after 33 games in the school's Division I history.
- ▶ San Diego State has secured its school-record fifth straight 20-win season and has now won 117 games since the beginning of the 2005-06 campaign.
- ▶ With its 20-win season already in the books, San Diego State completed the trick by advancing to the postseason for the fifth straight year. At no time in the school's 89 seasons of basketball, until this year, has San Diego State advanced to postseason play five straight years or won at least 20 games five years in a row.
- ▶ SDSU has won nine of its last 10 games and 11 of its last 13 games. Remember, the Aztecs had to overcome the loss of 4,291 career points off last season's team. Only two active players on the current roster saw regular playing time for SDSU last season.
- ▶ San Diego State has played great basketball since Billy

**San Diego State 55, UNLV 45**

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*34	2-7	0-0	3-3	7	2	4 1	1	2	7
Leonard	*36	4-11	0-1	8-9	21	1	2 5	0	2	16
White	*33	3-5	0-1	1-2	3	3	2 2	0	1	7
Gay	*39	3-13	3-7	2-4	2	1	0 3	0	0	11
Davis	*32	4-7	1-3	0-0	1	2	0 2	0	2	9
Shelley	8	2-2	0-0	1-1	1	2	0 1	0	0	5
Carlwell	10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 2	0	0	0
Tapley	8	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	1	1 2	0	0	0
Team										1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-46</b>	<b>4-13</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9 18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>55</b>

UNLV	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Stanback	*36	4-10	2-6	0-0	7	1	1 2	1	3	10
Santee	*13	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	0 0	0	0	1
Bellfield	*35	5-15	1-5	0-0	4	3	5 6	0	1	11
Marshall	*25	0-2	0-0	2-4	7	1	2 2	1	1	2
Willis	*35	4-12	1-5	2-2	1	3	3 2	0	2	11
Wallace	13	2-4	1-3	0-0	2	2	0 0	0	1	5
Massamba	18	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	5	0 2	0	1	0
Jones	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 1	0	0	0
Hawkins	13	2-3	1-1	0-0	0	2	1 0	0	0	5
Shaw	8	0-4	0-2	0-0	1	1	0 0	0	1	0
Team										2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>17-52</b>	<b>6-22</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12 15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>

Halftime: San Diego State 25, UNLV 22. FG %: San Diego State 39.1, UNLV 32.7. 3FG%: San Diego State 30.8, UNLV 27.3. FT%: San Diego State 78.9, UNLV 62.5. Officials: David Hall, Verne Harris, Eric Curry. Technicals: None.

White has been healthy. White missed the two-point loss at Wyoming with an ankle sprain, played just 15 minutes due to that injury in the loss at UNLV and was less than 100 percent due to a wrist injury in early season losses at Saint Mary's and at Pacific. SDSU is 24-5 with White in the starting lineup.

▶ San Diego State has played 16 road games to date. That is more than any team from a top-seven conference and the Aztecs own a .563 road record at 9-7.

▶ San Diego State has lost one game this season to a team ranked outside the RPI top 125. That was an 85-83 loss to Wyoming, prior to the season-ending injury to the Cowboys' leading scorer Afam Muojeke and with SDSU playing without Billy White. The Cowboys were 8-8 after beating the Aztecs on Jan. 9.

▶ SDSU had some tough luck in conference play, but still managed to battle back and win the league tournament. Of the Aztecs' five league losses, three were by two-point margins (at Wyoming, vs. No. 14/13 Brigham Young, at No. 15/23 New Mexico in overtime). If those games go San Diego State's way, the Aztecs would have finished as MWC regular-season champs.

▶ San Diego State's impressive start this season is remarkable considering the Aztecs have played 18 of their 33 games to date at road/neutral sites (two neutral court games and 16 road games). Of the top 18 RPI teams in the country (as of Monday), only San Diego State has played at least 16 road games this season. The Aztecs' nine road wins are equal to the NCAA's No. 1 overall seed Kansas and greater than the combined total of Duke (5) and Oklahoma State (3), two teams that are No. 3 and 32 in the RPI, respectively.

### What a Difference a Year Makes

A year ago, San Diego State enjoyed one of the finest seasons in school history as it made a run to the NIT semifinals and a school-record 26 wins. The Aztecs were a veteran group that had played together for three years or more, which is a stark contrast to this year's squad that features six players new to the active roster. Below is a look at the two teams.

**2008-09 Team: 26-10, NIT national semifinalist, school-record 26 wins**

Kyle Spain	F	<u>Then:</u> Averaged 14.0 points, scored team-high 504 points, 5.3 rebounds, 1,230 career points <u>Now:</u> Playing in Belgium for Passe-Partout Louven Bears
Lorrenzo Wade	F	<u>Then:</u> Led the team in scoring average (14.1), 4.6 rebounds, scored 1,228 career points <u>Now:</u> Played in Greece for Kaula Panorama and currently resides in Las Vegas
Ryan Amoroso	C	<u>Then:</u> Scored 956 career points and had 581 career rebounds; Avg. 7.5 points and 4.5 rebounds <u>Now:</u> Playing in Italy for Agat Imola
Richie Williams	G	<u>Then:</u> Became MWC all-time leader in assists and steals; 7.2 ppg, 126 ast., 30.3 mpg <u>Now:</u> Playing in Iceland for FSU:Selfoss
Matt Thomas	G	<u>Then:</u> Played in 124 career games at SDSU, made 28 career starts and averaged 12.7 mins. <u>Now:</u> Was in attendance at Saturday's UNLV game

Other changes from last season: Tim Shelton (played in 34 games, 13 starts, 7.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg - out for season with fourth knee surgery), Mehdi Cheriet (35 games played, 2 starts, 4.6 ppg, 2.2 rpg - redshirting this season to concentrate on studies (a biology major)), Jason Deutchman (8 games - currently inactive due to injuries), Bryce Smith, Bryan Horton, Tim Island - role players that left the program.

Total Production Lost off 2008-09 Squad (includes inactive players on 2009-10 squad): 1,887 points (78.1 pct.), 924 rebounds (82.6 pct.), 374 assists (80.0 pct.).

**2009-10 Team: 25-8, RPI Rating No. 18**

Kawhi Leonard	F	<u>Now:</u> 12.8 ppg, 9.9 rpg; Ranks third among freshmen nationally in double-doubles and rebounds <u>Then:</u> Avg. 22.6 ppg, 13.1 rpg, 3.9 apg, 3.0 bpg; <i>Los Angeles Times</i> PoY out of King High
Malcolm Thomas	F	<u>Now:</u> 11.0 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 2.2 apg; Shooting 54.8 pct. from the field with 16 double-digit scoring gms. <u>Then:</u> Led San Diego City College in scoring (21.1), rebounding (12.9), blocks (3.8) and FG pct. (60.6)
Billy White	F	<u>Now:</u> Battled wrist and ankle injuries to contribute 11.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 58.8 FG pct. <u>Then:</u> Played the sixth most minutes on the team and averaged 5.6 FGA per game.
Chase Tapley	G	<u>Now:</u> Freshman who has started 17 games (including 15 of last 20); 7.8 ppg, 1.87 assist-to-TO ratio <u>Then:</u> Avg. 23.2 ppg en route to leading Sacramento High to No. Calif. state finals; Div. III PoY
D.J. Gay	G	<u>Now:</u> Only player to start every game; 2nd in MWC in minutes played; Playing primarily point guard <u>Then:</u> Avg. 26.7 min. per game and was the seventh leading scorer on team playing primarily the 2G
Kelvin Davis	G	<u>Now:</u> 6.5 ppg with 35 3FGs; Played in 32 of 33 games this season <u>Then:</u> Beating Hodgkin's lymphoma en route to earning USBWA Most Courageous Award
Tyrone Shelley	G	<u>Now:</u> Dealing w/plantar fasciitis and thumb injury; 9 gms. with 10+ pts.; 6.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg <u>Then:</u> Redshirted inside the San Diego State program last season; Last game action was 07-08
Brian Carlwell	C	<u>Now:</u> 4.8 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 62.4 FG pct.; Played in all 33 games (1 of 4 players) <u>Then:</u> Redshirted last season with the Aztecs; Last game action was Nov. 28, 2007

- ▶ At home, San Diego State has won 19 of its last 20 (19-1), 29 of its last 31 (29-2) and 48 of its last 54 (48-6) games.
- ▶ San Diego State ranks among the nation's best in rebound margin (+6.7, 13th nationally). *All national rankings are from the NCAA and are through March 11 games.*
- ▶ San Diego State ranks 12th nationally in two-point field-goal percentage at 53.6 percent. Syracuse is the national leader at 57.2 percent, as of Monday, March 15. *Numbers include Div. I games only.*
- ▶ The Aztecs rank ninth in the nation in offensive rebounding percentage at 40.5 percent. Old Dominion is tops in the category at 42.4 percent. The numbers do not include offensive or defensive team rebounds in the percentage. All figures are of Monday, March 15.
- ▶ In 33 games this season, the Aztecs have held 18 opponents to 40-percent field-goal shooting or less, including 16 times in their last 26 games. The Aztecs are 17-1 this season and 89-12 in the Steve Fisher era when an opponent shoots 40 percent or less from the field.
- ▶ The Aztecs have outrebounded 23 of their last 28 opponents. SDSU is 21-5 this season when outrebounding its opponent.
- ▶ San Diego State has won nine road games this season, something the Aztecs have not done since the 1967-68 campaign. That year, SDSU went 11-3 on the road, finished 21-6, and advanced to the NCAA Division II sub-regional. In each of the last three years, San Diego State finished with six road victories.

- ▶ San Diego State has won 11 consecutive games against non-ranked opponents and has won 16 consecutive home games against teams from outside the AP Top 25.
- ▶ Kawhi Leonard has won Mountain West Conference player of the week honors three times this season. He is the only freshman in league history to earn the award three times in one season and twice in one conference season.
- ▶ Leonard is one of just four freshmen in the nation that lead their team in both scoring and rebounding, and the only freshman from a team that is making a serious run at an NCAA Tournament berth. The other three freshmen (listed with team record in parenthesis) are Chris Gaston of Fordham (2-26), Marshawn Powell of Arkansas (14-18) and Derrick Williams of Arizona (16-15).
- ▶ Our freshmen don't play like freshmen. San Diego State starts two freshmen in forward Kawhi Leonard and guard Chase Tapley. Both have seen their numbers improve as the season has progressed and both have better conference numbers. Below is a look at the non-conference vs. conference numbers for the two players.

<b>Kawhi Leonard</b>	<b>Non-Conference</b>	<b>Conference</b>
PPG	10.6	14.4
RPG	9.6	9.6
APG	2.0	1.8
FG Pct.	44.2	48.4
3FG Pct.	15.2	24.2

### San Diego State Record When...

**Double-Figure Scoring**

Name	09-10	Career*
Billy White	13-4	33-12
D.J. Gay	12-6	29-8
Kawhi Leonard	19-4	19-4
Kelvin Davis	8-0	15-4
Malcolm Thomas	12-5	12-5
Chase Tapley	8-5	8-5
Tim Shelton	-	7-5
Tyrone Shelley	7-2	7-2
Brian Carlwell	2-1	2-1
Alec Williams	1-0	1-0

**Scoring 20+ Points**

Name	09-10	Career*
Billy White	2-1	4-1
D.J. Gay	1-1	3-2
Malcolm Thomas	4-0	4-0
Kawhi Leonard	2-1	2-1

**Grabbing 10+ Rebounds**

Name	09-10	Career*
Kawhi Leonard	13-5	13-5
Malcolm Thomas	6-1	6-1
Billy White	0-1	2-1
Tim Shelton	-	2-1

### San Diego State Single-Game Leaders

**Scoring**

Name	09-10	Career*
Billy White	8	15
Kawhi Leonard	11	11
D.J. Gay	6	10
Malcolm Thomas	8	8
Tim Shelton	-	3
Chase Tapley	2	2
Kelvin Davis	-	2
Tyrone Shelley	1	1

**Rebounding**

Name	09-10	Career*
Kawhi Leonard	18	18
Billy White	3	18
Malcolm Thomas	13	13
Tim Shelton	-	10
D.J. Gay	-	1
Tyrone Shelley	1	1
Chase Tapley	1	1

**Assists**

Name	09-10	Career*
D.J. Gay	18	33
Malcolm Thomas	9	9
Chase Tapley	5	5
Kawhi Leonard	4	4
Tim Shelton	1	3
Brian Carlwell	1	1
Tyrone Shelley	1	1
Kelvin Davis	-	1
Billy White	-	1

\* while at San Diego State

**All-Time Series vs. Tennessee**

Series: Tennessee leads, 2-0

Home: 0-2, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

D.29.79 San Diego (SA) (CC) L 77-96

D.21.88 S.D. (16) (SA) (MD) L 75-77

**All-Time Series vs. Georgetown**

Series: Georgetown leads, 1-0

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-1, Neutral: 0-0

D.5.81 Washington, D.C. (20) (d) L 53-71

**All-Time Series vs. Ohio**

Series: 0-0

Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0

No previous meetings

d - Day game, SA - San Diego Sports Arena, CC - Cabrillo Classic, MD - McDonald's Classic, (#) - Opponent national rank (AP).

**Chase Tapley**

	<u>Non-Conference</u>	<u>Conference</u>
PPG	6.4	9.0
RPG	2.1	2.5
APG	2.2	2.5
FG Pct.	48.1	49.5
3FG Pct.	32.4	40.8

**Quick Personnel Notes**

Below are a couple of quick notes on the players that make up San Diego State's core rotation. Complete player notes can be found later in this note packet.

**Kawhi Leonard, Fr., F**

► **MWC Final All-Game Ranks:** 1st in rebounding (9.9), 1st in offensive rebounding (3.5), 3rd in defensive rebounding (6.4), 5th in steals (1.4), 7th in field-goal percentage (46.0), 6th in scoring (12.8), 8th in minutes (31.2).

► **NCAA Ranks:** 30th nationally and third among all freshmen in rebounding, 25th nationally and third among freshman in double-doubles (14) through games of March 11, according to the NCAA.

► All-MWC first team, MWC freshman of the year, MWC Tournament MVP, MWC all-tournament team, USBWA All-District IX, Sporting News All-Freshman second team.

► Set a MWC tournament record with a career-high 21 rebounds in the championship game at UNLV.

► First freshman to lead the MWC in rebounding since Andrew Bogut in 2003-04.

► Broke Michael Cage's freshman school record for double-doubles in a single season (10) with 16. Cage was a freshman at San Diego State in 1981. The 16 double-doubles are the fourth most in single-season school history and are rank second in the Fisher era.

► Scored 12 or more points in 18 of his last 22 games (14.4 ppg) and 20 of his last 24 games.

► Recorded 10 or more rebounds in 16 of his last 25 games (10.5 rpg) and had seven or more in 20 of those outings.

► Posted 16 double-doubles this season, including 15 in his last 25 games.

► 326 rebounds rank second on the school's all-time freshman class list and No. 1 in the Steve Fisher era. Michael Cage is the school's all-time freshman class leader at 355.

► First freshman in 11-year history of the Mountain West Conference to earn player of the week honors three times.

**D.J. Gay, Jr., G**

► **MWC Final All-Game Ranks:** 2nd in minutes played (34.4), 4th in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.8), 8th in three-point field-goal percentage (38.3), 8th in assists (3.2), 10th in three-point field goals made (1.8).

► **NCAA Ranks:** 139th in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.79) through games of March 11, according to the NCAA.

► Mountain West Conference honorable mention

► Only player to start all 33 games for San Diego State this season and the 33 consecutive starts is a career high. His previous career high was 25 straight starts.

► Played 40 minutes in four of the last six games and played 39 minutes in the other two.

► Has a three-point field goal in 24 of his last 26 games in which he has attempted one, going 54-for-129 (41.9 percent) during that span.

► Has eight turnover-free games this season and 16 games with one turnover or less. Had gone consecutive games without a turnover for the first time this season (last turnover came with 10:06 to play vs. TCU), until he had one at CSU. Prior to the miscue in Fort Collins, he had played nearly 85 consecutive minutes without a TO. Following the Colorado State game, Gay had zero turnovers vs. Air Force. In two games vs. the Falcons this

year, Gay has zero turnovers in 74 minutes.

► 144 career three-point field goals is the fourth most in school history.

**Malcolm Thomas, Jr., F**

► **MWC Final All-Game Ranks:** 2nd in blocked shots (1.5), 2nd in field-goal percentage (54.8), 3rd in offensive rebounding (2.7), 4th in rebounding (7.8), 4th in defensive rebounding (5.1), 9th in minutes (31.1).

► **NCAA Ranks:** 108th in rebounding (7.9) and 109th in blocked shots (1.5) through games of March 11, according to the NCAA.

► All-MWC second team.

► Recorded four double-doubles this season and 10 in his career.

► Has 17 double-digit scoring games this season, including four 20-point games.

► Reached double figures in scoring in 12 of his last 20 games (11.8 ppg).

► 14 games with multiple blocked shots, including 36 blocked shots in his last 20 games (1.8 bpg).

► 114 career blocked shots.

**Billy White, Jr., F**

► **MWC Final All-Game Ranks:** 1st in field goal percentage (58.8), 8th in offensive rebounding (2.1), 10th in blocked shots (0.8), 19th in rebounding (4.4), 16th in scoring (11.2).

► Scored in double figures 17 times this season, including in seven of the last 10 games.

► Made 50 percent or more of his field-goal attempts in 24 of his 31 games this season.

► Career-long 12 straight games with field-goal percentage of 50 percent or better.

► Has 918 career points and 456 career rebounds.

**Chase Tapley, Fr., G**

► Scored in 29 of the 31 games he has played in.

► Missed the game at Air Force due to a broken left hand, but returned vs. Colorado State on Wednesday in the MWC quarterfinals and scored 15 points on 6-of-7 shooting. Scored nine points vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico in the MWC semifinals.

► Posted an impressive 1.87 assist-to-turnover ratio.

► One turnover or less in 23 of 31 games this season.

► In his last 19 games (15 starts), he has 164 points, 49 assists, 49 rebounds and 26 turnovers in 499 minutes.

► Five or more assists four times this year.

► Has made 17 career starts.

**Kelvin Davis, Sr., G**

► Made a three-point field goal in 22 of 32 games this season.

► Recorded eight double-digit scoring games this season.

► Made 85 career three-point field goals, including 78 as an Aztec.

► San Diego State is 8-0 this season when he scores 10-plus points.

► Blocked a career-high two shots at Utah.

**Brian Carlwell, Jr., C**

► Has 109 points and 56 rebounds in his last 21 games (5.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg).

► Made 51 of his last 79 field-goal attempts (64.6 percent).

► Scored in a season-high 11 consecutive games, until the streak was broken vs. Wyoming. He now has scored in 18 of the last 21 games.

**Tyrone Shelley, So., G**

► **MWC Final All-Game Ranks:** 7th in steals (1.3).



- ▶ Has a steal in 23 of 29 games this season.
- ▶ 64 career three-point field goals.
- ▶ Needs 41 points to reach 700 for his career.
- ▶ Did not dress for the Colorado State game (thumb), but dressed for the game at Air Force. Did not play against the Falcons, but was available in case of an emergency. He returned vs. Colorado State in the MWC quarter-finals and played 12 minutes (3 points, 1 assist, 1 steal). Shelley also played vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico and UNLV in the conference tournament.

#### Tim Shelton, So., F

- ▶ Missed the first eight games of the season recovering from his third knee surgery. Played in the nine games to follow, but then missed the next five games (knee) and will miss the rest of the season due to exploratory knee surgery on Feb. 3.
- ▶ Played a season-high 26 minutes against New Mexico.
- ▶ Scored eight points against the Lobos after entering the game with 11 points on the season.

### Fisher in the Postseason

Steve Fisher is 20-8 all-time in nine NCAA Tournament appearances. He ranks fifth among active head coaches with a winning percentage of .737 and is one of 11 coaches to have one at least one national championship joining Jim Boeheim, Jim Calhoun, Billy Donovan, Tom Izzo, Mike Krzyzewski, Rick Pitino, Bill Self, Tubby Smith, Gary Williams and Roy Williams. In NCAA first round games, Fisher has a record of 5-4 with three of those losses coming by a combined total of 14 points. In National Invitation Tournament games, Fisher is 11-6 all-time with the 1997 NIT title under his belt.

### Experience vs. Inexperience

Steve Fisher is one of the most successful NCAA Tournament coaches in history. San Diego State is still searching for its first victory in the NCAA Division I tournament. The contrast between the two is broken out below.

	Steve Fisher	SDSU
Seasons Coached/Seasons Division I	20th	40th
NCAA Tournaments	10th	6th
NCAA Championships	1	0
NCAA Championship Game Appearances	3	0
NCAA Tournament Games	28	5
NCAA Tournament Record	20-8	0-5
First-Round Record	5-4	0-0
Second-Round Record	4-1	0-0
Regional Semifinal Record	4-0	0-0
Regional Final Record	3-1	0-0
National Semifinal Record	3-0	0-0
National Championship Game Record	1-2	0-0

### Aztecs vs. the Field

San Diego State is 5-5 this season against teams in the field of 65 having gone 2-1 vs. the East Region's No. 3 seed New Mexico, 2-1 vs. the Midwest's No. 8 seed UNLV, 1-0 vs. Big West Conference champ and the Midwest's No. 15 seed UC Santa Barbara. On the flip side, SDSU was 0-2 vs. the seventh seed in the West, Brigham Young and 0-1 vs. Saint Mary's, the No. 10 seed in the South.

### SDSU-Tennessee: The Series

- ▶ There isn't much history here with only two previous meetings. Tennessee owns the all-time series lead, 2-0, with both victories coming in San Diego.
- ▶ The teams are meeting for the first time since the 1988 McDonald's Clasic held at the San Diego Sports Arena. The Volunteers were ranked No. 16 and escaped America's Finest city with a 77-75 victory.
- ▶ The other series meeting occurred on Dec. 29, 1979, when SDSU played host to the Cabrillo Classic, which was also at the San Diego Sports Arena. Tennessee emerged with the 96-77 win.
- ▶ San Diego State head coach Steve Fisher will face Tennessee for the first

time in his career. Fisher is currently in his 19th full season.

### SDSU vs. SEC

San Diego State enters the Tennessee game having defeated a Southeastern Conference school only once. The Aztecs are 1-7 all-time vs. the league going 0-2 vs. Tennessee and Arkansas, 0-1 vs. Mississippi and South Carolina and 1-1 vs. Florida. The win over the Gators occurred on Dec. 21, 1985, in Las Vegas.

### Davis a Finalist for V Foundation Award

Sixth-year senior Kelvin Davis is a finalist for the V Foundation Comeback Award for a second consecutive year. After beating Hodgkin's lymphoma, Davis was a finalist for the same award in 2009. BYU head coach Dave Rose, however, nominated Davis for the prestigious award after beating cancer himself this past year.

### USBWA Recognizes Leonard

The United States Basketball Writers' Association named Kawhi Leonard to the all-District IX team. District IX includes all Division I basketball players from the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona and Alaska. Leonard was one of two freshman on the squad, joining Gonzaga's Elias Harris, and became the first Aztec to be honored since Brandon Heath in 2007.

### Four Aztecs Earn Mountain West Conference Honors

Four San Diego State men's basketball players picked up 2010 Mountain West Conference postseason awards, the league announced Monday, March 8. Kawhi Leonard was named the MWC's freshman of the year and voted to the all-conference first team becoming the first freshman in the 11-year history of the league to earn first-team honors. Malcolm Thomas, meanwhile, earned second-team accolades and both D.J. Gay and Billy White received honorable mention recognition.

Leonard, the league's preseason freshman of the year, earned the Mountain West's postseason version of the award after averaging a team-best 14.4 points and 9.6 rebounds to go along with 1.8 assists, 1.3 steals, 48.4 percent field-goal shooting and 71.0 percent free-throw shooting. In conference games only, Leonard finished among the top 10 in offensive rebounding (1st), rebounding (2nd), defensive rebounding (3rd), scoring (5th), field-goal percentage (5th), steals (7th), blocked shots (9th), free-throw percentage (10th), and minutes played (10th). Starting all 16 league games, Leonard scored in double figures 13 times, hit the double-digit mark in rebounding nine times, and posted nine double-doubles. In games vs. Wyoming, Leonard enjoyed career nights in scoring with 25 in Laramie and a career-high 26 against the Cowboys at Viejas Arena. The forward is the third Aztec in school history to be named MWC freshman of the year joining Evan Burns in 2003 and Billy White in 2008 and his award marks the sixth time an Aztec has been placed on the first team.

Thomas, a San Diego native, earned his way onto the second team after averaging 11.9 points, 8.6 rebounds, 2.6 assists and a team-high 1.3 blocks, while shooting a conference-best 57.6 percent from the floor. In his first season in the Mountain West, Thomas ranked among the league leaders in seven categories (1st-field-goal percentage, 2nd-offensive boards, 3rd-rebounding, 3rd-blocked shots, 4th-defensive rebounds, 10th-assists, 13th-scoring) and started all 16 ballgames. The junior scored in double figures 11 times and reached the double-digit plateau in rebounding four times, while logging three double-doubles. Thomas saved his best performances for Utah as he scored 23 points in Salt Lake City and followed it up with a career-high 28 at Viejas Arena.

Gay earned his first all-conference award after starting all 16 games and playing a team-best 35.3 minutes a game. One of three Aztecs to finish the league slate in double figures (10.7), the junior led the team in assists (3.5) and assist-to-turnover ratio (2.07), while also averaging 1.1 steals and making a team-best 31 three-point field goals. In Mountain West action, Gay finished second in minutes played, third in assist-to-turnover ratio, fifth in three-point field-goal percentage (.419), eighth in assists, eighth in three-point field goals made (1.9), and 18th in scoring. The guard from Sun Valley, Calif., scored in double digits eight times, including the last three

games. Gay also produced eight games with one turnover or less and four efforts with zero miscues. He scored a career-high 25 points after connecting on six three-pointers at New Mexico.

A two-time all-conference performer entering this season, White, a junior, made it 3-for-3 when he earned honorable mention accolades. Hobbled by an ankle injury suffered in the conference-opening win over New Mexico, White recovered to score in double figures six times, including in five of the final eight games of the league slate. The junior missed only the game at Wyoming and played the last 14 games, starting 13 of them. The Las Vegas, Nev., product finished the season ranked 10th in both blocked shots and offensive rebounding. White ended Mountain West play by averaging 8.9 points, 3.6 rebounds and shooting 52.7 percent from the field. In 15 conference games played, White shot 50 percent or better 11 times, including his last nine outings. White is the fourth Aztec in the MWC era to earn all-conference recognition at least three times, joining Brandon Heath, Marcus Slaughter and Lorenzo Wade.

This is the second straight in season, and fourth time overall, in which San Diego State has had a school-record-tying four players earn all-conference honors. The Aztecs are set to return all four honorees in 2010-11.

## Quite a Day for Leonard

Last Monday proved to be a pretty special day for Kawhi Leonard. The Aztecs freshman earned his third conference player of the week honor, becoming the first freshman in the 11-year history of the Mountain West Conference to earn that award three times. He also became the first freshman in league history to earn all-conference first-team honors and he was named to *The Sporting News* All-Freshman second team.

Leonard was joined on the team by Marshall's Hassan Whiteside, Lehigh's C.J. McCollum, Colorado's Alec Burks and Gonzaga's Elias Harris. As for the first team, Kentucky's John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins, Kansas' Xavier Henry, Georgia Tech's Derrick Favors and Arizona's Derrick Williams all earned first-team recognition.

## Leonard Above the Rest

Kawhi Leonard finished the regular season as the Mountain West Conference's leading rebounder, becoming the first freshman to lead the league in rebounding since Utah's Andrew Bogut did it in 2003-04 with 326 boards. Bogut later went on to become a No. 1 draft pick in the NBA. The Riverside, Calif., native enters the first round of the NCAA Tournament with 326 rebounds and a 9.9 average.

## The Ben Kneller Story

San Diego State senior manager Ben Kneller suited up for the first time in his career in the Senior Night game vs. Colorado State. Kneller was cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse at 1:45 p.m. on game day, paperwork certifying his status was complete at 2:30 p.m., and he had a physical at 4 p.m. The paperwork was faxed to the conference office at 4:30 p.m. making him eligible for the game. Kneller was not informed until 2 p.m. that he might dress for the game.

Kneller entered the contest with 1:09 remaining in the game as a substitute for Brian Carwell. Not 30 seconds into the game, Kneller was fouled and made one of two free throws.

He becomes the second student-manager to dress for the Aztecs during the Steve Fisher era following in the footsteps of David Velasquez (2006-07). That season, Velasquez played in four games, recording two missed three-point field-goal attempts and one steal in four minutes of action. Velasquez, who now serves as the director of player development, helped guide that Aztec team to a 22-11 record and to the second round of the NIT.

## Fisher's Time of Year

It is getting late in the season and this is the time when head coach Steve Fisher's teams are known to make a run. Including conference tournaments and postseason tournaments, Fisher owns a 43-21 record in postseason play. That includes a 13-8 mark in the MWC tournament, a 10-5 record in the postseason NIT and a remarkable 20-8 record in the NCAA Tournament.

## Blowing the Dust Off the Broom

It had been some time since San Diego State was able to break out the broom and sweep Utah. It was 1982 to be exact. But after SDSU's home victory over Utah, the Aztecs were able to take the broom out of the closet for the first time in 28 years. The two teams have met twice in one season on 30 different occasions and only twice has San Diego State swept the Utes. For the record, no current Aztecs was born since the last SDSU sweep and Steve Fisher was in his last season as an assistant coach at Western Michigan.

## Wearing Out the Utes

Malcolm Thomas, who literally sees red when the Aztecs play Utah, figuratively see red when one looks at his numbers this year against the Utes. The junior is averaging 25.5 points and 9.5 rebounds, while shooting 62.5 percent from the field. In the first meeting, the San Diego native finished with a career-high 23 points and 13 rebounds as the Aztecs won for just the third time ever in Salt Lake City. Then in the second matchup, Thomas set a new career high with 28 points (19 in the first half) on a career-best 10 field goals and seven free throws. The forward also grabbed six rebounds in helping San Diego State sweep Utah for the first time since 1982.

## Iron Man

D.J. Gay is arguably one of the nation's iron men as he has played in every game since he has stepped foot on campus. The guard from Sun Valley, Calif., has seen action in all 102 games, while earning the starting nod 82 times. In each of his three seasons on campus, Gay has seen his minutes per game increase from 23.8 as a freshman to 26.7 as a sophomore to a team-best 34.4 minutes this year as a junior. In his last six games, Gay has played 238 of a possible 240 minutes, including 40-minute efforts at No. 13/11 BYU, at Air Force, vs. Colorado State and vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico. He also set a new career high with his 26th consecutive start at TCU and has now started 30 straight games.

## Aztecs Take Down Second Top-25 Foe, Tie School Record

San Diego State tied the school record when it defeated its second nationally ranked opponent with its win over No. 23/25 UNLV. Prior to this season, the Aztecs had defeated two top-25 opponents in the same season only three times (1978-79, 1987-88 and 2006-07). Earlier this year, SDSU took down No. 15/14 New Mexico at home. Additionally, San Diego State has won four of its last five home games vs. nationally ranked Mountain West schools.

## Leonard Loves Wyoming

Kawhi Leonard's eyes apparently light up when he sees Wyoming on the schedule. In two games vs. the Cowboys, Leonard is averaging 25.5 points on 60.6 percent shooting, 10.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.0 steals. In his first game vs. the Pokes, Leonard went for a career-high 25 points and 12 rebounds and then followed up his career day with 26 points in the second game of the series at Viejas Arena. In both outings, the freshman connected on a personal-best 10 field goals.

## Virtually No Rebound Left Behind

Between freshman Kawhi Leonard and junior Malcolm Thomas, there is virtually no rebound that gets by the frontcourt duo. Both rank 1-2 on the team as a result of Leonard's 9.9 average and Thomas' 7.8 clip. In Mountain West play, the pair can be found in the top three (Leonard - 9.6, 2nd; Thomas - 8.6, 3rd). On the offensive boards (all games), they are also in the top three, combining for 6.2 rebounds an outing. As far as double-digit rebounding efforts are concerned, Leonard has 17, while Thomas has seven. And on four different occasions, the two have reached the double-figure plateau together.

## Leonard Breaks Michael Cage's Record

Kawhi Leonard has been a double-double machine in his first year on

campus. So far, the Riverside, Calif., native has 16 double-doubles and nearly has 18 to his credit after reaching nine in the second category (points or rebounds) on two other occasions.

As a result of his 11th double-double at No. 15/23 New Mexico, Leonard broke Michael Cage's freshman school record for double-doubles in a season. Leonard and Cage are the only two freshmen on the school's single-season double-doubles chart, which goes 19 deep. The 16 double-doubles are the fourth-most in SDSU single-season history (full chart on page 127 of media guide) and are the second-most in the Steve Fisher era. Leonard is currently trails Marcus Slaughter's 18 in 2006.

## Carlwell Quietly Making Impact

Junior Brian Carlwell has quietly put together a string of solid games for nearly two months. The center had scored in a career-high 11 straight games (previous career high was five) until he was held scoreless vs. Wyoming. Currently, he has scored in 18 of the last 21 games, which is his best stretch of his career. During this time, Carlwell has raised his scoring average from 4.0 to 4.8. In his last 21 outings, Carlwell is averaging 5.2 points on 62.3 percent shooting (43-for-69), 2.7 rebounds and less than one turnover a game (0.9) in 14.3 minutes.

## Breaking the Huntsman Curse

It's just one game, but for one season San Diego State was able to break the Huntsman Center curse. With their 70-68 victory over Utah, the Aztecs snapped a modest three-game losing streak, but more importantly won for only the third time in 32 tries. Steve Fisher has guided SDSU to two of those wins with the other coming in 2006, the same year San Diego State won the regular season and conference tournament titles.

## Aztecs Rally to Leap Frogs

Amid the chaos in Viejas in the home game vs. TCU, the Aztecs overcame a 14-point deficit (11-point deficit in the second half) to beat the Horned Frogs. The 14-point hole the Aztecs dug themselves out of matched the second-largest come-from-behind victory of the Steve Fisher era. SDSU trailed 34-30 with 6:40 left in the first half before rallying for the 67-62 win.

## Freshman Impact

San Diego State has not missed a beat when inserting freshman Chase Tapley into the starting lineup. Tapley has started 15 of the last 20 games (17 starts total) and SDSU is 12-5 in games Tapley has received the nod. Unfortunately for Tapley and the Aztecs, the guard was sidelined for the Air Force game with a broken left hand, but played and was effective at the MWC Championships (8.0 ppg). Meanwhile, Kawhi Leonard, the other true freshman, has started 32 games and the Aztecs have gone 24-8 in those ballgames.

What the two have done up to this point is nothing short of amazing as Leonard leads the team in scoring, rebounding and steals, and is fourth in assists. He also has 16 double-doubles to his credit.

On the flip side, Tapley owns the team's top assist-to-turnover ratio, has the second-fewest turnovers among regulars, has the highest shooting percentage among all San Diego State guards, is second in assists and fifth in points scored. In his last 19 games, Tapley is averaging 8.8 points, 2.5 rebounds, 2.2 assists and just 1.4 turnovers in 26.1 minutes.

## Thomas and Leonard Join Elite Company

When Malcolm Thomas registered 18 points and 15 rebounds in the Aztecs' win over nationally ranked New Mexico, he and freshman Kawhi Leonard, who finished with 23 points and 18 rebounds against CS Fullerton, joined an exclusive group of teammates to put up at least 18 points and 15 rebounds this season, according to ESPN.com.

Other twosomes to have accomplished the feat this year include, Dexter Pittman and Damion James of Texas, Storm Warren and Tasmin Mitchell of LSU, and Kentucky's DeMarcus Cousins and Patrick Patterson (as of Jan. 6).

## Lots of Assists, Not a Lot of Turnovers

D.J. Gay and Chase Tapley have turned out to be a formidable point guard tandem when it comes to finding the open man and taking care of the ball.

In 15 of the last 20 ballgames, the guards have been paired together in the starting lineup and both have produced in a major way (Tapley has not started last five due to Senior Night and broken left hand). Gay enters the first round of the NCAA Tournament having recorded 67 assists and 30 turnovers, while Tapley has 49 assists and 26 turns to his credit. Between the two of them, they have 116 assists and 56 miscues for an assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.07 the last 20 games.

For the season, Gay has a team-best 107 assists, while Tapley is credited with 71. Between the two of them, they have turned the ball over just 97 times. Individually, Gay has an assist-to-turnover ratio of 1.81, while Tapley has a team-best ratio of 1.87.

## Block Party

Viejas Arena was the scene for a pair of Aztec block parties for San Diego State. Against Arizona, the Scarlet and Black swatted a season-high 10 shots and then followed that performance with another 10 against UC Riverside after returning from a two-game road trip.

Leading the way vs. the Highlanders was Malcolm Thomas, who turned away a career-high six shots. The junior had six blocks only once before while playing at Pepperdine (6 vs. San Diego, 2-4-08). In addition to Thomas, Brian Carlwell got into the act as he blocked a season high two in just 11 minutes off the bench.

## Defense a Priority

Defense has become a staple of San Diego State, especially last season when it set school records for lowest opponent scoring average (59.6) and lowest opponent field-goal percentage (41.0). In fact, the Aztecs finished 2008-09 ranked 15th in Division I in scoring defense.

The 2009-10 season is nearing an end and things have not changed. Seventeen opponents have been held to 58 points or less and 19 have been limited to 64 points or less. Of those 19 times, 18 have resulted in victories. The lone exception came at Arizona State when San Diego State held the Sun Devils to 55 and lost.

For the season, the Aztecs are allowing 61.8 points per outing and are holding opponents to 40.5 percent from the field and an even worse 34.7 percent from three-point distance.

## Road Warriors

San Diego State wrapped up its non-conference road slate with a respectable 4-3 record. The seven road non-league games were the most in the Mountain West (no team played more than five) and the four road wins were more than a quarter of the MWC's combined total of 14 (entering league play on Jan. 5). With four road victories, it marked the second earliest date in the 40-year Division I school history that the Aztecs have claimed their fourth road victory. The only season in which San Diego State did it faster was the 1971-72 campaign. The seven true road non-league games were the most during Steve Fisher's SDSU tenure. For the season as a whole, San Diego State is 9-7 in road games (11-7 in road/neutral games) and the nine wins are the most in the Fisher era and the most since 1967-68. That year, SDSU advanced to the NCAA Division II sub-regional and finished the season with a 21-6 record (11-3 CCAA).

## Not in Our House

San Diego State owns one of the top homecourt advantages not only on the West Coast, but in the entire nation. Since the beginning of the 2005-06 season, the Aztecs are 67-10 in their last 77 home games. Of those 10 losses, three were to Pac-10 Conference schools and six were to Mountain West Conference clubs. Only once has a non-Pac-10 or MWC school escaped with a victory (Northern Colorado - Jan. 9, 2008). This season, the Aztecs finished their home slate with an impressive 14-1 record. The 14 wins are the most regular-season home victories in Steve Fisher's 10-plus-year tenure.

## Window Wiping in the Desert

San Diego State's frontline of Kawhi Leonard, Malcolm Thomas and Billy White did a great job of rebounding despite losing at Arizona State. All three finished with double-figure rebounding totals as Leonard had 11, while Thomas and White each had 10. The trio's effort was the first time the Aztecs had three players with at least 10 rebounds in a game since Jan. 29, 2008, when Ryan Amoroso pulled down 11 and White and Lorenzo Wade each had 10 at Colorado State.

## Tapley Cashes In at Wells Fargo

Freshman Chase Tapley had his best game of his young career on a day when the Aztecs struggled to score at Arizona State. The Sacramento, Calif., native came off the bench to produce a career-high 17 points on 7-of-10 shooting in just 23 minutes. He also added two rebounds, two assists and two steals during his time on the court. Between him (5 pts.) and D.J. Gay (7 pts.), the pair scored the team's final 12 points to bring SDSU to within one point with 13 seconds to play.

## Significant Win

San Diego State's win over Arizona was huge for the program for many reasons. The Wildcats were a club that the Aztecs failed to beat in their last seven tries and was SDSU's first result since 1983. For Steve Fisher, he entered the game just 1-9 vs. Arizona in his career and 0-5 while on Montezuma Mesa. When the dust settled, the Aztecs' 17-point win was their largest margin of victory against a Pac-10 school in its Division I history and largest since defeating Arizona State, 89-64, on Dec. 27, 1955. Additionally, it was just the school's fifth double-figure victory over a Pac-10 program in its Division I history.

## Leonard Lights Up Titans

Watching Kawhi Leonard play against Cal State Fullerton brought back visions of Michael Cage, the school's second-leading scorer and the program's all-time leader in rebounding. The freshman finished with a career-high 23 points, 18 rebounds and five assists in 38 minutes. He is just the second player this year (Morgan State's Kevin Thompson) to put up a line of at least 20 points, 15 rebounds and five assists, according to ESPN. He is also the first freshman to put up a 20-15-5 game since Michael Haney of Eastern Kentucky did it in 2002, a stat courtesy of the Worldwide Leader.

Leonard became the 23rd player in SDSU history to pull down at least 15 rebounds and his 18 boards is the most by a freshman since Cage grabbed 20 on Feb. 24, 1981, against Hawai'i. He also finished two shy of the Viejas Arena record of 20 set by former Aztec Marcus Slaughter on Jan. 14, 2006, vs. UNLV.

Looking at the game as a whole, Leonard had 10 offensive rebounds compared to Fullerton's three, and his final total was seven short of the Titans' final tally of 25.

## D.J. Controlling the JCP

D.J. Gay enjoyed one of his finest games at San Diego State when he helped propel the Aztecs to an overtime victory over San Diego at Jenny Craig Pavilion. The junior poured in a career-best 22 points, seven (5-6 FT) of which came in overtime, and played 41 of a possible 45 minutes. In the process, the guard knocked down a season-high six shots, including a season-best four three-pointers, and a personal-record six free throws.

## Shelley Filled Up at Jenny Craig

Tyrone Shelley filled up the stat sheet at Jenny Craig Pavilion and San Diego. The sophomore finished with 10 points to record his fifth double-figure scoring effort, but he made sure to post respective numbers elsewhere. Shelley matched his career high with three assists and set season highs in blocked shots (3), rebounds (6) and free throws (4).

## Gay and Shelley Earn All-West Coast Classic Honors

Billy White and Tyrone Shelley were named to the all-West Coast Classic team following the four-game exempt tournament involving San Diego

State, Pacific, Fresno State, Northern Arizona and the hosts, Santa Clara. The duo led SDSU to a 3-1 record, with the only blemish coming at Pacific. In those four games, White averaged 17.8 points, 5.5 rebounds, 1.0 assists, 1.8 steals and shot 69.2 percent from the field. Shelley, meanwhile, was nearly as good averaging 17.8 points, 3.3 rebounds, 1.3 assists, 1.8 steals and a field-goal percentage of 53.8 percent.

## Double-Doubles Are a So Cal Tradition

Against NAU, Malcolm Thomas and Kawhi Leonard posted the team's first and second double-doubles of 2009-10. Thomas finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds, while Leonard completed his afternoon with 10 points and 10 boards. It marked the 40th time since 1979 that SDSU has recorded two double-doubles in the same game. The pair also became the first set of teammates to accomplish the feat in the same outing since March 22, 2006, vs. Wyoming, when Marcus Slaughter (16 pts., 13 rebs.) and Kyle Spain (11 pts., 12 rebs.) went In-N-Out style.

## Thomas Near Perfect

In just his fifth game as an Aztec, Malcolm Thomas executed one of the top shooting performances of the Steve Fisher era. The junior's 10-for-11 (.909) effort from the field vs. Northern Arizona ranks in a tie for the eighth-best field-goal percentage (min. 6 FGM) in Fisher's 10-plus seasons at SDSU. Current Aztecs in front of Thomas are Billy White (No. 1, 12-12 vs. Wyoming, 2-14-09; t-No. 3, 6-6 vs. Kansas State, 3-20-09) and Tim Shelton (t-No. 3, 6-6 at Northern Colorado, 12-3-08). White is also tied with Thomas as a result of his 10-for-11 exhibition vs. UC San Diego on Nov. 17, 2007.

## Gay Handling the Point Guard Duties Just Fine

With the departure of all-time MWC assist and steals leader Richie Williams, many questioned whether junior D.J. Gay could handle the point guard responsibilities. So far the answer is yes.

Gay is currently averaging 3.2 assists, which is up from his 1.7 career mark. Three times this season, the guard has established career highs in assists. At Fresno State, he set a new personal best with six assists and then two games later dished out seven vs. Northern Arizona. Then vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico in the semifinal game of the Mountain West Conference Championships, Gay had a game-high seven assists and zero turnovers. Gay has also mixed it up inside as he has twice grabbed a career-high six rebounds (at Fresno State, vs. Northern Arizona).

## Davis Makes Complete Comeback

Toward the end of the 2007-08 season, Kelvin Davis did not feel like himself. After the Aztecs' first-round NIT loss at Florida, Davis was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and went through chemotherapy and radiation treatments that extended into the 2008-09 campaign. The illness limited him to just eight games last year and the Waterbury, Conn., native was awarded a sixth season of eligibility by the NCAA.

Against UC San Diego, the 2009 USWBA Most Courageous Award recipient made his comeback complete as he started the season opener and finished as the game's third-leading scorer (10). The starting assignment was his first since Feb. 13, 2008, vs. New Mexico, while his 10-point effort was his first double-figure scoring performance since Feb. 9, 2008, at TCU.

# SDSU NCAA Division I Tournament Records

### Most Points

83, vs. Indiana, March 16, 2006

### Most Field Goals

35, vs. UNLV, March 14, 1975

### Most Field Goals Att.

73, vs. UCLA, March 13, 1976

### Highest FG Percentage

56.4, vs. Indiana, March 16, 2006

### Most Three-Point FG

10, vs. Indiana, March 16, 2006

### Most Three-Point FGA

18, vs. Illinois, March 15, 2002 and vs. Indiana, March 16, 2006

### Highest Three-Point FG Pct.

55.6, vs. Indiana, March 16, 2006

### Most Free Throws

18, vs. UNLV, March 14, 1985

### Most Free Throws Att.

30, vs. UNLV, March 14, 1985

### Highest Free Throw Pct.

73.7, vs. UCLA, March 13, 1976

### Total Rebounds

53, vs. UNLV, March 14, 1975

### Assists

21, vs. UNLV, March 14, 1985

### Blocked Shots

6, vs. UNLV, March 14, 1985

## Division I Tournament History

► 5 NCAA Appearances (0-5) ► Last Appearance: 2006

► 5 NIT Appearances (5-5) ► Last Appearance: 2009

### NCAA Tournament

Year	Date	Region	Round	Site	SDSU Seed	Opp. Seed	Opp. NR	Opponent	Result	Score
1975	March 14	West	First	Tempe, Ariz. (Univ. Activity Center)	--	--	17	UNLV	L	80-90
<i>* Recap and box score on page 184</i>										
1976	March 13	West	First	Eugene, Ore. (McArthur Court)	--	--	6	UCLA	L	64-74
<i>* Recap and box score on page 184</i>										
1985	March 14	West	First	Salt Lake City, Utah (Special Events Center)	--	4	9	UNLV	L	80-85
<i>* Recap and box score on page 184</i>										
2002	March 15	Midwest	First	Chicago, Ill. (United Center)	13	4	13	Illinois	L	64-93
<i>* Recap and box score on page 185</i>										
2006	March 16	Oakland	First	Salt Lake City, Utah (Huntsman Center)	11	6	--	Indiana	L	83-87
<i>* Recap and box score on page 185</i>										

### Postseason NIT

Year	Date	Round	Site	Opponent	Result	Score
1982	March 12	First	San Diego, Calif. (Sports Arena)	UC Irvine	L	69-70
<i>* Recap and box score on page 184</i>						
2003	March 19	First	San Diego, Calif. (Cox Arena)	UC Santa Barbara	ot-W	67-62
	March 21	Second	Lubbock, Texas (United Spirit Arena)	at Texas Tech	L	48-57
<i>* Recap and box score on page 185</i>						
2007	March 14	First	Springfield, Mo. (Hammons Student Center)	at Missouri State	W	74-70
	March 19	Second	Syracuse, N.Y. (Carrier Dome)	at Syracuse	L	64-80
<i>* Recap and box score on page 186</i>						
2008	March 19	First	Gainesville, Fla. (O'Connell Center)	at Florida	L	49-73
<i>* Recap and box score on page 186</i>						
2009	March 17	First	San Diego, Calif. (Cox Arena)	Weber State	W	65-49
	March 20	Second	San Diego, Calif. (Jenny Craig Pavilion)	Kansas State	W	70-52
	March 25	Quarterfinals	San Diego, Calif. (Cox Arena)	Saint Mary's	W	70-66
<i>* Recap and box score on page 116</i>						
March 31	Semifinals	New York, N.Y. (Madison Square Garden)	vs. Baylor	L	62-76	
<i>* Recap and box score on page 116</i>						

## Division II Tournament History

► 3 NCAA Div. II Appearances (5-3) ► Two Appearances in the Quarterfinals (1957, 1967)

Year	Date	Round	Site	Opponent	Result	Score
1957	March 2	First	San Diego, Calif.	Chapman	W	75-56
	March 9	Second	Denver, Colo.	at Regis (Colo.)	W	81-78
	March 13	Quarterfinals	Evansville, Ind.	vs. Cal State Los Angeles	L	55-57
1967	March 10	Sub-Regional	San Diego, Calif.	Portland State	W	101-73
	March 11	Region Champ.	San Diego, Calif.	Regis (Colo.)	W	81-78
	March 15	Quarterfinals	Evansville, Indiana	vs. Illinois State	3ot-L	76-77
1968	March 8	Sub-Regional	San Diego, Calif.	UC Irvine	L	69-78
	March 9	Regional Cons.	San Diego, Calif.	UC Davis	W	79-72

## NAIA Tournament History

► 6 NAIA Appearances (15-5) ► 1941 National Champions ► 3 Championship Game Appearances

Year	Date	Round	Site	Opponent	Result	Score
1939	March 14	First	Kansas City, Mo.	Northern State (S.D.)	W	49-25
	March 15	Second	Kansas City, Mo.	East Texas State	W	41-36
	March 16	Quarterfinals	Kansas City, Mo.	Manchester	W	49-41
	March 17	Semifinals	Kansas City, Mo.	Peru State (Neb.)	W	49-29
	March 18	Finals	Kansas City, Mo.	Southwest College (Kan.)	L	31-32
1940	March 12	First	Kansas City, Mo.	East Central State (Okla.)	W	36-35
	March 13	Second	Kansas City, Mo.	Appalachian State (N.C.)	W	48-46
	March 14	Quarterfinals	Kansas City, Mo.	Pittsburg State (Kan.)	W	32-30
	March 15	Semifinals	Kansas City, Mo.	Delta State (Miss.)	W	30-28
	March 16	Finals	Kansas City, Mo.	Tarkio College (Mo.)	L	42-52
1941	March 11	First	Kansas City, Mo.	Montana State	W	46-29
	March 12	Second	Kansas City, Mo.	Culver Stockton (Mo.)	W-ot	46-41
	March 13	Quarterfinals	Kansas City, Mo.	Texas Wesleyan	W	44-42
	March 14	Semifinals	Kansas City, Mo.	West Texas State	W	43-40
	March 15	Finals	Kansas City, Mo.	Murray State	W	36-34
1942	March 10	First	Kansas City, Mo.	Chadron State (Neb.)	W	39-36
	March 11	Second	Kansas City, Mo.	Bemidji State	L	32-41
1954	March 1	First	Pasadena, Calif.	Pasadena Nazarene	L	87-90
1956	March 13	First	Kansas City, Mo.	Alderson-Broadbudd	W	77-64
	March 14	Second	Kansas City, Mo.	Gustavus Adolphus	L	60-69

# 75 NCAA Tournament

## No. 17 UNLV 90, San Diego State 80

March 15, 1975 ♦ Tempe, Ariz.

University Activity Center ♦ Att.: NA

TEMPE, Ariz. -- San Diego State's first postseason game at the NCAA Division I level nearly produced an upset, but UNLV hung on for a 90-80 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Tempe, Ariz.

The Aztecs received a game-high 25 points from Will Connelly and a double-double from Ray Leary, who added 10 points and a game-high 11 assists. San Diego State also tallied a double-double from Steve Copp, who pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds to go along with 16 points.

Eddie Owens and Ricky Sobers led UNLV with 21 points each and Lewis Brown posted 18 points and 12 rebounds.

UNLV forced 22 turnovers and SDSU struggled from the free-throw line, converting just 10-of-25 attempts, allowing the Rebels to advance to the next round.

SDSU	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Copp	5-10	6-11	17	4	16	2 4	0	0	35
Kovach	5-11	0-2	5	3	10	1 2	0	1	33
Connelly	12-22	1-4	12	2	25	0 3	2	0	39
Bunting	2-9	0-0	5	4	4	2 5	0	0	30
Leary	5-9	0-0	1	5	10	11 5	0	0	31
Delsman	2-3	2-5	2	0	6	2 2	0	0	10
Green	3-4	1-2	3	1	7	0 1	0	3	5
Earle	0-2	0-0	2	4	0	0 0	0	0	13
Contreras	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	1 0	0	0	2
Welshans	0-0	0-1	2	1	0	0 0	0	0	2
Rebounds			4						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35-71</b>	<b>10-25</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>18 22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>49.3</b>	<b>40.0</b>							

UNLV	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Robinson	4-11	1-3	8	2	9	2 3	2	1	34
Gondrezick	4-11	0-0	4	5	8	1 0	0	0	18
Brown	9-14	0-1	12	4	18	0 1	3	2	30
Owens	10-15	1-4	8	2	21	0 4	0	4	31
Sobers	7-16	7-8	2	4	21	4 2	0	3	37
Batts	2-4	2-3	2	5	6	1 0	0	1	19
Smith	3-6	1-2	1	1	7	1 0	0	0	24
Milke	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0 1	0	1	4
Porter	0-1	0-1	1	0	0	0 0	0	0	2
Freeman	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0 1	0	0	1
Rebounds			3						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39-79</b>	<b>12-22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>9 12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>49.4</b>	<b>54.5</b>							

Score By Periods	1	2	Total
San Diego State	43	37	- 80
UNLV	48	42	- 90

Officials: Brown and Crowell.

# 76 NCAA Tournament

## No. 6 UCLA 74, San Diego State 64

March 13, 1976 ♦ Eugene, Ore.

McArthur Court ♦ Att.: 9,100

EUGENE, Ore. -- Richard Washington, a 1976 second-team All-American, and Marques Johnson, the 1977 college player of the year, combined for 44 points as UCLA defeated San Diego State, 74-64, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Aztecs gave the Bruins a game, trailing by just three points at intermission and using a 12-4 run to close within eight points with just under four minutes remaining.

SDSU's Academic All-American Steve Copp led the Aztecs with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Bob Kovach (11), Will Connelly (11) and Allen Bunting (10) also scored in double figures for the Aztecs. Washington led all scorers with 25 points for UCLA.

The Bruins used a stifling defense to hold SDSU to only 34.2 percent shooting from the field, but the Aztecs did convert 14 of 19 (73.7 percent) free throw

opportunities. SDSU forced 19 UCLA turnovers, while limiting their own giveaways to only 11.

UCLA advanced to the Final Four before falling to eventual national champion Indiana, 65-51. The Bruins later defeated Rutgers in the consolation game, 106-92.

SDSU	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Leary	3-7	0-0	1	1	6	4 3	0	0	25
Earle	0-2	0-0	1	1	0	0 1	0	0	4
Delsman	2-4	0-0	2	3	4	2 1	0	1	18
Brown	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0 0	0	0	1
Copp	8-19	4-5	11	3	20	0 1	1	1	38
Dodd	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1
Kovach	3-11	5-8	6	3	11	1 1	1	0	34
Connelly	5-14	1-2	9	3	11	0 0	0	0	38
Kramer	1-3	0-0	0	0	2	0 0	0	0	5
Bunting	3-13	4-4	5	3	10	2 4	1	0	36
Rebounds			4						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25-73</b>	<b>14-19</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9 11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>34.2</b>	<b>73.7</b>							

UCLA	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Townsend	3-6	0-0	0	2	6	2 1	0	2	33
Washington	10-15	5-5	8	3	25	4 5	1	0	36
Vroman	0-0	0-0	2	2	0	0 1	0	0	4
Greenwood	1-3	2-2	3	4	4	1 3	0	1	22
Drollinger	2-4	0-0	7	4	4	1 1	0	0	14
Spillane	1-2	0-0	1	2	2	1 1	0	0	10
McCarter	4-9	2-5	5	0	10	2 1	1	2	38
Olinde	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0 1	0	0	1
Johnson	7-9	5-6	9	4	19	2 4	4	1	35
Smith	2-7	0-0	1	1	4	1 1	0	0	7
Rebounds			8						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30-55</b>	<b>14-18</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>14 19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>54.5</b>	<b>77.7</b>							

Score By Periods	1	2	Total
San Diego State	32	32	- 64
UCLA	35	39	- 74

Officials: Fouty, Dreith.

# '82 NIT

## UC Irvine 70, San Diego State 69

March 12, 1982 ♦ San Diego, Calif.

San Diego Sports Arena ♦ Att.: 8,114

SAN DIEGO -- San Diego State's rally from an 11-point second-half deficit fell just short as UC Irvine claimed a 70-69 victory in the first round of the NIT.

The Aztecs, who never led after the opening five minutes of the game, trailed 63-55 with eight minutes remaining before an 11-4 run cut the deficit to 67-66 with 2:49 remaining. SDSU trailed 70-69 and had an opportunity to win, but Don Plummer was unable to convert on a 21-foot jumper at the buzzer.

Plummer led the Aztecs with 19 points and added seven rebounds. Keith Smith had eight points while dishing out 13 assists for San Diego State. UC Irvine was led by Kevin Magee and Randy Whieldo, who tallied 20 and 18 points, respectively.

The Anteaters shot 60.9 percent from the field while holding SDSU to only 43.7 percent shooting. However, the Aztecs countered with an aggressive defense that led to 13 steals and 19 UC Irvine turnovers. SDSU also out-rebounded the Anteaters 36-30, but only managed to shoot 7 of 13 (53.8 percent) from the line.

SDSU finished the season at 20-9, which marked the first 20-win year of the Aztecs' Division I era.

UCI	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Rainer	1-4	5-6	4	1	7	2 4	0	0	31
Mc Donald	2-8	2-2	7	3	6	2 2	0	0	29
Magee	9-12	2-4	5	0	20	0 4	0	1	23
Fuller	5-7	4-6	3	4	14	7 5	0	2	40
Whieldo	9-10	0-1	3	2	18	5 2	1	1	39
Thornton	2-3	1-2	6	4	5	0 1	0	0	20
Crossley	0-2	0-0	0	2	0	2 1	0	0	18
Rebounds			2						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28-46</b>	<b>14-21</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>18 19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>60.9</b>	<b>66.7</b>							

SDSU	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Morris	3-10	3-4	2	3	9	1 1	0	2	21
Cage	5-10	0-0	9	2	10	0 1	1	1	40
Allen	1-1	0-0	2	0	2	0 0	0	0	7

Smith	3-12	2-4	0	4	8	13 5	0	3	38
Jones	6-16	1-3	5	3	13	2 1	1	1	36
Gordon	4-4	0-1	6	1	8	1 1	0	5	22
Caldwell	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0 0	0	0	2
Plummer	9-16	1-1	7	3	19	1 3	0	0	27
Garwood	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	2 0	0	1	4
Holden	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0 0	0	0	3
Rebounds			4						

<b>Totals</b>	<b>31-71</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>18 14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>43.7</b>	<b>53.8</b>							

Score By Periods	1	2	Total
UC Irvine	46	24	- 70
San Diego State	40	29	- 69

Officials: Bosone, Sitov, White.

# '85 NCAA Tournament

## No. 9 UNLV 85, San Diego State 80

March 14, 1985 ♦ Salt Lake City, Utah

Special Events Center ♦ Att.: 7,351

SALT LAKE CITY -- SDSU made a late run at No. 9 UNLV but did not have enough firepower to overcome a 10-point halftime deficit as the Rebels earned an 85-80 victory in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Aztecs trailed by as many as 13 in the first half, but tied the game at 56 with under 10 minutes remaining. UNLV rebuilt the lead but SDSU did not give in to the more athletic Rebels as it cut the deficit to three, when Anthony Watson hit a jumper with 1:02 left. The Aztecs were forced to foul down the stretch and UNLV knocked down the free throws to secure the victory.

Leonard Allen poured in a game-high 23 points for SDSU and Anthony Watson scored 19. Fowards Michael Kennedy and John Martens also cracked double-figures as they added 11 points apiece.

The Rebels were led by Armon Gilliam who posted 21 points and 10 rebounds. Ritchie Adams, the Rebels' leading scorer on the season, was saddled with foul trouble from the start of the game and finished with 10 points in only 23 minutes of action.

Mistakes ended up costing SDSU as it committed 18 turnovers and missed 12 free throws. SDSU shot 55.4% from the field and held UNLV to 47.8% shooting and out-rebounded the Rebels 39-34.

SDSU closed the season at 23-8, its best NCAA Division I record in the history of the program.

SDSU	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
Kennedy	5-8	1-3	8	3	11	0 1	0	1	29
Martens	4-8	3-4	2	4	11	4 0	0	0	28
Allen	8-10	7-10	9	4	23	0 4	3	3	36
Watson	9-15	1-4	3	5	19	6 4	0	2	33
Dorsey	0-3	2-4	6	3	2	8 4	0	0	31
Konek	1-5	3-4	3	4	5	7 3	0	0	20
Owens	2-3	0-0	0	0	4	0 1	0	1	8
Ross	2-4	1-1	3	1	5	0 1	1	0	8
Murray	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	7
Rebounds			5						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31-56</b>	<b>18-30</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>21 18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>55.4</b>	<b>60.0</b>							

UNLV	FG	FT	REB	PF	TP	A TO	B	ST	MP
James	3-8	4-4	2	3	10	4 3	0	1	27
Gilliam	7-12	7-12	10	2	21	2 2	1	2	31
Adams	4-11	2-2	4	4	10	0 0	0	2	23
Jones	9-13	0-1							

## '02 NCAA Tournament

### No. 13 Illinois 93, San Diego State 64 March 15, 2002 ♦ Chicago, Ill. United Center ♦ Att.: 20,850

CHICAGO -- In its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1985, San Diego State was defeated by a balanced Illinois attack, falling to the Fighting Illini, 93-64, in front of 20,850 fans at the United Center.

Senior forward Randy Holcomb, SDSU's leading scorer during the year, was held to under 10 points for only the third time that season. He was limited to nine points in 29 minutes of play in his last game as an Aztec.

Al Faux, also playing in his last game, was the game's leading scorer with 27. Eighteen of his 27 came off of a 6-of-9 shooting performance from beyond the arc.

The Aztecs were down by 15 points at the half and never came closer than 13 the rest of the game. They were down by as many as 37 with 9:03 remaining.

Frank Williams paced the Fighting Illini with 25 points. Four of Illinois' five starters scored in double-digits.

Illinois outscored SDSU 15-2 on fast break points, and shot 58.6 percent to the Aztecs' 39 percent in a game that was controlled by Illinois from start to finish.

With the loss, the Aztecs ended their season in which they went 21-12 and won the Mountain West Conference Tournament Championship.

(13) SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Holcomb	29	4-10	0-1	1-2	3	0	2 4	0	0	9
Bland	35	6-15	1-2	5-7	4	2	2 1	0	1	18
Mackell	25	4-7	0-0	2-2	6	3	1 1	0	0	10
Moore	28	0-3	0-2	0-1	0	1	0 1	0	1	0
Faux	37	9-16	6-9	3-4	3	0	2 3	0	2	27
Smith	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1 0	1	0	1
Walton	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	5	1 1	0	0	0
Kovacic	5	0-4	0-4	0-0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0
Wardrop	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Epps	12	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	1 4	0	0	0
Sanders	13	0-3	0-0	0-0	7	2	0 1	1	3	0
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-59</b>	<b>7-18</b>	<b>11-16</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10 18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>64</b>

(4) Illinois	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Cook	28	5-8	1-3	1-1	8	2	0 2	1	1	12
Bradford	30	5-10	3-7	0-0	2	3	1 2	1	2	13
Archibald	22	0-2	0-0	3-4	8	2	1 0	2	2	3
Head	21	8-11	3-6	0-0	0	1	4 4	0	3	19
Williams	26	9-13	5-6	2-4	3	0	8 1	0	2	25
Johnson	11	1-1	1-1	2-2	2	1	2 1	0	0	5
Ferguson	6	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	1 2	0	0	2
Harrington	19	0-1	0-1	0-0	2	4	3 2	0	1	0
Howard	9	2-3	0-0	0-0	2	1	2 1	0	0	4
Krupaljaja	15	1-4	0-1	1-2	6	1	2 1	0	0	3
Powell	7	1-2	0-0	2-2	4	0	0 0	0	0	4
Smith	6	1-1	0-0	1-4	0	1	0 2	2	0	3
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>35-58</b>	<b>13-25</b>	<b>12-19</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24 18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>93</b>

Halftime: Illinois 40, SDSU 25. FG %: Illinois 58.6, SDSU 39.0. 3FG %: Illinois 52.0, SDSU 38.9. FT %: SDSU 68.8, Illinois 63.2. Officials: Edwin Edsall, Melanie Davis, Joe Lindsay. Technicals: None.

## '03 NIT

### San Diego State 67, UC Santa Barbara 62 (ot) March 19, 2003 ♦ San Diego, Calif. Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl ♦ Att.: 5,390

SAN DIEGO -- SDSU needed overtime to win its first Division I postseason game, claiming a 67-62 NIT first-round victory over UC Santa Barbara.

Tony Bland, who became the third Aztec player to reach 1,000 points in just two seasons, sent the game into extra time by going the length of the floor to hit a bank shot with 1.9 seconds left. Then with 1:15 left in

overtime, Tommy Johnson put SDSU ahead for good at 63-60 with a 3-pointer as the Aztecs closed the game with a 13-2 run.

In its sixth postseason appearance in 33 years at the Division I level, the Aztecs overcame their largest half-time deficit of the season (32-22) snapping a three-game losing streak, limiting UCSB to just 62 points and 42.6 percent shooting.

After a dunk by Evan Burns with 5:58 left in the first half, UCSB closed out the opening period with a 14-1 run to take a 10-point lead into the half. The Gauchos scored the first basket of the second half before Bland jumpstarted the Aztecs with a free throw and layup to start a 10-0 run.

The game was tied at 50 with five minutes left and both teams buckled down defensively for the rest of regulation.

The Gauchos scored the first six points of overtime before SDSU's game-ending run, which included six straight Mike Mackell points to tie the game at 60 and set up Johnson's heroics.

Bland had a team-high 17 points, while Burns scored 12 points, and Johnson finished with 10.

UCSB	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Hull	39	10-19	5-9	3-3	5	3	3 2	0	3	28
Cook	23	2-4	0-0	6-6	3	2	1 1	0	2	4
Jones	35	6-13	0-3	3-5	4	3	1 3	0	1	12
Atako	32	0-4	0-1	0-0	2	1	6 2	0	0	0
Fullove	23	2-7	1-3	0-0	3	3	1 5	0	1	5
Brown	24	3-7	0-0	0-0	3	0	0 1	0	0	6
Davis	14	0-2	0-1	1-2	3	0	1 0	0	1	1
Ward	13	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	2	3 0	0	1	2
Whitehead	22	2-4	0-0	0-0	3	3	0 1	0	1	4
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>26-61</b>	<b>6-17</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16 15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Burns	34	4-7	0-1	4-4	9	1	3 5	2	2	12
Sanders	27	2-4	0-0	0-0	4	4	1 0	0	0	4
Mackell	38	3-9	0-0	3-5	3	0	2 4	0	1	9
Moore	36	1-5	0-3	2-2	9	3	2 1	0	0	4
Bland	35	7-16	0-4	3-6	3	0	2 1	2	1	17
Johnson	25	3-4	1-2	3-4	4	3	1 2	2	2	10
Sir	19	2-6	2-6	0-0	1	1	1 3	0	0	6
Sharper	7	1-2	1-2	0-0	1	0	1 0	0	0	3
Manker	4	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0 0	0	0	2
Team										
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>24-54</b>	<b>4-18</b>	<b>15-21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>67</b>

Halftime: UCSB 32, SDSU 22. FG %: SDSU 44.4, UCSB 42.6. 3FG %: SDSU 35.3, UCSB 22.2. FT %: SDSU 80.0, UCSB 71.4. Officials: Tom Wood, Don McAllister, Mike Reed. Technicals: None.

## '03 NIT

### Texas Tech 57, San Diego State 48 March 21, 2003 ♦ Lubbock, Texas United Spirit Arena ♦ Att.: 7,848

LUBBOCK, Texas -- Robert Tomaszek scored 14 points as Texas Tech beat San Diego State 57-48 in the second round of NIT.

Texas Tech (20-12) led by 14 points in the first half but San Diego State trailed by just one, 46-45, with 6:41 remaining. The Aztecs (16-14) had a chance to take the lead but Tony Bland missed a layup with 6:14 left after he stole the ball from Kasib Powell and took it the length of the court.

San Diego then went scoreless for nearly five minutes before Evan Burns hit a 3-pointer from the right corner with 1:47 remaining in the game.

Powell scored 12 points, and Will Chavis and Andre Emmett - the Big 12's leading scorer - added nine each for Tech.

Deandre Moore scored 11 points and Mike Mackell added 10 to lead the Aztecs.

San Diego State took an early 12-9 lead before Tech went on a 17-0 run, during which the Aztecs missed 12 straight shots, to lead 26-12 with 6:05 left in the half.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Burns	32	2-8	1-4	0-0	6	0	1 2	1	2	5
Sanders	25	1-3	0-0	0-0	5	3	0 1	0	0	2
Mackell	29	3-6	0-0	4-8	6	5	0 3	0	0	10
Moore	34	4-9	3-5	0-0	6	3	8 2	0	0	11
Bland	33	3-15	0-2	3-4	3	2	2 5	0	1	9
Johnson	22	3-7	3-6	0-1	4	4	0 4	0	1	9
Sir	7	0-2	0-2	0-0	1	0	0 1	0	0	0
Sharper	7	0-2	0-2	0-0	1	1	0 1	0	1	0
Davis	8	1-2	0-0	0-0	3	3	0 2	0	0	2
Manker	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Wardrop	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Team					4					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>17-54</b>	<b>7-21</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11 21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>

Texas Tech	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Emmett	40	2-10	0-1	5-8	15	1	3 2	0	2	9
Powell	38	3-8	0-0	6-9	6	2	3 3	0	0	12
Tomaszek	37	5-10	0-0	4-9	8	3	2 0	0	0	14
Doudney	18	2-4	1-2	0-0	4	2	1 2	0	1	5
Marshall	9	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2 0	0	0	2
Chavis	27	4-9	0-2	1-2	1	1	0 4	0	1	9
Ross	29	3-6	0-0	0-0	2	3	5 1	1	6	6
Washington	2	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Team										
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-49</b>	<b>1-6</b>	<b>16-28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16 12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>57</b>

Halftime: Texas Tech 33, SDSU 21. FG %: Texas Tech 40.8, SDSU 31.5. 3FG %: SDSU 33.3, Texas Tech 16.7. FT %: Texas Tech 57.1, SDSU 53.8. Officials: Kelly Self, Larry Spaulding, Shawn Lehigh. Technicals: None.

## '06 NCAA Tournament

### Indiana 87, San Diego State 83 March 16, 2006 ♦ Salt Lake City, Utah Huntsman Center ♦ Att.: 15,122

SALT LAKE CITY -- Making its third postseason appearance in five years, 11th-seeded San Diego State fell 87-83 to sixth-seeded Indiana in a nailbiter in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Hoosiers led by as many as nine points with just over six minutes remaining in the first half until Brandon Heath hit a three-pointer with 55 seconds left to give SDSU a one-point lead. As the half came to a close, Mohamed Abukar made a layup, giving the Aztecs a three-point cushion heading into halftime, despite hitting 62.1 percent of their field goals.

As the second half began, San Diego State started to pull away as it built a pair of 10-point leads, the last coming with 11:44 left in the contest.

Indiana chipped away at the Aztecs' lead and eventually tied the game at 76 with just under four minutes remaining. But just as it had all evening, SDSU pulled ahead until Heath lost the ball near midcourt with 55 seconds left, forcing a jumpball situation that the Hoosiers wound up winning.

After an Indiana timeout, the ensuing play saw Robert Vaden, who had 18 points, hit a three-point field goal giving the Hoosiers a two-point advantage with the clock showing five seconds.

On the inbounds play, Abukar sailed a pass out of bounds and the Aztecs fouled on the next possession sending IU to the line where they connected on both free-throw attempts to end the game.

Abukar led all scorers with 24 points and also had nine rebounds. Heath scored 15 with Marcus Slaughter contributing 13 points and 10 rebounds. Richie Williams and John Sharper chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

(11) SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Spain	18	3-4	0-0	2-2	2	4	0 2	0	0	8
Abukar	31	8-13	2-2	6-6	9	2	0 4	2	1	24
Slaughter	38	5-8	0-0	3-5	10	4	1 2	0	1	13
Heath	38	6-17	3-9	0-0	2	2	5 2	0	1	15
Williams	39	5-6	2-3	0-0	6	4	8 5	0	4	12
Sharper	24	4-6	3-4	0-0	0	1	0 1	0	0	11
Davis	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	3	1	1 0	0	0	0
Thomas	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Camara	2	0-1	0-0	0-2	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Team					4					

Totals	200	31-55	10-18	11-15	36	19	15	16	2	7	83
(6) Indiana	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
Ratliff	20	2-7	1-4	0-0	3	0	1	1	0	1	5
Vaden	36	5-12	5-11	3-3	3	3	3	2	0	1	18
Killingsworth	25	8-13	0-0	2-5	4	4	2	3	0	1	18
Strickland	32	4-9	1-4	0-0	0	4	2	1	0	1	9
Calloway	28	8-9	1-1	1-1	4	1	3	1	0	6	18
Wilmont	23	4-13	0-5	3-6	6	2	0	0	0	1	11
Suhr	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	17	1-2	0-1	0-0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2
Kline	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Monroe	19	3-5	0-0	0-1	3	1	1	1	0	0	6
Team					6						
Totals	200	35-71	8-26	9-16	31	16	14	9	0	11	87

Halftime: SDSU 44, Indiana 41. FG %: SDSU 56.4, Indiana 49.3. 3FG%: SDSU 55.6, Indiana 30.8. FT%: SDSU 73.3, Indiana 56.3. Officials: Tom Lopes, Michael Stuart, George Washington. Technicals: None.

**'07 NIT**

**San Diego State 74, Missouri State 70**  
 March 14, 2007 ♦ Springfield, Mo.  
 Hammons Student Center ♦ Att.: 4,234

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- SDSU captured just its second Division I postseason victory as it defeated Missouri State on the road, 74-70, in the first round of the NIT.

SDSU and MSU struggled early to keep the game close. The Aztecs were particularly sloppy as they committed eight turnovers in the first eight minutes. However, the Bears did not make their run until the 10-minute mark, outscoring the Aztecs, 14-4, to go up by eight with 7:49 left.

San Diego State responded with 11 unanswered points and closed out the half on an 18-5 run to head into the locker room with a 34-29 lead.

The Aztecs maintained its lead and watched it balloon to eight on a Brandon Heath jumper with 15:14 on the clock.

With the game tied at 49, MSU caught fire and enjoyed a six-point advantage with 7:26 left. But as it did before, SDSU used a 15-4 run, giving it a 69-64 cushion going into the final minutes.

The Bears fought back, eventually tying it at 70 with 41 seconds remaining. After an Aztec timeout, Heath connected on a three-pointer with one second left on the shot clock and seven seconds on the game clock to put SDSU up 73-70.

With an opportunity to trim the Aztecs' lead, Nathan Bilyeu missed two free throws and SDSU's Jer'Vaughn Johnson made one of two from the charity stripe to put the game out of reach.

For the game, Heath finished with a game-high 26 points and Mohamed Abukar posted 13 of his 15 points in the second half to help put the Bears away. Jerome Habel added his second double-double of his career with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
Habel	*36	4-7	0-0	3-6	10	5	1	4	2	2	11
Wade	*28	2-6	1-4	2-2	4	2	4	3	0	1	7
Abukar	*32	6-9	0-0	3-4	6	5	0	4	1	1	15
Heath	*38	11-21	4-11	0-0	4	3	2	6	0	2	26
Williams	*34	2-5	0-2	2-2	6	2	5	4	0	4	6
Johnson	3	0-0	0-0	3-4	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Pastorek	8	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	1	0	0	0	2
Spain	21	1-2	1-2	1-2	1	0	0	2	1	2	4
Team					2						
Totals	200	27-52	6-19	14-20	36	20	13	23	4	12	74

MSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
Ard	*24	3-12	0-3	0-2	10	4	2	3	0	0	6
Chaney	*28	2-7	1-5	0-0	4	3	6	1	1	3	5
Richards	*29	5-9	0-0	5-7	8	3	1	2	0	1	15
Thomas, K.	*22	2-4	2-2	0-0	0	1	1	2	0	2	6
Ahearn	*32	5-14	3-9	2-3	0	1	3	4	0	0	15
Horton	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lamberth	20	1-5	0-2	0-0	3	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mitchell	27	2-4	0-0	12-14	5	4	2	2	0	3	16
Carter	0+	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas, D.	16	2-3	1-2	0-0	0	0	2	3	0	2	5
Team					1						

Totals	200	22-58	7-23	19-26	31	18	17	17	1	11	70
Halftime:	SDSU 34, Missouri St. 29. FG%: SDSU 51.9, Missouri St. 37.9.										
3FG%:	SDSU 31.6, Missouri St. 30.4. FT%: Missouri St. 73.1, SDSU 70.0.										
Officials:	James Breeding, Bo Boroski, Archibald Whaley. Technicals: None.										

**'07 NIT**

**Syracuse 80, San Diego State 64**

March 19, 2007 ♦ Syracuse, N.Y.  
 Carrier Dome ♦ Att.: 26,752

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- SDSU had its season come to an end in the second round of the NIT as Syracuse downed the Aztecs, 80-64, before a record crowd at the Carrier Dome.

The second-round game between two teams led by national championship coaches in Steve Fisher and Jim Boeheim, attracted an NIT-record 26,752 fans and many went home happy as the home team connected on nine three-pointers and shut down SDSU in the second half.

The Aztecs held their own in the opening period as they trailed by only five points, 38-33, going into the locker room. However, the second half was a different story as the Orange jumped on San Diego State with a 19-7 run to open play and finished it with an 11-0 spurt to take a commanding lead.

At that point, Syracuse was up 59-40 with 13:41 remaining in the game. Unfortunately for the Aztecs, they never got closer than 13 points the rest of the way as the Orange had an answer for every Aztec basket.

SDSU was led by Lorenzo Wade, who scored a team-high 16 points and shared the squad lead in rebounds with eight along with Richie Williams. Playing in their final game as Aztecs, Brandon Heath finished with 15 points and a game-high seven assists, while Mohamed Abukar contributed 14 points and five rebounds.

Syracuse received double-figure scoring efforts from Demetris Nichols (20 points), Andy Rautins (15) and Paul Harris (12).

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
Habel	*29	3-9	0-0	1-2	3	0	0	2	0	0	7
Wade	*32	6-13	0-3	4-4	8	2	1	2	3	1	16
Abukar	*35	6-15	1-1	1-3	5	5	3	1	0	1	14
Heath	*35	5-17	3-12	2-4	0	0	7	2	0	2	15
Williams	*35	1-6	1-4	0-1	8	2	2	1	0	3	3
Johnson	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pastorek	4	0-0	0-0	1-2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	26	2-3	1-1	3-6	6	1	1	0	2	1	8
Team					3						
Totals	200	23-64	6-21	12-22	33	11	14	8	5	8	64

SU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
Roberts	*29	4-4	0-0	0-0	8	3	0	2	0	1	8
Nichols	*31	7-18	3-11	3-4	5	0	2	3	0	0	20
Watkins	*25	2-3	0-0	0-0	8	4	1	0	6	1	4
Rautins	*28	5-10	5-9	0-0	6	1	5	2	0	1	15
Devendorf	*33	4-11	0-4	0-1	2	4	7	2	2	2	8
Thomas	2	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	23	5-10	0-0	2-5	7	0	3	3	1	0	12
Burach	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Gorman	10	2-3	0-0	0-0	2	2	2	0	0	0	4
Wright	16	2-3	1-1	2-2	4	1	1	2	0	1	7
Presutti	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DiLiegro	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Team					5						
Totals	200	32-66	9-25	7-12	49	16	21	15	9	6	80

Halftime: Syracuse 38, SDSU 33. FG%: Syracuse 48.5, SDSU 35.9. 3FG%: Syracuse 36.0, SDSU 28.6. FT%: Syracuse 58.3, SDSU 54.5. Officials: Gary Maxwell, Gary Prager, Curtis Blair. Technicals: Eric Devendorf, Syracuse.

**'08 NIT**

**Florida 73, San Diego State 49**

March 19, 2008 ♦ Gainesville, Fla.  
 O'Connell Center ♦ Att.: 5,188

GAINESVILLE, Fla. -- In its third consecutive postsea-

son appearance and its second straight in the NIT, San Diego State was dropped by Florida, 73-49, in a first-round matchup at the O'Connell Center.

The second-seeded Gators never trailed in the game and opened the game on a 7-2 run, before the seventh-seeded Aztecs tied the score at nine with 14:12 remaining in the first half. SDSU, however, would never get closer than three points the rest of the way and Florida went into the half with a 35-23 cushion.

In the second half, the Gators' lead ballooned to 21 points with less than 10 minutes gone. San Diego State managed to cut the lead to 17 points with 5:42 left in the game, but Florida kept the Aztecs at bay as they cruised to the 24-point victory.

For the game, the Gators shot 53.4 percent from the field, including an amazing 63.0 percent in the second half. All five starters shot above 50 percent and Florida's two leading scorers, Marresse Speights (18 points) and Nick Calathes (16 points), combined to shoot 15-for-25. Speights also added a team-high tying six rebounds, while Calathes chipped in five rebounds of his own and a team-best five assists.

SDSU, meanwhile, was led by Ryan Amoroso's game-high numbers of 19 points and seven rebounds on 8-of-16 shooting. The lone other Aztec to reach double figures in scoring was Lorenzo Wade, who had 11 points and a game-high seven assists off the bench.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
White	*33	0-0	0-0	0-2	1	1	0	3	0	1	0
Amoroso	*33	8-16	1-3	2-2	7	3	0	1	0	0	19
Williams	*29	4-8	1-3	0-0	4	4	1	3	0	0	9
Thomas	*19	0-2	0-0	0-0	3	1	1	1	0	1	0
Gay	*30	2-5	1-3	0-0	2	1	1	1	0	0	5
Johnson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pastorek	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lamb	9	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Wade	30	5-13	0-0	1-5	2	1	7	3	0	0	11
Davis	15	2-4	1-3	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	1	5
Team					2						
Totals	200	21-49	4-12	3-9	22	11	11	14	1	3	49

Florida	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	TO	B	S	TP
Werner	*28	4-5	1-2	0-0	5	0	1	0	2	2	9
Calathes	*29	7-11	2-3	0-0	5	1	5	4	0	1	16
Speights	*28	8-14	0-0	2-2	6	3	1	2	0	0	18
Lucas	*29	3-6	1-3	1-2	0	2	4	1	0	2	8
Hodge	*20	3-5	1-2	0-0	2	2	2	0	0	3	7
Mitchell	10	1-2	1-2	0-0	1	1	0	2	0	0	3
Allen	15	1-4	1-2	0-0	2	1	1	1	0	0	3
Tyus	18	2-5	0-0	0-0	6	1	1	0	3	0	4
Parsons	22	2-6	0-2	1-2	6	2	1	0	0	1	5
Fricke	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team					2						
Totals	200	31-58	7-16	4-6	35	13	16	10	5	9	73

Halftime: Florida 35, San Diego State 23. FG%: Florida 53.4, San Diego State 42.9. 3FG%: Florida 43.8, San Diego State 33.3. FT%: Florida 66.7, San Diego State 33.3. Officials: Jim Burr, Steve Welmer, Brent Barnaky. Technicals: None.

**'09 NIT**

**(1) San Diego State 65, (8) Weber State 49**

March 17, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
 Cox Arena ♦ Att.: 4,314

SAN DIEGO - Top-seeded San Diego State won its third-ever Division I postseason tournament game with its 65-49 first round National Invitation Tournament decision over eighth-seeded Weber State at Cox Arena.

San Diego State, which trailed for only 28 seconds in the entire game, was never threatened after Richie Williams nailed a three-pointer with 13:29 left in the first half giving the Aztecs a 12-8 lead. San Diego State eventually ended the first half, covering the final 7:38, on a 22-4 run to move ahead at halftime, 39-



second double-double in his last four outings. Senior teammate Kyle Spain chipped in with 11 points and sophomore Billy White finished with 10 points and five rebounds.

Leading the way for Weber State was Kellen McCoy, who ended his night with 14 points, and Damian Lillard, who had 10 points and seven rebounds.

(8) WSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Bulligner	*25	1-4	1-4	2-2	2	3	1	2	0	0	5
Lillard	*33	4-12	0-4	2-2	7	1	1	5	0	1	10
Hansen	*27	0-6	0-5	0-0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0
McCoy	*33	5-10	2-6	2-2	3	1	0	3	0	1	14
Panos	*18	2-5	0-0	0-0	3	1	0	1	0	0	4
Cottle	1	0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benson	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ramos	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Davis	24	2-4	0-1	0-0	3	4	2	4	1	2	4
Mahoney	13	2-2	0-0	0-4	3	0	1	0	2	0	4
Morris	22	3-4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Team					5						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-50</b>	<b>3-21</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>49</b>

(1) SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Spain	*32	4-14	2-8	1-2	3	0	1	3	0	2	11
Wade	*32	9-14	0-2	2-2	10	2	3	2	1	1	20
White	*20	4-7	0-0	2-3	5	2	2	1	0	0	10
Amoroso	*23	3-5	1-1	0-0	3	3	1	1	1	1	7
Gay	*24	1-3	0-2	0-0	2	0	5	1	0	1	2
Island	1	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams	24	3-7	2-4	0-0	2	1	1	1	0	0	8
Horton	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deutchman	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Shelton	15	1-4	0-1	2-2	5	0	1	0	0	1	4
Smith	2	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheriet	16	1-5	0-1	1-2	2	2	0	1	1	0	3
Team					3						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>26-62</b>	<b>5-21</b>	<b>8-11</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>65</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 39, Weber State 17. **FG %:** San Diego State 41.9, Weber State 40.0. **3FG%:** San Diego State 23.8, Weber State 14.3. **FT%:** San Diego State 72.7, Weber State 60.0. **Officials:** Ruben Ramos, Bruce Hicks, Shawn Lehigh. **Technical:** None.

**'09 NIT**

**(1) San Diego State 70, (4) Kansas State 52**  
**March 20, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.**  
**Jenny Craig Pavilion ♦ Att.: 5,100**

**SAN DIEGO** - Due to the first and second rounds of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament at Cox Arena, top-seeded San Diego State moved its game with fourth-seeded Kansas State to the University of San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion and dismissed the Wildcats in the second round of the NIT, 70-52, in front of a capacity crowd of 5,100.

SDSU led for the entire game and was spearheaded by the efforts of Kyle Spain, Richie Williams and Billy White. Spain finished with a game-high 16 points and seven rebounds, while Williams added 14 points and a game-high four steals. White, meanwhile, went 6-for-6 from the field and ended with 15 points and three blocked shots.

San Diego State led by as many as eight points nearly nine minutes into the game, but allowed K-State to creep back into it after the visitors scored the final five points of the first half to get within two, 27-25, at halftime.

The Wildcats scored the first bucket of the second half to knot the score at 27, but a layup by White gave the Aztecs a lead it would not relinquish. SDSU expanded its lead to 22 on a layup by Ryan Amoroso with 7:53 to go and the rout was on as the Aztecs cruised into the quarterfinals of the NIT.

Denis Clemente led Kansas State with 12 points and three assists.

(4) KSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Sutton	*18	2-5	0-0	0-0	6	3	0	1	0	1	4
Kent	*22	3-10	0-1	2-2	6	1	2	0	0	0	8
Colon	*15	1-3	0-0	0-0	3	2	0	2	0	0	2

Pullen	*18	0-4	0-3	3-4	2	2	1	2	0	0	3
Clemente	*34	5-15	1-5	1-1	1	3	3	5	0	1	12
Brown	*26	2-4	0-2	2-3	1	1	0	3	0	1	6
Werner	2	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Awaji	20	3-5	1-2	0-0	3	1	1	0	0	1	7
Samuels	22	1-6	0-2	1-2	1	4	1	3	2	2	3
Ojelaye	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	21	2-5	0-0	3-4	6	1	0	1	1	1	7
Team					3			1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-60</b>	<b>2-17</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>

(1) SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Spain	*31	5-13	0-2	6-7	7	2	2	2	0	2	16
Wade	*31	3-11	0-1	2-2	4	2	4	3	0	2	8
White	*24	6-6	0-0	3-4	4	3	1	0	3	1	15
Amoroso	*25	3-5	0-2	1-2	3	2	3	3	0	0	7
Williams	*32	4-5	2-2	4-4	3	2	1	4	0	4	14
Island	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horton	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deutchman	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	6	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Gay	16	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Shelton	18	3-5	0-1	0-0	1	3	2	1	0	1	6
Smith	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheriet	13	1-3	0-1	0-0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Team					7			1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>26-49</b>	<b>2-9</b>	<b>16-20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>70</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 27, Kansas State 25. **FG %:** San Diego State 53.1, Kansas State 31.7. **3FG%:** San Diego State 22.2, Kansas State 11.8. **FT%:** San Diego State 80.0, Kansas State 75.0. **Officials:** Michael Irving, Martin Cota, Bobby McRoy. **Technical:** None.

**'09 NIT**

**(1) San Diego State 70, (2) Saint Mary's 66**  
**March 25, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.**  
**Cox Arena ♦ Att.: 12,414**

**SAN DIEGO** - San Diego State held its last game of the 2008-09 season at Cox Arena in front of a sold-out crowd of 12,414 for the NIT Quarterfinals against second-seeded Saint Mary's.

The Aztecs got out to an early 16-point lead, holding the Gaels scoreless with 11:07 to play in the first half.

SDSU maintained its lead throughout the game with Saint Mary's tying the score only once during the contest. San Diego State's Richie Williams was able to contain the Gaels' sophomore star, Patrick Mills, to 7-of-24 shooting for the game. Aztec Billy White proved to be a dominating presence in the paint by going 8-for-12 and had a team high of 17 points.

San Diego State went into halftime with an 11-point lead. When the two teams got back into action, the Aztecs continued to roll, scoring 42 of their 70 points in the paint. SDSU benefited from Saint Mary's mistakes by tallying 12 points off turnovers.

The Gaels would only tie the score once and were never able to take the lead away from SDSU despite outscoring the Aztecs 38-31 in the second half. In the end, it was San Diego State's speed and Saint Mary's mistakes that would decide the game.

With the victory, the Aztecs headed to New York to play at Madison Square Garden. The 26th San Diego State win extended its school record and the marks farthest any SDSU basketball program has advanced into the postseason.

(2) SMC	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Simpson	*36	3-7	0-0	5-11	14	2	0	1	0	2	11
Samhan	*32	4-11	0-0	2-2	12	4	2	1	5	1	10
Mills	*40	7-24	4-13	0-1	1	5	5	5	0	1	18
Hunter	*32	4-10	1-5	0-0	6	3	0	1	1	2	9
McConnell	*4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hughes	23	5-8	1-4	0-1	1	2	2	1	0	0	11
O'Leary	21	2-2	1-1	0-0	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
Smith	10	1-5	0-2	0-0	3	2	0	1	0	0	2
Walker	0+	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Team					2						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>26-67</b>	<b>7-25</b>	<b>7-14</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>66</b>

(1) SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Spain	*28	5-11	1-3	0-0	6	4	2	1	0	1	11

Wade	*36	5-13	0-1	0-0	4	1	1	3	0	2	10
White	*24	8-12	0-0	1-1	4	2	0	0	0	0	17
Amoroso	*31	4-9	2-3	2-2	6	4	2	3	1	0	12
Williams	*29	2-5	0-1	4-6	4	2	5	2	0	2	8
Thomas	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gay	19	0-2	0-1	0-0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
Shelton	20	1-6	0-0	3-7	6	2	2	0	1	1	5
Cheriet	6	2-2	1-1	2-2	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Team					4						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-61</b>	<b>4-10</b>	<b>12-18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>70</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 39, Saint Mary's 28. **FG %:** San Diego State 44.3, Saint Mary's 38.8. **3FG%:** San Diego State 40.0, Saint Mary's 28.0. **FT%:** San Diego State 66.7, Saint Mary's 50.0. **Officials:** Mike Scyphers, Kevin Brill, Rick Batsell. **Technical:** None.

**'09 NIT**

**(3) Baylor 76, (1) San Diego State 62**  
**March 31, 2009 ♦ New York, N.Y.**  
**Madison Square Garden ♦ Att.: 11,352**

**NEW YORK** - SDSU was eliminated in the semifinals round in Madison Square Garden, ending its run for its first NIT Championship, losing to Baylor, 76-62.

The Aztecs' chances at victory were deflated behind the perimeter, as Baylor successfully relied on the 3-point shot, shooting 11-22 from the arc, to pull away with a convincing win.

The Bears were anchored by Curtis Jerrells in the first half where he dropped 19 of his 24 points. The Aztecs were able to manage a close game in the opening 11:45 as a basket by Ryan Amoroso gave San Diego State the lead, 21-20.

In the ensuing possession, Baylor's Jerrells hit a three-pointer that ignited a 10-0 run. But SDSU managed to fight back as they closed out the period trailing by one point, 34-35.

Baylor's hot shooting performance proved to be too much for the Aztecs in the second half. A layup by Amoroso to start the period was the last lead SDSU enjoyed. Baylor was anchored by another key player, this time by LaceDarius Dunn who scored 14 of his 23 points in the second half and was a vital part of the Bears' 17-4 run.

SDSU was led by seniors Kyle Spain with 15 points and Wade with 10 points. Also, Billy White and Tim Shelton added 10 points apiece.

(3) Baylor	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	B	S	TP
Rogers	*37	6-9	0-0	2-2	7	0	1	2	0	0	14
Lomers	*24	2-4	0-0	2-2	5	1	0	1	2	0	6
Jerrells	*35	8-11	3-5	6-11	4	2	4	1	0	3	25
Dunn	*35	7-12	6-9	3-4	6	1	2	3	0	1	23
Carter	*33	3-8	2-4	0-0	2	2	3	0	0	2	8
Ellis	1	0-0									

## NCAA Tournament/NIT Individual Game Records

### Individual

**Points Scored**  
27, Al Faux vs. Illinois, 3-15-02

**Field Goals**  
12, Will Connelly vs. UNLV, 3-15-75

**Field Goals Attempted**  
22, Will Connelly vs. UNLV, 3-15-75

**Highest FG Percentage (min. 5 made)**  
1.000 (6-6), Billy White vs. Kansas St., 3-20-09

**3-Point Field Goals**  
6, Al Faux vs. Illinois, 3-15-02

**3-Point Field Goals Attempted**  
12, Brandon Heath at Syracuse, 3-19-07

**3-Point Field Goal Pct. (min. 4 made)**  
.563 (6-9), Al Faux vs. Illinois, 3-15-02

**Free Throws**  
7, Leonard Allen vs. UNLV, 3-14-85

**Free Throws Attempted**  
11, Steve Copp vs. UNLV, 3-15-75

**Free Throw Percentage (min. 5 made)**  
1.000 (6-6), Mohamed Akubar vs. Indiana, 3-16-06

**\*Offensive Rebounds**  
5, Mike Mackell vs. Illinois, 3-15-02

**\*Defensive Rebounds**  
10, Lorenzo Wade vs. Weber St., 3-17-09

**Total Rebounds**  
17, Steve Copp vs. UNLV, 3-15-75

**Assists**  
13, Keith Smith vs. UC Irvine, 3-12-82

**Blocked Shots**  
4, Leonard Allen vs. UNLV, 3-14-85

**Steals**  
5, Eddy Gordon vs. UC Irvine, 3-12-82

**Minutes Played**  
40, Michael Cage vs. UC Irvine, 3-12-82

**Opponent Individual**

**Points Scored**  
28, Mark Hull, UC Santa Barbara, 3-19-03

**Highest FG Percentage (min. 5 made)**  
.900 (9-10), Randy Whieldo, UC Irvine, 3-12-82

**3-Point Field Goals**  
6, LaceDarius Dunn, Baylor, 3-31-09

**3-Point Field Goal Pct. (min. 4 made)**  
.833 (5-6), Frank Williams, Illinois, 3-12-03

**Rebounds**  
15, Andre Emmet, Texas Tech, 3-21-03

**Assists**  
8, Frank Williams, Illinois, 3-12-03 and Freddie Banks, UNLV, 3-14-85

**Blocked Shots**  
6, Darryl Watkins, Syracuse, 3-19-07

**Steals**  
6, Ronald Ross, Texas Tech, 3-21-03 and Earl Calloway, Indiana, 3-16-06

\*Not recorded before 1985

## SDSU Composite NCAA Tournament/NIT Statistics

Player	GP	GS	Min	Avg	TOTAL			3-PTS			REBOUNDS			PF-FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg	
					FG-FGA	Pct	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	Pct	Off	Def	Tot								Avg
Abukar, Mohamed	3	3	98	32.7	20-37	.541															
Allen, Leonard	2	2	43	21.5	9-11	.818															
Amoroso, Ryan	5	5	133	26.6	21-42	.500	5-11	.455	7-8	.875	10	14	24	4.8	12-0	8	10	3	2	54	10.8
Bland, Tony	3	3	103	34.3	16-46	.348	1-8	.125	11-17	.647	3	7	10	3.3	4-0	6	7	2	3	44	14.7
Brown, Jerry	1	0	1	1.0	0-0	.000				.000			1	1.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Bunting, Allen	2	2	66	33.0	5-22	.227				4-4	1.000		10	5.0	7-0	4	9	1	0	14	7.0
Burns, Evan	2	2	66	33.0	6-15	.400	1-5	.200	4-4	1.000	2	13	15	7.5	1-0	4	7	3	4	17	8.5
Cage, Michael	1	1	40	40.0	5-10	.500				0-0	.000		9	9.0	2-0	0	1	1	1	10	10.0
Caldwell, Steve	1	0	2	2.0	0-1	.000				0-0	.000		0	0.0	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Camara, Mohamed	1	0	2	2.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Cheriet, Mehdi	4	0	46	11.5	5-12	.417	1-3	.333	3-6	.500	1	4	5	1.3	4-0	1	3	1	0	14	3.5
Contreras, Raul	1	0	2	2.0	1-1	1.000				0-0	.000		0	0.0	0-0	1	0	0	0	2	2.0
Connelly, Will	2	2	77	38.5	17-36	.472				2-6	.333		21	10.5	5-0	0	3	2	0	36	18.0
Copp, Steve	2	2	73	36.5	13-29	.448				10-16	.625		28	14	7-0	2	5	1	1	36	18.0
Davis, Kelvin	1	0	15	15.0	2-4	.500	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	2	0	1	5	5.0
Davis, Trimaine	2	0	17	8.5	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	6	6	3.0	4-0	1	2	0	0	2	1.0
Delsman, Mark	2	0	28	14.0	4-7	.571				2-5	.400		4	2.0	3-0	4	3	0	1	10	5.0
Deutchman, Jason	3	0	3	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.7	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Dodd, Mike	1	0	1	1.0	0-0	.000				0-0	.000		0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Dorsey, Creon	1	1	31	31.0	0-3	.000				2-4	.500		6	6.0	3-0	8	4	0	0	2	2.0
Earle, Gary	2	0	17	8.5	0-4	.000				0-0	.000		3	1.5	5-0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Epps, Myron	1	0	12	12.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	2-0	1	4	0	0	0	0.0
Faux, Al	1	1	37	37.0	9-16	.562	6-9	.666	3-4	.750	1	2	3	3.0	0-0	2	3	0	2	27	27.0
Garwood, John	1	0	4	4.0	0-1	.000				0-0	.000		1	1.0	0-0	2	0	0	1	0	0.0
Gay, D.J.	5	2	115	23.0	6-20	.300	3-12	.250	0-0	.000	2	6	8	1.6	2-0	10	3	1	3	15	3.0
Gordon, Eddy	1	0	22	22.0	4-4	1.000				1-2	.500		6	6.0	1-0	1	1	0	5	8	8.0
Green, Bob	1	0	5	5.0	3-4	.750				1-2	.500		3	3.0	1-0	0	1	0	3	7	7.0
Habel, Jerome	2	2	65	32.5	7-16	.438	0-0	.000	4-8	.500	5	8	13	6.5	5-1	1	6	2	2	18	9.0
Heath, Brandon	3	3	111	37.0	22-55	.400	10-32	.313	2-4	.500	2	4	6	2.0	5-0	14	10	0	5	56	18.7
Holcomb, Randy	1	1	29	29.0	4-10	.400	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1	2	3	3.0	0-0	2	4	0	0	9	9.0
Holden, Chris	1	0	3	3.0	0-0	.000				0-0	.000		1	1.0	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Horton, Bryan	3	0	2	0.7	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Island, Tim	3	0	2	0.7	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Johnson, Jer' Vaughn	3	0	8	2.7	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	1	1	0.3	1-0	0	0	0	0	3	1.0
Johnson, Tommy	2	0	47	23.5	6-11	.545	4-8	.500	3-5	.600	1	7	8	4.0	7-0	1	6	2	3	19	9.5
Jones, Zach	1	1	36	36.0	6-16	.375				1-3	.333		5	5.0	3-0	2	1	1	1	13	13.0
Kennedy, Michael	1	1	29	29.0	5-8	.625				1-3	.333		8	8.0	3-0	0	1	1	0	11	11.0
Konek, Jeff	1	0	20	20.0	1-5	.200				3-4	.750		3	3.0	4-0	7	3	0	0	5	5.0
Kovach, Bob	2	2	67	33.5	8-22	.364				5-10	.500		11	5.5	6-0	2	3	0	2	21	10.5
Kovacic, Karlo	1	0	5	5.0	0-4	.000	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
Kramer, Joel	1	0	5	5.0	1-3	.333				0-0	.000		0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	2.0
Lamb, Chris	1	0	9	9.0	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0
Leary, Ray	2	2	56	28.0	8-16	.500				0-0	.000		2	1.0	6-1	15	8	0	0	16	8.0
Mackell, Mike	3	3	92	30.7	10-22	.455	0-0	.000	9-15	.600	10	5	15	5.0	8-1	3	8	0	1	29	9.7
Manker, Chris	2	0	6	3.0	1-1	1.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2	1.0
Martens, John	1	1	28	28.0	4-8	.500				3-4	.750		2	2.0	4-0	4	0	0	0	11	11.0
Moore, Deandre	3	3	98	32.7	5-17	.294	3-10	.300	2-3	.667	3	12	15	5.0	7-0	10	4	0	1	15	5.0
Morris, Eddie	1	1	21	21.0	3-10	.300				3-4	.750		2	2.0	3-0	1	1	0	2	9	9.0
Murray, Gerald	1	0	7	7.0	0-0	.000				0-0	.000		0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Owens, Bobby	1	1	8	8.0	2-3	.667				0-0	.000		0	0.0	0-0	0	1	0	1	4	4.0
Pastorek, Jon	3	0	13	4.3	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	1	2	0.7	3-0	1	0	0	0	3	1.0
Plummer, Don	1	0	27	27.0	9-16	.562				1-1	1.000		7	7.0	3-0	1	3	0	0	19	19.0
Ross, Andre	1	0	8	8.0	2-4	.500				1-1	1.000		3	3.0	1-0	0	1	1	0	5	5.0
Sanders, Aerick	3	2	65	21.7	3-10	.300	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	7	9	16	5.3	9-0	1	2	1	3	6	2.0
Sharper, John	3	0	38	12.7	5-10	.500	4-8	.500	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.7	2-0	1	2	0	1	14	4.7
Shelton, Tim	4	0	71	17.8	9-21	.429	1-3	.333	6-10	.600	10	9	19	4.8	9-0	6	2	2	3	25	6.3
Slaughter, Marcus	1	1	38	38.0	5-8	.625	0-0	.000	3-5	.600	4	6	10	10.0	4-0	1	2	0	1	13	13.0
Sir, Steve	2	0	26	13.0	2-8	.250	2-8	.250	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.0	1-0	1	4	0	0	6	3.0
Smith, Brandon	1	0	3	3.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	1-0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
Smith, Bryce	3	0	3	1.0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Smith, Keith	1	1	38	38.0	3-12	.250				2-4	.500		0	0.0	4-0	13	5	0	3	8	8.0
Spain, Kyle	7	5	182	26.0	25-56	.446	8-21	.381	15-21	.714	7	20	18	2.6	12-0	9	14	3	9	73	10.4
Thomas, Matt	6	1	41	6.8	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	0-1	.000	1	5	6	1.0	2-0	4	1	0	2	0	0.0
Wade, Lorenzo	7	6	224	32.0	34-80	.425	3-15	.200	11-16	.688	4	31	35	5.0	14-0	22	21	4	8	82	11.7
Walton, Chris	1	0	12	12.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	5-1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
Wardrop, Ben	2	0	2	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Watson, Anthony	1	1	33	33.0	9-15	.600				1-4	.250		3	3.0	5-1	6	4	0	2	19	19.0
Welshans, Jeff	1	0	2	2.0	0-0	.000				0-1	.000		2	2.0	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
White, Billy	5	5	130	26.0	22-30	.733	0-0	.000	8-12	.667</											

## 2009-10 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	
5	Brian Carlwell	C	6-11	297	Jr.	TR	0.0	0.0	0.0	Maywood, Ill. (Proviso East High/Illinois)
42	Mehdi Cheriet	F	6-9	218	Sr.	1L	4.6	2.2	0.6	Tarare, France (Arizona Western College)
40	Kelvin Davis	G	6-3	220	Sr.	1L	2.5	1.8	0.5	Waterbury, Conn. (Waterbury Sacred Heart/College of So. Idaho)
20	Jason Deutchman	G	6-6	220	Jr.	1L	0.0	0.6	0.1	Los Angeles, Calif. (Santa Monica High/Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
23	D.J. Gay	G	6-0	167	Jr.	2L	6.0	1.5	1.8	Sun Valley, Calif. (Poly High)
15	Kawhi Leonard	F	6-7	225	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Riverside, Calif. (King High)
33	Ben Kneller	F	6-6	200	Sr.	HS	--	--	--	Westlake Village, Calif. (Westlake High)
3	Tyrone Shelley	G	6-6	225	So.	TR	15.1	5.8	0.9	San Diego, Calif. (Crawford High/Pepperdine)
24	Tim Shelton	F	6-7	248	So.	1L	7.9	4.7	1.3	Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West High)
22	Chase Tapley	G	6-2	205	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Sacramento, Calif. (Sacramento High)
4	Malcolm Thomas	F	6-9	215	Jr.	JC	12.5	8.8	1.6	San Diego, Calif. (Crawford High/San Diego City College)
32	Billy White	F	6-8	235	Jr.	2L	8.8	3.8	0.8	Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley High)
0	Alec Williams	F	6-6	268	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (Serra Catholic High)

## 2009-10 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	Alec Williams	F	6-6	268	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (Serra Catholic High)
3	Tyrone Shelley	G	6-6	225	So.	TR	15.1	5.8	0.9	San Diego, Calif. (Crawford High/Pepperdine)
4	Malcolm Thomas	F	6-9	215	Jr.	JC	12.5	8.8	1.6	San Diego, Calif. (Crawford High/San Diego City College)
5	Brian Carlwell	C	6-11	297	Jr.	TR	0.0	0.0	0.0	Maywood, Ill. (Proviso East High/Illinois)
15	Kawhi Leonard	F	6-7	225	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Riverside, Calif. (King High)
20	Jason Deutchman	G	6-6	220	Jr.	1L	0.0	0.6	0.1	Los Angeles, Calif. (Santa Monica High/Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
22	Chase Tapley	G	6-2	205	Fr.	HS	--	--	--	Sacramento, Calif. (Sacramento High)
23	D.J. Gay	G	6-0	167	Jr.	2L	6.0	1.5	1.8	Sun Valley, Calif. (Poly High)
24	Tim Shelton	F	6-7	248	So.	1L	7.9	4.7	1.3	Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West High)
32	Billy White	F	6-8	235	Jr.	2L	8.8	3.8	0.8	Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley High)
33	Ben Kneller	F	6-6	200	Sr.	HS	--	--	--	Westlake Village, Calif. (Westlake High)
40	Kelvin Davis	G	6-3	220	Sr.	1L	2.5	1.8	0.5	Waterbury, Conn. (Waterbury Sacred Heart/College of So. Idaho)
42	Mehdi Cheriet	F	6-9	218	Sr.	1L	4.6	2.2	0.6	Tarare, France (Arizona Western College)

<b>Head Coach:</b>	Steve Fisher (Illinois State, 1967)
<b>Assistant Head Coach:</b>	Brian Dutcher (Minnesota, 1982)
<b>Assistant Coaches:</b>	Justin Hutson (CS Bakersfield, 1994), Mark Fisher (Michigan, 2001)
<b>Director of Operations:</b>	Matt Soria (San Diego State, 2002)
<b>Director of Player Development:</b>	David Velasquez (San Diego State, 2007)
<b>Athletic Trainer:</b>	Mark Haines (Metropolitan State College, 1987)

## Eligible in 2010-11 Season

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Most Recent Div. I Season			Hometown (High School/Previous School)
							PPG	RPG	APG	
11	James Rahon	G	6-5	202	So.	TR	11.3	1.7	1.3	San Diego, Calif. (Torrey Pines High)

► Pronunciations	By Class	Sophomores (2)	► By Position	Forwards (7)
Mehdi Cheriet	<b>Seniors (3)</b>	Tyrone Shelley, Tim Shelton	<b>Guards (5)</b>	Mehdi Cheriet, Kawhi Leonard, Ben Kneller, Tim Shelton, Malcolm Thomas, Billy White, Alec Williams
Meh-DEE Shell-yet	Kelvin Davis, Mehdi Cheriet, Ben Kneller	<b>Freshmen (3)</b>	Kelvin Davis, Jason Deutchman, D.J. Gay, Tyrone Shelley, Chase Tapley	
Jason Deutchman	<b>Juniors (5)</b>	Kawhi Leonard, Chase Tapley, Alec Williams		<b>Centers (1)</b>
Jason DOY-tch-man	Brian Carlwell, Jason Deutchman, D.J. Gay, Malcolm Thomas, Billy White			Brian Carlwell
Kawhi Leonard				
KUH-Why Leonard				
Ben Kneller				
Ben Kuh-NELL-er				
Chase Tapley				
Chase TAP-lee				

# SDSU Broadcast Roster



**# 0**  
**ALEC WILLIAMS**

Forward  
6-6, 268, Freshman-HS  
San Juan Capistrano, Calif.  
JSerra High

PPG: 1.9 RPG: 1.2 APG: 0.3  
FG%: 44.4 3FG: 40.0 FT%: 83.3



**# 3**  
**TYRONE SHELLEY**

Guard  
6-6, 225, Sophomore-TR  
San Diego, Calif.  
Pepperdine

PPG: 6.3 RPG: 3.6 APG: 0.8  
FG%: 44.4 3FG: 26.2 FT%: 52.5



**# 4**  
**MALCOLM THOMAS**

Forward  
6-9, 215, Junior-JC  
San Diego, Calif.  
San Diego City College

PPG: 11.0 RPG: 7.8 APG: 2.2  
FG%: 54.8 3FG: 40.0 FT%: 52.2



**# 5**  
**BRIAN CARLWELL**

Center  
6-11, 297, Junior-TR  
Maywood, Ill.  
Illinois

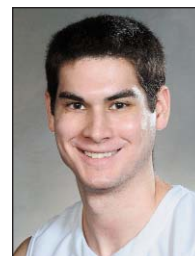
PPG: 4.8 RPG: 2.7 APG: 0.5  
FG%: 62.4 3FG: 100.0 FT%: 55.6



**# 15**  
**KAWHI LEONARD**

Forward  
6-7, 225, Freshman-HS  
Riverside, Calif.  
King High

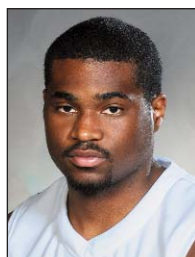
PPG: 12.8 RPG: 9.9 APG: 1.9  
FG%: 46.0 3FG: 21.6 FT%: 72.2



**# 20**  
**JASON DEUTCHMAN**

Guard  
6-6, 220, Junior-1L  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee

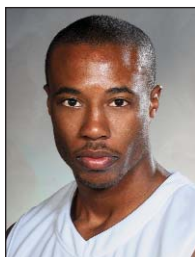
PPG: 1.7 RPG: 0.7 APG: 0.0  
FG%: 50.0 3FG: 00.0 FT%: 75.0



**# 22**  
**CHASE TAPLEY**

Guard  
6-2, 205, Freshman-HS  
Sacramento, Calif.  
Sacramento High

PPG: 7.8 RPG: 2.3 APG: 2.2  
FG%: 50.5 3FG: 38.9 FT%: 71.4



**# 23**  
**D.J. GAY**

Guard  
6-0, 167, Junior-2L  
Sun Valley, Calif.  
Poly High

PPG: 10.3 RPG: 2.2 APG: 3.2  
FG%: 36.6 3FG: 38.3 FT%: 70.2



**# 24**  
**TIM SHELTON**

Forward  
6-7, 248, Sophomore-1L  
Fresno, Calif.  
Clovis West High

PPG: 3.3 RPG: 2.0 APG: 1.4  
FG%: 34.6 3FG: 44.4 FT%: 44.4



**# 32**  
**BILLY WHITE**

Forward  
6-8, 235, Junior-2L  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
Green Valley High

PPG: 11.2 RPG: 4.4 APG: 1.4  
FG%: 58.8 3FG: 28.6 FT%: 63.5



**# 33**  
**BEN KNELLER**

Forward  
6-6, 200, Senior-HS  
Westlake Village, Calif.  
Westlake High

PPG: 0.5 RPG: 0.5 APG: 0.0  
FG%: 00.0 3FG: 00.0 FT%: 50.0



**# 40**  
**KELVIN DAVIS**

Guard  
6-3, 220, Senior-1L  
Waterbury, Conn.  
College of Southern Idaho

PPG: 6.5 RPG: 1.3 APG: 1.1  
FG%: 39.0 3FG: 28.0 FT%: 66.0



**Head Coach**  
**STEVE FISHER**

- - 19th full season as head coach • 382-230
- - 11th year at San Diego State • 198-148
- - 1989 NCAA champion
- - 3 NCAA Championship game appearances
- - 10 NCAA Tournament appearances
- - 16 postseason appearances

## San Diego State Coaches and Staff

Brian Dutcher, assistant head coach  
Justin Hutson, assistant coach  
Mark Fisher, assistant coach  
Matt Soria, director of basketball operations  
David Velasquez, dir. of player development  
Mark Haines, athletic trainer



# Game 1

San Diego State 77  
UC San Diego 52

Nov. 14, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 5,520

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State overcame a sluggish first-half showing and shot nearly 65 percent from the field in the second half to defeat UC San Diego, 77-52, in the Aztecs' season opener.

Newcomer Malcolm Thomas carried San Diego State on this afternoon with his 20 points on 8-of-11 shooting, nine rebounds and two blocks. Fellow newcomer Chase Tapley, meanwhile, finished with 11 points and Kelvin Davis had 10 in a starting role.

Despite shooting 53.8 percent in the first half, the Aztecs were nursing a 31-28 lead at halftime mainly due to their 12 turnovers and 2-for-8 performance at the free-throw line.

In the second half, it was a significantly different story as San Diego State came out on fire, scoring the first 16 points to increase its lead to 19.

With the game comfortably in hand, the Aztecs went on another scoring binge, this time an 11-3 run, to move ahead by 23 with less than four minutes left and eventually cruised to the finish line.

For the game, SDSU shot 59.3 percent from the field, including 64.3 percent in the second half, and outrebounded the Tritons, 43-28. The Aztecs also dominated points in the paint (46-16) and fast-break points (10-0).

UC San Diego was led by Tyler Acevedo, who had 14 points off the bench. Jordan Lawley finished with nine points, while Casey Ryan added eight points and eight rebounds.

UCSD	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Krizman	*15	0-2	0-1	2-2	2	1	0 0	0	1	2
Hatch	*17	0-4	0-0	2-2	2	2	0 2	0	0	0
Wey	*23	2-6	1-4	0-1	2	1	2 3	0	1	5
Lawley	*22	4-11	1-7	0-2	1	3	0 3	0	1	9
Ryan	*27	4-6	0-1	0-0	8	1	4 2	0	0	8
Tarabilida	*16	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	1	1 1	0	0	2
Alvari	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Brue	17	3-7	0-0	0-0	3	1	0 1	0	0	6
Acevedo	24	5-17	4-15	0-0	2	0	1 0	0	1	14
McGrath	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Porter	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Browning	16	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	1	0 0	0	1	2
Bohanan	8	1-3	0-1	0-0	0	4	2 0	0	1	2
Wheeler	7	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	0 2	0	0	2
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-64</b>	<b>6-30</b>	<b>2-7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10 14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*29	8-11	0-0	4-8	9	2	1 5	2	1	20
Carlwell	*27	4-7	0-0	1-2	5	0	0 0	1	2	9
Leonard	*28	4-7	0-0	0-0	8	1	3 6	0	1	8
Gay	*30	2-7	0-3	1-2	4	2	4 5	0	2	5
Davis	*25	3-5	2-4	2-3	3	1	3 2	0	1	10
Williams	21	3-4	0-0	0-0	7	3	1 1	0	0	6
Horton	12	2-4	0-0	0-3	1	1	1 0	0	0	4
Deutchman	3	1-1	0-0	2-2	1	0	0 0	0	0	4
Tapley	25	5-8	1-2	0-0	3	1	3 1	0	2	11
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>32-54</b>	<b>3-9</b>	<b>10-20</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16 20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>77</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 31, UC San Diego 28. **FG %:** San Diego State 59.3, UC San Diego 34.4. **3FG%:** San Diego State 33.3, UC San Diego 20.0. **FT%:** San Diego State 50.0, UC San Diego 28.6. **Officials:** Bill Gracey, Tony Padilla, Casey McClellan. **Technical:** None.



# Game 2

Saint Mary's 80  
San Diego State 58

Nov. 16, 2009 ♦ Moraga, Calif.  
McKeon Pavilion ♦ Att.: 2,774

MORAGA, Calif. - San Diego State dropped an 80-58 decision at Saint Mary's in what could have been the latest tip time in school history, 11 p.m. PT, as the Aztecs and Gaels participated in ESPN's College Hoops Tip-Off Marathon.

SDSU opened the game with a 1-0 lead on a free throw by Malcolm Thomas and never led again as Saint Mary's and more specifically, Mickey McConnell, came out on fire and never looked back.

McConnell went 5-for-5 from three-point range in the first half alone to lead a Gael attack that featured three players with eight points or more at halftime. McConnell finished the half with 17 points, while Matthew Dellavedova and Omar Samhan each had eight. Samhan also had 12 boards as his team enjoyed a 42-21 lead at the break.

With a steep hill to climb, San Diego State chipped away at the lead and came within 12 points with 7:34 to go after Thomas and Billy White took over the game. The duo scored all of SDSU's 14 points in a six-plus minute stretch, with White scoring 10 of the 14.

But like most of the game, the Gaels had an answer for the Aztecs and responded with a 14-3 run to increase their lead to 23 with 3:24 to go to effectively put the game away.

Thomas finished with 14 points and eight rebounds, while White and D.J. Gay each had 10. For Saint Mary's, McConnell had a game-high 24 points and seven assists. Dellavedova and Samhan, meanwhile, had 17 apiece with Samhan adding 16 rebounds, four assists and five blocked shots.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*33	4-7	0-0	6-8	8	3	1 4	0	0	14
Carlwell	*18	2-3	0-0	2-2	1	1	0 0	0	1	6
Leonard	*22	2-9	0-2	0-0	7	4	0 2	0	1	4
Gay	*34	3-9	2-3	2-2	1	1	3 1	0	1	10
Davis	*21	2-3	1-1	0-0	2	2	0 1	0	0	5
Williams	4	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Shelley	23	1-7	0-1	4-6	6	0	2 3	1	2	6
Horton	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Tapley	18	1-6	1-4	0-0	1	1	1 0	0	1	3
White	25	5-11	0-0	0-2	7	4	0 3	1	0	10
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-56</b>	<b>4-12</b>	<b>14-20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7 14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>58</b>

SMC	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Dellavedova	*32	5-12	3-9	4-4	4	2	3 3	0	3	17
Allen	*19	3-3	1-1	0-0	3	3	0 2	1	0	7
Hunter	*29	1-8	0-2	0-2	2	2	1 1	0	0	2
McConnell	*38	8-14	6-8	2-2	2	0	7 1	0	3	24
Samhan	*33	6-14	0-0	5-7	16	1	4 2	5	1	17
Page	2	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	3
Young	18	0-1	0-0	0-0	5	5	0 0	3	1	0
Steindl	18	2-6	2-6	0-0	1	4	1 1	0	0	6
Levesque	2	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Anderson	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Williams	8	2-4	0-1	0-0	5	1	1 0	1	1	4
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28-65</b>	<b>13-29</b>	<b>11-15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17 10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>80</b>

**Halftime:** Saint Mary's 42, San Diego State 21. **FG %:** Saint Mary's 43.1, San Diego State 35.7. **3FG%:** Saint Mary's 44.8, San Diego State 33.3. **FT%:** Saint Mary's 73.3, San Diego State 70.0. **Officials:** Mike Reed, Frank Harvey, Bruce Hicks. **Technical:** None.



# Game 3

San Diego State 86  
Santa Clara 53

Nov. 19, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 5,401

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State was a completely different team from its performance in its previous game at Saint Mary's as the Aztecs thoroughly dominated Santa Clara, 86-53, in the first game of the West Coast Classic.

Five players scored in double figures and were led by Billy White's 17. D.J. Gay, Tyrone Shelley and Chase Tapley each had 12, while Kelvin Davis had 11. Kawhi Leonard, meanwhile, narrowly posted a double-double after finishing with nine points and a career-high 13 rebounds.

The game was a tight affair with the margin never rising above four points for the first 10-and-a-half minutes. But a 17-0 Aztec run opened the game up and soon SDSU found itself ahead by 17 with six minutes to play in the first half. The Aztecs wound up going into the locker room up 38-22.

In the second period, both teams traded a pair of buckets with Gay knocking down San Diego State's second field goal. The junior's basket spurred what would be the deciding run as the Aztecs ran off 18 straight points and 23 of the next 25 to pull ahead, 61-28 with 11:34 remaining in regulation.

Nearly seven minutes later, SDSU enjoyed the first of its two 40-point leads after Gay connected on a jumper. The second 40-point advantage came with 3:55 left in the game when Tapley knocked down a three off a feed from Bryan Horton.

In the final minutes, Santa Clara outscored the Aztecs, 11-4, to provide the final margin.

While San Diego State had five players score in double figures, Santa Clara had three, led by Niyi Harrison's 14.

SCU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Dowdell	*25	1-3	0-0	4-4	6	3	1 0	1	0	6
Trasolini	*31	5-14	0-2	0-0	8	3	0 4	2	2	10
Payne	*32	2-9	0-0	3-3	5	1	3 3	1	4	7
Smith	*29	0-12	0-4	2-2	3	3	3 3	0	0	2
Cowels	*31	4-14	3-10	0-0	3	1	2 5	0	1	11
Alexander	11	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	1 1	0	0	0
Santos	15	1-2	1-1	0-0	1	2	0 2	0	0	3
Harrison	23	5-9	0-0	4-6	7	0	0 1	0	0	14
Bach	3	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Team					4					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-65</b>	<b>4-19</b>	<b>13-16</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10 19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Carlwell	*19	3-5	0-0	0-0	6	5	0 4	0	1	6
Leonard	*28	4-9	1-4	0-0	13	1	4 1	0	2	9
White	*26	7-11	0-0	3-7	8	2	1 0	1	2	17
Gay	*28	5-11	0-4	2-2	2	1	4 3	0	3	12
Davis	*16	4-8	3-6	0-0	2	3	0 1	1	1	11
Williams	12	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	1 0	0	0	1
Shelley	21	4-10	2-6	2-6	4	3	1 1	1	1	12
Thomas	20	3-5	0-0	0-0	4	0	3 1	3	0	6
Horton	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1 1	0	0	0
Deutchman	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Tapley	22	5-6	2-2	0-0	2	1	1 1	0	0	12
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>35-66</b>	<b>8-22</b>	<b>8-17</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16 14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>86</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 38, Santa Clara 22. **FG %:** San Diego State 53.0, Santa Clara 27.7. **3FG%:** San Diego State 36.4, Santa Clara 21.1. **FT%:** Santa Clara 81.3, San Diego State 47.1. **Officials:** David Hall, Mark Reischling, Larry Spaulding. **Technical:** None.



# Game 4

San Diego State 62  
Fresno State 58

Nov. 23, 2009 ♦ Fresno, Calif.  
Save Mart Center ♦ Att.: 8,041

FRESNO, Calif. - SDSU stayed perfect in West Coast Classic action and earned its first road victory of the season with its 62-58 win over Fresno State.

Billy White continued his stellar play of late by connecting on 8-of-10 field goals en route to a season-high 22 points, with 18 coming in the second half. The junior also grabbed a team-best eight rebounds, including six on the offensive end. Tyrone Shelley, meanwhile, contributed 17 points and six rebounds.

In the first half, it looked as if the Aztecs would run away with the game, jumping out to an 8-0 lead. That proved to be not the case as the Bulldogs methodically chipped away and pulled even at 16 with 9:40 left in the period thanks to eight straight Fresno State points, including a pair of three-pointers by Mike Ladd.

Soon after the Bulldogs evened the score, SDSU answered with a 7-2 run to pull ahead by five, but Fresno State outscored the visitors, 11-2, to go into the half up, 29-25.

Right out of the gate in the second half, Sylvester Seay gave the Bulldogs their biggest lead of the game at 31-25. The Aztecs, however, hung around and took a 35-33 lead after Shelley made a three. The game was back-and-forth for the rest of the half with neither team enjoying a lead of more than five points.

With under a minute to play in regulation, the game was tied at 58, but all that changed as White continued to punish the Bulldogs on the offensive glass. After a D.J. Gay miss, White grabbed the rebound and was fouled on the putback. The junior knocked down both attempts, giving SDSU a 60-58 lead. After a Fresno State miss on the other end, the Bulldogs were forced to foul Shelley, who calmly made both free throws with under three seconds to play to give the Aztecs the win.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*23	0-1	0-0	3-6	3	3	1 2	0	2	3
Leonard	*24	2-9	0-3	1-2	7	3	0 0	1	3	5
White	*35	8-10	0-0	6-6	8	0	1 2	0	1	22
Shelley	*31	5-12	4-8	3-3	6	2	2 4	0	0	17
Gay	*37	2-12	2-9	0-0	6	2	6 1	0	1	6
Carlwell	21	2-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	0 0	0	0	4
Tapley	6	0-2	0-1	0-0	0	2	0 1	0	0	0
Davis	23	2-7	1-4	0-0	2	0	1 2	0	1	5
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>21-55</b>	<b>7-25</b>	<b>13-17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11 12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>

FS	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
George	*40	5-11	0-2	2-2	4	2	5 6	0	2	12
Seay	*31	3-10	0-4	2-2	1	5	2 1	1	3	8
Smith	*26	8-11	0-0	0-2	10	2	1 1	1	1	16
Ladd	*39	5-11	4-6	0-0	3	1	2 0	0	1	14
Sperling	*11	1-1	0-0	0-1	1	1	2 0	0	0	2
Shepp	31	1-4	1-4	0-0	5	0	6 4	0	0	3
Golubovic	22	1-3	0-2	1-1	2	4	0 1	0	0	3
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-51</b>	<b>5-18</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18 14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58</b>

**Halftime:** Fresno State 29, San Diego State 25. **FG %:** Fresno State 47.1, San Diego State 38.2. **3FG%:** San Diego State 28.0, Fresno State 27.8. **FT%:** San Diego State 76.5, Fresno State 62.5. **Officials:** Randy McCall, Tom O'Neil, Mike Reed. **Technical:** None.



# Game 5

Pacific 71  
San Diego State 63

Nov. 25, 2009 ♦ Stockton, Calif.  
Spanos Center ♦ Att.: 2,705

STOCKTON, Calif. - San Diego State fell behind late in the first half, cut the lead to three in the second half, but could not complete the comeback as it fell at Pacific, 71-63, in the third game of the West Coast Classic.

The Tigers held a lead for nearly the first 15 minutes of the first half until Billy White's layup gave the Aztecs a 22-21 lead. Both teams traded points over the next 1:24, including Tyrone Shelley's three to put SDSU up 28-27 with 4:27 to go.

The Aztec advantage was short-lived, however, as the Tigers blitzed the visitors with numerous run-outs that were converted for layups or dunks. With Pacific ahead by one on a Nyika Williams layup, Williams found himself on a fast break with Brian Carlwell trailing the play. As the SDSU center went to block the shot, he hit the backboard and was assessed a technical foul. With the basket allowed, the Tigers hit the two technical free throws and Pacific was well on its way to closing out the first half on a 15-1 run and a 42-29 lead.

In the second half, the Aztecs came out aggressive and cut the UOP lead to four, 52-48, with 8:38 to go, but gave up a 6-0 Tiger spurt. San Diego State roared back again, this time cutting its deficit to three at 61-58 with 4:29 to play, but immediately gave up a dunk and a layup within a span of 18 seconds. SDSU would not get closer than six points the rest of the way as Pacific emerged with the eight-point win.

For the second straight game, White posted a 20-point effort, this time finishing with 20 points and knocking down his first two three-pointers of his career. D.J. Gay and Tyrone Shelley, meanwhile, contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*37	2-7	0-0	4-8	8	3	0 1	1	1	8
Leonard	*31	1-5	0-3	4-4	3	3	2 2	0	0	6
White	*32	8-14	2-2	2-2	4	4	1 0	1	2	20
Shelley	*27	4-7	2-4	0-0	2	2	0 2	0	1	10
Gay	*26	5-10	1-4	0-0	2	1	1 2	0	3	11
Williams	3	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Carlwell	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	3	0 1	0	0	0
Horton	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Tapley	18	2-4	1-3	0-0	4	2	3 1	0	0	5
Davis	17	1-4	1-3	0-1	0	4	2 1	0	0	3
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-53</b>	<b>7-20</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9 10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>

UOP	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Ford	*31	3-5	0-0	0-0	9	4	5 3	1	1	6
Nunnally	*22	4-7	0-0	1-3	5	2	0 2	0	0	9
Willard	*24	2-5	0-1	3-4	5	4	0 0	0	0	7
Neufville	*28	3-6	0-1	0-0	0	1	3 1	0	1	6
Smith	*35	6-10	2-3	2-4	5	0	0 1	0	1	16
Young	12	1-3	0-0	2-2	1	0	2 2	0	1	4
Eveland	19	0-3	0-2	1-2	3	0	2 2	2	0	1
Huddleston	14	2-5	2-5	4-4	0	3	0 0	0	0	10
Williams	15	4-5	0-0	4-4	3	2	0 0	0	1	12
Team					4					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-51</b>	<b>5-18</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18 14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58</b>

**Halftime:** Pacific 42, San Diego State 29. **FG %:** Pacific 51.0, San Diego State 43.4. **3FG%:** San Diego State 35.0, Pacific 33.3. **FT%:** Pacific 73.9, San Diego State 66.7. **Officials:** Duane Allen, Newton Chellette, Martin Cota. **Technical:** Brian Carlwell - San Diego State.



# Game 6

San Diego State 89  
Northern Arizona 48

Nov. 28, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 4,390

SAN DIEGO - SDSU stopped its losing streak at one and thoroughly beat Northern Arizona at home, 89-48, in the final game of the West Coast Classic.

Six players scored in double figures for the Aztecs, including Malcolm Thomas, who had his first double-double at SDSU after finishing with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Kawhi Leonard also notched his first career double-double with 10 points and 10 boards. Meanwhile, Tyrone Shelley had 17 points, Billy White added 12 and Chase Tapley and D.J. Gay each had 11.

The game was nearly over before it started as San Diego State jumped out to a 23-2 lead and never looked back. Northern Arizona, which got its two points on free throws less than 1:30 into the game, made its first field goal, a three-pointer, with 11:35 remaining in the first half. In fact, the Lumberjacks didn't reach double digits until Cameron Jones drilled a jumper with 6:23 left in the first half. At the end of one period, the Aztecs enjoyed a 45-18 lead.

After halftime, NAU trimmed its deficit to 26 points after four minutes of action, but would not get any closer. San Diego State continued to get easy looks as the game progressed and the lead eventually swelled to as many as 45 in the final minutes.

The 41-point margin of victory was the third-largest in school history and was due mostly in part to the Aztecs dominance in points in the paint (60-16), points off turnovers (28-4), second-chance points (23-10) and fastbreak points (23-0).

Cameron Jones and DeAngelo Jones led the Lumberjacks with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

NAU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Jones, D.	*25	2-8	0-3	6-6	3	1	0 1	0	1	10
Lepley	*10	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	5	0 2	1	0	0
Jones, C.	*36	4-11	0-3	4-4	3	2	1 4	0	2	12
Rogers	*30	1-9	1-6	0-0	4	1	1 3	0	1	3
Saldivar	*18	2-4	2-4	0-0	1	3	0 0	0	0	6
Dunn	5	0-2	0-0	2-2	0	0	0 1	0	0	2
Olubuyi	22	1-3	0-1	0-1	1	2	1 2	0	1	2
Flores	9	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Larson	31	1-6	0-4	6-6	5	1	3 3	0	0	8
Wallace	14	2-4	1-2	0-0	1	4	0 0	0	0	5
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>13-49</b>	<b>4-24</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6 16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*27	10-11	0-0	1-3	10	2	3 0	1	1	21
White	*17	4-4	0-0	4-4	2	2	1 3	1	2	12
Tapley	*22	5-7	1-3	0-0	2	1	5 0	0	1	11
Gay	*25	1-4	0-2	1-2	6	1	7 1	0	0	3
Davis	*17	3-7	1-5	4-6	2	3	0 1	0	1	11
Williams	7	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Shelley	19	8-10	1-3	0-2	1	2	2 0	0	4	17
Carlwell	23	1-4	0-0	0-1	4	4	0 1	0	0	2
Horton	10	0-1	0-1	1-2	1	1	0 0	1	1	1
Leonard	29	4-13	0-2	2-2	10	2	1 1	1	2	10
Deutschman	4	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	0	0 0	0	0	2
Team					4					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>36-64</b>	<b>3-16</b>	<b>14-24</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7 19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>89</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 45, Northern Arizona 18. **FG %:** San Diego State 56.3, Northern Arizona 26.5. **3FG%:** San Diego State 18.8, Northern Arizona 16.7. **FT%:** Northern Arizona 94.7, San Diego State 58.3. **Officials:** Scott Thornley, Winston Stith, Shawn Lehig. **Technical:** None.



# Game 7

**San Diego State 69  
San Diego 62 (ot)**  
Dec. 2, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Jenny Craig Pavilion ♦ Att.: 4,662

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State won its fourth straight in the series and second in a row on the San Diego campus as the Aztecs defeated the Toreros in overtime, 69-62.

SDSU emerged with its second consecutive decision on USD soil since claiming back-to-back road wins on Dec. 9, 1967 and Feb. 3, 1970. The four-game winning streak, meanwhile, is San Diego State's longest since the early 1980s.

D.J. Gay improved his personal record to 3-0 vs. San Diego and enjoyed a career day as he finished with a career-high 22 points. Gay, who played 41 minutes, also connected on a season-high four three-pointers and a career-best six free throws.

Joining Gay in the double-figure scoring column was Tyrone Shelley, who finished with 10 points, six rebounds, three assists, three blocks and three steals.

The game had a promising start for the Aztecs as they opened the contest with a 6-0 lead that eventually swelled to 15-7 mid-way through the period. USD, however, answered with a 21-12 run to end the half to go into the locker room up, 28-27.

After regrouping, San Diego State scored the first 13 points of the second half to open up a 12-point lead. But like the first 20 minutes, the Toreros stormed back and responded with a 21-8 run to give the home-standing club a 49-48 lead, which eventually turned into a 52-40 draw at the end of regulation.

In the extra session, it was all Aztecs early again as they scored the first eight points. San Diego never got closer than five points the rest of the way and Gay made five of his six free throws en route to seven points in overtime to seal the game for SDSU.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*38	4-8	0-0	0-0	10	4	0	0	1	1	8	
Leonard	*37	4-7	0-1	0-1	7	1	2	2	0	2	8	
White	*43	4-5	0-1	0-3	9	3	1	3	2	2	8	
Shelley	*30	3-9	0-4	4-4	6	0	3	1	3	3	10	
Gay	*41	6-14	4-8	6-8	1	2	1	2	0	0	22	
Carlwell	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	
Tapley	15	3-5	0-2	0-0	2	1	0	1	0	0	6	
Davis	17	2-3	1-2	2-2	1	1	1	2	0	0	7	
Team					2							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>26-51</b>	<b>5-18</b>	<b>12-18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>69</b>	

USD	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Lewis	*35	2-9	1-4	0-2	6	2	1	0	0	1	5	
Mafra	*18	2-6	0-0	1-1	3	2	0	1	1	0	5	
Johnson	*42	6-13	4-8	5-6	2	1	1	3	0	1	21	
Dorr	*34	5-8	3-6	0-0	3	5	1	0	0	1	13	
Jackson	*41	3-10	2-4	2-2	1	3	5	1	0	4	10	
Ginty	8	1-3	1-2	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	
McCullum	11	0-3	0-1	0-0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	
Houston	32	2-9	0-0	1-2	11	1	0	3	1	0	5	
Manresa	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Team					6							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>21-61</b>	<b>11-25</b>	<b>9-13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>	

**Halftime:** San Diego 28, San Diego State 27. **End of Regulation:** San Diego State 52, San Diego 52. **FG %:** San Diego State 51.0, San Diego 34.4. **3FG%:** San Diego 44.0, San Diego State 27.8. **FT%:** San Diego 69.2, San Diego State 66.7. **Officials:** Mark Reischling, Frank Harvey, Milt Stowe. **Technical:** None.



# Game 8

**San Diego State 69  
UC Santa Barbara 61**  
Dec. 5, 2009 ♦ Santa Barbara, Calif.  
The Thunderdome ♦ Att.: 2,513

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - San Diego State had four players score in double figures and shot over 50 percent from the field for the third straight game as it downed UC Santa Barbara on the road, 69-61, at The Thunderdome.

Tyrone Shelley led the Aztecs with 17 points and eight rebounds, while Malcolm Thomas added 15 points. Kawhi Leonard and D.J. Gay, meanwhile, scored 13 apiece with Leonard also grabbing a game-high nine rebounds.

On multiple occasions, San Diego State looked as if it was going to run away with the game. First, the Aztecs opened up a 21-9 lead only to have UCSB answer with a 15-7 run to end the half, which cut the SDSU lead to 28-26 at halftime.

Coming out of the break, San Diego State went on a 17-5 run to open the second half and increase its lead to 41-31. But like the first half, the Gauchos put together a 21-12 scoring effort to get within one at 53-52 with 9:46 to play.

Less than three minutes later, SDSU went up again, this time by a score of 62-53, but UC Santa Barbara stormed back once more. The Gauchos got to within 62-59 with 1:32 left in the game thanks to six unanswered points.

In the end, San Diego State, however, did what it could not do throughout the game as it stopped the UCSB attack in the final minutes. The Aztecs closed the game on a 7-2 run to provide the final margin and emerge with the eight-point win.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*36	6-9	0-0	3-5	4	3	3	1	1	0	15	
Leonard	*31	6-9	1-3	0-0	9	3	2	1	2	0	13	
White	*23	1-2	0-0	2-2	3	4	1	3	0	1	4	
Shelley	*29	7-12	1-4	2-5	8	0	2	1	0	2	17	
Gay	*33	4-8	3-5	2-3	1	1	1	7	0	0	13	
Carlwell	15	2-2	0-0	0-1	3	2	1	1	2	0	4	
Tapley	22	1-5	0-2	1-2	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	
Davis	11	0-6	0-6	0-0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	
Team					5							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-56</b>	<b>4-12</b>	<b>14-20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>58</b>	

UCSB	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Serna	*23	1-4	0-0	2-2	3	4	1	2	0	1	4	
Phippen	*19	1-4	0-1	1-2	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	
Nunnally	*17	1-7	0-2	2-2	2	4	1	1	0	1	4	
Brew, W.	*23	2-6	1-2	0-0	5	2	3	2	0	2	5	
Johnson	*29	2-6	1-3	5-10	3	1	0	2	0	1	10	
Brew, C.	18	4-6	0-0	3-4	2	0	1	1	0	3	11	
Weiner	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Roemer	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Joyner	19	0-2	0-1	0-0	3	1	3	2	0	0	0	
Devenny	12	0-1	0-0	2-2	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Pastorek	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Powell	23	7-13	6-9	0-0	3	3	1	1	0	0	20	
Somogyi	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Team					5							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28-65</b>	<b>13-29</b>	<b>11-15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>80</b>	

**Halftime:** San Diego State 28, UC Santa Barbara 26. **FG %:** San Diego State 50.9, UC Santa Barbara 37.3. **3FG%:** UC Santa Barbara 44.4, San Diego State 25.0. **FT%:** UC Santa Barbara 68.2, San Diego State 55.6. **Officials:** Dick Cartmell, Mike Scyphers, Newton Chelette. **Technical:** None.



# Game 9

**San Diego State 82  
Cal State Fullerton 68**  
Dec. 9, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 4,774

SAN DIEGO - Despite allowing Cal State Fullerton to shoot a higher percentage from the field and from three-point distance, San Diego State still managed to defeat the Titans, 82-68, to record its fourth straight victory.

The Aztecs outrebounded the visiting Big West school, 41-25, and Kawhi Leonard almost single-handedly outrebounded their entire squad. The freshman enjoyed a fantastic game grabbing a game-high 18 rebounds, scoring a career-high 23 points and adding a personal-best five assists. The double-double was his second of his career and second in his last four games.

Out of the gate, SDSU raced out to a 14-7 lead, but Fullerton cut the lead to three less than two minutes later. The Aztecs, however, closed the half on a strong note thanks to a 14-6 run and finished the opening 20 minutes with a 41-25 advantage.

In the second half, the Aztecs continued its offensive assault and extended their lead to 22 points at 58-36 with 12:39 left in the game. A 10-4 Titan run later in the game brought the visitors to within 13 with just under seven minutes to play, but that would be as close as Fullerton would get the rest of the way.

In addition to Leonard, three other Aztecs scored in double figures. Billy White had 14 points, while Chase Tapley and Brian Carwell each had 10. Carwell's 10 marked a career high.

For the game, Cal State Fullerton shot 51.1 percent from the field and 52.9 from three. On the flip side, SDSU shot 50.8 from the floor and 50.0 from behind the arc.

CSF	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Anderson	*26	1-3	0-0	0-0	4	2	1	5	0	1	2	
Johnson	*28	7-13	2-2	3-3	5	5	0	2	0	1	19	
Webster	*24	4-6	0-0	0-0	5	3	0	2	3	1	8	
Thompson	*12	3-4	1-1	0-0	3	2	1	1	0	0	7	
Streeter	*24	3-4	1-2	5-5	1	1	2	2	0	0	12	
Peltier	27	4-12	3-9	0-0	1	3	2	0	0	0	11	
McGuire	16	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	
Chin	30	2-3	2-3	3-5	3	4	5	2	0	0	9	
Robinson	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Miller	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Guisse	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Team					1					1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-47</b>	<b>9-17</b>	<b>11-13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>	

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*25	3-12	0-0	3-7	7	2	0	0	1	0	9	
Leonard	*38	9-17	0-3	5-10	18	2	5	2	1	2	23	
White	*28	6-7	1-1	1-5	5	3	4	5	0	2	14	
Shelley	*24	2-5	1-2	0-3	2	2	1	3	0	2	5	
Gay	*33	3-7	2-4	0-0	0	1	4	0	0	2	8	
Williams	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Carlwell	17	3-3	0-0	4-7	4	3	0	0	0	0	10	
Horton	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tapley	26	4-8	2-3	0-0	2	1	4	1	1	1	10	
Shelton	5	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	
Team					3							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>31-61</b>	<b>7-14</b>	<b>13-32</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>82</b>	

**Halftime:** San Diego State 41, Cal State Fullerton 25. **FG %:** Cal State Fullerton 51.1, San Diego State 50.8. **3FG%:** Cal State Fullerton 52.9, San Diego State 50.0. **FT%:** Cal State Fullerton 84.6, San Diego State 40.6. **Officials:** Mike Scyphers, Tony Padilla, Bobby McRoy. **Technical:** None.



# Game 10

San Diego State 63  
Arizona 46

Dec. 12, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 12,414

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State had lost seven straight to Arizona and had not beaten the school since 1983, but all of that changed when the Aztecs beat the Wildcats in convincing fashion, 63-46, in front of a sellout crowd of 12,414 at Viejas Arena.

Freshman Kawhi Leonard led all players with 13 points and 12 rebounds, his second double-double in as many games, and D.J. Gay added 12 points for the homestanding Aztecs.

San Diego State scored the first five points of the game and never looked back. In the first nine minutes of the game, Arizona managed to tie the score on two different occasions, but the Aztecs had an answer each time. With the score knotted at 14, SDSU scored nine unanswered points and closed the half on a 17-6 run to enter the locker room ahead, 33-20.

The Aztecs enjoyed a double-figure lead thanks in large part to the effort of Leonard, who had nine rebounds, including seven on the offensive side. In contrast, the Wildcats only had 15 total rebounds to their credit and just five off the offensive glass.

In the second half, it was all San Diego State as the Aztecs never allowed their lead to shrink to single digits. Arizona got to within 11 with 18:12 left in regulation, but that was all the visitors had left in the tank as SDSU cruised to the 17-point victory.

The win was San Diego State's fifth in a row and 10 straight at home. The Aztecs never trailed and it extended their streak to 153 minutes, 3 seconds without facing a deficit at home.

Arizona's 46 points, meanwhile, was its lowest scoring output since netting 41 on March 15, 1985, a streak which covered 801 games.

ARIZ	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Williams	*31	4-9	0-0	5-6	9	3	1 3	2	1	13
Home	*32	3-11	0-4	0-2	5	2	0 3	0	1	6
Hill	*33	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	0	2 3	0	0	2
Wise, N.	*32	2-9	0-2	0-0	1	1	4 2	0	1	4
Fogg	*24	1-4	1-1	0-0	3	2	3 0	0	0	3
Natyazhko	8	1-3	0-1	0-0	0	3	0 2	0	0	2
Judkins	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0 1	0	0	0
Jones	21	4-6	1-2	2-4	0	1	0 0	0	1	11
Wise, D.	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Shumpert	1	0-0	0-0	2-2	1	0	0 0	0	0	2
Jacobson	10	0-0	0-0	3-4	0	1	0 2	0	0	3
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>16-45</b>	<b>2-10</b>	<b>12-18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10 16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*32	2-	80-0	2-4	5	4	1 3	3	2	6
Leonard	*35	6-14	1-3	0-0	12	3	2 3	0	1	13
White	*29	3-4	1-1	0-0	2	3	0 4	2	0	7
Shelley	*23	4-8	0-2	1-1	4	2	1 3	3	3	9
Gay	*33	5-11	1-4	1-1	1	1	2 2	0	2	12
Carlwell	12	2-3	0-0	1-2	4	2	0 1	0	0	5
Tapley	19	1-2	0-1	0-0	3	0	0 0	2	1	2
Shelton	7	1-3	0-1	0-0	4	2	2 0	0	0	2
Davis	10	3-3	1-1	0-1	1	3	0 2	0	1	7
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-56</b>	<b>4-13</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8 19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>63</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 33, Arizona 20. **FG %:** San Diego State 48.2, Arizona 35.6. **3FG%:** San Diego State 30.8, Arizona 20.0. **FT%:** Arizona 66.7, San Diego State 55.6. **Officials:** Mike Littlewood, Bruce Hicks, Ruben Ramos. **Technical:** None.



# Game 11

Arizona State 55  
San Diego State 52

Dec. 19, 2009 ♦ Tempe, Ariz.  
Wells Fargo Arena ♦ Att.: 10,055

TEMPE, Ariz. - San Diego State had its season-long five-game winning streak snapped at Arizona State as the Sun Devils hung on for the 55-52 victory at Wells Fargo Arena.

The Aztecs held a lead for much of the first half, but turnovers prevented them from blowing the game open. SDSU had 12 miscues in the first 20 minutes of play, which kept ASU in the game, and only Chase Tapley had more than five points (10 points) for the Aztecs. All of the above allowed the Sun Devils to hang around until the final three minutes when they blitzed San Diego State with a 10-2 run to go into halftime ahead, 28-22.

Arizona State's match-up zone defense gave SDSU fits all afternoon, including the first 6:30 of the second half. The Sun Devils stopped nearly every Aztec offensive possession en route to a 14-4 run to increase their lead to 42-26. In fact, ASU increased its advantage to 18 points with just under 11 minutes left in regulation.

San Diego State finally found its offensive rhythm shortly after its deficit grew to 18 as it went on an 11-0 spurt in large part to Billy White, who had six of the 11 points, to come within 46-39. Arizona State, however, answered with a Derek Glasser jumper and a Jamelle McMillan three to get their lead back to 12 with 5:44 left.

The Aztecs were not done by any means as Chase Tapley and D.J. Gay scored 12 straight points to get SDSU to within one point, 53-52, with 13 seconds remaining in regulation. Following a San Diego State foul and two ASU free throws, the Aztecs called timeout to set up a final play, but Gay's game-tying three-point attempt was off the mark as the Aztecs fell for the first time in six games.

Tapley led SDSU with a career-high 17 points, while Gay added 10.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*30	2-5	0-1	1-2	10	3	2 3	1	1	5
Leonard	*36	1-4	0-0	4-6	11	3	1 6	1	1	6
White	*32	3-8	0-2	2-4	10	2	0 1	2	0	8
Shelley	16	0-1	0-1	0-0	3	2	0 4	0	1	0
Gay	*35	3-12	2-6	2-2	2	3	3 0	0	2	10
Carlwell	8	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	0 2	0	0	2
Tapley	23	7-10	1-3	2-2	2	0	2 4	0	2	17
Shelton	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Davis	13	1-3	0-2	2-3	0	3	1 3	0	0	4
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-44</b>	<b>3-15</b>	<b>13-19</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10 24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>

ASU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Kuksiks	*31	3-14	2-10	4-5	3	4	0 2	0	2	12
Boateng	*20	1-2	0-0	1-5	9	4	0 1	0	0	3
Abbott	*33	4-8	3-6	0-1	2	3	2 0	0	2	11
McMillan	*38	4-9	2-4	2-2	3	4	3 3	1	4	12
Glasser	*36	3-9	1-4	4-4	0	0	5 2	0	3	11
Rudd	3	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Lockett	20	1-2	0-1	0-1	0	2	0 3	0	2	2
Rohde	19	2-4	0-0	0-1	4	3	0 1	0	0	4
Team					5					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-49</b>	<b>8-26</b>	<b>11-19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10 12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>55</b>

**Halftime:** Arizona State 28, San Diego State 22. **FG %:** San Diego State 40.9, Arizona State 36.7. **3FG%:** Arizona State 30.8, San Diego State 20.0. **FT%:** San Diego State 68.4, Arizona State 57.9. **Officials:** Verne Harris, Chris Raslatter, James Giron. **Technical:** None.



# Game 12

San Diego State 76  
Drake 73 (ot)

Dec. 22, 2009 ♦ Des Moines, Iowa  
Knapp Center ♦ Att.: 4,012

DES MOINES, Iowa - San Diego State let a five-point halftime lead slip away and then rallied from eight down in the second half as the Aztecs defeated Drake on the road, 76-73, in overtime in the inaugural Mountain West-Missouri Valley Challenge.

The victory marked SDSU's ninth straight overtime decision, which extended the nation's longest such streak.

Much like the Aztecs' overtime win at San Diego earlier in the season, D.J. Gay made his mark in the extra session. With San Diego State up, 75-73, Drake's Craig Stanley drove to the hoop and the 6-0 Gay notched his first blocked shot of the season with two seconds left to preserve SDSU's lead. After a Bulldog foul, Tyrone Shelley, who earlier in overtime knocked down two free throws, made one of two attempts to provide the final margin.

In the first half, it looked as if the Aztecs were going to have no trouble earning their ninth victory of the season after Gay and Kelvin Davis enjoyed perfect halves. Gay had eight points on a perfect 3-for-3 shooting (2-2 3FG), while Davis came off the bench to contribute 10 points after connecting on all three of his three-point attempts.

In the second half, however, Drake used a 12-0 run to move ahead by eight points with 6:08 left. But SDSU responded with a 12-4 spurt to end the half and the Bulldogs went 2-for-7 from the charity stripe as regulation ended in a 66 tie before moving to OT.

Gay led all scorers with 18 points, while Davis and Billy White each scored 16. Kawhi Leonard, meanwhile, added 14 points and a game-high 11 boards.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*32	2-6	0-0	2-4	8	3	2 3	0	0	6
Leonard	*32	4-7	0-1	6-6	11	5	1 3	0	1	14
White	*34	7-11	0-0	2-4	9	2	1 3	1	2	16
Tapley	*20	0-5	0-3	0-0	2	1	2 0	0	0	0
Gay	*39	7-10	4-5	0-0	1	2	3 2	1	1	18
Shelley	*24	0-4	0-2	3-4	5	2	0 1	0	1	3
Carlwell	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 1	0	0	0
Shelton	16	0-0	0-0	3-4	2	2	0 0	0	0	3
Davis	23	5-9	5-8	1-2	0	1	1 1	1	0	16
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>25-53</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>17-24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10 15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>76</b>

DU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Simons	*20	3-6	1-2	0-0	2	1	1 1	0	0	7
Templeton	*28	3-5	2-4	2-2	5	5	1 1	0	1	10
VanDeest	*29	2-6	0-0	0-2	7	4	1 1	1	1	4
Wedel	*35	4-12	3-9	0-0	3	1	3 1	0	1	11
Young	*39	5-12	2-4	5-10	4	5	2 1	0	1	17
Hawley	16	3-5	1-2	1-2	1	0	1 0	1	0	8
Stanley	32	4-5	1-1	4-5	1	2	3 2	0	1	13
Wiseler	8	0-2	0-1	0-0	0	0	1 1	0	0	0
Eaddy	12	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	2	2 0	0	0	3
Uhlenhopp	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0 0	0	0	0
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>25-54</b>	<b>11-24</b>	<b>12-21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14 10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>73</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 36, Drake 31. **End of Regulation:** San Diego State 66, Drake 66. **FG %:** San Diego State 47.2, Drake 46.3. **3FG%:** San Diego State 47.4, Drake 45.8. **FT%:** San Diego State 70.8, Drake 57.1. **Officials:** David Hall, Randy McCall, John Higgins. **Technical:** Malcolm Thomas - San Diego State, Josh Young - Drake.





## Game 13

San Diego State 58  
UC Riverside 53

Dec. 29, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 5,315

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State continued its dominance over UC Riverside, this time beating the Highlanders, 58-53, to post its eighth straight win over the Big West Conference school.

The victory was also the Aztecs' 11th straight at home and 14th consecutive over non-conference foes at home.

After enjoying a nine-point halftime lead thanks to an 11-3 run to end the first 20 minutes, San Diego State was forced to hold off UC Riverside in the final minutes.

On three occasions SDSU opened up a 10-point lead in the first eight-plus minutes of the second half, but the Highlanders managed to keep the game close.

With the Aztecs up, 45-36, with 6:35 left, UCR made its move. Five straight points got the Highlanders within four and a 9-3 run cut the Aztec lead to 48-45.

Just over three minutes later, SDSU was ahead 54-49 with 1:13 to go, but UC Riverside answered with four consecutive points to get within one with 44 seconds left. Kawhi Leonard, who missed the front end of a bonus situation moments earlier, was fouled and he calmly nailed both attempts.

With the Aztecs nursing a three-point lead and eight seconds left in the game, UCR attempted to tie the score with a three, but Malcolm Thomas blocked his career-high sixth shot. Then with two seconds left, Leonard made two more free throws to provide the contest's final margin.

Billy White led the Aztecs with 13 points and Leonard added 12 as SDSU won its 10th of the year.

UCR	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Hampton	*13	2-3	0-0	0-4	4	1	0	0	1	0	4
Austin	*35	8-18	0-1	3-4	4	5	1	2	0	1	19
Gordon	*37	4-9	0-0	1-3	2	2	4	1	0	1	9
Cunningham	*28	2-5	1-2	2-2	1	4	5	3	2	0	7
Guganious	*29	3-8	0-0	0-1	6	5	2	5	1	1	6
McMullan	12	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
LoBue	10	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Dowdy	9	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Chavarrria	20	2-5	0-1	2-2	4	4	1	2	0	0	6
Veteto	7	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Team					8	1					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-53</b>	<b>1-5</b>	<b>8-12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>53</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thomas	*31	2-5	0-1	2-6	7	2	4	2	6	1	6
Leonard	*26	3-8	1-4	5-9	6	2	0	1	0	1	12
White	*29	6-11	0-3	1-4	6	2	1	3	1	1	13
Shelley	*23	1-6	0-2	2-4	2	3	0	1	0	1	4
Gay	*30	1-6	1-4	3-4	1	2	1	1	0	1	6
Carlwell	11	3-3	0-0	0-1	3	0	0	0	2	0	6
Tapley	22	1-5	1-3	2-2	1	1	1	2	0	0	5
Shelton	15	1-3	0-1	1-2	3	1	1	0	0	0	3
Davis	13	1-3	0-2	1-2	0	2	0	2	1	2	3
Team					6						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-50</b>	<b>3-20</b>	<b>17-34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 29, UC Riverside 20. **FG %:** UC Riverside 41.5, San Diego State 38.0. **3FG%:** UC Riverside 20.0, San Diego State 15.0. **FT%:** UC Riverside 66.7, San Diego State 50.0. **Officials:** Larry Spaulding, Shawn Lehigh, Ruben Ramos. **Technical:** Team - UC Riverside.



## Game 14

San Diego State 89  
Pomona-Pitzer 54

Dec. 31, 2009 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 4,061

SAN DIEGO - In its final non-conference game before Mountain West action begins, San Diego State pulled away in the second half and defeated Pomona-Pitzer, 89-54, at Viejas Arena.

The Aztecs, who entered the game averaging 14.6 turnovers and shooting 58.4 percent from the free-throw line, made their deficiencies a thing of the past at least for one game. SDSU committed a school-record low three turnovers and finished 12-for-13 from the free-throw line.

In the first half, the Sagehens came out firing, putting up 14 threes, while making five. Combined with their three-point shooting and the fact that they outrebounded the Aztecs, 18-14, Pomona-Pitzer found itself down only 40-31 at halftime.

SDSU, however, came out of the break with more energy and effort, which spurred a 13-1 run, giving them a 21-point advantage and a lead it would not relinquish.

Six players scored in double figures for the Aztecs starting with Kawhi Leonard, who posted his fifth double-double with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Malcolm Thomas added 15 with front-court mates Billy White and Brian Carlwell scoring 13 apiece. Alec Williams, meanwhile, tallied 11 and D.J. Gay finished with 10. Chase Tapley, who earned his third start, had a career-best nine assists.

P-P	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Sexton	*31	4-14	0-6	0-0	6	3	1	5	1	0	8
Stephan	*7	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaimowitz	*29	5-8	4-6	2-2	2	1	2	5	0	0	16
Liss	*28	4-10	1-5	0-0	3	0	4	0	0	0	9
Reinstedt	*22	0-1	0-0	1-2	3	1	2	0	0	0	1
Moss	9	2-2	1-1	0-0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Brown	3	0-3	0-2	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lingle	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kristof	12	1-2	0-0	0-0	3	0	3	0	0	0	2
Maki	3	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zahniser	9	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Castro	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Gross	6	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wright	10	1-2	0-0	1-2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Okpalugo	25	5-10	0-0	0-0	3	4	0	1	2	0	10
Team					3			1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-56</b>	<b>6-22</b>	<b>4-6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thomas	*25	7-9	1-1	0-0	7	0	2	2	2	2	15
Leonard	*30	7-11	1-4	2-2	12	1	5	1	1	1	17
White	*24	4-9	0-1	5-5	1	3	2	0	0	2	13
Tapley	*30	2-4	1-2	0-0	4	3	9	0	0	3	5
Gay	*27	4-8	2-5	0-0	2	0	1	0	0	2	10
Williams	13	3-3	1-1	4-4	3	1	1	0	0	0	11
Carlwell	24	6-12	0-0	1-2	6	0	0	0	0	0	13
Shelton	6	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davis	21	2-9	1-8	0-0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
Team					3						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>35-66</b>	<b>7-23</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>89</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 40, Pomona-Pitzer 31. **FG %:** San Diego State 53.0, Pomona-Pitzer 39.3. **3FG%:** San Diego State 30.4, Pomona-Pitzer 27.3. **FT%:** San Diego State 92.3, Pomona-Pitzer 66.7. **Officials:** Bobby McRoy, Frank Harvey, Glen Mayberry. **Technical:** None.



## Game 15

San Diego State 74  
No. 15/14 New Mexico 64

Jan. 5, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 7,558

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State opened Mountain West Conference play with an impressive 74-64 victory over No. 15-14 New Mexico at Viejas Arena.

The win over the AP's 15th-ranked team represented the fifth-highest ranked squad SDSU has beaten in school history and upped the Aztecs' Division I record to 14-76 against the AP Top 25.

San Diego State also won its 13th straight home game, which tied the fifth-longest streak in school history, and improved to 12-3, matching the program's best start in the last 25 seasons.

Despite the win, the Aztecs suffered a huge loss when Billy White went down with an ankle injury with 5:45 left in the first half. At the time, SDSU was ahead 27-26 and promptly went on a 10-3 run to move ahead by five with 2:03 remaining. The Lobos, however, closed the half by outscoring SDSU, 5-2, including a Roman Martinez three at the buzzer to trim the Aztec lead to 38-36.

In the second half, both teams were engaged in a heated affair, but that all changed with less than 13 minutes to play and SDSU ahead 48-47. The Aztecs slowly took control of the game by going on a 10-3 run to open up a nine-point lead.

UNM got to within six points with 4:12 left in regulation, but Malcolm Thomas fueled a 9-3 spurt with four points to extend the SDSU lead to 70-58 with 1:25 to go as the home team cruised to the win.

Thomas posted his second double-double of the season with a game-high 18 points and season-best 15 rebounds. D.J. Gay, meanwhile, poured in 12 points and finished with a game-high five assists.

Kelvin Davis and Tim Shelton provided a much-needed spark off the bench by scoring nine and eight points, respectively. White had eight points on 4-of-5 shooting before exiting the contest.

UNM	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Hardeman	*30	1-3	0-0	1-2	5	2	0	0	1	1	3
Hobson	*35	4-17	2-3	2-6	9	2	3	4	1	0	12
Martinez	*34	3-9	3-6	3-4	3	4	1	2	0	1	12
Gary	*32	5-9	0-2	5-6	4	2	4	3	0	1	15
McDonald	*28	3-7	1-3	3-4	3	2	0	3	0	1	10
Dennis	7	0-3	0-2	0-0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Adams	7	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Fenton	15	2-6	2-5	1-2	1	3	0	1	0	1	7
Brown	12	1-1	0-0	1-2	3	4	1	1	1	0	3
Team					6						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-57</b>	<b>8-21</b>	<b>16-26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>64</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thomas	*33	7-9	0-0	4-7	15	2	1	1	0	1	18
Leonard	*25	1-7	0-1	3-4	8	4	3	2	1	3	5
White	*9	4-5	0-0	0-0	2	2	1	1	0	0	8
Tapley	*31	3-9	0-2	1-2	5	4	4	1	1	4	7
Gay	*36	3-9	3-6	3-5	2	3	5	2	0	1	12
Shelley	15	1-3	1-2	0-0	1	2	0	1	1	1	3
Carlwell	7	0-0	0-0	4-4	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
Shelton	26	2-6	1-3	3-7	4	4	3	3	1	1	8
Davis	18	3-6	2-4	1-2	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
Team					1						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-54</b>	<b>7-18</b>	<b>19-31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>74</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 38, New Mexico 36. **FG %:** San Diego State 44.4, New Mexico 35.1. **3FG%:** San Diego State 38.9, New Mexico 38.1. **FT%:** New Mexico 61.5, San Diego State 61.3. **Officials:** Randy McCall, Dick Cartmell, Shawn Lehigh. **Technical:** None.



# Game 16

**Wyoming 85  
San Diego State 83**  
Jan. 9, 2010 ♦ Laramie, Wyo.  
Arena-Auditorium ♦ Att.: 4,826

LARAMIE, Wyo. - San Diego State let a 17-point first-half lead and a 14-point halftime advantage slip away as Wyoming rallied to defeat the Aztecs, 85-83, at Arena-Auditorium.

Kawhi Leonard posted 25 points and 12 rebounds, while Chase Tapley and Malcolm Thomas scored 17 and 14 points, respectively. The contributions of the trio proved to be not enough as SDSU's 19 turnovers, 15 of which came in the second half, doomed the Aztecs in the end.

The first half could not have been scripted any better for San Diego State. The Aztecs found themselves clicking on all cylinders and went on a 12-3 run late in the period to move ahead, 41-24. After 20 minutes of action, SDSU went into the locker room up, 45-31, and shooting 55.9 percent from the field.

At the start of the second half, the Cowboys pressed the Aztecs and the visitors did not respond well. In less than nine minutes, Wyoming was within three at 56-53.

The Aztecs, however, responded nicely by going up 75-61 with 4:52 to play thanks to Tapley's 11 points during SDSU's 18-8 run.

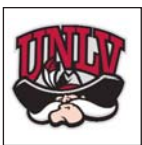
Wyoming would not go down without a fight and continued to force San Diego State into costly turnovers, which resulted in layups and wide-open three-point looks. In fact, the Cowboys nailed their last six three-pointers, including two in a 10-second span and one by JayDee Luster with six seconds left to put Wyoming up 85-82.

After the Cowboys fouled D.J. Gay, the junior made his first free throw and missed the second intentionally, but the Aztecs could not convert the tip-in to force overtime as Wyoming earned the win.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*36	5-7	0-0	4-7	7	2	4 3	2	1	14
Leonard	*31	10-19	1-4	4-5	12	1	2 6	0	1	25
Shelton	*17	2-6	2-2	0-2	0	5	4 3	0	0	6
Tapley	*30	7-10	2-4	1-1	4	0	1 2	0	3	17
Gay	*32	1-5	1-2	4-6	2	2	4 2	0	0	7
Williams	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0 0	0	0	0
Shelley	16	0-0	0-0	0-0	4	2	2 0	1	0	0
Carlwell	21	4-4	0-0	1-2	2	4	2 1	0	0	9
Davis	16	2-4	1-3	0-0	0	1	2 1	0	0	5
Team					6			1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>31-56</b>	<b>7-15</b>	<b>14-23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21 19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>83</b>

UW	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Dermody	*16	0-3	0-2	2-2	2	1	2 0	0	0	2
Thiam	*23	4-7	1-4	0-0	5	3	0 0	0	0	8
Waddell	*31	3-7	0-0	0-2	4	2	2 0	1	0	6
Luster	*31	4-9	3-6	3-4	3	3	6 2	0	2	14
Davis	*14	2-6	0-1	1-1	1	2	1 2	0	0	5
Bouedo	21	2-5	2-4	1-2	0	1	2 2	0	2	7
Jackson	5	1-3	0-1	1-2	2	0	0 1	2	0	3
Muojeke	33	8-11	4-5	10-10	2	1	1 1	0	2	30
M'Baye	17	1-4	0-1	4-4	0	5	1 0	0	2	6
Sylla	9	2-3	0-0	0-0	3	2	0 1	0	1	4
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-58</b>	<b>9-22</b>	<b>22-27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15 9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>85</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 45, Wyoming 31. **FG %:** San Diego State 55.4, Wyoming 46.6. **3FG %:** San Diego State 46.7, Wyoming 45.0. **FT %:** Wyoming 81.5, San Diego State 60.9. **Officials:** Scott Thornley, Tony Padilla, Doran Gotschall. **Technical:** None.



# Game 17

**UNLV 76  
San Diego State 66**  
Jan. 13, 2010 ♦ Las Vegas, Nev.  
Thomas & Mack Center ♦ Att.: 14,530

LAS VEGAS, Nev. - For the second consecutive game, San Diego State coughed up a halftime lead and committed 20 turnovers, all of which led to a 76-66 loss to UNLV at Thomas & Mack Center.

Similar to its performance at Wyoming just a game earlier, the Aztecs played well in the first half and enjoyed an eight-point lead with 1:20 left before halftime. At the break, the teams entered the locker room with SDSU ahead by six, 39-33.

In the second half, UNLV, which applied a full-court press for much of the game, opened the final 20 minutes by going on a 10-4 run to knot the score at 43 barely four minutes in. Following a handful of back-and-forth moments, the Runnin' Rebels went on a 9-0 run to take a 59-50 lead just before the eight-minute media timeout to take control of the contest. Prior to and during UNLV's scoring spree, Tre'Von Willis scored 12 of the Rebels' 15 points, including the eighth and ninth points during their 9-0 spurt.

Despite its scoring drought, SDSU remained within striking distance and cut its deficit to 65-62 with 3:17 left, but UNLV answered with a pair of jumpers to put the game out of reach for the Aztecs.

SDSU was led by Kawhi Leonard's 13 points and 10 rebounds and was joined in double figures by Malcolm Thomas and Tyrone Shelley, who each scored 12 points apiece. Billy White, meanwhile, returned to action and contributed five points and three rebounds after missing the Wyoming game with a high right ankle sprain suffered in the New Mexico game.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*28	6-8	0-0	0-1	7	2	1 0	0	0	12
Leonard	*31	5-11	0-1	3-7	10	3	1 3	0	1	13
Shelton	*17	2-6	0-0	1-3	4	2	0 0	0	0	5
Tapley	*25	3-6	1-3	2-2	2	1	2 4	0	3	9
Gay	*32	1-6	1-4	2-3	3	4	2 5	0	0	5
Shelley	19	4-9	0-3	4-4	9	1	0 1	0	1	12
Carlwell	12	1-1	0-0	1-2	3	1	2 1	0	1	3
White	16	1-4	0-1	3-6	3	5	0 2	0	0	5
Davis	20	1-6	0-4	0-0	1	2	0 4	0	0	2
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-57</b>	<b>2-16</b>	<b>16-28</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8 20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>66</b>

UNLV	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Stanback	*32	7-12	0-1	4-4	5	1	1 4	0	4	18
Shaw	*19	2-5	1-3	1-2	3	4	0 0	0	2	6
Bellfield	*22	4-9	0-1	4-4	2	3	6 1	0	0	12
Jasper	*19	1-2	1-1	0-0	5	3	3 1	0	0	3
Willis	*36	6-15	1-3	10-13	2	2	1 1	0	0	23
Wallace	21	2-9	2-8	0-0	2	2	1 1	0	0	6
Marshall	23	1-6	0-0	0-0	5	1	1 1	0	2	2
Massamba	16	2-3	0-0	2-2	3	1	0 0	1	0	6
Jones	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0 1	0	0	0
Hawkins	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Santee	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	0 0	1	0	0
Team					5					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>25-62</b>	<b>5-17</b>	<b>21-25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13 10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>76</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 39, UNLV 33. **FG %:** San Diego State 42.1, UNLV 40.3. **3FG %:** UNLV 29.4, San Diego State 12.5. **FT %:** UNLV 84.0, San Diego State 57.1. **Officials:** David Hall, Randy McCall, Mark Reischling. **Technical:** None.



# Game 18

**San Diego State 67  
TCU 62**  
Jan. 16, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 5,871

SAN DIEGO - In a game that got out of control after a series of physical plays, San Diego State rallied from 14 down to beat visiting TCU, 67-62.

The 14-point comeback matched the second-largest come-from-behind victory during Steve Fisher's tenure on Montezuma Mesa and the decision was the Aztecs' 14th consecutive at home.

With 13:49 left in the second half, things got ugly when Chase Tapley stole the ball and kicked it out to a streaking Malcolm Thomas. When the junior went up for a layup, Ronnie Moss fouled Thomas up high and Thomas fell to the floor. Taking exception to the hard foul, Thomas got in Moss' face, which led to a shoving match between both clubs.

With both sides separated, thanks to the help of both head coaches, the officials looked at the video and issued an intentional foul and a technical foul on Moss and a technical on Thomas.

San Diego State trailed 46-41 at this point and Thomas missed both free throws. But after the two misses, the Aztecs retained possession only to have Kelvin Davis knock down a three. TCU responded with a three of its own, but just like the play before, Davis answered with another three to get SDSU to within two at 49-47.

Davis' effort spurred a 12-3 run, giving the Aztecs a 56-52 lead with 6:19 to go. Despite the momentum being clearly with the home team, the Horned Frogs tied the game at 56 and got within one with 28 seconds left. San Diego State, however, knocked down their final six free throws to secure the five-point win.

Billy White led the Aztecs with 16 points, while Thomas had 11 points, nine rebounds and a career-high six assists. Davis, meanwhile, scored all 10 of his points in the second half.

TCU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Buljan	*38	5-11	1-5	2-2	8	4	4 9	2	0	13
Cerina	*20	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	5	2 0	0	0	2
Moss	*39	2-10	1-3	1-2	6	3	10 6	0	1	6
Ruzgas	*38	6-10	3-6	1-2	4	0	1 1	0	1	16
Mitchem	*29	4-5	4-4	0-0	2	3	1 2	0	1	12
Butler	20	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	1 0	0	1	2
Hill	12	3-4	2-3	0-0	1	1	0 1	0	1	8
Green	4	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	3
Team					0			1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-44</b>	<b>12-22</b>	<b>4-6</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19 20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>62</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*37	4-7	0-0	3-8	9	2	6 3	1	0	11
Leonard	*29	4-9	0-1	1-2	3	3	1 1	2	2	9
White	*32	5-8	0-0	6-7	6	2	2 2	1	1	16
Tapley	*31	2-6	2-4	0-0	0	1	3 1	1	1	6
Gay	*35	3-7	2-4	1-2	1	2	1 1	0	1	9
Shelley	11	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1 0	0	1	2
Carlwell	11	1-2	0-0	2-4	1	0	1 0	0	1	4
Davis	14	3-6	2-5	2-2	0	2	0 3	0	1	10
Team					3					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-47</b>	<b>6-15</b>	<b>15-25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15 11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>67</b>

**Halftime:** TCU 38, San Diego State 29. **FG %:** TCU 52.3, San Diego State 48.9. **3FG %:** TCU 54.5, San Diego State 40.0. **FT %:** TCU 66.7, San Diego State 60.0. **Officials:** Bill Gracey, Bruce Hicks, Ken Nielson. **Technical:** Malcolm Thomas - San Diego State, Ronnie Moss - TCU.



# Game 19

San Diego State 70  
Utah 68

Jan. 19, 2010 ♦ Salt Lake City, Utah  
Huntsman Center ♦ Att.: 8,520

SALT LAKE CITY - San Diego State matched its best start in the last 25 seasons and won for just the third-time ever at Utah with its 70-68 victory over the Utes at the Huntsman Center.

The Aztecs received a pair of double-doubles from its starting frontcourt of Malcolm Thomas and Kawhi Leonard. Thomas scored a career-high 23 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds, while Leonard finished with 16 points and 11 boards.

San Diego State used a 13-0 run late in the first half to pull ahead, 24-15 with 4:15 left before half-time. Following a Carlon Brown three-pointer to snap SDSU's streak, the Aztecs responded with a 7-2 spurt to make the score, 31-20, before finishing the half up, 37-29.

In the opening minutes of the second half, San Diego State enjoyed a comfortable lead until the Utes scored 10 unanswered points to get with 45-43 with more than 12 minutes remaining. The Aztecs, however, used a 11-3 scoring run to get their lead back up to 10 with 5:38 to go.

SDSU maintained its advantage late into the game, leading by as many as eight with 41 seconds left, but Utah made one last push at the end.

Within a span of 21 seconds, the Utes outscored SDSU 6-1 thanks to three Marshall Henderson free throws and a Luka Drca three ball, which cut the Aztecs' lead to 69-66. Later, with under 10 seconds to go, Brown received a shooter's bounce to bring the Utes to within a point before having to foul D.J. Gay.

The SDSU junior made one of two from the stripe and Brown's 40 footer at the buzzer was off the mark to send the Aztecs away with the win.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*33	10-17	0-0	3-6	13	2	0 4	1	1	23
Leonard	*32	7-12	0-0	2-3	11	3	2 2	1	3	16
White	*16	0-6	0-0	0-4	4	2	1 3	1	1	0
Tapley	*28	2-3	1-1	0-0	1	1	1 0	0	1	5
Gay	*37	2-9	0-2	3-5	5	1	4 0	0	1	7
Williams	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	2
Shelley	23	1-4	0-2	1-4	3	3	1 1	0	1	3
Carlwell	10	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	4	0 2	1	1	4
Davis	20	4-6	1-2	1-1	2	3	1 2	2	2	10
Team					5					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>29-61</b>	<b>2-7</b>	<b>10-23</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10 14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>70</b>

Utah	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Foster	*25	3-4	0-0	0-0	9	4	3 1	5	0	6
Tavita	*23	0-3	0-3	0-0	0	2	0 1	0	0	0
Henderson	*31	5-15	1-6	3-3	4	2	1 1	0	1	14
Drca	*33	6-12	3-6	0-0	3	0	2 3	0	2	15
Glover	*4	0-1	0-0	10-0	0	1	0 0	1	0	0
Hines	0+	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Watkins	27	3-5	0-0	6-10	4	4	1 3	0	0	12
Tillie	15	0-3	0-0	3-4	6	2	2 2	1	0	3
Brown	32	5-15	3-5	5-6	3	3	2 2	0	0	18
Washburn	10	0-2	0-0	0-0	2	1	0 0	3	1	0
Team					6					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-60</b>	<b>7-21</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11 13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>

Halftime: San Diego State 37, Utah 29. FG %: San Diego State 47.5, Utah 36.7. 3FG%: Utah 33.3, San Diego State 28.6. FT%: Utah 73.9, San Diego State 43.5. Officials: Verne Harris, Eric Curry, Kelly Self. Technicals: None.



# Game 20

No. 14/13 Brigham Young 71  
San Diego State 69

Jan. 23, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 12,414

SAN DIEGO - SDSU had its 14-game home court winning streak snapped as No. 14/13 Brigham Young escaped with a 71-69 victory at Viejas Arena.

BYU's Jimmer Fredette scored a game-high 33 points for a Cougar squad that was the last team to beat the Aztecs on their home floor.

Brigham Young got off to a hot start by making its first five shots to race out to an 11-7 lead. The Cougars' seven-point cushion quickly increased to 12 on a three-pointer by Tyler Haws, but seven straight Aztec points brought SDSU to within 22-17 with 8:14 left before halftime.

BYU went up by nine shortly thereafter, but San Diego State responded with nine unanswered points to tie the game at 30 with 2:33 remaining and eventually went into the locker room down, 35-34.

Early in the second half, D.J. Gay scored eight straight points to give SDSU a 47-43 lead, but then the Aztec offense stalled. Over the next eight-plus minutes, San Diego State could only muster three points until Kawhi Leonard knocked down a three-pointer. Unfortunately by then, Brigham Young enjoyed a 60-53 lead with 5:23 to go.

Following Leonard's three, the Aztecs slowly crawled back into the game and was down, 67-66, with 53 seconds to play. BYU, however, put the ball in Fredette's hands and he made a driving layup to put the Cougars up by three with 22 seconds left.

On the ensuing SDSU possession, Kelvin Davis drove the lane and appeared to be fouled, but no such call was made and the Aztecs were forced to foul Fredette, who knocked down both free throws to seal the game for BYU.

BYU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Hartssock	*22	2-4	0-0	0-0	2	2	2 0	4	0	4
Miles	*31	3-7	0-0	0-0	7	0	1 0	2	0	6
Emery	*27	1-9	0-6	0-0	5	2	4 1	0	3	2
Haws	*32	6-10	3-4	2-2	2	0	2 1	0	0	17
Fredette	*38	11-19	5-8	6-6	3	1	5 3	1	1	33
Davies	7	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	4	0 2	0	0	2
Abouo	11	2-4	0-0	0-0	5	1	0 0	1	1	4
Morgan, Jr.	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	1	0	0
Loyd, Jr.	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Anderson	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Tavernari	23	1-5	1-3	0-0	5	0	2 2	1	1	3
Team					4					1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-60</b>	<b>9-21</b>	<b>8-8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16 11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*29	1-6	0-0	0-0	6	0	5 2	2	0	2
Leonard	*33	7-15	2-4	0-0	11	2	1 0	1	0	16
White	*27	2-5	0-1	4-4	2	2	2 1	0	5	8
Tapley	*29	4-9	3-5	0-0	3	3	3 1	2	1	11
Gay	*32	4-11	1-4	3-3	2	0	2 0	0	0	12
Shelley	13	2-4	0-0	0-0	2	0	1 4	1	2	4
Carlwell	14	4-5	0-0	0-1	4	2	0 0	0	0	8
Davis	23	3-12	1-8	1-2	4	3	3 3	0	0	8
Team					6					1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-67</b>	<b>7-22</b>	<b>8-10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17 12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>69</b>

Halftime: Brigham Young 35, San Diego State 34. FG %: Brigham Young 45.0, San Diego State 40.3. 3FG%: Brigham Young 42.9, San Diego State 31.8. FT%: Brigham Young 100.0, San Diego State 80.0. Officials: Mike Reed, Bobby McRoy, Jimmy Casas. Technicals: Billy White - San Diego State.



# Game 21

San Diego State 64  
Colorado State 52

Jan. 30, 2010 ♦ Fort Collins, Colo.  
Moby Arena ♦ Att.: 3,809

FORT COLLINS, Colo. - SDSU won its second consecutive conference road game with its 64-52 victory at Colorado State, which marked the Aztecs' school-record fifth straight win at Moby Arena.

Not only was it SDSU's fifth victory in a row at CSU, but it was the Aztecs' fifth straight in the series and improved their record to 10-1 in their last 11 vs. the Rams.

D.J. Gay scored a game-high 17 points, on a career-best eight free throws, and added a personal-record five steals, while Kawhi Leonard contributed 14 points and 12 rebounds. With his 10th double-double, Leonard tied Michael Cage's freshman double-double school record set in 1981.

Chase Tapley, meanwhile, scored 12 points and Malcolm Thomas pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds.

San Diego State led from the outset until CSU rallied from as many as nine to take a 23-20 lead with 3:19 left in the first half. The Aztecs, however, answered with 12-1 run, including seven straight points by Tapley, to take a 32-24 into the locker room.

In the second half, the Aztecs continued where they left off in the first half and enjoyed a double-digit lead for nearly 19 minutes of the half. The Rams cut their deficit to nine points with 1:10 left in the game, but would get no closer the rest of the way.

On this afternoon, the San Diego State defense was stellar in handing CSU only its second home loss of the season. The Aztecs limited the Rams to its lowest home scoring output of the year and to 36.7 percent shooting. SDSU's 12-point margin was also CSU's worst home defeat of 2009-10.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*33	2-6	0-0	1-3	13	4	1 2	2	1	5
Leonard	*33	6-11	0-1	2-3	12	2	3 2	0	0	14
White	*29	0-6	0-0	1-2	3	3	2 5	1	1	1
Tapley	*27	4-7	2-4	2-3	4	3	2 1	0	1	12
Gay	*36	4-11	1-6	8-13	0	1	1 1	0	5	17
Shelley	13	2-3	1-1	0-1	1	3	1 1	0	1	5
Carlwell	13	2-3	0-0	1-2	3	1	0 0	0	0	5
Davis	16	1-3	0-2	3-6	0	1	0 1	0	1	5
Team					4					2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>21-50</b>	<b>4-14</b>	<b>18-33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10 15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64</b>

CSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Franklin	*24	4-7	0-0	2-8	7	3	1 8	0	1	10
Busch	*12	1-5	0-1	2-2	0	3	2 0	0	0	4
Ogide	*22	6-9	0-0	1-2	3	4	0 1	1	1	13
Nigon	*29	2-4	2-4	0-0	1	1	2 2	0	3	6
Green	*40	2-9	0-2	5-5	2	2	1 2	0	0	9
Bocar Ba	14	1-2	0-0	0-2	2	2	0 0	1	0	2
Homung	19	1-4	0-1	0-0	7	5	1 3	2	1	2
Perry	17	0-3	0-3	0-0	2	2	0 1	0	0	0
Smith	23	1-6	0-4	4-4	5	3	1 2	0	0	6
Team					4					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-49</b>	<b>2-15</b>	<b>14-23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8 19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>

Halftime: San Diego State 32, Colorado State 24. FG %: San Diego State 42.0, Colorado State 36.7. 3FG%: San Diego State 28.6, Colorado State 13.3. FT%: Colorado State 60.9, San Diego State 54.5. Officials: Ruben Ramos, Chris Rastatter, Kevin Brill. Technicals: Team - Colorado State.



# Game 22

San Diego State 70  
Air Force 48

Feb. 2, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 6,126

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State limited Air Force to 17 first-half points and led wire-to-wire in defeating the Falcons, 70-48, at Viejas Arena.

Kawhi Leonard led all scorers with 15 points in helping the Aztecs beat Air Force for the fourth straight time. Kelvin Davis came off the bench to contribute 12 points, while Crawford High and Pepperdine teammates Tyrone Shelley and Malcolm Thomas added 10 points apiece. Thomas also grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds to register his fourth double-double of the season.

The first half went according to plan for SDSU as it scored the first 12 points of the game and held the Falcons to without a point until Evan Washington tipped in a Grant Parker miss with 10:14 left before halftime. By then, the Aztecs were well on their way to a 26-17 lead entering the locker room.

In the opening minutes of the second half, the Academy trimmed the Aztec lead to six and got to within 34-27 with 15:08 remaining in regulation.

The Aztecs, however, responded with an 8-0 run thanks to a pair of three-pointers by D.J. Gay and two free throws by Leonard to increase its advantage to 42-27. From that point, Air Force would get no closer than 12 points the rest of the way as SDSU won its 15th home game in its last 16 outings.

SDSU won this game as a result of a strong defensive effort and uncharacteristically good free-throw shooting. The Aztecs forced the Falcons into shooting 43.4 percent from the field and into committing 15 turnovers. From the line, San Diego State, which entered the game shooting 59.2 percent, made 17 of its 22 attempts (77.3 percent).

AFA	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Parker	*28	5-13	3-6	1-2	2	1	0	2	1	0	14
McLain	*16	0-1	0-1	0-2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Fletcher	*17	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	2	3	0	0	2
Lyons	*25	2-7	0-2	0-0	6	4	2	5	0	1	4
Washington	*34	4-7	1-2	0-2	5	2	2	0	0	0	9
El-Amin	8	0-2	0-1	0-0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Fitzgerald	3	1-2	1-2	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Fow	20	4-5	3-3	0-0	2	3	0	0	0	0	11
Merriex	24	1-3	1-1	0-0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3
Brooks	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hempsey	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broekhuis	16	1-3	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Team					4			1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-45</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>1-6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thomas	*25	4-8	0-0	2-4	12	1	3	1	0	2	10
Leonard	*34	4-8	0-2	7-7	7	1	1	2	1	1	15
White	*25	2-4	0-0	2-2	3	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tapley	*20	1-3	0-2	0-0	1	2	2	1	0	0	2
Gay	*34	3-10	3-8	0-0	1	1	4	0	0	2	9
Williams	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelley	18	3-6	2-4	2-3	7	1	0	0	0	1	10
Carlwell	18	3-6	0-0	0-2	4	1	0	1	1	0	6
Davis	22	3-8	2-7	4-4	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
Team					0						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-53</b>	<b>7-23</b>	<b>17-22</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>70</b>

Halftime: San Diego State 26, Air Force 17. FG %: San Diego State 43.4, Air Force 42.2. 3FG%: Air Force 47.4, San Diego State 30.4. FT%: San Diego State 77.3, Air Force 16.7. Officials: Dick Cartmell, Bill Gracey, Darron George. Technicals: None.



# Game 23

No. 15/23 New Mexico 88  
San Diego State 86 (ot)

Feb. 6, 2010 ♦ Albuquerque, N.M.  
The Pit ♦ Att.: 14,586

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - SDSU erased an 11-point deficit in the final 3:40 of regulation to force OT and held a lead in the final minute of the extra session only to lose at No. 15/23 New Mexico, 88-86.

Down by 11 with less than four minutes to play, SDSU caught fire, highlighted by D.J. Gay's perfect 3-for-3 three-point shooting performance. Then with his fourth three-pointer in sight, the junior was fouled on his attempt by Darrington Hobson, which sent Gay to the line with less than three seconds remaining. The Aztec guard made the first, missed the second and made the third to tie the game at 78 to send the contest into OT.

In the five-minute extra period, San Diego State opened on a 4-1 run, with all four points coming from Malcolm Thomas, to move ahead, 82-79. New Mexico took a brief one-point lead after that and SDSU responded by taking an 85-83 lead with 1:16 to play. Then with the game tied at 86 in the final seconds, Billy White was called for a foul, which sent Hobson to the line where he made both with three seconds left in overtime.

After a timeout by the Aztecs, Brian Carlwell entered the game and launched a pass to Kelvin Davis. The senior wrestled the ball away from a Lobo player, took two dribbles and had an open three-point look from the top of the arc, but was just off the mark as New Mexico escaped with the win.

Gay led the Aztecs, who finished the first half down by five after a three-quarter-court shot by Hobson went down, with 25 points. Also scoring in double figures for San Diego State was Kawhi Leonard and Chase Tapley, who each had 11, and Thomas, White and Carlwell, who had 10 apiece.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thomas	*37	2-8	0-1	6-12	7	2	1	3	1	0	10
Leonard	*32	4-13	0-3	3-4	12	5	2	3	1	0	11
White	*19	4-5	1-1	1-2	4	5	1	1	0	1	10
Tapley	*32	4-8	3-7	0-0	1	3	2	2	0	1	11
Gay	*45	8-12	6-9	3-5	1	2	5	2	0	1	25
Shelley	12	1-2	0-0	0-2	2	3	0	1	0	0	2
Carlwell	17	4-4	1-1	1-2	3	3	0	1	0	0	10
Davis	31	3-7	1-5	0-0	2	4	1	1	0	0	7
Team					3						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>30-59</b>	<b>12-27</b>	<b>14-27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>86</b>

UNM	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Hardeman	*36	7-11	0-0	1-6	7	4	0	0	1	3	15
Martinez	*39	4-9	1-6	2-2	4	5	3	1	0	0	11
Hobson	*43	9-17	4-5	7-9	12	2	6	0	0	3	29
Gary	*34	2-8	0-2	11-14	2	2	5	2	0	0	15
McDonald	*33	3-5	2-4	0-0	2	3	2	1	0	1	8
Dennis	5	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Garth	11	3-4	1-1	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
Fenton	7	0-0	0-0	1-2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown	17	1-3	0-0	0-2	2	4	1	2	0	0	2
Team					1						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>29-58</b>	<b>8-19</b>	<b>22-35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88</b>

Halftime: New Mexico 42, San Diego State 37. FG %: San Diego State 50.8, New Mexico 50.0. 3FG%: San Diego State 44.4, New Mexico 42.1. FT%: New Mexico 62.9, San Diego State 51.9. Officials: Larry Spaulding, Rick Batsell, Brady Gaston. Technicals: None.



# Game 24

San Diego State 88  
Wyoming 57

Feb. 10, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 6,606

SAN DIEGO - Five players scored in double figures, led by Kawhi Leonard's career-high 26 points, and San Diego State rallied from a first-half deficit to defeat Wyoming, 88-57, at Viejas Arena.

The Aztecs led by as many as 37 points, but settled for the 31-point decision, which matched the school's largest largest margin of victory in the history of the Mountain West Conference.

Despite trailing in the early going, Leonard and D.J. Gay kept SDSU in the game and helped the Aztecs take a 39-31 lead at halftime. After 20 minutes, Leonard had 17 points and seven rebounds, while Gay added eight points and two steals to set the tone.

Immediately out of the break, Wyoming's Djibril Thiam knocked down a three to cut the San Diego State lead to five, but the Aztecs responded with a 10-0 run to increase their lead to 49-34.

Later, SDSU used a 20-5 run to go up by 30 and the Aztecs cruised to the win and avenged an earlier loss to the Cowboys in Laramie.

Joining Leonard in the double-figure scoring column was freshman classmate Chase Tapley, who scored 14 points, and Tyrone Shelley and Kelvin Davis, who scored 12 points apiece off the bench. Billy White was the fifth member of the bunch after he finished with 10 points for the second consecutive game.

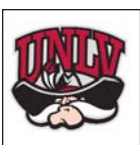
As a team, San Diego State shot 52.4 percent from the field and outrebounded Wyoming, 43-28. SDSU's free-throw shooting, which has been a sore subject for the Aztecs this year, was a respectable 62.1 percent.

Thiam led the Cowboys with 15 points, while Desmar Jackson contributed 14 points.

UW	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thiam	*32	7-8	1-1	0-0	4	3	1	3	2	0	15
Harrison	*27	0-7	0-3	3-4	2	2	2	1	0	0	3
Waddell	*20	2-6	0-0	0-0	6	1	1	1	0	1	4
Luster	*26	1-2	1-2	0-2	1	5	5	6	0	2	3
Jackson	*27	5-12	0-2	4-6	3	5	1	6	2	3	14
Bouedo	24	3-8	1-4	0-0	2	1	1	2	0	0	7
Dermody	16	1-3	1-3	0-0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
M'Baye	20	1-2	0-0	6-12	4	3	0	0	3	0	8
Sylla	8	0-3	0-0	0-0	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
Team					1						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-51</b>	<b>4-15</b>	<b>13-24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP	
Thomas	*24	2-5	0-0	1-3	7	2	3	2	2	0	5
Leonard	*27	10-14	1-3	5-7	8	2	2	2	1	3	26
White	*24	4-5	0-1	2-2	3	1	3	1	2	0	10
Tapley	*30	6-10	0-3	2-3	3	2	6	1	1	3	14
Gay	*27	2-6	2-5	3-6	2	1	4	1	0	3	9
Williams	6	0-2	0-0	0-0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0
Shelley	19	5-7	1-3	1-2	8	2	0	3	0	1	12
Carlwell	19	0-7	0-0	0-2	2	3	2	1	3	0	0
Davis	24	4-7	0-1	4-4	4	2	3	2	0	1	12
Team					3						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>33-63</b>	<b>4-16</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>

Halftime: San Diego State 39, Wyoming 31. FG %: San Diego State 52.4, Wyoming 39.2. 3FG%: Wyoming 26.7, San Diego State 25.0. FT%: San Diego State 62.1, Wyoming 54.2. Officials: Mark Reischling, Tony Padilla, Ruben Ramos. Technicals: None.



# Game 25

San Diego State 68  
No. 23/25 UNLV 58

Feb. 13, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 9,224

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State tied the school record with its second victory of the season over a nationally ranked team after it defeated No. 23/25 UNLV, 68-58, inside Viejas Arena.

Earlier this year, SDSU defeated No. 15/14 New Mexico, and the victory over UNLV marked the fourth time San Diego State has defeated a pair of nationally ranked squads in one season in school history.

The Aztecs trailed in the early going, but after the first three minutes, they slowly took control of the game. SDSU led by as many as 14 points and settled for the 33-25 lead at halftime. Both teams connected on 10 field goals, but the difference was San Diego State's four three-pointers to UNLV's one and the Aztecs' 9-of-12 performance from the line, compared to the Runnin' Rebel's 4-for-5 effort.

UNLV looked poised to make a run at the Aztecs in the first few minutes of the second half, cutting SDSU's lead to three on three different occasions. San Diego State, however, used a handful of little scoring spurts while keeping the Rebels off the scoreboard to open up a double-digit lead with under seven minutes to go and the Aztecs handed UNLV its third-worst loss of the season.

Billy White enjoyed his best game since injuring his ankle as he finished with a game-high 19 points and five rebounds. Frontcourt teammate Kawhi Leonard added 13 points and a game-high 14 rebounds, while D.J. Gay and Chase Tapley each scored 11. Malcolm Thomas, meanwhile, had a nice all-around game with four points, five rebounds, four assists, four blocks, four steals and zero turnovers.

UNLV	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Stanback	*29	0-7	0-3	4-4	4	5	2	3	1	1	1	4
Massamba	*11	3-4	0-0	0-1	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	6
Bellfield	*32	2-9	2-7	0-0	5	1	3	2	0	0	0	6
Marshall	*28	3-4	0-0	6-8	2	5	0	3	1	3	12	1
Willis	*38	5-15	1-5	6-8	3	2	5	3	0	1	17	1
Wallace	15	1-2	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jones	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkins	8	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Shaw	22	3-6	0-1	1-2	7	2	0	2	1	0	7	0
Santee	14	2-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Team					8							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-54</b>	<b>3-17</b>	<b>17-23</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58</b>	

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*31	1-4	0-0	2-2	5	2	4	0	4	4	4	4
Leonard	*35	6-10	1-3	0-2	14	4	1	2	0	0	13	0
White	*33	5-10	0-2	9-11	5	4	2	4	2	1	19	0
Tapley	*28	4-7	1-1	2-4	5	2	1	4	1	3	11	0
Gay	*34	1-7	1-2	8-10	3	2	3	2	0	0	11	0
Shelley	15	1-4	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0
Carlwell	10	0-0	0-0	2-2	2	3	0	2	1	0	2	0
Davis	14	2-5	2-5	0-0	2	1	1	2	0	0	6	0
Team					2					2		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>20-47</b>	<b>5-14</b>	<b>23-31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>68</b>	

Halftime: San Diego State 33, UNLV 25. FG %: San Diego State 42.6, UNLV 35.2. 3FG%: San Diego State 35.7, UNLV 17.6. FT%: San Diego State 74.2, UNLV 73.9. Officials: Mike Littlewood, Dan Chrisman, Jimmy Casas. Technicals: None.



# Game 26

San Diego State 68  
TCU 51

Feb. 16, 2010 ♦ Fort Worth, Texas  
Daniel-Meyer Coliseum ♦ Att.: 3,615

FORT WORTH, Texas - San Diego State used a stifling defense and shot a season-high 60.9 percent from the field to post a 68-51 victory over TCU at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

The decision was SDSU's seventh road win of the season, its most since 2005-06 when that team won seven, claimed the Mountain West Conference regular season and tournament titles, and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

Down by two points early in the first half, the Aztecs went on a 13-0 run and held the Horned Frogs to without a point for nearly eight minutes. By the time Ronnie Moss hit a jumper to put an end to the San Diego State run, the Aztecs were already up, 17-8, and on their way to a 29-19 halftime lead.

In the first half alone, SDSU shot 61.9 percent from the floor, while limiting TCU to just 31.0 percent field-goal shooting.

Things got even better for San Diego State in the opening 2:10 of the second half as it scored seven straight points to open up a 17-point lead, which forced the Frogs into calling a pair of timeouts.

TCU showed some life midway through the second period, cutting the lead to single digits on two occasions. The Horned Frogs never got closer than eight points and San Diego State was well on its way to its 19th victory of the season.

Kawhi Leonard led all players with 18 points and was followed by Billy White's 17 points and game-high nine rebounds.

It was an overall balanced attack for the Aztecs as they received eight points and five assists from Chase Tapley, eight points and eight rebounds from Malcolm Thomas, nine points from Brian Carlwell and six from Tyrone Shelley.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*26	3-5	0-0	2-4	8	1	1	0	0	1	8	0
Leonard	*32	7-10	1-4	3-5	3	3	1	2	1	0	18	0
White	*35	8-13	0-1	1-2	9	2	3	1	0	0	17	0
Tapley	*28	4-7	0-1	0-0	1	0	5	1	1	1	1	8
Gay	*31	0-0	0-0	0-0	4	2	2	4	0	0	0	0
Shelley	19	3-6	0-3	0-1	4	2	0	2	0	0	6	0
Carlwell	19	3-3	0-0	3-4	4	0	1	0	0	0	9	0
Davis	10	0-2	0-1	2-2	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
Team					1							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28-46</b>	<b>1-10</b>	<b>11-18</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>	

TCU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Ruzgas	*25	0-1	0-1	0-0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerina	*18	0-4	0-0	0-2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moss	*35	6-16	1-3	2-2	2	0	5	4	0	0	15	0
Mitchem	*18	2-4	1-2	0-0	0	1	2	2	0	1	5	0
Butler	*25	4-6	0-1	0-0	4	2	1	1	0	0	8	0
Roberson	18	3-5	3-3	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	2	9	0
Buljan	33	5-10	2-3	0-1	4	0	1	1	1	1	12	0
Hill	8	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Green	20	1-5	0-2	0-0	2	4	0	0	0	1	2	0
Team					5					1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>21-53</b>	<b>7-17</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>	

Halftime: San Diego State 29, TCU 19. FG %: San Diego State 60.9, TCU 39.6. 3FG%: TCU 41.2, San Diego State 10.0. FT%: San Diego State 61.1, TCU 40.0. Officials: David Hall, Randy McCall, Tom O'Neill. Technicals: None.



# Game 27

San Diego State 68  
Utah 61

Feb. 20, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 10,695

SAN DIEGO - Basketball is a game of runs and this game was no exception as San Diego State defeated Utah, 68-61, at Viejas Arena.

The win allowed the Aztecs to sweep the season series from the Utes, a feat not accomplished on Montezuma Mesa since 1982. In addition to the season sweep, SDSU secured its school-record fifth straight 20-win campaign.

Malcolm Thomas led all scorers with a career-high 28 points and Kawhi Leonard added 14 points and a game-high 15 rebounds to lead the Aztecs. Billy White had eight points, while D.J. Gay and Brian Carlwell each scored seven.

Thomas dominated Utah in the first half as he scored 10 of San Diego State's first 14 points to help build a 14-4 lead. Despite their early dominance, Utah stuck with it and went on a 12-2 run to knot the game at 18, only to have Thomas put an end to the streak with one of his many layups. Then in the final six minutes, SDSU closed the period on an 11-1 run to enjoy a 36-26 lead at halftime.

In the second half, the Aztecs and Utes traded baskets and San Diego State eventually led by its largest margin, 45-33, with 13:29 remaining. Unfortunately for SDSU, Utah stormed back with 10 unanswered points, which included two layups by Carlon Brown and a pair of threes by Marshall Henderson, to get within 45-43.

Nearly seven minutes later, Utah took a 56-55 lead with 4:35 to go, but San Diego State used a 13-4 run, despite missing seven free throws in the final 1:39, to seal the game.

The Utes, and their many comebacks, were led by Brown's 13 points off the bench and Henderson's 12 points, all of which came off three-pointers.

Utah	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Glover	*6	2-5	1-3	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Foster	*24	0-1	0-0	0-0	4	2	0	1	4	2	0	0
Tavita	*15	1-2	0-0	0-0	4	1	2	1	0	0	2	0
Henderson	*34	4-11	4-8	0-2	4	2	1	4	0	0	12	0
Drca	*30	2-8	1-2	0-0	4	4	4	3	0	0	5	0
Hines	12	1-2	1-2	0-0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0
Watkins	23	4-9	0-0	3-4	7	4	1	1	0	0	11	0
Tillie	17	3-4	0-0	0-0	4	5	1	1	1	1	6	0
Brown	30	4-12	1-2	4-4	5	2	3	1	0	0	13	0
Washburn	9	1-2	0-0	2-2	2	3	0	1	1	0	4	0
Team					4							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-56</b>	<b>8-17</b>	<b>9-12</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>61</b>	

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*36	10-15	1-1	7-14	6	1	0	1	1	1	28	0
Leonard	*33	4-15	0-0	6-6	15	1	1	0	1	2	14	0
White	*25	3-4	0-0	2-4	0	3	0	1	1	0	8	0
Tapley	*25	1-3	0-0	1-2	1	1	3	0	1	0	3	0
Gay	*35	2-9	1-3	2-2	3	1	5	1	0	3	7	0
Shelley	18	0-2	0-1	1-2	5	0	0	1	1	3	1	0
Carlwell	15	3-4	0-0	1-3	4	3	0	0	1	0	7	0
Davis	13	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Team					1							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-54</b>	<b>2-7</b>	<b>20-33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>68</b>	

Halftime: San Diego State 36, Utah 26. FG %: San Diego State 42.6, Utah 39.3. 3FG%: Utah 47.1, San Diego State 28.6. FT%: Utah 75.0, San Diego State 60.6. Officials: David Hall, Doran Gotschall, Randy McCall. Technicals: None.



# Game 28

No. 13/11 Brigham Young 82  
San Diego State 68

Feb. 24, 2010 ♦ Provo, Utah  
Marriott Center ♦ Att.: 20,124

PROVO, Utah - SDSU, with a chance to knock off its third ranked team of the season and snap Brigham Young's 20-game home court winning streak, failed in both attempts as the Aztecs were dropped, 82-68, by the 13th/11th-ranked Cougars at Marriott Center.

Four players scored in double figures for SDSU, but the team's leading scorer and rebounder, Kawhi Leonard, was at less than full strength, suffering from flu-like symptoms. Regardless, D.J. Gay led the Aztecs with 15 points and a game-high five assists, and was joined by Malcolm Thomas and Chase Tapley's 13 points, and Billy White's 11.

The two telling stats in this game were fastbreak points and points off turnovers. BYU used a 20-4 advantage in points off the break and a 23-9 advantage in points off turnovers to eventually pull away from the Aztecs.

With the game tied at 25 with 3:49 left in the first, the Cougars ran and ran some more, scoring 11 unanswered points. Thankfully for SDSU, Tapley connected on a three right before the buzzer to stop the run to bring the Aztecs to within, 36-28, at the intermission.

Coming out of the break, SDSU controlled the tempo and managed to tie the game at 44 after Kelvin Davis hit a three. But like the first half, the Aztecs could not find the bottom of the bucket for a long stretch as BYU went on a 14-2 run over the next four minutes to open up a 12-point lead.

San Diego State cut the lead to seven on two different occasions over the next two minutes, but the Cougars enjoyed a 12-2 run after that to get the lead back into double figures as they cruised to the win.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*24	5-7	0-0	3-5	5	5	3	3	2	0	13	
Leonard	*24	1-5	0-1	1-1	5	2	1	2	1	0	3	
White	*32	5-10	0-1	1-2	6	0	4	3	2	0	11	
Tapley	*31	4-11	3-8	2-2	6	3	0	2	0	1	13	
Gay	*40	6-15	3-8	0-0	4	3	5	3	1	0	15	
Shelley	15	1-4	0-1	0-2	6	2	0	0	0	1	2	
Carlwell	12	3-5	0-0	0-0	2	3	4	3	1	0	6	
Davis	22	2-6	1-3	0-0	2	3	0	0	1	3	5	
Team												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-63</b>	<b>7-22</b>	<b>7-12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>68</b>	

BYU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Haws	*26	1-7	0-0	8-8	5	2	4	1	0	2	10	
Hartssock	*26	0-5	0-0	0-0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	
Miles	*14	2-4	0-0	2-2	1	1	0	1	1	0	6	
Emery	*38	6-7	1-2	4-5	7	3	3	0	0	5	17	
Fredette	*36	8-17	4-8	6-11	6	1	5	1	0	0	26	
Davies	12	3-5	0-0	0-1	3	2	0	1	0	0	6	
Abouo	15	2-4	0-1	0-0	4	1	0	1	1	1	4	
Loyd, Jr.	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Magnusson	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Zylstra	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Anderson	0+	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tavernari	27	4-11	2-4	1-1	3	1	0	1	0	2	11	
Team												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-61</b>	<b>7-15</b>	<b>21-28</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>82</b>	

**Halftime:** Brigham Young 36, San Diego State 28. **FG %:** Brigham Young 44.3, San Diego State 42.9. **3FG%:** Brigham Young 46.7, San Diego State 31.8. **FT%:** Brigham Young 75.0, San Diego State 58.3. **Officials:** Bill Gracey, Mike Reed, Chris Rastatter. **Technical:** None.



# Game 29

San Diego State 68  
Colorado State 55

March 3, 2010 ♦ San Diego, Calif.  
Viejas Arena ♦ Att.: 8,043

SAN DIEGO - San Diego State finished its home portion of its regular season schedule with a 68-55 victory over Colorado State to finish 14-1 at Viejas Arena.

It was Senior Night on Montezuma Mesa and SDSU honored Kelvin Davis, Jason Deutchman and senior manager Ben Kneller, who coincidentally suited up after being cleared by the NCAA earlier in the afternoon.

D.J. Gay led the Aztecs in scoring with 16 points and Kawhi Leonard logged his 14th double-double with 14 points and a game-high 15 rebounds. Malcolm Thomas, meanwhile, added 10 points, eight rebounds and a game-high five assists.

San Diego State never trailed in the game and used a 13-6 run to close out the half to enjoy a 33-19 halftime lead. During its closing effort, Gay scored the team's final eight points in the way of two three-pointers and a long two before the buzzer.

In the opening minutes of the second half, the Rams cut the Aztec lead to 12 on three different occasions, but San Diego State responded each time and increased its lead to 19.

Colorado State hung around and tried making a couple of runs at the Aztecs, but each time were denied. After SDSU went ahead 47-28 with 14:07 left in the game, the Rams got no closer than 13 points the rest of the way.

Kneller, meanwhile, entered the contest with 1:09 remaining in the game and was fouled 17 seconds later when he made one of two free throws. The senior became just the second student manager to suit up for head coach Steve Fisher joining current director of player development, David Velasquez.

CSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Franklin	*25	1-5	0-0	4-8	2	3	0	2	0	0	6	
Busch	*22	5-9	1-1	0-0	4	0	2	1	0	0	11	
Ogide	*29	8-12	0-2	2-4	9	1	1	2	0	0	18	
Nigon	*27	2-9	0-1	0-0	3	1	2	2	1	4	4	
Green	*33	0-4	0-0	0-0	2	2	3	3	0	1	0	
Bocar Ba	14	3-3	0-0	1-2	3	1	1	0	0	0	7	
Hornung	13	1-3	0-1	0-0	2	3	1	1	0	1	2	
McFarland	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Annese	7	1-2	1-1	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	
Perry	6	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Smith	17	1-7	0-4	2-2	4	3	1	2	0	0	4	
Team												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-55</b>	<b>2-14</b>	<b>9-16</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*32	3-5	0-0	4-6	8	2	5	4	2	0	10	
Leonard	*35	5-13	0-1	4-4	15	1	3	2	0	1	14	
White	*28	3-4	0-0	1-2	1	3	0	2	0	1	7	
Gay	*39	5-7	4-6	2-2	2	0	4	3	0	0	16	
Davis	*25	3-12	2-10	0-0	2	3	0	0	1	1	8	
Carlwell	19	2-3	0-0	2-2	1	3	1	1	1	1	6	
Tapley	21	2-4	2-4	0-0	1	1	2	3	1	1	6	
Kneller	1	0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Team												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-48</b>	<b>8-21</b>	<b>14-18</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>68</b>	

**Halftime:** San Diego State 33, Colorado State 19. **FG %:** San Diego State 47.9, Colorado State 40.0. **3FG%:** San Diego State 38.1, Colorado State 14.3. **FT%:** San Diego State 77.8, Colorado State 56.3. **Officials:** Randy McCall, Winston Stith, Mike Littlewood. **Technical:** None.



# Game 30

San Diego State 61  
Air Force 42

March 6, 2010 ♦ USAFA, Colo.  
Clune Arena ♦ Att.: 3,352

USAFA, Colo. - San Diego State ended the regular season on a high note by defeating Air Force, 61-42, inside Clune Arena. With the victory, the Aztecs enter the Conoco Mountain West Conference Championships riding a two-game winning streak.

SDSU never trailed in the contest despite being very short handed. Tyrone Shelley suited up after undergoing thumb surgery eight days earlier, but was only available in case of an emergency. Chase Tapley, meanwhile, missed his first game of the season with a broken bone in his off hand. The situation left the Aztecs with just eight healthy players, seven of which were scholarship athletes.

San Diego State scored the first five points of the game and 12 of the game's first 15 and were content with methodically increasing its lead. When the Falcons got within six points with 12:05 left in the first half, the Aztecs slowly pulled away, eventually leading 27-14 at the half.

In the first five minutes of the second half, San Diego State led by 16 on two occasions, but Air Force would not go down without a fight on its Senior Night.

The Falcons cut the Aztec lead to nine after a 9-2 run with 11:35 left in the game and actually trailed by nine with 8:53 to go. But from that point on, San Diego State closed the game on an 18-7 run to post the 19-point victory.

Malcolm Thomas and Kawhi Leonard led all scorers with 18 points apiece and the two combined to grab 16 of SDSU's 30 total rebounds. D.J. Gay, meanwhile, added 10 points, a game-high five assists and zero turnovers.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Thomas	*36	7-8	0-0	4-7	9	1	3	2	1	2	18	
Leonard	*39	8-12	2-4	0-2	7	2	3	3	2	4	18	
White	*28	2-2	0-0	3-4	3	2	2	0	1	0	7	
Gay	*40	2-5	2-5	4-6	1	1	5	0	0	0	10	
Davis	*25	2-6	0-3	1-2	2	0	2	2	0	1	5	
Williams	12	1-2	1-2	0-0	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	
Carlwell	18	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	
Kneller	2	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Team												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22-38</b>	<b>5-14</b>	<b>12-21</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>61</b>	

AFA	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A	T	O	B	S	TP
Lyons	*27	1-7	0-3	0-0	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	
Parker	*31	2-10	0-5	0-0	4	4	3	0	0	0	4	
McLain	*23	4-4	1-1	1-1	1	3	0	2	1	0	10	
Fletcher	*14	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	
Washington	*22	2-5	0-0	0-0	3	0	2	2	0	1	4	
El-Amin	4	0-1	0-0	1-2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Fitzgerald	3	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fow	25	4-9	1-4	0-1	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	
Merriex	26	1-3	0-1	0-0	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	
Brooks	9	3-4	2-2	0-0	1	1	0	1	0	0	8	
Hempsey	13	0-0	0-0	0-0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	
Broekhuis	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Team												
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-46</b>	<b>4-18</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	

**Halftime:** San Diego State 27, Air Force 14. **FG %:** San Diego State 57.9, Air Force 39.1. **3FG%:** San Diego State 35.7, Air Force 22.2. **FT%:** San Diego State 57.1, Air Force 50.0. **Officials:** Scott Thornley, Jimmy Casas, Wilson Holland. **Technical:** None.



## Game 31

(4) San Diego State 72  
(5) Colorado State 71

March 11, 2010 ♦ Las Vegas, Nev.  
Thomas & Mack Center ♦ Att: 11,031

LAS VEGAS - San Diego State overcame a physical Colorado State side and defeated the Rams for the seventh consecutive time. With the 72-71 win, the Aztecs advanced to the semifinals of the MWC Championships.

On two separate occasions SDSU players had to be restrained after being on the receiving end of a pair of punches, the last of which resulted in Ram star Andy Ogide being ejected.

Nevertheless, Chase Tapley returned from a one-game absence due to a left hand injury and led the team in scoring with 15 points. The freshman shared game-high honors with Billy White and Malcolm Thomas.

Colorado State started the first half with a 7-0 lead and held it for most of the period until Tapley connected a three-point shot with 7:47 remaining to give the Aztecs a 23-20 lead. Tapley's bucket spurred a 12-5 SDSU run and the Aztecs went into halftime with a 41-33 lead.

San Diego State started the second half with a basket and pulled away by 10 points, but Colorado State inched its way back into the game and tied it at 49 with 14:04 left. The Rams continued to battle and the lead exchanged hands multiple times as the game wound down.

The outcome came down to the last seconds of the game. Colorado State was ahead 71-70 when D.J. Gay sank two free throws with 23 seconds left. After a CSU timeout, the Rams had two opportunities to win the game, but Dorian Green threw the ball out of bounds and a last-second shot was off the mark as the Aztecs advanced.

CSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Franklin	*30	3-5	0-0	3-5	7	4	3 1	0	2	9
Busch	*29	2-6	0-1	1-2	6	1	1 0	0	1	5
Ogide	*9	3-4	0-0	0-0	4	3	1 2	0	0	6
Nigon	*34	7-12	4-7	0-0	2	2	1 4	0	0	18
Green	*39	4-9	2-3	2-3	1	1	4 2	1	1	12
Bocar Ba	24	4-9	0-0	1-1	5	4	0 1	0	0	9
Hornung	15	1-4	1-1	0-0	1	3	1 1	0	1	3
McFarland	3	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1 1	0	0	2
Annese	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 0	0	0	0
Smith	16	3-6	1-2	0-0	1	0	2 4	1	1	7
Team					2	1	1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>28-57</b>	<b>8-15</b>	<b>7-11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15 17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*35	6-8	0-0	3-6	7	2	4 3	3	0	15
Leonard	*26	6-15	0-3	0-0	6	5	2 2	1	3	12
White	*31	6-11	0-0	3-6	4	1	3 2	0	3	15
Gay	*40	1-5	0-3	5-6	2	2	3 2	0	0	7
Davis	*22	0-2	0-2	0-2	0	2	1 1	0	2	0
Shelley	12	1-2	0-0	1-1	0	2	1 1	0	1	3
Carlwell	13	1-1	0-0	3-4	4	3	0 2	1	0	5
Tapley	21	6-7	1-2	2-3	3	1	2 0	0	0	15
Team					1					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-51</b>	<b>1-10</b>	<b>17-28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16 13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>72</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 41, Colorado State 33. **FG %:** San Diego State 52.9, Colorado State 49.1. **3FG%:** Colorado State 53.3, San Diego State 10.0. **FT%:** Colorado State 63.6, Diego State 60.7. **Officials:** Eric Curry, Dan Chrisman, Ken Nielson. **Technical:** Colorado State - Mame Bocar Ba; Andy Ogide.



## Game 32

(4) San Diego State 72  
(1) No. 8/8 New Mexico 69

March 12, 2010 ♦ Las Vegas, Nev.  
Thomas & Mack Center ♦ Att: 18,500

LAS VEGAS - San Diego State upset top-seeded and No. 8/8 New Mexico in the semifinals of the MWC Championships, 72-69. The win was SDSU's third of the season against a team ranked in the Associated Press Top 25.

Billy White led the Aztecs with a career-best 28 points, while Kawhi Leonard added 15 points and 13 rebounds as San Diego State advanced to the title game for the second straight year.

San Diego State could not have started the game better, jumping out to an 11-0 lead thanks to a pair of threes from Leonard and one from distance from White. The Lobos did not get on the scoreboard until Phillip McDonald drained a jumper with 16:58 left in the half.

New Mexico would not go down easily and stormed back with a 19-6 run to tie the game at 26. San Diego State took the lead back and almost went into the locker room up by two, but Dairese Gary hit a three with under 10 seconds left to give UNM a 39-38 advantage at halftime.

The second half was a see-saw battle, despite a seven-point Aztec lead with 7:39 left in the game. In fact, New Mexico owned a 64-62 lead with under three minutes to play.

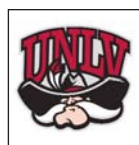
The Lobos trailed, 67-66, in the final two minutes, but D.J. Gay nailed a three to provide a little breathing room for San Diego State. Gary, however, had a chance to win the game for New Mexico, which was down 70-69, and had the ball tipped away, only to recover it, but he missed a layup. As a result, the Lobos were forced to foul Leonard.

With 0.7 seconds left, Leonard calmly made both free-throw attempts to provide the winning margin for SDSU.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*38	3-8	0-0	1-2	5	2	1 1	3	0	7
Leonard	*37	5-11	3-4	2-2	12	3	3 3	0	1	15
White	*35	11-14	1-1	5-5	0	3	0 3	0	0	28
Gay	*40	2-8	1-4	0-0	3	0	7 0	1	0	5
Davis	*16	2-5	2-3	0-0	2	3	3 0	0	0	6
Shelley	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1 0	0	0	0
Carlwell	7	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	1 1	0	0	2
Tapley	24	3-4	3-4	0-0	3	1	0 0	0	1	9
Team					2		1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27-52</b>	<b>10-16</b>	<b>8-9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16 9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>72</b>

UNM	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Hardeman	*29	6-8	0-0	0-0	9	3	0 0	3	0	12
Martinez	*22	3-8	3-7	2-3	1	4	1 0	1	2	11
Hobson	*40	6-14	1-5	2-4	7	1	7 3	1	2	15
Gary	*34	5-11	2-4	5-5	2	1	3 2	0	0	17
McDonald	*34	2-6	1-3	0-0	3	1	0 0	0	0	5
Dennis	4	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
Garth	8	0-2	0-0	2-2	0	1	2 0	0	0	2
Brown	29	2-3	0-0	3-3	3	1	0 0	0	0	7
Team					2		1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>24-54</b>	<b>7-21</b>	<b>14-17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>

**Halftime:** New Mexico 39, San Diego State 38. **FG %:** San Diego State 51.9, New Mexico 44.4. **3FG%:** San Diego State 62.5, New Mexico 33.3. **FT%:** San Diego State 88.9, New Mexico 82.4. **Officials:** David Hall, Verne Harris, Michael Irving. **Technical:** None.



## Game 33

(4) San Diego State 55  
(3) UNLV 45

March 13, 2010 ♦ Las Vegas, Nev.  
Thomas & Mack Center ♦ Att: 12,728

LAS VEGAS - San Diego State won its third Mountain West Conference tournament title and earned the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament with its 55-45 victory at UNLV.

Kawhi Leonard was named the tournament's most valuable player and led the team with 16 points and a career-high 21 rebounds, earning his 16th double-double of the season. The 21 boards set a new MWC tournament record, which was previously owned by former Aztec Marcus Slaughter (19; 2006).

The first half was abysmal as neither team scored for the first 4:08. Despite all the shooting woes, UNLV owned a 10-4 lead more than halfway through the first period, but SDSU answered by taking its own six-point cushion into the final 10 seconds. Unfortunately for the Aztecs, Justin Hawkins cut their lead in half as he hit a three as time expired. All told, the teams shot a combined 18-for-53 from the floor in the first 20 minutes.

Kelvin Davis started the second half off strong with a three-point shot providing San Diego State with its second six-point lead of the game. The battle for the lead continued for the rest of the half with Tre'Von Willis bringing UNLV to within four with 2:54 left in regulation.

After an SDSU turnover and a missed three by Willis, UNLV fouled Leonard three consecutive times and the MWC freshman of the year knocked down all six free throws and eight overall in the final 1:54 to secure the title.

San Diego State won its 25th game of the season, the second most victories by any Aztec squad in 89 seasons of SDSU basketball.

SDSU	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Thomas	*34	2-7	0-0	3-3	7	2	4 1	1	2	7
Leonard	*36	4-11	0-1	8-9	21	1	2 5	0	2	16
White	*33	3-5	0-1	1-2	3	3	2 2	0	1	7
Gay	*39	3-13	3-7	2-4	2	1	0 3	0	0	11
Davis	*32	4-7	1-3	0-0	1	2	0 2	0	2	9
Shelley	8	2-2	0-0	1-1	1	2	0 1	0	0	5
Carlwell	10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0 2	0	0	0
Tapley	8	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	1	1 2	0	0	0
Team					1					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>18-46</b>	<b>4-13</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9 18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>55</b>

UNLV	MP	FG	3FG	FT	R	F	A TO	B	S	TP
Stanback	*36	4-10	2-6	0-0	7	1	1 2	1	3	10
Santee	*13	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	0 0	0	0	1
Bellfield	*35	5-15	1-5	0-0	4	3	5 6	0	1	11
Marshall	*25	0-2	0-0	2-4	7	1	2 2	1	1	2
Willis	*35	4-12	1-5	2-2	1	3	3 2	0	2	11
Wallace	13	2-4	1-3	0-0	2	2	0 0	0	1	5
Massamba	18	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	5	0 2	0	1	0
Jones	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0 1	0	0	0
Hawkins	13	2-3	1-1	0-0	0	2	1 0	0	0	5
Shaw	8	0-4	0-2	0-0	1	1	0 0	0	1	0
Team					2					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>17-52</b>	<b>6-22</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12 15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>

**Halftime:** San Diego State 25, UNLV 22. **FG %:** San Diego State 39.1, UNLV 32.7. **3FG%:** San Diego State 30.8, UNLV 27.3. **FT%:** San Diego State 78.9, UNLV 62.5. **Officials:** David Hall, Verne Harris, Eric Curry. **Technical:** None.



# Steve Fisher

19th-Full Season • 11th Season at SDSU • Illinois State, 1967

## Record Breakdown

	Career
Home	219-68
Away	98-133
Neutral	65-29
<b>By Month</b>	
November	51-20
December	103-41
January	84-64
February	72-62
March	68-39
April	4-2
<b>Games Decided By/In</b>	
1-Point Games	19-8
2 Points	18-16
3 Points or Less	78-54
Overtime	28-16

Steve Fisher has guided the Aztec basketball program to unparalleled heights. In 11 seasons, he has taken a program that regularly missed out on the conference postseason tournament, to one which has become of the best programs on the West Coast and has the Aztecs knocking on the door of the elite teams in the country.

The best news for SDSU fans is that the school exercised its contract option on Fisher this past fall, which keeps the coach on Montezuma Mesa until 2012-13.

When Fisher arrived on the scene in March of 1999, he found a basketball program that wasn't good enough to be called average. The Aztecs had suffered through 13 losing seasons in 14 years. Members of the school's last NCAA team were in the early stages of middle age. The expectations were set. The Aztecs were expected to lose. The year before Fisher's arrival on campus, San Diego State won just four games.

Now those days are a distant memory. Fisher guided San Diego State to the NCAA Tournament in 2002, the postseason NIT in 2003, the 2006 NCAA Tournament and the NIT the last three seasons, including the NIT semifinals in 2009. In addition, the Aztecs have a solid core returning and a nationally ranked recruiting class, that will keep SDSU competitive this season and seasons ahead.

On March 26, 1999, San Diego State announced its arrival on the basketball scene in the form of a news conference to introduce its new coach, Steve Fisher. Fresh from a stint with the Sacramento Kings and with three appearances in the Final Four and a national championship in his pocket, he rolled up his sleeves and went to work. And work was needed. It looked to be a daunting challenge and yet the man with one of the highest winning percentages in NCAA Tournament history had no reservations.

No head-coaching career, at any level, started quicker than that of Steve Fisher. Six games into his head-coaching career he was undefeated and sporting a national championship ring. And the success didn't stop with the national title.

Fisher's eight-plus seasons at Michigan produced a 184-82 (.692) record, nine postseason tournament berths and three

trips to the NCAA championship game, including the magical run to the 1989 national title.

Under Fisher, the Wolverines also claimed an NIT championship, won at least 20 games four times and finished among the top three in the powerful Big Ten Conference five times. In 1995, Michigan set a league record by holding opponents to just 39.4 percent shooting from the floor.

Fisher and Co., raised the bar even higher in the postseason. His seven NCAA Tournament teams at Michigan combined for a 20-6 record, ranking him fourth among active coaches and ninth in NCAA history with a winning percentage of .769 in the national bracket. Only 13 coaches have taken more teams to the Final Four, including just five that are still active. He is one of three coaches to take three squads to the Final Four in the first five years of a head-coaching career, and one of just six coaches to lead a team to the championship of the NIT as well as the NCAA.

His accomplishments may be even greater at San Diego State. In 2001-02 he led the Aztecs to the postseason for the first time since 1985 and for just the fourth time ever. The 21 wins were second most for the school as a Division I program and the most since 1985. The fact that those numbers came after just three seasons signifies what is one of the great recent turnarounds in college basketball.

He followed that up with a third consecutive season with a .500 or better record in 2002-03 and led SDSU back to the postseason for the second consecutive season for only the second time in the school's Division I history. In addition, SDSU claimed its first Division I postseason victory with a win in the NIT.

In 2006-07, he led SDSU to the MWC regular season and tournament crowns and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. That team finished with a Division I then-school-record 24 wins. And the last three seasons, Fisher has led the Aztecs to three additional 20-win seasons and postseason appearances, including a school-record 26 wins and an NIT semifinal berth in 2009, and he doesn't look like he is stopping anytime soon.

## ► Steve Fisher Year-By-Year

Year	School	W	L	Pct.	Conference			Postseason/Honors
					W	L	Pct.	
1989	Michigan	6	0	1.000	-	-	-	NCAA Champions
1989-90	Michigan	23	8	.742	12	6	.667	NCAA Second Round
1990-91	Michigan	14	15	.483	7	11	.389	NIT First Round
1991-92	Michigan	25	9	.735	11	7	.611	NCAA Runner-Up, <i>Basketball Times</i> Coach of the Year
1992-93	Michigan	31	5	.861	15	3	.833	NCAA Runner-Up
1993-94	Michigan	24	8	.750	13	5	.722	NCAA Regional Finalist
1994-95	Michigan	17	14	.548	11	7	.611	NCAA First Round
1995-96	Michigan	20	12	.625	10	8	.556	NCAA First Round
1996-97	Michigan	24	11	.686	9	9	.500	NIT Champions
<b>Eight Full Seasons at UM</b>		<b>184</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>.692</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>.611</b>	<b>7 NCAA Tournaments, 9 Postseason Appearances</b>
Year	School	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	Postseason/Honors
1999-00	San Diego State	5	23	.179	0	14	.000	
2000-01	San Diego State	14	14	.500	4	10	.286	8th-most improved team in the country (Sagarin Ratings)
2001-02	San Diego State	21	12	.636	7	7	.500	NCAA First Round; Aztecs' first NCAA trip since 1985
2002-03	San Diego State	16	14	.552	6	8	.429	NIT Second Round; Aztecs reach postseason in consecutive yrs
2003-04	San Diego State	14	16	.483	5	9	.357	Two players that earned all-league honors return in 04-05
2004-05	San Diego State	11	18	.379	4	10	.286	Young Aztecs drop seven gms. by four pts. or less or OT
2005-06	San Diego State	24	9	.727	13	3	.813	MWC regular season and tournament champs.; NCAA berth
2006-07	San Diego State	22	11	.667	10	6	.625	NIT Second Round; First road win in D-I postseason tourney
2007-08	San Diego State	20	13	.606	9	7	.563	NIT First Round; Third straight 20-win season
2008-09	San Diego State	26	10	.722	11	5	.688	NIT Semifinals; Fourth straight 20-win year; SDSU-record 26 wins
2009-10	San Diego State	25	8	.758	11	5	.667	Fifth straight 20-win season, MWC tourney champions
<b>11 Seasons at SDSU</b>		<b>198</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>.572</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>.488</b>	<b>3 NCAA Tournaments; 7 Postseason Appearances</b>
<b>19th-Full Season Career</b>		<b>382</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>.624</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>.545</b>	<b>10 NCAA Tournaments, 16 Postseason Appearances</b>



**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**  
Career 11 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Rebounds**  
Career 7 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Assists**  
Career 1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
1 vs. Santa Clara (11-16-09)  
1 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Field Goals**  
Career 3 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
3 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
Career 4 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
Career 1 at Air Force (3-6-10)  
1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
Career 2 at Air Force (3-6-10)

**Free Throws**  
Career 4 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
Career 4 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Steals**  
Career --

**Blocked Shots**  
Career 1 at Air Force (3-6-10)

**Minutes Played**  
Career 21 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

# 0 • Alec Williams

**Forward • 6-6 • 268 • Freshman • San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (JSerra Catholic High)**



(3-6-10).

Has seen action in 12 games this season... Enjoyed his best outing after hitting all three of his field goals, including a three-pointer, and all four free throws en route to a career-high 11 points vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Scored a career best six points and had a career-high seven rebounds against UC San Diego (11-14-09)... Played 12 minutes in San Diego State's victory over Santa Clara (11-19-09)... Has just two turnovers in 10 games and 87 minutes of action this season... Missed the San Diego game (12-2-09) due to an ankle injury... Played in his first Mountain West Conference game at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Knocked down his only field-goal attempt in the road win at Utah (1-19-10)... Logged four minutes vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Played six minutes, his most during Mountain West Conference play, and grabbed three rebounds vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Connected on one of his two three-point attempts en route to three points and added a career-high one blocked shot in 12 minutes at Air Force

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego	21	3-4	0-0	0-0	7	3	1	1	0	0	0	6
N.16	at Saint Mary's	4	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.19	Santa Clara	12	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
N.23	at Fresno State												Did Not Play - CD
N.25	at Pacific	3	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.28	Northern Arizona	7	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.2	at San Diego												Did Not Play - Injured
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara												Did Not Play - Injured
D.9	Cal State Fullerton	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.12	Arizona												Did Not Play - CD
D.19	at Arizona State												Did Not Play - CD
D.22	at Drake												Did Not Play - CD
D.29	UC Riverside												Did Not Play - CD
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	13	3-3	1-1	4-4	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	11
J.5	New Mexico*												Did Not Play - CD
J.9	at Wyoming*	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.13	at UNLV*												Did Not Play - CD
J.16	TCU*												Did Not Play - CD
J.19	at Utah*	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
J.23	BYU*												Did Not Play - CD
J.30	at Colorado State*												Did Not Play - CD
F.2	Air Force*	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F.6	at New Mexico*												Did Not Play - CD
F.10	Wyoming*	6	0-2	0-0	0-0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
F.13	UNLV*												Did Not Play - CD
F.16	at TCU*												Did Not Play - CD
F.20	Utah*												Did Not Play - CD
F.24	at BYU*												Did Not Play - CD
M.3	Colorado State*												Did Not Play - CD
M.6	at Air Force*	12	1-2	1-2	0-0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	3
M.11	vs. Colorado State												Did Not Play - CD
M.12	vs. New Mexico												Did Not Play - CD
M.13	at UNLV												Did Not Play - CD

**► Williams Career Statistics**

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
09-10	12-0	87-7.3	8-18	.444	2-5	.400	5-6	.833	2	12	14	1.2	15-0	3	3	1	0	23	1.9

**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**

Season 17 at UCSB (12-5-09)  
17 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
17 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
Career 34 vs. CSUN (11-17-07)

**Rebounds**

Season 9 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
Career 14 at Saint Mary's (1-19-08)  
14 at CSUB (11-25-07)

**Assists**

Season 3 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
Career 3 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
3 vs. Hope Int'l (1-8-08)

**Field Goals**

Season 8 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
Career 12 vs. CSUN (11-17-07)

**Field Goals Attempted**

Season 12 at UCSB (12-5-09)  
12 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
Career 20 at San Francisco (3-3-08)

**Three-Point Field Goals**

Season 4 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
Career 6 vs. CSUN (11-17-07)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**

Season 8 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
Career 11 at San Francisco (3-3-08)

**Free Throws**

Season 4 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
4 at Saint Mary's (11-16-09)  
Career 10 vs. LBSU (11-21-07)

**Free Throws Attempted**

Season 6 at Saint Mary's (11-16-09)  
6 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)  
Career 13 vs. LBSU (11-21-07)

**Steals**

Season 4 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
4 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
Career 4 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
4 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
4 vs. Gonzaga (1-14-08)  
4 at Pacific (12-8-07)  
4 vs. LBSU (11-21-07)

**Blocked Shots**

Season 3 vs. Arizona (12-12-09)  
3 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
Career 4 vs. Gonzaga (1-14-08)

**Minutes Played**

Season 31 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
Career 36 at Gonzaga (2-9-08)  
36 vs. San Francisco (2-2-08)  
36 at Saint Mary's (1-19-08)

# 3 • Tyrone Shelley

**Guard • 6-6 • 225 • Sophomore • San Diego, Calif. (Crawford High/Pepperdine)**



Reached double figures in scoring in six consecutive games, which was a career high until the streak was broken vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)... Has 31 career double-digit scoring games, including nine this year... Made a three-point field goal in 36 of his 60 career collegiate games... Has seven multiple-assist games this season after recording eight all of his freshman season... Has eight multiple-steal outings this year and at least one steal in 20 of his last 25 games... Tied a career-high with four steals against Northern Arizona (11-28-09)... Enjoyed his first turnover-free game of the season in the contest against the Lumberjacks... Scored 10 points, matched his career high with three assists and had six rebounds and a season-high three blocked shots at San Diego (12-2-09)... Tied his season high with 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds at UC Santa Barbara (12-5-09)... Tied a season high with three blocks vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Pulled five rebounds at Drake (12-22-09)... Recorded four rebounds,

two assists and zero turnovers at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Reached double figures in scoring for the first time in nine outings when he posted 12 points at UNLV (1-13-10); he also grabbed a season-high nine rebounds... Posted three points and three rebounds at Utah (1-19-10)... Had two steals against No. 14/13 Brigham Young (1-23-10)... Hit a three-pointer and finished with five points off the bench at Colorado State (1-30-10)... Had 10 points, while knocking down two three-pointers, and seven rebounds, a total that equaled his previous four games combined, vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Came off the bench and finished with 12 points and eight rebounds, his second-highest total of the year, vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Had two assists, the third most on the team, vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10)... Went 3-for-6 from the field en route to six points and four rebounds at TCU (2-16-10)... Fell one steal short of matching his career high when he finished with a game-high three steals vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Shared team-high honors with two others with his six rebounds at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (2-24-10)... Injured right thumb vs. Utah (2-20-10), reinjured it at Brigham Young (2-24-10), and had surgery on Friday, Feb. 26; targeting MWC Championships for his return... Missed the Colorado State game (3-3-10) due to an injured thumb... Dressed, but was held out of the road game at Air Force (3-6-10) due to an injured thumb; could have played in an emergency... Contributed three points, one assist and a steal in the quarterfinals of the MWC tournament vs. Colorado State (3-11-10)... Had one assists vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) in the MWC semifinals... Knocked down both shots and his one free throw to finish with five points at UNLV (3-13-10) in the MWC title game.

## 2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego												
Did Not Play - Injured													
N.16	at Saint Mary's		23	1-7	0-1	4-6	6	0	2	3	1	2	6
N.19	Santa Clara		21	4-10	2-6	2-6	4	3	1	1	1	2	12
N.23	at Fresno State	S	31	5-12	4-8	3-3	6	2	2	4	0	0	17
N.25	at Pacific	S	27	4-7	2-4	0-0	2	2	0	2	0	1	10
N.28	Northern Arizona		19	8-10	1-3	0-2	1	2	2	0	0	4	17
D.2	at San Diego	S	30	3-9	0-4	4-4	6	0	3	1	3	3	10
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara	S	29	7-12	1-4	2-5	8	0	2	1	0	2	17
D.9	Cal State Fullerton	S	24	2-5	1-2	0-3	2	2	1	3	0	2	5
D.12	Arizona	S	23	4-8	0-2	1-1	4	2	1	3	3	3	9
D.19	at Arizona State	S	16	0-1	0-1	0-0	3	2	0	4	0	1	0
D.22	at Drake		24	0-4	0-2	3-4	5	2	0	1	0	1	3
D.29	UC Riverside	S	23	1-6	0-2	2-4	2	3	0	1	0	1	4
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer												
Did Not Play - CD													
J.5	New Mexico*		15	1-3	1-2	0-0	1	2	0	1	1	1	3
J.9	at Wyoming*		16	0-0	0-0	0-0	4	2	2	0	1	0	0
J.13	at UNLV*		19	4-9	0-3	4-4	9	1	0	1	0	1	12
J.16	TCU*		11	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
J.19	at Utah*		23	1-4	0-2	1-4	3	3	1	1	0	1	3
J.23	BYU*		13	2-4	0-0	0-0	2	0	1	4	1	2	4
J.30	at Colorado State*		13	2-3	1-1	0-1	1	3	1	1	0	1	5
F.2	Air Force*		18	3-6	2-4	2-3	7	1	0	0	0	1	10
F.6	at New Mexico*		12	1-2	0-0	0-2	2	3	0	1	0	0	2
F.10	Wyoming*		19	5-7	1-3	1-2	8	2	0	3	0	1	12
F.13	UNLV*		15	1-4	0-1	0-0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2
F.16	at TCU*		19	3-6	0-3	0-1	4	2	0	2	0	0	6
F.20	Utah*		18	0-2	0-1	1-2	5	0	0	1	1	3	1
F.24	at BYU*		15	1-4	0-1	0-2	6	2	0	0	0	1	2
M.3	Colorado State*												
Did Not Play - Injured													
M.6	at Air Force*												
Did Not Play - CD													
M.11	vs. Colorado State		12	1-2	0-0	1-1	0	2	1	1	0	1	3
M.12	vs. New Mexico		3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
M.13	at UNLV		8	2-2	0-0	1-1	1	2	0	1	0	0	5

## ► Shelley Career Statistics

\* at Pepperdine

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
07-08*	32-19	839-26.2	167-414	.403	48-159	.302	100-131	.763	65	121	186	5.8	101-3	29	86	17	52	482	15.1
09-10	29-8	539-18.6	67-151	.444	16-61	.262	32-61	.525	24	80	104	3.6	47-0	24	41	13	37	182	6.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61-27</b>	<b>1378-22.6</b>	<b>234-565</b>	<b>.414</b>	<b>64-220</b>	<b>.291</b>	<b>132-192</b>	<b>.688</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>148-3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>10.9</b>

**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**  
 Season 28 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 Career 28 vs. Utah (2-20-10)

**Rebounds**  
 Season 15 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 16 vs. LBSU (11-21-07)

**Assists**  
 Season 6 vs. TCU (1-16-10)  
 Career 6 vs. TCU (1-16-10)

**Field Goals**  
 Season 10 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 10 at Utah (1-19-10)  
 10 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 Career 10 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 10 at Utah (1-19-10)  
 10 vs. NAU (11-28-09)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
 Season 17 at Utah (1-19-10)  
 Career 17 at Utah (1-19-10)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
 Season 1 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 Career 1 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
 Season 1 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 1 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 Career 1 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 1 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 1 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 1 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)  
 1 at Arizona St. (12-19-09)

**Free Throws**  
 Season 7 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 Career 8 at Manhattan (12-21-07)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
 Season 14 vs. Utah (2-20-10)  
 Career 14 vs. Utah (2-20-10)

**Steals**  
 Season 4 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 Career 4 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)

**Blocked Shots**  
 Season 6 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)  
 Career 6 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)  
 6 vs. San Diego (2-4-08)

**Minutes Played**  
 Season 38 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 38 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
 Career 42 vs. Portland (3-7-08)

# 4 • Malcolm Thomas

**Forward • 6-9 • 215 • Junior • San Diego, Calif. (Crawford High/Pepperdine)**



All-MWC second team... Started 32 games this season, including 30 straight... Has 10 double-doubles in his career and four this season... Has two 20-point, 10-rebound games this year... Grabbed seven or more rebounds in 18 of his last 23 games and 24 times this year... In 65 career games, Thomas now has 18 double-digit rebound games... Has a team-best four 20-point scoring games this season and seven in his career... Has 14 games with multiple blocked shots and has at least one block in 24 of his last 29 games... He now has 114 career blocked shots... Made 10-of-11 field goals against Northern Arizona (11-28-09), the third-best shooting performance from the field during the Steve Fisher era... Posted his first double-double of the season with 21 points and 10 rebounds in 27 minutes against Northern Arizona (11-28-09)... Picked up 10 rebounds at San Diego (12-2-09)... Had 15 points and matched his season high with three assists at UC Santa Barbara (12-5-09)... Finished with nine points and seven boards vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)... Had two steals and three blocks vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Finished with 10 rebounds at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Pulled down

eight boards at Drake (12-22-09)... Blocked a career-high-tying six shots and dished out a career-high-matching four assists vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)... Finished with 15 points, seven rebounds and two blocks vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Posted a game-high 18 points and season-high 15 rebounds vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... He and Kawhi Leonard (23 pts., 18 rebs. vs. CSUF) became fourth pair of teammates to post an 18-point, 15-rebound game in 2009-10, according to ESPN.com... Went for 14 points, seven rebounds, four assists and two blocks at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Finished with 12 points and seven rebounds at UNLV (1-13-10)... Posted 11 points, nine rebounds and a career-high six assists vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Scored a game-high 23 points and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds at Utah (1-19-10)... Had six rebounds, five assists and two blocks vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Earned game-high honors with 13 rebounds at Colorado State (1-30-10)... Registered his fourth double-double of the season with 10 points and a game-high 12 boards vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Finished with 10 points and seven rebounds at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10)... Blocked two shots, had three assists and grabbed seven rebounds vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Had an all-around game vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10) with four points, five rebounds, four assists, four blocks, a career-high four steals and zero turnovers... Had eight rebounds at TCU (2-16-10)... Set a career high with 28 points (19 in the first half) on a career-high 10 field goals and seven free throws vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Had 13 points, three assists and two blocks vs. No. 13/11 Brigham Young (2-24-10)... Had a game-high five assists, while adding 10 points, eight rebounds and two blocks vs. Colorado State (3-3-10)... Posted game-high numbers of 18 points and nine rebounds at Air Force (3-6-10)... Led the team with 15 points, four assists and three blocks vs. Colorado State (3-11-10) in the MWC quarters... Checked out with seven points, five rebounds and three blocks vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) in the MWC semifinals... Finished with seven points, seven rebounds and four assists at UNLV (3-12-10) in the MWC title game.

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego	S	29	8-11	0-0	4-8	9	2	1	5	2	1	20
N.16	at Saint Mary's	S	33	4-7	0-0	6-8	8	3	1	4	0	0	14
N.19	Santa Clara	S	20	3-5	0-0	0-0	4	0	3	1	3	0	6
N.23	at Fresno State	S	23	0-1	0-0	3-6	3	3	1	2	0	2	3
N.25	at Pacific	S	37	2-7	0-0	4-8	8	3	0	1	1	1	8
N.28	Northern Arizona	S	27	10-11	0-0	1-3	10	2	3	0	1	1	21
D.2	at San Diego	S	38	4-8	0-0	0-0	10	4	0	0	1	1	8
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara	S	36	6-9	0-0	3-5	4	3	3	1	1	0	15
D.9	Cal State Fullerton	S	25	3-12	0-0	3-7	7	2	0	0	1	0	9
D.12	Arizona	S	32	2-8	0-0	2-4	5	4	1	3	3	2	6
D.19	at Arizona State	S	30	2-5	0-1	1-2	10	3	2	3	1	1	5
D.22	at Drake	S	32	2-6	0-0	2-4	8	3	2	3	0	0	6
D.29	UC Riverside	S	31	2-5	0-1	2-6	7	2	4	2	6	1	6
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	S	25	7-9	1-1	0-0	7	0	2	2	2	2	15
J.5	New Mexico*	S	33	7-9	0-0	4-7	15	2	1	1	0	1	18
J.9	at Wyoming*	S	36	5-7	0-0	4-7	7	2	4	3	2	1	14
J.13	at UNLV*	S	28	6-8	0-0	0-1	7	2	1	0	0	0	12
J.16	TCU*	S	37	4-7	0-0	3-8	9	2	6	3	1	0	11
J.19	at Utah*	S	33	10-17	0-0	3-6	13	2	0	4	1	1	23
J.23	BYU*	S	29	1-6	0-0	0-0	6	0	5	2	2	0	2
J.30	at Colorado State*	S	33	2-6	0-0	1-3	13	4	1	2	2	1	5
F.2	Air Force*	S	25	4-8	0-0	2-4	12	1	3	1	0	2	10
F.6	at New Mexico*	S	37	2-8	0-1	6-12	7	2	1	3	1	0	10
F.10	Wyoming*	S	24	2-5	0-0	1-3	7	2	3	2	2	0	5
F.13	UNLV*	S	31	1-4	0-0	2-2	5	2	4	0	4	4	4
F.16	at TCU*	S	26	3-5	0-0	2-4	8	1	1	0	0	1	8
F.20	Utah*	S	36	10-15	1-1	7-14	6	1	0	1	1	1	28
F.24	at BYU*	S	24	5-7	0-0	3-5	5	5	3	3	2	0	13
M.3	Colorado State*	S	32	3-5	0-0	4-6	8	2	5	4	2	0	10
M.6	at Air Force*	S	36	7-8	0-0	4-7	9	1	3	2	1	2	18
M.11	vs. Colorado State	S	35	6-8	0-0	3-6	7	2	4	3	3	0	15
M.12	vs. New Mexico	S	38	3-8	0-0	1-2	5	2	1	1	3	0	7
M.13	at UNLV	S	34	2-7	0-0	3-3	7	2	4	1	1	2	7

**► Thomas Career Statistics**

*\* at Pepperdine*

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
07-08*	32-28	967-30.2	148-288	.514	0-0	.000	105-183	.574	99	182	281	8.8	79-2	50	90	64	20	401	12.5
09-10	33-32	1025-31.1	138-252	.548	2-5	.400	84-161	.522	89	167	256	7.8	71-1	73	63	50	28	362	11.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65-60</b>	<b>1992-30.6</b>	<b>286-540</b>	<b>.530</b>	<b>2-5</b>	<b>.400</b>	<b>189-344</b>	<b>.549</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>150-3</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>11.7</b>

**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**  
 Season 13 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 Career 13 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Rebounds**  
 Season 6 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 6 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)  
 6 vs. Austin Peay (11-13-06)  
 Career 6 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 6 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)  
 6 vs. Austin Peay (11-13-06)

**Assists**  
 Season 4 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 Career 4 at BYU (2-24-10)

**Field Goals**  
 Season 6 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 Career 6 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
 Season 12 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
 Career 12 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
 Season 1 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 1 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
 Season 1 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 1 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

**Free Throws**  
 Season 4 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 4 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-0-9)  
 Career 4 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 4 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-0-9)  
 4 vs. Maryland (11-28-06)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
 Season 7 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-0-9)  
 Career 7 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-0-9)

**Steals**  
 Season 2 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 2 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Blocked Shots**  
 Season 3 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)  
 Career 3 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)  
 3 vs. Ohio State (1-6-07)

**Minutes Played**  
 Season 27 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 27 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

# 5 • Brian Carlwell

**Center • 6-11 • 297 • Junior • Maywood, Ill. (Proviso East (Ill.) High/Illinois)**



Made 49 of his last 76 field-goal attempts... Started the first three games of the season... Shooting 62.4 percent from the field this season and has shot 50 percent or above from the field in 23 of 29 games this season in which he has attempted a shot... Scored in a career-best 11 straight games, until he was held scoreless vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Had eight steals in the first 29 games of his career, but has eight thefts this season... San Diego State is 4-1 in games in which he plays at least 20 minutes... Scored nine points in the season opener against UC San Diego (11-14-09)... In 15 minutes at UC Santa Barbara (12-5-09), he blocked a season-high two shots and had his first assist of the season... Scored 10 points and grabbed four rebounds vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)... Tallied five points and four boards vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Hit his only field goal at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Connected on all three field-goal attempts en route to six points and added a season-high two blocks vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)...

Enjoyed his best game with 13 points and six rebounds vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Connected on a career-best four free throws without missing vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... Went 4-for-4 from the field en route to nine points, while dishing out a career-best two assists at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Knocked down his only shot attempt and finished with three points and a career-high two assists at UNLV (1-13-10)... Had four points vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Finished with four points, a block and a steal at Utah (1-19-10)... Went four-of-five from the field and finished with eight points and four rebounds vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Hit two of his three shots and finished with five points and three rebounds at Colorado State (1-30-10)... Came up with six points, his career-best 10th straight game in which he has scored, four rebounds and one block vs. Air Force (2-10-10)... Made all four field-goal attempts, one of which was his first career three-pointer, and finished with 10 points, his second-highest point total of the season at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10)... Blocked a career-high three shots and had a personal-best two assists vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Went 3-for-3 from the field and finished with nine points and four rebounds at TCU (2-16-10)... Contributed seven points, most of all SDSU bench players, and four rebounds vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Finished with a career-best four assists, while scoring six points at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (2-24-20)... Hit both of his free throws en route to six points vs. Colorado State (3-3-10)... Blocked a game-high two shots at Air Force (3-6-10)... Contributed five points and four rebounds in the MWC quarterfinal win over CSU (3-11-10)... Added two points and two rebounds vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) in the MWC semifinals... Played 10 minutes at UNLV (3-13-10) in the MWC title game.

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego	S	27	4-7	0-0	1-2	5	0	0	0	1	2	9
N.16	at Saint Mary's	S	18	2-3	0-0	2-2	1	1	0	0	0	1	6
N.19	Santa Clara	S	19	3-5	0-0	0-0	6	5	0	4	0	1	6
N.23	at Fresno State		21	2-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
N.25	at Pacific		8	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0
N.28	Northern Arizona		23	1-4	0-0	0-1	4	4	0	1	0	0	2
D.2	at San Diego		4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara		15	2-2	0-0	0-1	3	2	1	1	2	0	4
D.9	Cal State Fullerton		17	3-3	0-0	4-7	4	3	0	0	0	0	10
D.12	Arizona		12	2-3	0-0	1-2	4	2	0	1	0	0	5
D.19	at Arizona State		8	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	3	0	2	0	0	2
D.22	at Drake		5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
D.29	UC Riverside		11	3-3	0-0	0-1	3	0	0	0	2	0	6
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer		24	6-12	0-0	1-2	6	0	0	0	0	0	13
J.5	New Mexico*		7	0-0	0-0	4-4	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
J.9	at Wyoming*		21	4-4	0-0	1-2	2	4	2	1	0	0	9
J.13	at UNLV*		12	1-1	0-0	1-2	3	1	2	1	0	1	3
J.16	TCU*		11	1-2	0-0	2-4	1	0	1	0	0	1	4
J.19	at Utah*		10	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	4	0	2	1	1	4
J.23	BYU*		14	4-5	0-0	0-1	4	2	0	0	0	0	8
J.30	at Colorado State*		13	2-3	0-0	1-2	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
F.2	Air Force*		18	3-6	0-0	0-2	4	1	0	1	1	0	6
F.6	at New Mexico*		17	4-4	1-1	1-2	3	3	0	1	0	0	10
F.10	Wyoming*		19	0-7	0-0	0-2	2	3	2	1	3	0	0
F.13	UNLV*		10	0-0	0-0	2-2	2	3	0	2	1	0	2
F.16	at TCU*		19	3-3	0-0	3-4	4	0	1	0	0	0	9
F.20	Utah*		15	3-4	0-0	1-3	4	3	0	0	1	0	7
F.24	at BYU*		12	3-5	0-0	0-0	2	3	4	3	1	0	6
M.3	Colorado State*		19	2-3	0-0	2-2	1	3	1	1	1	1	6
M.6	at Air Force*		18	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0
M.11	vs. Colorado State		13	1-1	0-0	3-4	4	3	0	2	1	0	5
M.12	vs. New Mexico		7	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	2	1	1	0	0	2
M.13	at UNLV		10	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

**► Carlwell Career Statistics**

\* at Illinois

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts.	Avg.
06-07*	26-0	183-7.0	14-31	.452	0-0	.000	16-31	.516	19	17	36	1.4	24-0	3	10	10	8	44	1.7
07-08*	3-0	5-1.7	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
09-10	33-3	477-14.5	63-101	.624	1-1	1.000	30-54	.556	33	56	89	2.7	66-1	15	32	17	8	157	4.8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62-3</b>	<b>665-10.7</b>	<b>77-132</b>	<b>.583</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>46-85</b>	<b>.541</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>90-1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>3.2</b>

**Career Highs**

**Points**  
Career 26 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)

**Rebounds**  
Career 21 at UNLV (3-13-10)

**Assists**  
Career 5 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
5 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-09)

**Field Goals**  
Career 10 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)  
10 at Wyoming (1-9-10)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
Career 19 at Wyoming (1-9-10)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
Career 3 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
Career 4 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
4 vs. BYU (1-23-10)  
4 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
4 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)  
4 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)

**Free Throws**  
Career 8 at UNLV (3-13-10)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
Career 10 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-09)

**Steals**  
Career 4 at Air Force (3-6-10)

**Blocked Shots**  
Career 2 at Air Force (3-6-10)  
2 vs. TCU (1-16-10)  
2 at UCSB (12-5-09)

**Minutes Played**  
Career 39 at Air Force (3-6-10)

# 15 • Kawhi Leonard

**Forward • 6-7 • 225 • Freshman • Riverside, Calif. (King High)**



MWC tournament MVP and first-team selection... The only freshman in MWC history to earn first-team all-conference honors... MWC freshman of the year... Sporting News All-Freshman second team... NABC All-District IX pick... Only freshman in the 11-year history of the MWC to earn conference player of the week accolades three times... Won the award on Feb. 15 after averaging 19.5 points and 11.0 rebounds in wins over Wyoming and No. 23/25 UNLV... MWC co-player of the week on Dec. 14 after averaging 18.0 points, 15.0 rebounds and 3.5 assists in wins over CS Fullerton and Arizona... Has 16 double-doubles this year, which is a freshman school record previously held by Michael Cage (10) in 1981... Has seven or more rebounds in 27 games... Posted 18 double-digit rebound games this season, including 13 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09), and 23 double-figure scoring efforts... Enjoyed one of his best games with 23 points, 18 rebounds and five assists vs. Fullerton (12-9-09)... Became the 23rd player in SDSU history to have at least 15 rebounds... His 18 boards were the most by a freshman since Cage had 20 on Feb. 24, 1981, vs. Hawai'i, tied the MWC freshman all-time mark, and ranks second in Viejas

Arena history... Had a game-high 13 points and 12 boards vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Logged a 10-point performance against Northern Arizona (11-28-09), for his first career double-digit scoring game of his career... Scored 13 at UCSB (12-5-09), while grabbing a game-high nine rebounds and blocking a career-best two shots... Pulled down a game-high 11 rebounds at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Finished with 14 points, including a career-high six free throws, and a game-high 11 rebounds at Drake (12-22-09)... Contributed 12 points and six rebounds vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)... Put up 17 points, 12 rebounds and a career-high five assists vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Battled foul trouble, but still managed to grab eight rebounds and contributed three steals vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... Went for 25 points, on a personal-best 10 field goals, and 12 rebounds at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Posted 13 points and 10 rebounds at UNLV (1-13-10)... Blocked a career-high two shots vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Added a double-double at Utah (1-19-10) with 16 points and 11 rebounds... Led the team with 16 points and 11 rebounds vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Registered 14 points and 12 rebounds at Colorado State (1-30-10) to tie Cage's freshman double-double school record... Enjoyed his best free-throw shooting day of his career after he made all seven attempts en route to a game-high 15 points vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Broke the aforementioned Cage record at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10) with a 11-point, 12-rebound performance... Scored a career-high 26 points vs. Wyoming (2-10-10) on a career-best 10 field goals; also added a personal-record three steals... Finished with 13 points and a game-high 14 boards vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10)... Finished with 14 points and a game-high 15 boards vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds vs. Colorado State (3-3-10)... Scored a game-high 18 points, grabbed seven rebounds, hit a career-high two three-pointers and had a career-best four steals in a personal-record 39 minutes at Air Force (3-6-10)... Had 12 points and six rebounds vs. CSU (3-11-10) in the MWC quarters... Posted 15 points and 12 boards vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) in the MWC semifinals... Set the MWC tournament record with a career-high 21 rebounds, while adding 16 points in the title game at UNLV (3-13-10).

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego	S	28	4-7	0-0	0-0	8	1	3	6	0	1	8
N.16	at Saint Mary's	S	22	2-9	0-2	0-0	7	4	0	2	0	1	4
N.19	Santa Clara	S	28	4-9	1-4	0-0	13	1	4	1	0	2	9
N.23	at Fresno State	S	24	2-9	0-3	1-2	7	3	0	0	1	3	5
N.25	at Pacific	S	31	1-5	0-3	4-4	3	3	2	2	0	0	6
N.28	Northern Arizona	S	29	4-13	0-2	2-2	10	2	1	1	1	2	10
D.2	at San Diego	S	37	4-7	0-1	0-1	7	1	2	2	0	2	8
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara	S	31	6-9	1-3	0-0	9	3	2	1	2	0	13
D.9	Cal State Fullerton	S	38	9-17	0-3	5-10	18	2	5	2	1	2	23
D.12	Arizona	S	35	6-14	1-3	0-0	12	3	2	3	0	1	13
D.19	at Arizona State	S	36	1-4	0-0	4-6	11	3	1	6	1	1	6
D.22	at Drake	S	32	4-7	0-1	6-6	11	5	1	3	0	1	14
D.29	UC Riverside	S	26	3-8	1-4	5-9	6	2	0	1	0	1	12
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	S	30	7-11	1-4	2-2	12	1	5	1	1	1	17
J.5	New Mexico*	S	25	1-7	0-1	3-4	8	4	3	2	1	3	5
J.9	at Wyoming*	S	31	10-19	1-4	4-5	12	1	2	6	0	1	25
J.13	at UNLV*	S	31	5-11	0-1	3-7	10	3	1	3	0	1	13
J.16	TCU*	S	29	4-9	0-1	1-2	3	3	1	1	2	2	9
J.19	at Utah*	S	32	7-12	0-0	2-3	11	3	2	2	1	3	16
J.23	BYU*	S	33	7-15	2-4	0-0	11	2	1	0	1	0	16
J.30	at Colorado State*	S	33	6-11	0-1	2-3	12	2	3	2	0	0	14
F.2	Air Force*	S	34	4-8	0-0	7-7	7	1	1	2	1	1	15
F.6	at New Mexico*	S	32	4-13	0-3	3-4	12	5	2	3	1	0	11
F.10	Wyoming*	S	27	10-14	1-3	5-7	8	2	2	2	1	3	26
F.13	UNLV*	S	35	6-10	1-3	0-2	14	4	1	2	0	0	13
F.16	at TCU*	S	32	7-10	1-4	3-5	3	3	1	2	1	0	18
F.20	Utah*	S	33	4-15	0-0	6-6	15	1	1	0	1	2	14
F.24	at BYU*	S	24	1-5	0-1	1-1	5	2	1	2	1	0	3
M.3	Colorado State*	S	35	5-13	0-1	4-4	15	1	3	2	0	1	14
M.6	at Air Force*	S	39	8-12	2-4	0-2	7	2	3	3	2	4	18
M.11	vs. Colorado State	S	26	6-15	0-3	0-0	6	5	2	2	1	3	12
M.12	vs. New Mexico	S	37	5-11	3-4	2-2	12	3	3	3	0	1	15
M.13	at UNLV	S	36	4-11	0-1	8-9	21	1	2	5	0	2	16

**Leonard Career Statistics**

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
09-10	33-32	1031-31.2	161-350	.460	16-74	.216	83-115	.722	116	210	326	9.9	82-2	63	75	21	45	421	12.8

**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**  
 Season 4 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 4 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Rebounds**  
 Season 1 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 1 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 2 vs. Air Force (2-7-09)

**Assists**  
 Season --  
 Career 1 vs. Ark.-PB (12-29-08)

**Field Goals**  
 Season 1 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 1 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
 Season 1 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 1 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 Career 1 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 1 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 1 vs. Ark.-PB (12-29-08)  
 1 vs. UCSB (12-20-08)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
 Season --  
 Career --

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
 Season --  
 Career 1 vs. Ark.-PB (12-29-08)

**Free Throws**  
 Season 2 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 2 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
 Season 2 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 2 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)  
 Career 2 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 2 vs. UCSD (11-14-09)

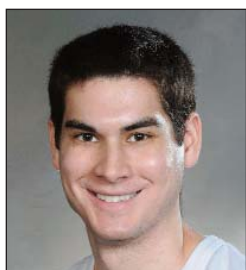
**Steals**  
 Season --  
 Career --

**Blocked Shots**  
 Season --  
 Career --

**Minutes Played**  
 Season 4 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 4 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)  
 Career 4 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 4 vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)  
 4 vs. Ark.-PB (12-29-08)

# 20 • Jason Deutchman

**Guard • 6-6 • 220 • Junior • Los Angeles, Calif. (Santa Monica High)**



Played in three games this season and 11 games in his career... Scored in two of the three games in which he has seen action this season, including a career-high four points in the season opener against UC San Diego (11-14-09)... Has five points in 11 minutes of action this season after not scoring in 15 minutes of action last season... Has never committed a turnover in 11 career games covering 26 minutes... Has five career points and seven career rebounds.

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego		3	1-1	0-0	2-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
N.16	at Saint Mary's					Did Not Travel							
N.19	Santa Clara		4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
N.23	at Fresno State					Did Not Travel							
N.25	at Pacific					Did Not Travel							
N.28	Northern Arizona		4	0-1	0-0	1-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
D.2	at San Diego					Did Not Play - CD							
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara					Did Not Travel							
D.9	Cal State Fullerton					Did Not Play - CD							
D.12	Arizona					Did Not Play - CD							
D.19	at Arizona State					Did Not Travel							
D.22	at Drake					Did Not Travel							
D.29	UC Riverside					Did Not Play - Injured							
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer					Did Not Play - Injured							
J.5	New Mexico*					Did Not Play - Injured							
J.9	at Wyoming*					Did Not Travel							
J.13	at UNLV*					Did Not Travel							
J.16	TCU*					Did Not Play - Injured							
J.19	at Utah*					Did Not Travel							
J.23	BYU*					Did Not Play - Injured							
J.30	at Colorado State*					Did Not Play - Injured							
F.2	Air Force*					Did Not Play - Injured							
F.6	at New Mexico*					Did Not Travel							
F.10	Wyoming*					Did Not Play - Injured							
F.13	UNLV*					Did Not Play - Injured							
F.16	at TCU*					Did Not Travel							
F.20	Utah*					Did Not Play - Injured							
F.24	at BYU*					Did Not Travel							
M.3	Colorado State*					Did Not Play - Injured							
M.6	at Air Force*					Did Not Travel							
M.11	vs. Colorado State					Did Not Travel							
M.12	vs. New Mexico					Did Not Travel							
M.13	at UNLV					Did Not Travel							

**► Deutchman Career Statistics**

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
08-09	8-0	15-1.9	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	5	5	0.6	1-0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0
09-10	3-0	11-3.7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	0.7	1-0	0	0	0	0	5	1.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11-0</b>	<b>26-2.4</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>.250</b>	<b>0-1</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>.750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

### Career Highs

**Points**  
 Career 17 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 17 at Arizona St. (12-19-09)

**Rebounds**  
 Career 5 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 5 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)

**Assists**  
 Career 9 vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)

**Field Goals**  
 Career 7 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 7 at Arizona St. (12-19-09)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
 Career 11 at BYU (2-24-10)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
 Career 3 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 3 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 3 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 3 vs. BYU (1-23-10)

**Three-Point Field Goals Attempted**  
 Career 8 at BYU (2-24-10)

**Free Throws**  
 Career 2 vs. Colorado St. (3-11-10)  
 2 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 2 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 2 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)  
 2 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
 2 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)  
 2 at Arizona St. (12-19-09)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
 Career 4 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)

**Steals**  
 Career 4 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)

**Blocked Shots**  
 Career 2 vs. BYU (1-23-10)  
 2 vs. Arizona (12-12-09)

**Minutes Played**  
 Career 32 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

# 22 • Chase Tapley

**Guard • 6-2 • 205 • Freshman • Sacramento, Calif. (Sacramento High)**



Did not play at Air Force (3-6-10) due to a broken left hand, but returned for the MWC Championships... Played in 32 games and earned his first career start against Northern Arizona (11-28-09)... Started 17 times, including the last 15 of the last 19 outings in which he has played; did not start vs. Colorado State (3-3-10) to allow Kelvin Davis to start on Senior Night... Reached double figures 13 times this season... 23 games with one turnover or less... Has 49 assists, 28 steals and 26 turnovers in his last 19 games... Shot 50 percent or better from the field in 20 games, including 18 of the last 28 contests... Made at least one three-point field goal in 21 games... Enjoyed his top scoring performance of the season with his career-high 17 points on 7-of-10 shooting at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Scored 11 points in his first-ever game vs. UC San Diego (11-14-09)... Had a career-high 12 points on 5-of-6 shooting against Santa Clara (11-19-09)... Scored 11 points and dished a career-high five assists in his start vs. Northern Arizona (11-28-09)... Recorded six points and two rebounds in 15 minutes before leaving the game due to injury (groin) at San Diego (12-2-09)... Finished with 10 points, four assists and just one turnover in a career-high 26 minutes vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)... Blocked a career-high two shots vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Started third career game vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09), dished out a career-high nine assists and had three steals... Had a career-high five rebounds and four steals, while adding four assists vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... Matched his career high with 17 points and added four rebounds and three steals at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Finished with nine points and three steals, his fourth straight game with at least three steals, at UNLV (1-13-10)... Knocked down a career-high two three-pointers and added three assists vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Did not commit a turnover in 28 minutes at Utah (1-19-10)... Made a career-best three three-pointers and finished with 11 points, three assists and a career-high two blocks vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Scored 12 points at Colorado State (1-30-10), marking the first time in his career in which he reached double figures in two straight games... Had two assists and one turnover, marking his fifth straight one-turnover-or-less outing, vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Finished with 11 points (career-high three three-pointers) in a personal-best 32 minutes at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10)... Posted his second straight double-figure scoring game when he finished with 14 points, while adding six assists and three steals vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Pulled down a career-high five rebounds and scored 11 points, his third straight double-figure scoring outing, vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10)... Had eight points and a game-high five assists at TCU (2-16-10)... Credited with three assists and zero turnovers vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Knocked a career-high three three-pointers en route to 13 points, while also grabbing a team-high six rebounds at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (2-24-10)... Scored six points vs. Colorado State (3-3-10), but suffered a broken hand... Sat out at Air Force, but returned vs. CSU (3-11-10) in the MWC quarters and knocked down six shots en route to a team-high 15 points... Hit three three-pointers vs. New Mexico (3-12-10) in the MWC semifinals to finish with nine points.

### 2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego		25	5-8	1-2	0-0	3	1	3	1	0	2	11
N.16	at Saint Mary's		18	1-6	1-4	0-0	1	1	1	0	0	1	3
N.19	Santa Clara		22	5-6	2-2	0-0	2	1	1	1	0	0	12
N.23	at Fresno State		6	0-2	0-1	0-0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
N.25	at Pacific		18	2-4	1-3	0-0	4	2	3	1	0	0	5
N.28	Northern Arizona	S	22	5-7	1-3	0-0	2	1	5	0	0	1	11
D.2	at San Diego		15	3-5	0-2	0-0	2	1	0	1	0	0	6
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara		22	1-5	0-2	1-2	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
D.9	Cal State Fullerton		26	4-8	2-3	0-0	2	1	4	1	1	1	10
D.12	Arizona		19	1-2	0-1	0-0	3	0	0	0	2	1	2
D.19	at Arizona State		23	7-10	1-3	2-2	2	0	2	4	0	2	17
D.22	at Drake	S	20	0-5	0-3	0-0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
D.29	UC Riverside		22	1-5	1-3	2-2	1	1	1	2	0	0	5
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	S	30	2-4	1-2	0-0	4	3	9	0	0	3	5
J.5	New Mexico*	S	31	3-9	0-2	1-2	5	4	4	1	1	4	7
J.9	at Wyoming*	S	30	7-10	2-4	1-1	4	0	1	2	0	3	17
J.13	at UNLV*	S	25	3-6	1-3	2-2	2	1	2	4	0	3	9
J.16	TCU*	S	31	2-6	2-4	0-0	0	1	3	1	1	1	6
J.19	at Utah*	S	28	2-3	1-1	0-0	1	1	1	0	0	1	5
J.23	BYU*	S	29	4-9	3-5	0-0	3	3	3	1	2	1	11
J.30	at Colorado State*	S	27	4-7	2-4	2-3	4	3	2	1	0	1	12
F.2	Air Force*	S	20	1-3	0-2	0-0	1	2	2	1	0	0	2
F.6	at New Mexico*	S	32	4-8	3-7	0-0	1	3	2	2	0	1	11
F.10	Wyoming*	S	30	6-10	0-3	2-3	3	2	6	1	1	3	14
F.13	UNLV*	S	28	4-7	1-1	2-4	5	2	1	4	1	3	11
F.16	at TCU*	S	28	4-7	0-1	0-0	1	0	5	1	1	1	8
F.20	Utah*	S	25	1-3	0-0	1-2	1	1	3	0	1	0	3
F.24	at BYU*	S	31	4-11	3-8	2-2	6	3	0	2	0	1	13
M.3	Colorado State*		21	2-4	2-4	0-0	1	1	2	3	1	1	6
M.6	at Air Force*												
M.11	vs. Colorado State		21	6-7	1-2	2-3	3	1	2	0	0	0	15
M.12	vs. New Mexico		24	3-4	3-4	0-0	3	1	0	0	0	1	9
M.13	at UNLV		8	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0

### ▶ Tapley Career Statistics

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts. Avg.	
09-10	32-17	757-23.7	97-192	.505	35-90	.389	20-28	.714	21	53	74	2.3	46-0	71	38	12	37	249	7.8

**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**

Season 25 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 25 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

**Rebounds**

Season 6 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 6 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
 Career 6 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 6 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)

**Assists**

Season 7 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 7 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 Career 7 vs. NAU (11-28-09)

**Field Goals**

Season 8 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 8 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

**Field Goals Attempted**

Season 15 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 Career 15 at BYU (2-24-10)

**Three-Point Field Goals**

Season 6 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 6 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 6 vs. Hampton (11-29-08)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**

Season 9 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 9 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
 Career 9 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 9 at Fresno St. (11-23-09)  
 9 at Air Force (1-3-09)

**Free Throws**

Season 8 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 8 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)  
 Career 8 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 8 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)

**Free Throws Attempted**

Season 13 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)  
 Career 13 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)

**Steals**

Season 5 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)  
 Career 5 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)

**Blocked Shots**

Season 1 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 1 at Drake (12-22-09)  
 Career 1 - six times

**Minutes Played**

Season 45 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 45 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

# 23 • D.J. Gay

**Guard • 6-0 • 167 • Junior • Sun Valley, Calif. (Poly High)**



Honorable mention all-MWC... Only SDSU player to start all 33 games this season... Has a career-long streak of 33 consecutive starts... Played in a team-high 102 consecutive games... Played 40 minutes in four of the last six games and played 238 of a possible 240 minutes during that timeframe... Has 18 double-digit scoring games this season and 36 in his career... Led or tied for team-high assist honors 18 times this season and has now done so 33 times in his career... Has four or more assists 12 times this year... Has 144 career three-point field goals, which is good for fourth place in school history... Has one turnover or less in 16 games this year... 154 of his 284 field-goal attempts are from three-point range... Enjoyed a career day with a then personal-best 22 points (4-8 3FG) in 41 minutes at San Diego (12-2-09)... Followed his performance at USD with 13 points at UC Santa Barbara (12-5-09)... Had 12 points against Santa Clara (11-19-09)... Had at least one steal in the first five games of the season, but had the streak snapped against Northern Arizona (11-28-09)... Had a career-high seven assists against

the Lumberjacks... Posted eight points, four assists and zero turnovers vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)... Scored 12 points and had two steals vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Finished with 10 points, a team-best three assists and zero turnovers at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Scored a game-high 18 points on a season-high seven field goals and four three-pointers at Drake (12-22-09); also had his first blocked shot of the season in overtime with two seconds left and SDSU up by two... Tallied 10 points vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Finished with 12 points, including a trio of threes, and a game-high five assists vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... Tied for team-high honors with four assists at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Scored nine points vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Put up seven points, five rebounds, a game-high four assists and zero turnovers at Utah (1-19-10)... Finished with 12 points, two assists and zero turnovers vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Put up a game-high 17 points after hitting a career-best eight free throws and recorded a career-high five steals at Colorado State (1-30-10)... Scored nine points and added four assists, with no turnovers, vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Played a career-high 45 minutes and produced a career-high 25 points on a personal-record six three-pointers, while adding a team-best five assists at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10)... Had nine points, four assists and just one turnover vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Scored 11 points on a career-high eight free throws vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10)... Had game-high figures of five assists and three steals vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Played all 40 minutes at No. 13/11 BYU (2-24-10) and finished with a team-high 15 points and five assists... Led the team with 16 points vs. Colorado State (3-3-10)... Finished with 10 points and also had a game-high five assists and zero turnovers in 40 minutes at Air Force (3-6-10)... Played 40 minutes and scored seven points vs. CSU (3-11-10) in the MWC quarters... Played another 40 minutes vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) and finished with seven assists and zero assists in the MWC semifinals.. Knocked down three three-pointers en route to 11 points in the MWC title game at UNLV (3-13-10).

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego	S	30	2-7	0-3	1-2	4	2	4	5	0	2	5
N.16	at Saint Mary's	S	34	3-9	2-3	2-2	1	1	3	1	0	1	10
N.19	Santa Clara	S	28	5-11	0-4	2-2	2	1	4	3	0	3	12
N.23	at Fresno State	S	37	2-12	2-9	0-0	6	2	6	1	0	1	6
N.25	at Pacific	S	26	5-10	1-4	0-0	2	1	1	2	0	3	11
N.28	Northern Arizona	S	25	1-4	0-2	1-2	6	1	7	1	0	0	3
D.2	at San Diego	S	41	6-14	4-8	6-8	1	2	1	2	0	0	22
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara	S	33	4-8	3-5	2-3	1	1	1	7	0	0	13
D.9	Cal State Fullerton	S	33	3-7	2-4	0-0	0	1	4	0	0	2	8
D.12	Arizona	S	33	5-11	1-4	1-1	1	1	2	2	0	2	12
D.19	at Arizona State	S	35	3-12	2-6	2-2	2	3	3	0	0	2	10
D.22	at Drake	S	39	7-10	4-5	0-0	1	2	3	2	1	1	18
D.29	UC Riverside	S	30	1-6	1-4	3-4	1	2	1	1	0	1	6
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	S	27	4-8	2-5	0-0	2	0	1	0	0	2	10
J.5	New Mexico*	S	36	3-9	3-6	3-5	2	3	5	2	0	1	12
J.9	at Wyoming*	S	32	1-5	1-2	4-6	2	2	4	2	0	0	7
J.13	at UNLV*	S	32	1-6	1-4	2-3	3	4	2	5	0	0	5
J.16	TCU*	S	35	3-7	2-4	1-2	1	2	1	1	0	1	9
J.19	at Utah*	S	37	2-9	0-2	3-5	5	1	4	0	0	1	7
J.23	BYU*	S	32	4-11	1-4	3-3	2	0	2	0	0	0	12
J.30	at Colorado State*	S	36	4-11	1-6	8-13	0	1	1	1	0	5	17
F.2	Air Force*	S	34	3-10	3-8	0-0	1	1	4	0	0	2	9
F.6	at New Mexico*	S	45	8-12	6-9	3-5	1	2	5	2	0	1	25
F.10	Wyoming*	S	27	2-6	2-5	3-6	2	1	4	1	0	3	9
F.13	UNLV*	S	34	1-7	1-2	8-10	3	2	3	2	0	0	11
F.16	at TCU*	S	31	0-0	0-0	0-0	4	2	2	4	0	0	0
F.20	Utah*	S	35	2-9	1-3	2-2	3	1	5	1	0	3	7
F.24	at BYU*	S	40	6-15	3-8	0-0	4	3	5	3	1	0	15
M.3	Colorado State*	S	39	5-7	4-6	2-2	2	0	4	3	0	0	16
M.6	at Air Force*	S	40	2-5	2-5	4-6	1	1	5	0	0	0	10
M.11	vs. Colorado State	S	40	1-5	0-3	5-6	2	2	3	2	0	0	7
M.12	vs. New Mexico	S	40	2-8	1-4	0-0	3	0	7	0	1	0	5
M.13	at UNLV	S	39	3-13	3-7	2-4	2	1	0	3	0	0	11

**Gay Career Statistics**

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts.	Avg.
07-08	33-26	784-23.8	66-183	.361	45-121	.372	16-25	.640	10	39	49	1.5	41-1	57	40	2	24	193	5.8
08-09	36-23	961-26.7	68-204	.333	40-122	.328	41-58	.707	14	41	55	1.5	34-0	63	44	3	26	217	6.0
09-10	33-33	1135-34.4	104-284	.366	59-154	.383	73-104	.702	17	56	73	2.2	49-0	107	59	3	37	340	10.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>102-82</b>	<b>2880-28.2</b>	<b>238-671</b>	<b>.355</b>	<b>144-397</b>	<b>.363</b>	<b>130-187</b>	<b>.695</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>124-1</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>7.4</b>



**Season/Career Highs**

**Points**

Season 8 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 17 vs. Saint Mary's (12-13-08)  
 17 at N. Colo. (12-3-08)

**Rebounds**

Season 4 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
 4 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 4 vs. Arizona (12-12-09)  
 Career 12 vs. UNLV (3-7-09)

**Assists**

Season 4 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 Career 4 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 4 vs. CSUN (12-22-08)  
 4 at Fresno State (11-11-07)

**Field Goals**

Season 2 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
 2 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 2 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 7 vs. Colorado St. (3-4-09)  
 7 vs. Saint Mary's (12-13-08)

**Field Goals Attempted**

Season 6 at UNLV (1-13-10)  
 6 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 6 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 11 vs. Saint Mary's (12-13-08)

**Three-Point Field Goals**

Season 2 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 Career 2 at Wyoming (1-9-10)  
 2 at N. Colo. (12-3-08)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**

Season 3 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 3 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)

**Free Throws**

Season 3 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 3 at Drake (12-22-09)  
 Career 4 vs. W. Carolina (11-28-08)  
 4 vs. Portland (11-10-07)

**Free Throws Attempted**

Season 7 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 7 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 7 vs. W. Carolina (11-28-08)

**Steals**

Season 1 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 3 vs. Seattle (11-28-08)

**Blocked Shots**

Season 1 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 3 at Air Force (1-3-09)

**Minutes Played**

Season 26 vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)  
 Career 35 at Air Force (1-3-09)

# 24 • Tim Shelton

**Forward • 6-7 • 248 • Sophomore • Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West High)**



Out for the season after having exploratory knee surgery on Feb. 3... Did not play the first eight games of the season due to off-season microfracture knee surgery... It was the third major knee surgery he has endured... Saw his first action of the season vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09) and finished with three points and two assists... Played seven minutes and had four rebounds and two assists vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Had an assist in seven minutes at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Scored three points, while playing 16 minutes at Drake (12-22-09)... Scored three points and grabbed three rebounds vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)... Enjoyed his best game of the year by recording a season-high eight points, four rebounds, three assists, one steals and one block in 26 minutes vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... Started his first game of the season at Wyoming (1-9-10) and produced six points, on a career-high two three-pointers, and a career-best four assists... Scored for the third straight game and ended with five points and four rebounds at UNLV (1-13-10)... Missed the TCU (1-16-10), at Utah (1-19-10), vs. BYU (1-23-10), at Colorado State (1-30-10) and vs. Air Force (2-2-10) games due to a sore knee before having season-ending surgery.

**2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics**

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego						Did Not Play - Injured						
N.16	at Saint Mary's						Did Not Play - Injured						
N.19	Santa Clara						Did Not Play - Injured						
N.23	at Fresno State						Did Not Play - Injured						
N.25	at Pacific						Did Not Play - Injured						
N.28	Northern Arizona						Did Not Play - Injured						
D.2	at San Diego						Did Not Play - Injured						
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara						Did Not Play - Injured						
D.9	Cal State Fullerton		5	1-1	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3
D.12	Arizona		7	1-3	0-1	0-0	4	2	2	0	0	0	2
D.19	at Arizona State		7	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
D.22	at Drake		16	0-0	0-0	3-4	2	2	0	0	0	0	3
D.29	UC Riverside		15	1-3	0-1	1-2	3	1	1	0	0	0	3
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer		6	0-1	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.5	New Mexico*		26	2-6	1-3	3-7	4	4	3	3	1	1	8
J.9	at Wyoming*	S	17	2-6	2-2	0-2	0	5	4	3	0	0	6
J.13	at UNLV*	S	17	2-6	0-0	1-3	4	2	0	0	0	0	5
J.16	TCU*						Did Not Play - Injured						
J.19	at Utah*						Did Not Play - Injured						
J.23	BYU*						Did Not Play - Injured						
J.30	at Colorado State*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.2	Air Force*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.6	at New Mexico*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.10	Wyoming*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.13	UNLV*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.16	at TCU*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.20	Utah*						Did Not Play - Injured						
F.24	at BYU*						Did Not Play - Injured						
M.3	Colorado State*						Did Not Play - Injured						
M.6	at Air Force*						Did Not Play - Injured						
M.11	vs. Colorado State						Did Not Play - Injured						
M.12	vs. New Mexico						Did Not Play - Injured						
M.13	at UNLV						Did Not Play - Injured						

**► Shelton Career Statistics**

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
07-08	4-3	113-28.3	16-29	.552	1-3	.333	7-9	.778	7	12	19	4.8	9-0	6	6	2	5	40	10.0
08-09	34-13	780-22.9	105-209	.502	8-25	.320	49-87	.563	73	88	161	4.7	75-3	43	32	11	21	267	7.9
09-10	9-2	116-12.9	9-26	.346	4-9	.444	8-18	.444	10	8	18	2.0	16-1	13	8	1	1	30	3.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47-18</b>	<b>1009-21.5</b>	<b>130-264</b>	<b>.492</b>	<b>13-37</b>	<b>.351</b>	<b>64-114</b>	<b>.561</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>100-4</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>7.2</b>

## Season/Career Highs

**Points**  
 Season 28 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 Career 28 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)

**Rebounds**  
 Season 10 at Arizona St. (12-19-09)  
 Career 12 at Wyoming (2-19-08)

**Assists**  
 Season 4 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 4 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-09)  
 Career 4 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 4 vs. CS Fullerton (12-9-09)  
 4 vs. Air Force (2-7-09)  
 4 vs. W. Mich. (12-1-07)

**Field Goals**  
 Season 11 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 Career 12 vs. Wyoming (2-14-09)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
 Season 14 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 14 at Pacific (11-25-09)  
 Career 14 vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)  
 14 at Pacific (11-25-09)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
 Season 2 at Pacific (11-25-09)  
 Career 2 at Pacific (11-25-09)

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
 Season 3 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)  
 Career 3 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)

**Free Throws**  
 Season 9 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 Career 9 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
 Season 11 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 Career 11 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)

**Steals**  
 Season 5 vs. BYU (1-23-10)  
 Career 5 vs. BYU (1-23-10)

**Blocked Shots**  
 Season 2 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 2 vs. UNLV (2-13-10)  
 2 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)  
 2 at Arizona St. (12-19-09)  
 2 vs. Arizona (12-12-09)  
 2 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
 Career 4 vs. Wyoming (2-14-09)  
 4 vs. BYU (2-23-08)  
 4 at Colorado St. (1-29-08)

**Minutes Played**  
 Season 43 at San Diego (12-2-09)  
 Career 43 at San Diego (12-2-09)

# 32 • Billy White

**Forward • 6-8 • 235 • Junior • Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley High)**



Honorable mention all-MWC... MWC all-tournament team pick... Has shot 50 percent or better from the field in a career-best 12 straight games... Had played in 14 consecutive games and started 13 straight after missing the exhibition games, the season-opening game and much of the opening two weeks of practice with a wrist injury; his consecutive games played and started streak was broken at Wyoming (1-9-10) due to a high right ankle sprain suffered in the New Mexico game... Scored in double figures 17 times this season and had done so a career-best nine consecutive games dating back to 2008-09 until it was broken at San Diego (12-2-09)... Made a career-best 12 straight free-throw attempts (broken at USD)... Had an assist in seven straight games, which was the longest streak of his career until it was broken vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Has led San Diego State in scoring eight times this season after doing so seven times in his first two seasons combined... Had eight points and a season-high nine rebounds at San Diego (12-2-09)... Recorded 14 points and a career-high tying four assists vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)... Finished with seven points

and season-high two blocks vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Pulled down a season-high 10 rebounds at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Went for 16 points, his highest scoring output since Nov. 25, and nine rebounds at Drake (12-22-09)... Posted a game-high 13 points, while grabbing six rebounds vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)... Hit all five free throws and finished with 13 points vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Scored eight points and grabbed two rebounds in just nine minutes before leaving the New Mexico game (1-5-10) with a right ankle injury... Returned to the court at UNLV (1-13-10) and finished with five points... Started his first game since his ankle injury vs. New Mexico and put up 16 points, including a career-high six free throws, six rebounds and two assists vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Recorded a career-high five steals vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Went 2-for-4 from the field, to equal his total field-goal amount from his previous three games (2-for-17), en route to six points vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Broke out of a four-game funk when he finished with 10 points and four rebounds at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10)... Scored in double figures for the second straight game for the first time since the end of December with his 10 points vs. Wyoming (2-10-10); also added a three assists and a season-high two blocks... Made a career-high nine free throws en route to a game-high 19 points vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10); also added a season-high two blocks... Went for 17 points and a game-high nine rebounds, his most since the Drake game, at TCU (2-16-10)... Battled foul trouble, but finished with eight points vs. Utah (2-20-10)... Finished with 11 points, a team-high six rebounds, a career-high four assists and a season-best two blocked shots at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (2-24-10)... Put together his eighth straight 50-percent-or-better shooting night vs. Colorado State (3-3-10); finished 3-for-4 from the field en route to seven points... Finished with seven points, two assists and zero turnovers at Air Force (3-6-10)... Scored a team-best 15 points (6-11 FG) vs. CSU (3-11-10) in the MWC quarters... Lit up No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) with 28 points (11-14 FG, 1-1 3FG, 5-5 FT) in the MWC semifinals... Finished with seven points at UNLV (3-13-10) in the MWC title game.

## 2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego												
Did Not Play - Injured													
N.16	at Saint Mary's		25	5-11	0-0	0-2	7	4	0	3	1	0	10
N.19	Santa Clara	S	26	7-11	0-0	3-7	8	2	1	0	1	2	17
N.23	at Fresno State	S	35	8-10	0-0	6-6	8	0	1	2	0	1	22
N.25	at Pacific	S	32	8-14	2-2	2-2	4	4	1	0	1	2	20
N.28	Northern Arizona	S	17	4-4	0-0	4-4	2	2	1	3	1	2	12
D.2	at San Diego	S	43	4-5	0-1	0-3	9	3	1	3	2	2	8
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara	S	23	1-2	0-0	2-2	3	4	1	3	0	1	4
D.9	Cal State Fullerton	S	28	6-7	1-1	1-5	5	3	4	5	0	2	14
D.12	Arizona	S	29	3-4	1-1	0-0	2	3	0	4	2	0	7
D.19	at Arizona State	S	32	3-8	0-2	2-4	10	2	0	1	2	0	8
D.22	at Drake	S	34	7-11	0-0	2-4	9	2	1	3	1	2	16
D.29	UC Riverside	S	29	6-11	0-3	1-4	6	2	1	3	1	1	13
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer	S	24	4-9	0-1	5-5	1	3	2	0	0	2	13
J.5	New Mexico*	S	9	4-5	0-0	0-0	2	2	1	1	0	0	8
J.9	at Wyoming*												
Did Not Travel - Injured													
J.13	at UNLV*		16	1-4	0-1	3-6	3	5	0	2	0	0	5
J.16	TCU*	S	32	5-8	0-0	6-7	6	2	2	2	1	1	16
J.19	at Utah*	S	16	0-6	0-0	0-4	4	2	1	3	1	1	0
J.23	BYU*	S	27	2-5	0-1	4-4	2	2	2	1	0	5	8
J.30	at Colorado State*	S	29	0-6	0-0	1-2	3	3	2	5	1	1	1
F.2	Air Force*	S	25	2-4	0-0	2-2	3	1	1	1	1	1	6
F.6	at New Mexico*	S	19	4-5	1-1	1-2	4	5	1	1	0	1	10
F.10	Wyoming*	S	24	4-5	0-1	2-2	3	1	3	1	2	0	10
F.13	UNLV*	S	33	5-10	0-2	9-11	5	4	2	4	2	1	19
F.16	at TCU*	S	35	8-13	0-1	1-2	9	2	3	1	0	0	17
F.20	Utah*	S	25	3-4	0-0	2-4	0	3	0	1	1	0	8
F.24	at BYU*	S	32	5-10	0-1	1-2	6	0	4	3	2	0	11
M.3	Colorado State*	S	28	3-4	0-0	1-2	1	3	0	2	0	1	7
M.6	at Air Force*	S	28	2-2	0-0	3-4	3	2	2	0	1	0	7
M.11	vs. Colorado State	S	31	6-11	0-0	3-6	4	1	3	2	0	3	15
M.12	vs. New Mexico	S	35	11-14	1-1	5-5	0	3	0	3	0	0	28
M.13	at UNLV	S	33	3-5	0-1	1-2	3	3	2	2	0	1	7

## White Career Statistics

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
07-08	33-28	946-28.7	118-192	.615	0-2	.000	43-67	.642	74	121	195	5.9	105-5	34	53	25	47	279	8.5
08-09	33-30	746-22.6	124-187	.663	0-1	.000	44-66	.667	53	73	126	3.8	79-2	26	43	26	31	292	8.8
09-10	31-29	854-27.5	134-228	.588	6-21	.286	73-115	.635	65	70	135	4.4	78-2	43	65	24	33	347	11.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97-87</b>	<b>2546-26.2</b>	<b>376-607</b>	<b>.619</b>	<b>6-24</b>	<b>.250</b>	<b>160-248</b>	<b>.645</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>262-9</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>9.5</b>

### Career Highs

**Points**  
Career 1 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)

**Rebounds**  
Career 1 at Air Force (3-6-10)

**Assists**  
Career --

**Field Goals**  
Career --

**Field Goals Attempted**  
Career 2 at Air Force (3-6-10)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
Career --

**Three-Point FG Attempted**  
Career --

**Free Throws**  
Career 1 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
Career 1 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)

**Steals**  
Career --

**Blocked Shots**  
Career --

**Minutes Played**  
Career 2 at Air Force (3-6-10)

# 33 • Ben Kneller

**Forward • 6-6 • 200 • Senior • Westlake Village, Calif. (Westlake High)**



Last name pronounced Kuh-NELL-er... Suited up for Senior Night vs. Colorado State (3-3-10) and finished with one point (1-2 FT) in one minute of action... Becomes the second student manager to suit up for a game in the Steve Fisher era... Joins current Director of Player Development David Velasquez (2007) as the only managers to put on an Aztec uniform during Fisher's tenure at San Diego State... Saw his second game action at Air Force (3-6-10) and went 0-for-2 from the field, but grabbed one rebound in a career-high two minutes... Dressed, but did not play at the MWC Championships... A four-year student manager... Currently in his first year as head manager... Has traveled full time with the team the last two seasons... Has been a part of the program during its most successful period in school history.

**High School:** Prepped at Westlake High School in Westlake Village, Calif.... A two-sport star... Played two seasons of basketball... Was the junior varsity captain his junior season and the varsity captain in his final prep campaign in 2006... Led Westlake to the CIF Division I playoffs as a senior en route to earning all-league accolades... Also played tennis as a freshman, sophomore and junior... Was a junior varsity tennis captain as a sophomore and a varsity captain as a junior.

**Personal:** Majoring in business management and minoring in economics... Is scheduled to graduate this spring... His brother, Jake, is a freshman outside hitter for the Stanford men's volleyball team.

### 2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego					DNP-Did Not Dress							
N.16	at Saint Mary's					DNP-Did Not Dress							
N.19	Santa Clara					DNP-Did Not Dress							
N.23	at Fresno State					DNP-Did Not Dress							
N.25	at Pacific					DNP-Did Not Dress							
N.28	Northern Arizona					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.2	at San Diego					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.9	Cal State Fullerton					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.12	Arizona					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.19	at Arizona State					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.22	at Drake					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.29	UC Riverside					DNP-Did Not Dress							
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.5	New Mexico*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.9	at Wyoming*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.13	at UNLV*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.16	TCU*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.19	at Utah*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.23	BYU*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
J.30	at Colorado State*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.2	Air Force*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.6	at New Mexico*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.10	Wyoming*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.13	UNLV*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.16	at TCU*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.20	Utah*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
F.24	at BYU*					DNP-Did Not Dress							
M.3	Colorado State*		1	0-0	0-0	1-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
M.6	at Air Force*		2	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.11	vs. Colorado State					Did Not Play - CD							
M.12	vs. New Mexico					Did Not Play - CD							
M.13	at UNLV					Did Not Play - CD							

### Kneller Career Statistics

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts	Avg.
09-10	2-0	3-1.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	0.5	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5

## Season/Career Highs

**Points**  
 Season 16 at Drake (12-22-09)  
 Career 19 vs. Saint Mary's (12-8-07)

**Rebounds**  
 Season 4 vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)  
 4 vs. BYU (1-23-10)  
 Career 6 vs. Air Force (2-6-08)  
 6 at New Mexico (1-12-08)  
 6 at LMU (11-28-07)

**Assists**  
 Season 4 at New Mexico (2-6-10)  
 Career 4 at New Mexico (2-6-10)

**Field Goals**  
 Season 5 at Drake (12-22-09)  
 Career 8 vs. Saint Mary's (12-8-07)

**Field Goals Attempted**  
 Season 12 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)  
 12 vs. BYU (1-23-10)  
 Career 12 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)  
 12 vs. BYU (1-23-10)  
 12 at TCU (2-9-08)  
 12 vs. Saint Mary's (12-8-07)  
 12 vs. UCR (12-4-07)

**Three-Point Field Goals**  
 Season 5 at Drake (12-22-09)  
 Career 5 at Drake (12-22-09)  
 5 at California (11-24-07)

**Three-Point Field Goals Attempted**  
 Season 10 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)  
 Career 10 vs. Colorado St. (3-3-10)

**Free Throws**  
 Season 4 at Wyoming (2-10-10)  
 4 vs. Air Force (2-2-10)  
 4 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 Career 6 at Arizona (12-22-07)

**Free Throws Attempted**  
 Season 6 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)  
 6 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 Career 6 at Colorado St. (1-30-10)  
 6 vs. NAU (11-28-09)  
 6 at Arizona (12-22-07)

**Steals**  
 Season 3 at BYU (2-24-10)  
 Career 3 - eight times

**Blocked Shots**  
 Season 2 at Utah (1-19-10)  
 Career 2 at Utah (1-19-10)

**Minutes Played**  
 Season 32 at UNLV (3-13-10)  
 Career 32 at UNLV (3-13-10)

# 40 • Kelvin Davis

**Guard • 6-3 • 220 • Senior • Waterbury, Conn. (College of So. Idaho)**



Is a finalist for the second year in a row for the V Foundation Comeback Award after BYU head coach Dave Rose nominated him... Was the 2009 recipient of the USBWA's Most Courageous Award... Started the last five games, the first due to Senior Night, the last four due to a hand injury to Chase Tapley... Made two three-point field goals en route to 10 points in his return to college basketball against UC San Diego (11-14-09)... Had scored at least eight points in three straight games for the first time this season until the streak was broken at Colorado State (1-30-10)... Has 10 or more points eight times this season and 19 times in his career... Has a three-point field goal in 22 of his 32 games played this season... Has made multiple treys in 12 games this season... 35 of his 71 made field goals this season are from behind the arc... Entered the season with six career starts, but has earned the starting nod nine times this season... Posted 11 points against Santa Clara (11-19-09) and Northern Arizona (11-28-09)... Finished with seven points after connecting on all three field-goal attempts vs. Arizona (12-12-09)... Finished with four points at Arizona State (12-19-09)... Knocked down a career-high tying five three-pointers en route to a season-best 16 points at Drake (12-22-09)... Established a season-highs with two steals and blocked career-high-tying one shot vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)... Had two assists and zero turnovers vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)... Came off the bench and knocked down two three-pointers en route to nine points vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)... Contributed five points and two assists at Wyoming (1-9-10)... Knocked down a pair of huge three-pointers in the second half, which spurred SDSU's rally, and finished with 10 points, all in the second half, vs. TCU (1-16-10)... Scored 10 points for the second straight game and added a career-high two blocks and a season-high two steals at Utah (1-19-10)... Finished with eight points and a career-high three assists vs. BYU (1-23-10)... Had five points off the bench at Colorado State (1-30-10)... Went 4-for-4 from the line, his best free-throw shooting performance of the season, and knocked down two three-pointers en route to 12 points vs. Air Force (2-2-10)... Played a career-high 31 minutes and finished with seven points and a personal-record four assists at No. 15/23 New Mexico (2-6-10)... Came off the bench to contribute 12 points, a season-high four rebounds and three assists vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)... Hit two three-pointers and finished with six points vs. No. 23/25 UNLV (2-13-10)... Finished with five points and a career-high three steals at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (2-24-10)... Started on Senior Night vs. Colorado State (3-3-10) and finished with eight points... Started in place of the injured Chase Tapley and scored five points at Air Force (3-6-10)... Had two steals vs. CSU (3-11-10) in the MWC quarterfinals... Added six points and three assists vs. No. 8/8 New Mexico (3-12-10) in the MWC semifinals... Played a career-high 32 minutes and finished with nine points and two steals at UNLV (3-13-10) in the MWC title game.

## 2009-10 Game-By-Game Statistics

Date	Opponent	S	MP	FG-FGA	3FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REB	PF	A	TO	BK	S	TP
N.14	UC San Diego	S	25	3-5	2-4	2-3	3	1	3	2	0	1	10
N.16	at Saint Mary's	S	21	2-3	1-1	0-0	2	2	0	1	0	0	5
N.19	Santa Clara	S	16	4-8	3-6	0-0	2	3	0	1	1	1	11
N.23	at Fresno State		23	2-7	1-4	0-0	2	0	1	2	0	1	5
N.25	at Pacific		17	1-4	1-3	0-1	0	4	2	1	0	0	3
N.28	Northern Arizona	S	17	3-7	1-5	4-6	2	3	0	1	0	1	11
D.2	at San Diego		17	2-3	1-2	2-2	1	1	1	2	0	0	7
D.5	at UC Santa Barbara		11	0-6	0-6	0-0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0
D.9	Cal State Fullerton						Did Not Play - CD						
D.12	Arizona		10	3-3	1-1	0-1	1	3	0	2	0	1	7
D.19	at Arizona State		13	1-3	0-2	2-3	0	3	1	3	0	0	4
D.22	at Drake		23	5-9	5-8	1-2	0	1	1	1	1	0	16
D.29	UC Riverside		13	1-3	0-2	1-2	0	2	0	2	1	2	3
D.31	Pomona-Pitzer		21	2-9	1-8	0-0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
J.5	New Mexico*		18	3-6	2-4	1-2	2	1	0	0	0	0	9
J.9	at Wyoming*		16	2-4	1-3	0-0	0	1	2	1	0	0	5
J.13	at UNLV*		20	1-6	0-4	0-0	1	2	0	4	0	0	2
J.16	TCU*		14	3-6	2-5	2-2	0	2	0	3	0	1	10
J.19	at Utah*		20	4-6	1-2	1-1	2	3	1	2	2	2	10
J.23	BYU*		23	3-12	1-8	1-2	4	3	3	3	0	0	8
J.30	at Colorado State*		16	1-3	0-2	3-6	0	1	0	1	0	1	5
F.2	Air Force*		22	3-8	2-7	4-4	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
F.6	at New Mexico*		31	3-7	1-5	0-0	2	4	4	1	1	0	7
F.10	Wyoming*		24	4-7	0-1	4-4	4	2	3	2	0	1	12
F.13	UNLV*		14	2-5	2-5	0-0	2	1	1	2	0	0	6
F.16	at TCU*		10	0-2	0-1	2-2	0	1	1	1	0	0	2
F.20	Utah*		13	0-2	0-2	0-0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
F.24	at BYU*		22	2-6	1-3	0-0	2	3	0	0	1	3	5
M.3	Colorado State*	S	25	3-12	2-10	0-0	2	3	0	0	1	1	8
M.6	at Air Force*	S	25	2-6	0-3	1-2	2	0	2	2	0	1	5
M.11	vs. Colorado State	S	22	0-2	0-2	0-2	0	2	1	1	0	2	0
M.12	vs. New Mexico	S	16	2-5	2-3	0-0	2	3	3	0	0	0	6
M.13	at UNLV	S	32	4-7	1-3	0-0	1	2	0	2	0	2	9

## Davis Career Statistics

\* at UTEP

Year	G-GS	Min.-Avg.	FG-FGA	Pct.	3P-3PA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	Reb	Avg.	PF-D	AT	TO	BS	ST	Pts.	Avg.
04-05*	24-1	149-6.2	15-42	.357	7-22	.318	6-10	.600	3	15	18	0.8	20-1	16	10	3	12	43	1.8
07-08	33-5	670-20.3	90-210	.429	39-117	.333	30-54	.556	24	64	88	2.7	67-1	26	51	1	41	249	7.5
08-09	8-0	85-10.6	8-24	.333	4-14	.286	0-3	.000	3	11	14	1.8	7-0	4	7	0	6	20	2.5
09-10	32-6	610-19.1	71-182	.390	35-125	.280	31-47	.660	8	32	40	1.3	63-0	34	46	8	21	208	6.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>97-15</b>	<b>1514-15.6</b>	<b>184-458</b>	<b>.402</b>	<b>85-278</b>	<b>.306</b>	<b>67-114</b>	<b>.588</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>157-2</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>5.4</b>

# Career Records

## Points

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	Points
1.	1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	2,189
2.	2.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	1,846
3.	3.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	1,735
4.	-	Tony Pinkins	55-56-57	82	1,475
5.	-	Bob Brady	52-53-54	74	1,389
6.	4.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	1,307
7.	-	Al Skalecky	66-67-68	82	1,271
8.	5.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	1,259
9.	6.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	1,230
10.	7.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	1,225
11.	8.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	1,211
12.	9.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	1,200
13.	10.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	1,188
13.	-	Von Jacobsen	69-70-71	78	1,188
15.	-	Bernie Finlay	58-59-60	73	1,110
16.	11.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	1,090
17.	12.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	1,089
18.	-	Danny Newport	54-55-56	76	1,048
19.	-	Milton Phelps	39-40-41	97	1,043
20.	-	Dave Miller	66-67-68	82	1,034
21.	13.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	1,019
22.	14.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	1,012
23.	15.	Kim Goetz	78-79	54	1,005
24.	16.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	1,002
		Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	949
		Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	91	928
		Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	925
		•Billy White	08-09-10	97	918
		Jason Richey	97-98	52	908
		Courtie Miller	90-91-92-93-94	101	891
		•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	883
		Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	843
		Steve Malovic	78-79	54	838
		•Mohamed Abukar	06-07	54	819
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		•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	750

## Scoring Average

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	PPG
1.	-	Bob Brady	52-53-54	74	18.8
2.	1.	Kim Goetz	78-79	54	18.6
3.	-	Tony Pinkins	55-56-57	83	18.1
4.	2.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	17.51
5.	3.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	17.46
6.	4.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	16.5
7.	5.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	16.4
8.	6.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	16.1
9.	7.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	15.8
10.	-	Al Skalecky	66-67-68	82	15.5
11.	-	Von Jacobsen	69-70-71	77	15.4
12.	8.	Chris McMurray	72-73	42	15.238
13.	9.	Steve Malovic	78-79	55	15.236
14.	-	Bernie Finlay	58-59-60	73	15.205
15.	10.	•Mohamed Abukar	06-07	54	15.167
16.	-	Dick Maureau	61-62	49	15.1
17.	11.	Marty Dow	90-91	52	14.9
18.	12.	Jimmy Harris	71-72	54	14.814
19.	13.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	14.812
20.	14.	Zack Jones	81-82	54	14.7
21.	15.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	14.5
22.	-	Bob Lundgren	67-68	45	14.3
23.	16.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	14.1
		•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	13.9
		•Al Faux	01-02	57	13.84
		Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	13.78
		Matt Watts	98-99	53	13.7
		•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	13.0
		Marc Carter	94-95	56	12.70
		Presnell Gilbert	77-78-79	50	12.68

24.	Jimmy Wilkins	71-72	52	12.60
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## Rebounds

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	Rebs.
1.	1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	1,317
2.	-	Al Skalecky	66-67-68	82	1,090
3.	2.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	775
4.	-	Larry Meek	63-64-65	75	764
5.	3.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	737
6.	4.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	724
7.	5.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-79	99	711
8.	6.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	686
9.	-	Noel Mickelsen	54-55-56	79	642
10.	7.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	641
11.	8.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	631
12.	-	Tony Pinkins	55-56-57	82	604
		•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	596
		Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	572
		•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	522
		•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	508
		Chris McMurray	72-73	42	492
		Steve Malovic	78-79	55	484
		•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	481
		Allen Bunting	74-75-76	78	456
		•Billy White	08-09-10	97	456
		•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	445
		•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	443
		Larry Jones	72-73	53	420
		•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	419
		Marty Dow	90-91	52	415
		Rodney Hawkins	86-87-88	70	413
		Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	408
		Leon Carter	95-96	57	395
		John Martens	83-84-85-86	71	372

## Rebound Average

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	RPG
1.	-	Al Skalecky	66-67-68	82	13.3
		Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	11.8
		•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	8.9
		Steve Malovic	78-79	55	8.8
		Marty Dow	90-91	52	8.0
		Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	7.9247
		Larry Jones	72-73	53	7.9245
		•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	7.88
		Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	7.817
		Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	7.2
		Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	7.0
		Leon Carter	95-96	57	6.9
		John Anderson	73-74	52	6.8
		Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	6.7
		•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	6.294
		Roy Kruijswyk	97-98	55	6.290
		Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	6.24
		Marc Carter	94-95	56	6.1
		Rodney Hawkins	86-87-88	70	5.900
		Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	5.897
		Kevin Betts	97-98	55	5.89

## Assists

Rk	Name	Years	GP	Assists
1.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	590
2.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	479
3.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	412
4.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	394
5.	Mark Delsman	74-75-76-77	109	376
6.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	356
7.	Keith Smith	82-83	53	349
8.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	339
9.	Dean Decker	77-78	56	307
10.	Ray Leary	74-75-76	76	279

11.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	275
12.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	91	271
13.	Creon Dorsey	85-86	59	263
14.	Bryan Williams	88-89	48	243
15.	Michael Best	89-90	56	238
16.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	227
17.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	213
18.	Arthur Massey	90-91	59	212
19.	Jeff Konek	85	57	211
20.	•David Abramowitz	99-00-01	79	189
21.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	184
21.	Gary Earle	74-75-76	81	184
23.	•Wesley Stokes	04	30	176
24.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	171
25.	Matt Watts	98-99	53	166
26.	•Chris Walton	01-02-04-05	110	163

## Assist Average

Rk	Name	Years	GP	APG
1.	Keith Smith	82-83	53	6.6
2.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	5.51
3.	Dean Decker	77-78	56	5.48
4.	Creon Dorsey	85-86	59	4.5
5.	Michael Best	89-90	56	4.3
6.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	3.85
7.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	3.77
8.	Jeff Konek	85	57	3.702
9.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	3.679
10.	Ray Leary	74-75-76	76	3.671
11.	Arthur Massey	90-91	59	3.59

## Field Goals

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	FG
1.	1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	749
2.	2.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	702
3.	3.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	679
4.	4.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	507
5.	-	Tony Pinkins	55-56-57	82	495
6.	5.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	483
7.	-	Al Skalecky	66-67-68	82	481
8.	6.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	477
9.	-	Bob Brady	52-53-54	74	461
10.	7.	Von Jacobsen	69-70-71	78	457
12.	8.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	448
13.	9.	Kim Goetz	78-79	54	435
		Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	413
		•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	407
		Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	406
		•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	403
		Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	396
		Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	91	392
		•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	383
		•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	382
		•Billy White	08-09-10	97	376
		•Tony Bland	02-03	63	365
		Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	344

## Field Goal Attempts

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	FGA
1.	1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	1,815
2.	2.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	1,576
3.	3.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	1,238
4.	4.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	1,126
5.	5.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	1,098
6.	6.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	1,020
7.	7.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	977
8.	8.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	933
9.	9.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	912
9.	9.	Kim Goetz	78-79	54	852
11.	11.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	844
11.	11.	Chad Nelson	84-85-86-87	112	814
13.	13.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	812

# Career Records (cont.)

14.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	808
15.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	803
16.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	779
17.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	91	758
18.	Matt Watts	98-99	53	731
19.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	724
20.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	722

## Field Goal Percentage

*minimum 500 career attempts*

Rk	DI	Name	Years	FG/FGA	FG%
1.	1.	Billy White	08-09-10	376/607	61.9
2.	2.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	396/692	57.2
3.	3.	Mitch McMullen	88-89	296/527	56.2
4.	4.	Marty Dow	90-91	309/557	55.5
5.	5.	Steve Malovic	78-79	337/609	55.3
6.	-	Danny Newport	54-55-56	379/686	55.2
7.	6.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	679/1,238	54.8
8.	7.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	334/619	54.0
9.	8.	•Mike Mackell	02-03	291/543	53.6
10.	9.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	333/627	53.1
11.	10.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	406/779	52.1
12.	11.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	392/758	51.7
12.	12.	Kim Goetz	78-79	435/852	51.1
13.	Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	407/803	50.7	
14.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	273/546	50.0	
15.	Jimmy Wilkins	71-72	253/517	48.9	
16.	Zach Jones	81-82	323/668	48.4	
17.	•Mohamed Abukar	06-07	303/634	47.8	
18.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	403/844	47.7	
19.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	343/722	47.51	
20.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	340/716	47.49	
21.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	383/812	47.2	

## Three-Point Field Goals

*in existence since 1986-87 season*

Rk	Name	Years	GP	3FG
1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	281
2.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	270
3.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	119	166
4.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	144
5.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	136
6.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	130
7.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	122
8.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	112
9.	Michael Best	89-90	56	107
10.	•Al Faux	01-02	57	106
11.	•David Abramowitz	99-00-01	79	98
12.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	84
13.	•Kelvin Davis	08-09-10	73	78
14.	Berry Randle	93-94-95-96	113	76
15.	Matt Watts	98-99	53	65
16.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	64
17.	•Chris Manker	03-04-05	82	58
18.	•Donte Wilson	99-00	54	56
19.	Brady Trenkle	95-97-99	79	56
20.	Chris Walters	93-94	57	56
21.	Josko Visnjic	98	28	55

## Three-Point Field Goal Atts.

*in existence since 1986-87 season*

Rk	Name	Years	GP	3FGA
1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	798
2.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	589
3.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	119	412
4.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	397
5.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	381
6.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	337
7.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	332
8.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	303
9.	Michael Best	89-90	56	292
10.	•David Abramowitz	99-00-01	79	284
11.	•Al Faux	01-02	57	256

12.	•Kelvin Davis	08-09-10	73	256
13.	Berry Randle	93-94-95-96	113	253
14.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	239
15.	Matt Watts	98-99	53	237
16.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	212
17.	•Donte Wilson	99-00	54	180
18.	Josko Visnjic	98	28	179
19.	Brady Trenkle	95-97-99	79	176
20.	•Chris Manker	03-04-05	82	175
21.	Arthur Massey	90-91	59	173

## Three-Point Field Goal Percentage

*minimum 40 career three-point field goals*

Rk	Name	Years	3FG/3FGA	3FG%
1.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	270/589	45.8
2.	•Al Faux	01-02	106/256	41.4
3.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	166/412	40.3
4.	•Steve Sir	03-04	47/118	39.8
5.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	130/332	39.2
6.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	112/303	37.0
7.	Michael Best	89-90	107/292	36.64
8.	Tony Clark	92-93	52/142	36.62
9.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	144/397	36.3
10.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	122/337	36.2
11.	Jason Richey	97-98	136/381	35.7
12.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	281/798	35.2
13.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	84/239	35.1
14.	Darryl Gaines	86-87	40/115	34.8
15.	•Karlo Kovacic	01-02	47/136	34.6

## Free Throws

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP	FT
1.	1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	488
2.	-	Tony Pinkins	55-56-57	82	485
3.	-	Bob Brady	52-53-54	74	467
4.	2.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	415
5.	3.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	410
6.	4.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	388
7.	-	Bernie Finlay	58-59-60	73	352
8.	5.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	336
9.	6.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	331
10.	-	Al Skalecky	66-67-68	82	309
11.	7.	Courtie Miller	90-91-92-93-94	101	302
13.	8.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	293
14.	-	Danny Newport	54-55-56	76	290
9.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	274	
10.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	245	
11.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	240	
12.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	234	
13.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	233	
14.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	227	
15.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	218	
16.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	215	
17.	Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	207	
18.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	205	
19.	John Martens	83-84-85-86	71	201	
20.	•Mike Mackell	02-03	63	199	

## Free Throws Attempted

DI	Name	Years	GP	FTA
1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	667
2.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	530
3.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	524
4.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	519
5.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	466
6.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	446
7.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	439
8.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	434
9.	Courtie Miller	90-91-92-93-94	101	398
10.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	376
11.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	369
12.	Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	356
13.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	341

14.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	340
15.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	334
16.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	324
17.	Berry Randle	93-94-95-96	113	314
18.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	312
19.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	300
20.	•Mike Mackell	02-03	63	289

## Free Throw Percentage

*minimum 40 career free throws*

Rk	DI	Name	Years	FT/FTA	FT%
1.	1.	Kim Goetz	78-79	135/158	85.4
2.	-	Mike Spigler	69-70	112/134	83.6
3.	2.	Steve Malovic	78-79	164/199	82.4
4.	3.	•Mohamed Abukar	06-07	186/226	82.3
5.	4.	Jason Richey	97-98	218/271	80.4
6.	5.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	163/203	80.3
7.	6.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	415/519	80.0
8.	7.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	410/524	78.2
9.	8.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	144/185	77.8
10.	-	Bernie Finlay	58-59-60	352/453	77.7
11.	9.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	336/434	77.4
12.	10.	Chris McMurray	72-73	130/169	76.9
13.	-	Gary Schneider	70-71	116/157	76.8
11.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	137/179	76.5	
12.	Jimmy Wilkins	71-72	149/195	76.4	
13.	Courtie Miller	90-91-92-93-94	302/398	75.9	

## Blocks

*since 1978-79 season*

Rk	Name	Years	GP	Blk.
1.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	214
2.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	118
3.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	114
4.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	105
5.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	100
6.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	78
7.	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	75
8.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	72
9.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	71
10.	Marty Dow	90-91	52	68
10.	Rodney Hawkins	86-87-88	70	68
12.	Leon Carter	95-96	57	58
13.	Marc Carter	94-95	56	55
14.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	51
14.	Courtie Miller	90-91-92-93-94	101	51
16.	•Malcolm Thomas	10	33	50
17.	Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	46
18.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	44
19.	•Jerome Habel	07	29	41
20.	Kevin Betts	97-98	55	40
21.	•Chris Walton	01-02-04-05	110	38

## Steals

*since 1978-79 season*

Rk	Name	Years	GP	Steals
1.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	246
2.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06	125	217
3.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	192
4.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	175
5.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	141
6.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	137
7.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	131
8.	Matt Watts	98-99	53	126
8.	Michael Best	89-90	56	126
8.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	126
11.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	125
12.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	114
13.	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	111
13.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	111
15.	Creon Dorsey	85-86	59	109
16.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	107
17.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	102

# Career Records (cont.)

18.	•Matt Thomas	05-06-07-08-09	124	100
19.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	94
20.	Bobby Owens	83-84-85-86	94	92
21.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	87
22.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	119	84
22.	Arthur Massey	90-91	59	84

## Games Played

Rk	DI	Name	Years	GP
1.	1.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127
2.	2.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125
3.	3.	•Matt Thomas	05-06-07-08-09	124
4.	4.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	119
5.	5.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116
6.	6.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115
7.	7.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113
7.	7.	Berry Randle	93-94-95-96	113
9.	9.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112
9.	9.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112
9.	9.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112
12.	12.	•Chris Walton	01-02-04-05	110
12.	13.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110
14.	14.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109
14.	14.	Mark Delsman	74-75-76-77	109
16.	16.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107
16.	16.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107
16.	-	Noel Mickelsen	53-54-55-56	107
		Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105
19.		•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102
20.		Courtie Miller	90-91-92-93-94	101
21.		Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99

## Games Started

since 1978-79				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	GS
1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	120
2.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	112
3.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	110
4.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	109
5.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	103
6.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	95
7.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	93
8.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	91
9.	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	87
10.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	82
11.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	81
12.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	74
13.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	73
13.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	73
15.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	62
15.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	62
15.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	62
18.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	61
18.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	61
18.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	61
21.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	60
22.	Rodney Hawkins	86-87-88	70	59

## Consecutive Games Started

since 1980-81 season				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	CGS
1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	112
2.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	103
3.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	85
4.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	70
5.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	61
6.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	60
7.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	58
8.	Chris Walters	1993-94	57	57
8.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	57
10.	Kevin Betts	97-98	55	55
10.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	55

## Minutes Played

since 1978-79 season				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	Min.
1.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	4,275
2.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	4,262
3.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	3,780
4.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	103	3,692
5.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	3,330
6.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	3,191
7.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	2,971
8.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	2,948
9.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	2,911
10.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	2,880
11.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	2,659
12.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	2,627
13.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	2,594
14.	•Billy White	08-09-10	94	2,546
15.	•Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	2,462
16.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	2,460
17.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	+2,422
18.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	2,402
19.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	119	2,381
20.	•Chris Walton	01-02-04-05	110	2,286
21.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	2,270
22.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	2,182

## Efficiency Points

since 1978-79 season				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	Eff. Pts.
1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	2,534
2.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	1,652
3.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	1,495
4.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	1,450
5.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	1,407
6.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	1,395
7.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	1,351
8.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	1,337
9.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08	115	1,308
10.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	1,276
11.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	1,244
12.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	1,220
13.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	1,216
14.	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	1,183
15.	Steve Malovic	78-79	55	1,137
16.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	1,114
17.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	86	1,056
18.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	1,044
19.	•Marcelo Correa	97-98-99-00-01	112	1,026
20.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	91	987
21.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	938

## Efficiency Average

min. 50 games; since 1978-79 season				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	EPG
1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	22.63
2.	Steve Malovic	78-79	55	20.67
3.	Marty Dow	90-91	52	17.52
4.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	17.18
5.	Kim Goetz	78-79	54	16.09
6.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	15.59
7.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	15.34
8.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	14.83
9.	Jason Richey	97-98	52	14.40
10.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	14.21
11.	•Mohamed Abukar	06-07	54	14.20
12.	Leon Carter	95-96	57	13.82
13.	Mitch McMullen	88-89	58	13.78
14.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	13.52
15.	•Tony Bland	02-03	63	13.27
16.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	13.22
17.	Kevin Betts	97-98	55	13.14
18.	John Anderson	73-74	52	12.62

19.	Rodney Hawkins	86-87-88	70	12.30
	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	12.20

## Points-Rebounds-Assists

since 1972-73 season				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	PRA
1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	3,261
2.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	3,002
3.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	2,453
4.	Steve Copp	73-74-75-76	93	2,215
5.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	87	2,099
6.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	2,007
7.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	1,959
8.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	1,918
9.	Will Connelly	75-76-77	82	1,901
10.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	1,822
11.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	1,807
12.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	1,765
13.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	1,730
14.	•Myron Epps	99-00-01-02	113	1,679
15.	•Randy Holcomb	01-02	61	1,580
16.	Tony Ross	87-88-89	85	1,578
17.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	1,570
18.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	1,534
19.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	1,523
20.	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	1,477

## Victories

since 1975-76				
Rk	Name	Years	GP	Wins
1.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	127	85
2.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	115	80
3.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	116	76
4.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	102	74
4.	•Matt Thomas	05-06-07-08-09	124	74
6.	•Billy White	08-09-10	97	71
6.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	125	71
8.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	112	68
9.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	119	63
9.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	110	63
11.	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	109	61
12.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	92	60
13.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	105	59
14.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	107	58
15.	•Chris Walton	01-02-04-05	110	54
15.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	107	54
15.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	91	54
18.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	99	53
19.	•Trimaime Davis	03-04-05-06	98	52
19.	Bobby Owens	83-84-85-86	94	52
21.	Deandre Moore	01-02-03	88	50
21.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	112	50
21.	Mark Delsman	74-75-76-77	109	50

## Conference Victories

since 1975-76				
Rk	Name	Years	CGP	Wins
1.	•Richie Williams	06-07-08-09	60	39
2.	•Kyle Spain	06-07-08-09	51	36
2.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	64	36
3.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	64	33
4.	•Matt Thomas	05-06-07-08-09	59	32
4.	•Brandon Heath	04-05-06-07	60	32
4.	Anthony Watson	83-84-85-86	64	32
7.	•D.J. Gay	08-09-10	47	31
8.	•Lorenzo Wade	07-08-09	46	29
8.	Eddie Morris	80-81-82-83	58	29
10.	•Billy White	08-09-10	38	28
10.	•John Sharper	03-04-05-06	57	27
10.	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	57	27
10.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	42	27
14.	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	55	25

## Career Records (cont.)

14.	Mike Dodd	76-77-78-79	38	25
16.	Mark Delsman	74-75-76-77	44	24
17.	•Mohamed Abukar	06-07	31	23
17.	Chad Nelson	94-95-96-97	70	23
17.	Bobby Owens	83-84-85-86	49	23
20.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	42	22
21.	Berry Randle	93-94-95-96	71	21
22.	•Trimaine Davis	03-04-05-06	51	20
22.	Dean Decker	77-78	26	20

### Double-Doubles

*since 1975-76*

Rk	Name	Years	DD
1.	Michael Cage	81-82-83-84	61
2.	•Marcus Slaughter	04-05-06	30
3.	Joel Kramer	74-76-77-78	+26
4.	Randy Holcomb	01-02	19
5.	Joe McNaull	91-92-93	18
6.	Steve Malovic	78-79	17
7.	•Kawhi Leonard	10	16
8.	Marty Dow	90-91	16
9.	Leonard Allen	82-83-84-85	15
	•Aerick Sanders	01-02-03-04	14
	Eddy Gordon	80-81-82-83	14
	Will Connelly	75-76-77	14
13.	Rodney Hawkins	86-87-88	12
14.	Gerald Murray	84-85-87	11
	Keith Smith	82-83	11
	Tony Gwynn	78-79-80-81	11
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	•Malcolm Thomas	10	4
	•Billy White	08-09-10	2
	•Tim Shelton	08-09-10	1



# Single-Season Records

## Points

Rk	DI	Name	Pts.	Yr.
1.	1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	686	84
2.	2.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	637	07
3.	3.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	630	86
4.	4.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	607	06
5.	-	Bob Brady (Jr.)	585	53
6.	5.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	558	02
7.	6.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	547	83
8.	7.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	544	85
9.	8.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	532	05
9.	8.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	532	79
11.	-	Tony Pinkins (Sr.)	529	57
12.	-	Bernie Finlay (Sr.)	522	60
12.	-	Tony Pinkins (Jr.)	522	56
14.	10.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	520	90
14.	10.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	520	76
16.	12.	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	519	02
13.	-	•Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	505	07
14.	-	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	504	09
15.	-	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	494	06
15.	-	•Al Faux (Sr.)	494	02
15.	-	Marty Dow (Sr.)	494	91
18.	-	Tony Bland (Sr.)	493	03
19.	-	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	487	08
20.	-	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	482	04
21.	-	Will Connelly (Jr.)	481	76
22.	-	•Marcus Slaughter (So.)	480	05
23.	-	Will Connelly (So.)	479	75
24.	-	Jason Richey (Jr.)	474	97
25.	-	Kim Goetz (Jr.)	473	78

## Scoring Average

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	PPG	Yr.
1.	1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	24.5	84
2.	2.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	22.5	86
3.	-	Bob Brady (Jr.)	20.9	53
4.	3.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	20.5	79
5.	-	Bernie Finlay (Sr.)	20.1	60
6.	-	Tony Pinkins (Sr.)	19.6	57
7.	4.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	19.5	83
8.	5.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	19.3	07
9.	-	Bob Brady (Sr.)	18.7	54
10.	6.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	18.4	06
10.	-	Von Jacobsen (So.)	18.4	69
12.	7.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	18.34	05
13.	8.	Carlus Groves (Sr.)	18.27	94
14.	-	Tony Pinkins (Jr.)	18.0	56
9.	9.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	17.9	76
10.	-	•Marcus Slaughter (So.)	17.8	05
11.	-	Will Connelly (So.)	17.7	75
12.	-	Jason Richey (Jr.)	17.6	97
13.	-	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	17.5	85
14.	-	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	17.44	79
15.	-	Jason Richey (Sr.)	17.36	98
16.	-	Zach Jones (Jr.)	17.1	81
17.	-	•Al Faux (Sr.)	17.0	02
17.	-	Marty Dow (Sr.)	17.0	91
19.	-	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	16.91	02
20.	-	Kim Goetz (Jr.)	16.89	78
21.	-	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	16.8	90
22.	-	Will Connelly (Jr.)	16.6	76
23.	-	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	16.5	06
24.	-	•Tony Bland (Sr.)	16.4	03
25.	-	Tony Ross (Fr.)	16.3	87

## Rebounds

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	Rebs.	Yr.
1.	-	Al Skalecky (Jr.)	394	67
2.	-	Al Skalecky (So.)	356	66
3.	1.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	355	81
4.	2.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	354	83
5.	3.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	352	84
6.	4.	Chris McMurray (Jr.)	350	72
7.	-	Tony Pinkins (Jr.)	346	56
8.	-	Al Skalecky (Sr.)	340	68
9.	5.	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	329	06
10.	6.	•Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	326	10
11.	7.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	296	02
12.	8.	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	295	04
13.	-	Eric Martensen (Jr.)	278	69
14.	-	Larry Meek (So.)	277	63
9.	9.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	274	91
10.	-	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	265	79
11.	-	Will Connelly (Jr.)	258	76
12.	-	Joel Kramer (Jr.)	257	77
13.	-	•Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	256	10
14.	-	Michael Cage (So.)	256	82
15.	-	Joel Kramer (Sr.)	255	78
16.	-	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	252	85
17.	-	Steve Copp (Sr.)	248	76
17.	-	Will Connelly (So.)	248	75
18.	-	Steve Copp (Jr.)	247	75
20.	-	•Marcus Slaughter (So.)	242	05
21.	-	Eddy Gordon (Fr.)	239	80
22.	-	Joe McNaull (Jr.)	238	93
22.	-	Gerald Murray (Jr.)	238	87
24.	-	Roy Kruiiswyk (Sr.)	235	98
25.	-	Larry Jones (Jr.)	235	72

## Rebound Average

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	RPG	Yr.
1.	-	Al Skalecky (So.)	13.7	66
2.	-	Al Skalecky (Jr.)	13.6	67
3.	1.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	13.1	81
4.	2.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	12.64	83
5.	-	Al Skalecky (Sr.)	12.59	68
6.	3.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	12.57	84
7.	4.	Chris McMurray (Jr.)	12.50	72
8.	-	Tony Pinkins (Jr.)	11.9	56
9.	5.	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	11.0	06
10.	-	Larry Meek (Sr.)	10.68	65
11.	-	Larry Meek (So.)	10.65	63
6.	6.	Chris McMurray (Sr.)	10.1	73
7.	-	•Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	9.9	10
8.	-	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	9.83	04
9.	-	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	9.81	79
10.	-	Marty Dow (Sr.)	9.4	91
11.	-	Will Connelly (So.)	9.19	75
12.	-	Joel Kramer (Jr.)	9.18	77
13.	-	Steve Copp (Jr.)	9.15	75
14.	-	Joel Kramer (Sr.)	9.11	78
15.	-	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	8.97	02
16.	-	•Marcus Slaughter (So.)	8.96	05
17.	-	Will Connelly (Jr.)	8.90	76
18.	-	Eddy Gordon (Fr.)	8.85	80
19.	-	Michael Cage (So.)	8.83	82
20.	-	Gary Schneider (Sr.)	8.80	71
21.	-	Larry Jones (Jr.)	8.7	72
22.	-	Steve Copp (Sr.)	8.6	76
23.	-	Steffond Johnson (Sr.)	8.41	86
24.	-	Roy Kruiiswyk (Sr.)	8.39	98

25.	-	Joe McNaull (Jr.)	8.2	93
26.	-	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	8.1	85

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## Assists

*in existence since 1972-73 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	Asts.	Yr.
1.	Tony Gwynn (Jr.)	221	80
2.	Keith Smith (Jr.)	212	82
3.	Dean Decker (Sr.)	176	78
4.	•Wesley Stokes (Jr.)	175	04
5.	Creon Dorsey (Jr.)	171	85
6.	Tony Gwynn (Sr.)	164	81
7.	Ray Leary (Sr.)	163	76
8.	Tony Gwynn (So.)	153	79
9.	•Richie Williams (So.)	151	07
10.	Raymond King (Fr.)	150	96
11.	Bryan Williams (Jr.)	148	88
12.	Arthur Massey (Sr.)	139	91
13.	Keith Smith (Sr.)	137	83
14.	Jeff Konek (Jr.)	132	84
15.	Dean Decker (Jr.)	131	77
16.	•Richie Williams (Fr.)	127	06
17.	•Richie Williams (Sr.)	126	09
18.	Michael Best (Sr.)	125	90
19.	•Deandre Moore (So.)	124	03
20.	•Deandre Moore (Sr.)	122	01
20.	Chad Nelson (Jr.)	122	96
22.	Mike Dodd (Sr.)	121	79
23.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	120	07
24.	Mark Delsman (Fr.)	120	74
25.	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	119	08
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	•D.J. Gay (Jr.)	107	10

## Assist Average

*in existence since 1972-73 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	APG	Yr.
1.	Tony Gwynn (Jr.)	8.2	80
2.	Keith Smith (Jr.)	7.3	82
3.	Tony Gwynn (Sr.)	6.31	81
4.	Dean Decker (Sr.)	6.28	78
5.	•Wesley Stokes (Jr.)	5.8	04
6.	Bryan Williams (Jr.)	5.8	88
7.	Keith Smith (Sr.)	5.71	83
8.	Tony Gwynn (So.)	5.67	79
9.	Ray Leary (Sr.)	5.6	76
10.	Creon Dorsey (Jr.)	5.5	85

## Field Goals

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	FG	Yr.
1.	1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	250	84
2.	2.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	246	86
3.	3.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	229	79
4.	4.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	225	07
5.	5.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	222	85
6.	6.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	220	02
7.	7.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	207	91
7.	7.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	207	76
9.	9.	Kim Goetz (Jr.)	206	78
10.	10.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	204	06
11.	11.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	203	90
12.	12.	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	200	04
13.	13.	Will Connelly (So.)	196	75
14.	14.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	192	79

15.	-	Michael Cage (Jr.)	191	83
16.	-	Will Connelly (Jr.)	187	76
17.	-	•Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	185	07
17.	-	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	185	02
19.	-	Zach Jones (Jr.)	183	81
20.	-	•Tony Bland (Sr.)	180	03
21.	-	Jimmy Harris (Sr.)	179	72
22.	-	Chris McMurray (Jr.)	177	72
23.	-	•Brandon Heath (So.)	176	05
24.	-	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	174	08
25.	-	Brian Frishman (Sr.)	173	77
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	-	•Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	161	10

## Field Goal Attempts

DI	Name (Class)	FGA	Yr.
1.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	534	07
2.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	520	86
3.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	481	06
4.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	475	85
5.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	451	79
6.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	445	84
7.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	432	05
8.	Chris McMurray (Jr.)	428	72
9.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	426	02
10.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	417	76
11.	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	416	02
12.	Jimmy Harris (Sr.)	413	72
13.	Will Connelly (So.)	410	75
14.	Kim Goetz (Jr.)	401	78
15.	Will Connelly (Jr.)	397	76
16.	•Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	392	07
16.	•Tony Bland (Sr.)	392	03
18.	Zach Jones (Jr.)	387	81
18.	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	387	08
20.	•Randy Holcomb (Jr.)	386	01
21.	Matt Watts (Jr.)	381	98
22.	Brian Fishman (Sr.)	379	77
23.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	373	09
24.	•Brandon Heath (Fr.)	368	04
25.	Marc Carter (Sr.)	366	95
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	•Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	350	10

## Field Goal Percentage

*min. 5 FGA per game*

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	Pct.	Yr.
1.	-	Danny Newport (Fr.)	79.9	54
2.	1.	•Billy White (So.)	66.3	09
3.	2.	•Billy White (Fr.)	61.5	08
4.	3.	Leon Carter (Sr.)	60.5	96
5.	4.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	60.1	85
6.	5.	Kevin Betts (Sr.)	59.8	98
7.	6.	•Jerome Habel (Jr.)	59.6	07
8.	7.	•Billy White (Jr.)	58.8	10
9.	8.	Mitch McMullen (Sr.)	58.0	89
10.	9.	Joe McNaull (So.)	57.9	92
11.	10.	Von Jacobsen (Sr.)	57.3	71
12.	11.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	57.2	91
13.	12.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	57.0	83
14.	13.	Kevin Betts (Jr.)	56.9	97
15.	14.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	56.23	90
16.	15.	Leonard Allen (So.)	56.20	83
16.	-	Michael Cage (Sr.)	56.18	84
17.	-	Steve Malovic (Jr.)	56.0	78
18.	-	Michael Kennedy (Sr.)	55.93	85

# Single-Season Records (cont.)

19.	Leonard Allen (Jr.)	55.88	84
20.	Roy Kruiswyk (Sr.)	55.84	98
21.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	55.83	81
22.	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	55.4	04
23.	•Myron Epps (Jr.)	54.88	01
24.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	54.86	79
25.	•Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	54.8	10

## Three-Point Field Goals

*in existence since 1986-87 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	3FGs	Yr.
1.	Tony Ross (Fr.)	104	87
2.	Tony Ross (So.)	100	88
3.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	98	06
4.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	87	07
5.	•John Sharper (Sr.)	79	06
6.	Jason Richey (Sr.)	72	98
7.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	67	09
8.	•Al Faux (Sr.)	66	02
8.	Tony Ross (Jr.)	66	89
10.	Jason Richey (Jr.)	64	97
11.	•D.J. Gay (Jr.)	59	10
12.	Michael Best (Sr.)	56	90
13.	Josko Visnjic (Jr.)	55	98
14.	Michael Best (Jr.)	51	89
15.	Derric Croft (Jr.)	49	94
16.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	48	05
16.	•Brandon Heath (Fr.)	48	04
18.	•Steve Sir (Fr.)	46	03
19.	•D.J. Gay (Fr.)	45	08
20.	•John Sharper (Jr.)	43	05
21.	Tony Clark (So.)	42	92
22.	•Wesley Stokes (Jr.)	41	04
22.	•Deandre Moore (Sr.)	41	03
24.	•D.J. Gay (So.)	40	09
25.	•Al Faux (Jr.)	40	01
25.	Chad Nelson (Jr.)	40	96
25.	Darryl Gaines (So.)	40	87

## Three-Pt. Field Goal Atts.

*in existence since 1986-87 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	3FGA	Yr.
1.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	247	07
2.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	240	06
3.	Tony Ross (Fr.)	223	87
4.	Tony Ross (So.)	213	88
5.	Jason Richey (Sr.)	202	98
6.	•John Sharper (Sr.)	188	06
7.	Josko Visnjic (Jr.)	179	98
7.	Jason Richey (Jr.)	179	97
9.	Michael Best (Sr.)	173	90
10.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	171	09
11.	•Al Faux (Sr.)	161	02
12.	•Brandon Heath (Fr.)	160	04
13.	•D.J. Gay (Jr.)	154	10
14.	Tony Ross (Jr.)	153	89
15.	Derric Croft (Jr.)	152	94
16.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	151	05
17.	•Wesley Stokes (Jr.)	138	04
18.	Arthur Massey (Sr.)	135	91
19.	Matt Watts (Jr.)	134	98
20.	Josh Lowery (So.)	133	87
21.	•Kelvin Davis (Sr.)	125	10
22.	•D.J. Gay (So.)	122	09
23.	•D.J. Gay (Fr.)	121	08
24.	Tony Clark (So.)	119	92

25.	Michael Best (Jr.)	119	89
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## Three-Point Field Goal Pct.

*min 20 3FGs; in existence since 1986-87 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	Pct.	Yr.
1.	Jason Hamilton (Fr.)	50.0	93
2.	Tony Ross (So.)	46.9	88
3.	Chad Nelson (Fr.)	46.7	94
4.	Tony Ross (Fr.)	46.6	87
5.	•Richie Williams (So.)	45.8	07
6.	Tony Ross (Jr.)	43.1	89
7.	Michael Best (Jr.)	42.9	89
8.	•Al Faux (Jr.)	42.1	01
9.	•John Sharper (Sr.)	42.0	06
10.	•Al Faux (Sr.)	41.0	02
11.	Brady Trenkle (So.)	40.84	97
12.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	40.83	06
13.	•Steve Sir (Fr.)	40.4	03
14.	•John Sharper (So.)	40.0	04
15.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	39.2	09
16.	•Deandre Moore (Jr.)	39.0	02
17.	•Chase Tapley (Fr.)	38.9	10
18.	•Kyle Spain (Jr.)	38.6	08
19.	•D.J. Gay (Jr.)	38.3	10
20.	•Richie Williams (Sr.)	37.5	09
21.	•D.J. Gay (Fr.)	37.2	08
22.	•John Sharper (Jr.)	36.8	05
23.	Paul Jarrett (Sr.)	36.63	96
24.	•David Abramowitz (Jr.)	36.59	01
25.	•Karlo Kovacic (Jr.)	36.5	01
26.	Chris Walters (Sr.)	35.82	94
27.	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	35.80	02

## Free Throws

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	FT	Yr.
1.	-	Bob Brady (Jr.)	213	53
2.	1.	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	192	06
3.	2.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	186	84
3.	-	Bernie Finlay (Sr.)	186	60
5.	-	Tony Pinkins (So.)	170	55
6.	3.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	165	83
6.	-	Tony Pinkins (Sr.)	165	57
8.	-	Tony Pinkins (Jr.)	150	56
9.	-	Bob Brady (Sr.)	145	54
10.	4.	Chad Nelson (Sr.)	142	97
11.	5.	•Marcus Slaughter (So.)	141	05
12.	6.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	138	86
7.	7.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	137	09
7.	7.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	137	85
9.	9.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	132	05
10.	10.	John Martens (Sr.)	130	86
11.	11.	Jason Richey (Jr.)	122	97
11.	11.	Chad Nelson (So.)	122	95
13.	13.	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	120	02
14.	14.	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	116	08
14.	14.	•Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	116	07
16.	16.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	114	90
17.	17.	•Tony Bland (Sr.)	113	03
18.	18.	•Mike Mackell (Sr.)	108	03
19.	19.	Courtie Miller (Jr.)	107	93
20.	20.	Will Connelly (Jr.)	107	76
21.	21.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	106	02
21.	21.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	106	76
23.	23.	•Myron Epps (So.)	104	00
23.	23.	Mitch McMullen (Sr.)	104	89
25.	25.	Mitch McMullen (Jr.)	103	88

## Free Throw Attempts

DI	Name (Class)	FTA	Yr.
1.	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	252	06
2.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	251	84
3.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	232	90
4.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	221	83
5.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	204	85
6.	•Marcus Slaughter (So.)	202	05
7.	John Martens (Sr.)	183	86
8.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	182	86
9.	Mitch McMullen (Jr.)	181	88
10.	Mitch McMullen (Sr.)	175	89
11.	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	173	08
12.	•Myron Epps (So.)	172	00
13.	•Tony Bland (Sr.)	171	03
14.	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	169	04
15.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	167	02
16.	Chad Nelson (Sr.)	166	97
17.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	164	09
18.	•Mike Mackell (Sr.)	164	03
19.	Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	161	10
20.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	161	05
21.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	160	76
22.	Jason Richey (Jr.)	159	97
23.	Will Connelly (So.)	159	75
24.	Chad Nelson (So.)	157	95
25.	Will Connelly (Jr.)	153	76

## Free Throw Percentage

*min. 3 FTA per game*

Rk	DI	Name (Class)	Pct.	Yr.
1.	1.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	90.2	79
2.	2.	Jason Richey (Sr.)	85.7	98
3.	3.	Chad Nelson (Sr.)	85.5	97
4.	4.	Gary Schneider (Sr.)	85.2	71
5.	5.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	84.9	06
6.	6.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	83.7	79
7.	7.	•Kyle Spain (Sr.)	83.5	09
8.	-	Mike Spilger (Sr.)	83.3	70
8.	-	Bob Brady (Sr.)	83.3	54
10.	8.	•Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	82.9	07
11.	-	Bernie Finlay (So.)	82.6	59
12.	9.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	82.0	05
13.	10.	Courtie Miller (Jr.)	81.7	93
14.	11.	Mark Delsman (Sr.)	81.3	77
12.	12.	Courtie Miller (Sr.)	81.1	94
13.	13.	Steve Malovic (Jr.)	81.1	78
14.	14.	Kyle Spain (Jr.)	80.0	08
15.	15.	Chad Nelson (Jr.)	79.8	96
16.	16.	Tony Gwynn (Jr.)	79.0	80
17.	17.	Jimmy Wilkins (Jr.)	78.5	71
18.	18.	Chris McMurray (Jr.)	78.4	72
19.	19.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	78.1	85
20.	20.	Pete Geoff (Sr.)	78.1	73
21.	21.	Joel Kramer (Sr.)	77.9	78
22.	22.	Leon Carter (Sr.)	77.8	96
23.	23.	Chad Nelson (So.)	77.7	95
24.	24.	Jeff Pete (So.)	77.7	71
25.	25.	Arthur Massey (Sr.)	77.5	91

## Blocks

*in existence since 1978-79 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	Blks.	Yr.
1.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	82	85
2.	•Malcolm Thomas	50	10
3.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	47	84

4.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	46	91
4.	Leonard Allen (Jr.)	46	84
6.	Leonard Allen (Fr.)	45	82
7.	Eddy Gordon (Fr.)	43	80
8.	•Jerome Habel (Jr.)	41	07
8.	Joe McNaull (Jr.)	41	93
8.	Joe McNaull (So.)	41	92
8.	Leonard Allen (So.)	41	83

## Steals

*in existence since 1978-79 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	Stls.	Yr.
1.	•Richie Williams (Sr.)	77	09
2.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	74	85
3.	•Richie Williams (So.)	69	07
4.	Matt Watts (Sr.)	65	99
4.	Michael Best (Sr.)	65	90
6.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	64	07
7.	•Brandon Heath (So.)	63	05
7.	Raymond King (Fr.)	63	96
7.	Creon Dorsey (Jr.)	63	85
10.	•Lorenzo Wade (So.)	62	07

## Minutes Played

*since 1978-79 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	Min.	Yr.
1.	•Brandon Heath (Sr.)	1,217	07
2.	•Brandon Heath (Jr.)	1,164	06
3.	•Tony Bland (Jr.)	1,140	02
4.	•D.J. Gay (Jr.)	1,135	10
5.	•Richie Williams (So.)	1,123	07
6.	•Richie Williams (Sr.)	1,090	09
7.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	1,085	84
8.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	1,082	90
9.	Michael Cage (So.)	1,076	82
10.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	1,070	83
11.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	1,067	02
12.	•Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	1,061	07
13.	•Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	1,059	08
14.	Chad Nelson (So.)	1,044	95
15.	•Tony Bland (Sr.)	1,042	03
16.	•Lorenzo Wade (So.)	1,037	07
17.	•Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	1,031	10
17.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	1,031	81
19.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	1,030	91
20.	•Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	1,025	10
20.	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	1,025	04
22.	•Ryan Amoroso (Jr.)	1,021	08
23.	Chad Nelson (Jr.)	1,019	96
24.	Rodney Hawkins (Sr.)	1,017	88
25.	Raymond King (Fr.)	1,016	96

## Efficiency Points

*since 1978-79 season*

Rk	Name (Class)	Pts.	Yr.
1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	820	84
2.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	717	83
3.	•Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	643	06
4.	•Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	634	04
5.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	620	79
6.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	589	91
7.	•Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	584	02
7.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	584	85
9.	•Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	580	10
10.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	537	81
11.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	527	86

# Single-Season Records (cont.)

12.	♦Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	515	10
13.	Leon Carter (Sr.)	504	96
14.	♦Brandon Heath (Sr.)	503	07
14.	Rodney Hawkins (Sr.)	503	98
16.	♦Marcus Slaughter (So.)	492	05
17.	♦Kyle Spain (Sr.)	477	09
18.	♦Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	475	07
19.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	474	79
20.	♦Brandon Heath (Jr.)	468	06
21.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	465	85
22.	Michael Cage (So.)	460	82
23.	♦Lorenzo Wade (So.)	453	07
23.	Eddy Gordon (Fr.)	453	80
25.	Mitch McMullen (Sr.)	450	89
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	♦Billy White (Jr.)	381	10

## Efficiency Average

since 1978-79 season

Rk	Name (Class)	EPG	Yr.
1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	29.29	84
2.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	25.61	83
3.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	22.96	79
4.	♦Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	21.43	06
5.	♦Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	21.13	04
6.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	20.31	91
7.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	19.89	81
8.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	18.84	85
9.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	18.82	86
10.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	18.23	79
11.	♦Marcus Slaughter (So.)	18.22	05
12.	♦Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	17.70	02
13.	♦Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	17.58	10
14.	Leon Carter (Sr.)	17.38	96
15.	Rodney Hawkins (Sr.)	17.34	88
16.	Eddy Gordon (Fr.)	16.78	80
17.	Joe McNaull (So.)	15.93	92
18.	Michael Cage (So.)	15.86	82
19.	Carlus Groves (Sr.)	15.68	94
20.	♦Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	15.61	10
21.	Mitch McMullen (Sr.)	15.52	89
22.	Arthur Massey (Sr.)	15.46	91
23.	Paul Jarrett (Sr.)	15.31	96
24.	♦Brandon Heath (Sr.)	15.24	07
25.	Jason Richey (Jr.)	15.11	97

## Pts.-Rebs.-Assists (PRA)

since 1972-73 season

Rk	Name (Class)	PRA	Yr.
1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	1,050	84
2.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	932	83
3.	♦Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	911	02
4.	♦Brandon Heath (Sr.)	884	07
5.	♦Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	879	06
6.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	868	86
7.	♦Brandon Heath (Jr.)	832	06
7.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	832	76
9.	♦Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	810	10
10.	♦Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	808	04
11.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	793	79
12.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	786	91
13.	Will Connelly (Jr.)	771	76
14.	♦Tony Bland (Jr.)	762	02
15.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	759	90
16.	♦Marcus Slaughter (So.)	757	05
17.	♦Lorenzo Wade (Jr.)	756	08

18.	Anthony Watson (Jr.)	751	85
19.	♦Kyle Spain (Sr.)	745	09
20.	Will Connelly (So.)	743	75
21.	♦Mohamed Abukar (Sr.)	741	07
22.	♦Brandon Heath (So.)	740	05
23.	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	713	85
24.	♦Tony Bland (Sr.)	698	03
25.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	696	79

## PRA Average

since 1972-73 season

Rk	Name (Class)	PRAG	Yr.
1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	37.50	84
2.	Michael Cage (Jr.)	33.29	83
3.	Anthony Watson (Sr.)	31.00	86
4.	Steve Malovic (Sr.)	29.37	79
5.	♦Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	29.30	06
6.	Steve Copp (Sr.)	28.69	76
7.	Chris McMurray (Jr.)	28.64	72
8.	♦Marcus Slaughter (So.)	28.04	05
9.	♦Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	27.61	02
10.	Will Connelly (So.)	27.52	75
11.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	27.10	91
12.	♦Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	26.93	04
13.	♦Brandon Heath (Sr.)	26.78	07
14.	Kim Goetz (Sr.)	26.77	79
15.	Will Connelly (Jr.)	26.59	76
16.	Carlus Groves (Sr.)	25.95	94
17.	♦Brandon Heath (So.)	25.52	05
18.	Jason Richey (Jr.)	25.48	97
19.	♦Brandon Heath (Jr.)	25.21	06
20.	Steve Copp (Jr.)	25.11	75
21.	Steffond Johnson (Sr.)	24.76	86
22.	Joel Kramer (Sr.)	24.68	78
23.	♦Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	24.55	10
24.	Shawn Jamison (Jr.)	24.484	90
25.	Michael Cage (Fr.)	24.481	81

## Victories

DI	Name (Class)	Wins	Yr.
1.	♦D.J. Gay (So.)	26	09
	♦Kyle Spain (Sr.)	26	09
	♦Matt Thomas (Sr.)	26	09
	♦Richie Williams (Sr.)	26	09
5.	♦Brian Carlwell (Jr.)	25	10
	♦D.J. Gay (Jr.)	25	10
	♦Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	25	10
	♦Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	25	10
9.	♦Mehdi Cheriet (Jr.)	25	09
10.	♦Chase Tapley (Fr.)	24	10
	♦Billy White (Jr.)	24	10
	♦Tim Shelton (Fr.)	24	09
	♦Billy White (So.)	24	09
	♦Brandon Heath (Jr.)	24	06
	♦John Sharper (Sr.)	24	06
	♦Richie Williams (Fr.)	24	06

## Double-Doubles

since 1972-73 season

Rk	Name (Class)	No.	Yr.
1.	Michael Cage (Sr.)	23	84
2.	♦Marcus Slaughter (Jr.)	18	06
	Michael Cage (Jr.)	18	83
4.	♦Kawhi Leonard (Fr.)	16	10
	♦Randy Holcomb (Sr.)	14	02
6.	Marty Dow (Sr.)	13	91

7.	♦Aerick Sanders (Sr.)	12	04
8.	Gerald Murray (Sr.)	11	87
9.	♦Marcus Slaughter	10	05
	Roy Kruiswyk (Sr.)	10	98
	Keith Smith (Jr.)	10	82
	Michael Cage (So.)	10	82
	Michael Cage (Fr.)	10	81
	Eddy Gordon (So.)	10	80
15.	Joe McNaull (Jr.)	9	92
16.	Joe McNaull (Sr.)	8	93
	Mitch McMullen (Sr.)	8	89
	Rodney Hawkins (Sr.)	8	88
	Leonard Allen (Sr.)	8	85
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	♦Malcolm Thomas (Jr.)	4	10

# Freshman Class Records

## Points

Rk	Name	Points	Year
1.	Tony Ross	455	1987
2.	•Kawhi Leonard	421	2010
3.	•Brandon Heath	413	2004
4.	Eddy Gordon	345	1980
5.	Presnell Gilbert	338	1977
6.	Anthony Watson	319	1983
6.	Eddie Morris	319	1980
8.	Myron Epps	308	1999
9.	Michael Cage	295	1981
9.	•Billy White	279	2008
11.	Steve Copp	270	1973
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	•Chase Tapley	249	2010

## Scoring Average

Rk	Name	PPG	Year
1.	Tony Ross	16.3	1987
2.	Presnell Gilbert	15.4	1977
3.	•Brandon Heath	13.8	2004
4.	Eddie Morris	13.3	1980
5.	Eddy Gordon	12.8	1980
5.	•Kawhi Leonard	12.8	2010
7.	Myron Epps	11.8	1999
8.	Anthony Watson	11.4	1983
9.	Michael Cage	10.9	1981
10.	Steve Copp	10.4	1973
11.	•Kyle Spain	9.2	2006
11.	•Evan Burns	9.2	2003

## Rebounds

Rk	Name	Rebounds	Year
1.	Michael Cage	355	1981
2.	•Kawhi Leonard	326	2010
3.	Eddy Gordon	239	1980
4.	•Marcus Slaughter	204	2004
5.	•Billy White	195	2008
6.	Steve Copp	173	1973
7.	•Tim Shelton	161	2009
8.	•Kyle Spain	158	2006
9.	Myron Epps	149	1999
10.	Presnell Gilbert	143	1977
11.	Kevin Brown	134	1986

## Rebound Average

Rk	Name	RPG	Year
1.	Michael Cage	13.1	1981
2.	•Kawhi Leonard	9.9	2010
3.	Eddy Gordon	8.9	1980
4.	•Marcus Slaughter	6.8	2004
5.	Steve Copp	6.7	1973
6.	Presnell Gilbert	6.5	1977
7.	•Billy White	5.9	2008
8.	•Kyle Spain	5.6	2006
8.	Myron Epps	5.6	1999
10.	•Evan Burns	5.1	2003
11.	•Tim Shelton	4.7	2009
11.	Vincent Okotie	4.7	1999

## Assists

Rk	Name	Assists	Year
1.	Raymond King	150	1996
2.	•Richie Williams	127	2006
3.	Mark Delsman	120	1974
4.	•Bradley Jackson	101	2000
5.	Jason Hamilton	97	1993
6.	Chad Nelson	90	1994
7.	Anthony Watson	85	1983
8.	Tracy Dildy	73	1986
9.	•Chase Tapley	71	2010
10.	•Kawhi Leonard	63	2010

## Assist Average

Rk	Name	APG	Year
1.	Raymond King	5.2	1996
2.	Mark Delsman	4.6	1974
3.	•Richie Williams	3.8	2006
4.	Jason Hamilton	3.7	1993
5.	•Bradley Jackson	3.6	2000
6.	Chad Nelson	3.2	1994
7.	Anthony Watson	3.0	1983
8.	Tracy Dildy	2.5	1986
9.	David Abramowitz	2.3	1999
10.	•Chase Tapley	2.2	2010
11.	Chris McKinney	2.1	1991

## Blocks

Rk	Name	Blocks	Year
1.	Leonard Allen	45	1982
2.	Eddy Gordon	43	1980
3.	Joe McNaull	32	1991
4.	•Billy White	25	2008
4.	•Evan Burns	25	2003
6.	•Kawhi Leonard	21	2010
6.	Michael Cage	20	1981
8.	•Marcus Slaughter	17	2004
9.	Chris Davis	16	1992
9.	Courtie Miller	16	1991
11.	•Aerick Sanders	15	2001
11.	Marcelo Correa	15	1998

## Steals

Rk	Name	Steals	Year
1.	Raymond King	63	1996
2.	•Richie Williams	58	2006
3.	Jason Hamilton	55	1993
4.	•Billy White	47	2008
5.	•Kawhi Leonard	45	2010
6.	•Brandon Heath	41	2004
7.	Tracy Dildy	40	1986
8.	•Bradley Jackson	38	2000
9.	•Chase Tapley	37	2010
10.	Chad Nelson	36	1994

## Field Goals

Rk	Name	FG	Year
1.	•Kawhi Leonard	161	2010
2.	Tony Ross	152	1987
3.	Eddy Gordon	149	1980
4.	Presnell Gilbert	148	1977
5.	•Brandon Heath	144	2004
5.	Eddie Morris	144	1980
7.	Anthony Watson	132	1983
8.	•Billy White	118	2008
9.	Myron Epps	116	1999
10.	Michael Cage	115	1981
11.	•Tim Shelton	105	2009

## Field Goal Attempts

Rk	Name	FGA	Year
1.	•Brandon Heath	368	2004
2.	Tony Ross	364	1987
3.	•Kawhi Leonard	350	2010
4.	Eddie Morris	326	1980
5.	Presnell Gilbert	321	1977
6.	Anthony Watson	320	1983
7.	Eddy Gordon	312	1980
8.	Myron Epps	241	1999
9.	Steve Copp	234	1973
10.	•Tim Shelton	209	2009
11.	Michael Cage	206	1981

## Field Goal Percentage

Rk	Name	Pct.	Year
1.	•Billy White	61.5	2008
2.	Michael Cage	55.8	1981
3.	•Chase Tapley	50.5	2010
4.	•Tim Shelton	50.2	2009
5.	•Kyle Spain	49.5	2006
6.	•Evan Burns	49.2	2003
7.	Myron Epps	48.1	1999
8.	Eddy Gordon	47.8	1980
9.	•Marcus Slaughter	47.3	2004
10.	Presnell Gilbert	46.1	1977
11.	•Kawhi Leonard	46.0	2010

## Three-Point Field Goals

Rk	Name	3FGs	Year
1.	Tony Ross	104	1987
2.	•Brandon Heath	48	2004
3.	•Steve Sir	46	2003
4.	•D.J. Gay	45	2008
5.	•Chase Tapley	35	2010
6.	David Abramowitz	29	1999
7.	Jason Hamilton	28	1993
8.	Robert Ringo	27	1992
9.	Will Porter	24	1997
10.	•Bradley Jackson	21	2000
10.	Chad Nelson	21	1994
10.	John Molle	21	1992

## Three-Point Field Goal Atts.

Rk	Name	3FGA	Year
1.	Tony Ross	223	1987
2.	•Brandon Heath	160	2004
3.	•D.J. Gay	121	2008
4.	•Steve Sir	114	2003
5.	•Chase Tapley	90	2010
6.	David Abramowitz	87	1999
7.	Robert Ringo	84	1992
8.	Will Porter	83	1997
9.	•Kawhi Leonard	74	2010
10.	John Molle	73	1992

## Three-Point Field Goal Pct.

Rk	Name	Pct.	Year
1.	Jason Hamilton	50.0	1993
2.	Chad Nelson	46.7	1994
3.	Tony Ross	46.6	1987
4.	•Steve Sir	40.4	2003
5.	•Chase Tapley	38.9	2010
6.	•D.J. Gay	37.2	2008
7.	•Bradley Jackson	33.9	2000

## Free Throws

Rk	Name	FT	Year
1.	•Kawhi Leonard	83	2010
2.	•Brandon Heath	77	2004
3.	Myron Epps	76	1999
3.	Steve Copp	76	1973
5.	•Matt Thomas	65	2005
5.	Michael Cage	65	1981
7.	•Kyle Spain	63	2006
8.	Chad Nelson	60	1996
9.	Courtie Miller	60	1991
10.	Vincent Okotie	59	1999
11.	•Richie Williams	58	2006

## Free Throw Attempts

Rk	Name	FTA	Year
1.	Myron Epps	147	1999
2.	•Kawhi Leonard	115	2010
3.	Steve Copp	113	1973
4.	•Brandon Heath	110	2004
5.	Vincent Okotie	96	1999
6.	•Matt Thomas	95	2005
7.	•Kyle Spain	92	2006
8.	•Tim Shelton	87	2009
8.	Michael Cage	86	1981
10.	Courtie Miller	84	1991
10.	Eddy Gordon	84	1980

## Free Throw Percentage

Rk	Name	Pct.	Year
1.	Michael Cage	75.6	1981
2.	•Bradley Jackson	74.0	2000
3.	Chad Nelson	73.2	1994
4.	•Marcus Slaughter	72.4	2004
5.	•Kawhi Leonard	72.2	2010

## Minutes Played

Rk	Name	Min.	Year
1.	•Kawhi Leonard	1,031	2010
1.	Michael Cage	1,031	1981
3.	Raymond King	1,016	1996
4.	•Billy White	946	2008
5.	•Richie Williams	935	2006
6.	•Brandon Heath	897	2004
7.	Jason Hamilton	874	1993
8.	•Bradley Jackson	830	2000
9.	Eddy Gordon	805	1980
10.	•D.J. Gay	784	2008
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	•Chase Tapley	757	2010

## Efficiency Points

Rk	Name	Points	Year
1.	•Kawhi Leonard	580	2010
2.	Michael Cage	537	1981
3.	Eddy Gordon	453	1980
4.	•Billy White	429	2008
5.	•Marcus Slaughter	360	2004
6.	•Tim Shelton	329	2009
7.	•Kyle Spain	320	2006
8.	•Evan Burns	304	2003
9.	•Chase Tapley	302	2010
10.	Raymond King	292	1996
11.	Tony Ross	280	1987
12.	•Richie Williams	276	2006

## Efficiency Average

Rk	Name	EPG	Year
1.	Michael Cage	19.89	1981
2.	•Kawhi Leonard	17.57	2010
3.	Eddy Gordon	16.78	1980
4.	•Billy White	13.00	2008
5.	•Marcus Slaughter	12.00	2004
6.	•Evan Burns	11.69	2003
7.	•Kyle Spain	11.43	2006
8.	Jason Hamilton	10.42	1993
9.	Raymond King	10.07	1996
10.	Tony Ross	10.00	1987

# 2009-10 San Diego State Schedule/Results

**Record: 25-8 (Home: 14-1, Away: 9-7, Neutral: 2-0)**  
**Mountain West Conference: 11-5 (Home: 7-1, Away: 4-4)**

Date	Opp.	Opponent (SDSU NR)	SDSU Result	W-L	Record	MWC	San Diego State High			
							Scorer	Rebounder	Assists	Attendance
Nov. 14		UC SAN DIEGO (--/rv)	W 77-52	W1	1-0		Thomas - 20	Thomas - 9	Gay - 4	5,520
Nov. 16	--/rv	at Saint Mary's (--/rv)	L 58-80	L1	1-1		Thomas - 14	Thomas - 8	Gay - 3	2,774
Nov. 19		~SANTA CLARA (--/rv)	W 86-53	W1	2-1		White - 17	Leonard - 13	Gay/Leonard - 4	5,401
Nov. 23		~at Fresno State	W 62-58	W2	3-1		White - 22	White - 8	Gay - 6	8,041
Nov. 25		~at Pacific	L 63-71	L1	3-2		White - 20	Thomas - 8	Tapley - 3	2,705
Nov. 28		~NORTHERN ARIZONA	W 89-48	W1	4-2		Thomas - 21	Leonard/Thomas - 10	Gay - 7	4,390
Dec. 2		at San Diego	W-ot 69-62	W2	5-2		Gay - 22	Thomas - 10	Shelley - 3	4,662
Dec. 5		at UC Santa Barbara	W 69-61	W3	6-2		Shelley - 17	Leonard - 9	Thomas - 3	2,513
Dec. 9		CAL STATE FULLERTON	W 82-68	W4	7-2		Leonard - 23	Leonard - 18	Leonard - 5	4,774
Dec. 12		ARIZONA	W 63-46	W5	8-2		Leonard - 13	Leonard - 12	Three with - 2	(c) 12,414
Dec. 19		at Arizona State	L 52-55	L1	8-3		Tapley - 17	Leonard - 11	Gay - 3	10,055
Dec. 22		at Drake	W-ot 76-73	W1	9-3		Gay - 18	Leonard - 11	Gay - 3	4,012
Dec. 29		UC RIVERSIDE	W 58-53	W2	10-3		White - 13	Thomas - 7	Thomas - 4	5,315
Dec. 31		POMONA-PITZER	W 89-54	W3	11-3		Leonard - 17	Leonard - 12	Tapley - 9	4,061
Jan. 5	15/14	*NEW MEXICO	W 74-64	W4	12-3	1-0	Thomas - 18	Thomas - 15	Gay - 5	7,558
Jan. 9		*at Wyoming (:04.9)	L 83-85	L1	12-4	1-1	Leonard - 25	Leonard - 12	Gay/Shelton/Thomas - 4	4,826
Jan. 13	rv/rv	*at UNLV (--/rv)	L 66-76	L2	12-5	1-2	Leonard - 13	Leonard - 10	Carlwell/Gay/Tapley - 2	14,530
Jan. 16		*TCU (--/rv)	W 67-62	W1	13-5	2-2	White - 16	Thomas - 9	Thomas - 6	5,871
Jan. 19		*at Utah (--/rv)	W 70-68	W2	14-5	3-2	Thomas - 23	Thomas - 13	Gay - 4	8,520
Jan. 23	14/13	*BRIGHAM YOUNG (--/rv)	L 69-71	L1	14-6	3-3	Leonard - 16	Leonard - 11	Thomas - 5	(c) 12,414
Jan. 30		*at Colorado State	W 64-52	W1	15-6	4-3	Gay - 17	Thomas - 13	Leonard - 3	3,809
Feb. 2		*AIR FORCE	W 70-48	W2	16-6	5-3	Leonard - 15	Thomas - 12	Gay - 4	6,126
Feb. 6	15/23	*at New Mexico (:02.7)	L-ot 86-88	L1	16-7	5-4	Gay - 25	Leonard - 12	Gay - 5	(c) 14,586
Feb. 10		*WYOMING	W 88-57	W1	17-7	6-4	Leonard - 26	Leonard - 8	Tapley - 6	6,606
Feb. 13	23/25	*UNLV	W 68-58	W2	18-7	7-4	White - 19	Leonard - 14	Thomas - 4	9,224
Feb. 16		*at TCU (rv/--)	W 68-51	W3	19-7	8-4	Leonard - 18	White - 9	Tapley - 5	3,615
Feb. 20		*UTAH (rv/--)	W 68-61	W4	20-7	9-4	Thomas - 28	Leonard - 15	Gay - 5	10,695
Feb. 24	13/11	*at Brigham Young	L 68-82	L1	20-8	9-5	Gay - 15	Shelley/Tapley/White - 6	Gay - 5	20,124
Mar. 3		*COLORADO STATE	W 68-55	W1	21-8	10-5	Gay - 16	Leonard - 15	Thomas - 5	8,043
Mar. 6		*at Air Force	W 61-42	W2	22-8	11-5	Leonard/Thomas - 18	Thomas - 9	Gay - 5	3,352
Mar. 11		`vs. (5) Colorado State	W 72-71	W3	23-8		Tapley/Thomas/White - 15	Thomas - 7	Thomas - 4	11,031
Mar. 12	8/8	`vs. (1) New Mexico	W 72-69	W4	24-8		White - 28	Leonard - 12	Gay - 7	(c) 18,500
Mar. 13	--/rv	`at (3) UNLV	W 55-45	W5	25-8		Leonard - 16	Leonard - 21	Thomas - 4	12,728
Mar. 18	15/14	^vs. (6) Tennessee								

Caps denotes home game. ~ - West Coast Classic. \* - Mountain West Conference Game. ` - Conoco Mountain West Conference Championships (Thomas & Mack Center; Las Vegas, Nev.). ^ - Indicates NCAA Tournament (Providence, R.I.). c - Indicates capacity crowd. Opp NR - Indicates Opponent ranking listed after opponent name (*Associated Press* and *ESPN/USA Today* coaches polls at gametime). 1R - First Round; QF - Quarterfinal; SF - Semifinal; CH - Championship. Opponent seed listed left of team name. Time to the right of opponent name indicates time remaining on a game-winning shot.

## Record/Attendance Summary

	G	W-L	Total	Average	High
Home	15	14-1	108,412	7,227	12,414 vs. Brigham Young (Jan. 23) and Arizona (Dec. 12)
Mountain West	8	7-1	66,537	8,317	12,414 vs. Brigham Young (Jan. 23)
Away	16	9-7	120,852	7,553	20,124 at Brigham Young (Feb. 24)
Mountain West	8	4-4	73,362	9,170	20,124 at Brigham Young (Feb. 24)
Neutral	2	2-0	29,531	14,766	18,500 vs. No. 8/10 New Mexico (Mar. 11)
Total	33	25-8	258,795	7,842	20,124 at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (Feb. 24)
Mountain West	16	11-5	139,899	8,744	20,124 at No. 13/11 Brigham Young (Feb. 24)

## Win/Loss Margin

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	22	25	31	33	35	41	=<3	=<5	=<10			
Win	1	1	2	1	2		2	1		3		1	1	1			2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	7	13
Loss		3	1					1		1				1						1								4	4	6

# 2009-10 San Diego State Season Stats

**Record: 25-8 (Home: 14-1, Away: 9-7, Neutral: 2-0)**

No.	Player	GPGS	Min	Avg	TOTAL		3-PTS		FT-FTA		REBOUNDS				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg	
					FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	Pct	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg									
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	33	32	1031	31.2	161-350	.460	16-74	.216	83-115	.722	116	210	326	9.9	82	3	63	75	21	45	421	12.8
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	33	32	1025	31.1	138-252	.548	2-5	.400	84-161	.522	89	167	256	7.8	71	1	73	63	50	28	362	11.0
32	WHITE, Billy	31	29	854	27.5	134-228	.588	6-21	.286	73-115	.635	65	70	135	4.4	78	2	43	65	24	33	347	11.2
23	GAY, D.J.	33	33	1135	34.4	104-284	.366	59-154	.383	73-104	.702	17	56	73	2.2	49	0	107	59	3	37	340	10.3
22	TAPLEY, Chase	32	17	757	23.7	97-192	.505	35-90	.389	20-28	.714	21	53	74	2.3	46	0	71	38	12	37	249	7.8
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	32	9	610	19.1	71-182	.390	35-125	.280	31-47	.660	8	32	40	1.3	63	0	34	46	8	21	208	6.5
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	29	8	539	18.6	67-151	.444	16-61	.262	32-61	.525	24	80	104	3.6	47	0	24	41	13	37	182	6.3
05	CARLWELL, Brian	33	3	477	14.5	63-101	.624	1-1	1.000	30-54	.556	33	56	89	2.7	66	1	15	32	17	8	157	4.8
24	SHELTON, Tim	9	2	116	12.9	9-26	.346	4-9	.444	8-18	.444	10	8	18	2.0	16	1	13	8	1	1	30	3.3
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	12	0	87	7.3	8-18	.444	2-5	.400	5-6	.833	2	12	14	1.2	15	0	3	3	1	0	23	1.9
10	HORTON, Bryan	6	0	30	5.0	2-6	.333	0-1	.000	1-5	.200	1	2	3	0.5	2	0	2	1	0	1	5	0.8
20	DEUTCHMAN, Jason	3	0	11	3.7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	0.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.7
33	KNELLER, Ben	2	0	3	1.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
TEAM												46	43	89	2.7	0			12				0
SDSU TOTALS		33				855-1794	.477	176-546	.322	444-720	.617	433	791	1224	37.1	536	8	448	443	150	248	2330	70.6
OPPONENTS		33				725-1791	.405	217-625	.347	372-539	.690	362	641	1003	30.4	599	-	410	442	103	199	2039	61.8

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	1,091	1,204	35		- 2,330
OPPONENTS	939	1,073	27		- 2,039

**Mountain West Conference: 11-5 (Home: 7-1, Away: 4-4)**

No.	Player	GPGS	Min	Avg	TOTAL		3-PTS		FT-FTA		REBOUNDS				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg	
					FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	Pct	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg									
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	16	16	505	31.6	89-184	.484	8-33	.242	44-62	.710	57	96	153	9.6	39	1	28	34	13	21	230	14.4
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	16	16	500	31.3	72-125	.576	1-2	.500	46-89	.517	43	94	137	8.6	31	1	41	31	21	14	191	11.9
23	GAY, D.J.	16	16	565	35.3	47-129	.364	31-74	.419	46-68	.676	8	28	36	2.3	26	0	56	27	1	17	171	10.7
22	TAPLEY, Chase	15	14	416	27.7	51-103	.495	20-49	.408	13-19	.684	12	26	38	2.5	27	0	37	24	9	24	135	9.0
32	WHITE, Billy	15	14	378	25.2	48-91	.527	1-8	.125	36-54	.667	27	27	54	3.6	37	2	24	28	12	12	133	8.9
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	16	2	313	19.6	36-98	.367	15-65	.231	19-25	.760	4	19	23	1.4	30	0	18	23	5	10	106	6.6
05	CARLWELL, Brian	16	0	235	14.7	32-51	.627	1-1	1.000	18-32	.563	14	27	41	2.6	33	0	13	14	11	4	83	5.2
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	14	0	226	16.1	25-56	.446	5-22	.227	9-21	.429	12	42	54	3.9	22	0	8	15	5	14	64	4.6
24	SHELTON, Tim	3	2	60	20.0	6-18	.333	3-5	.600	4-12	.333	5	3	8	2.7	11	1	7	6	1	1	19	6.3
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	5	0	24	4.8	2-6	.333	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	4	4	0.8	7	0	0	2	1	0	5	1.0
33	KNELLER, Ben	2	0	3	1.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
TEAM												24	19	43	2.7	0			6				0
SDSU TOTALS		16				408-863	.473	86-261	.330	236-384	.615	207	385	592	37.0	263	5	232	210	79	117	1138	71.1
OPPONENTS		16				359-869	.413	104-288	.361	198-291	.680	176	322	498	31.1	302	-	199	209	58	91	1020	63.8

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	542	588	8		- 1,138
OPPONENTS	455	555	10		- 1,020

**2010 MWC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS**

# 2009-10 San Diego State - Home/Away Stats

## Home: 14-1

No.	Player	GPGS	Min	Avg	TOTAL		3-PTS			REBOUNDS				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg		
					FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot									Avg	
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	15	14	465	31.0	78-170	.459	8-35	.229	40-55	.727	62	98	160	10.7	30	0	33	26	10	22	204	13.6
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	15	14	436	29.1	67-120	.558	2-3	.667	35-72	.486	47	70	117	7.8	24	0	41	27	30	15	171	11.4
32	WHITE, Billy	14	14	356	25.4	58-91	.637	2-10	.200	40-57	.702	20	26	46	3.3	33	0	20	28	12	18	158	11.3
23	GAY, D.J.	15	15	478	31.9	44-120	.367	23-64	.359	30-41	.732	6	26	32	2.1	18	0	51	22	0	22	141	9.4
22	TAPLEY, Chase	15	9	381	25.4	46-91	.505	16-37	.432	8-13	.615	10	26	36	2.4	24	0	47	17	11	21	116	7.7
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	14	4	255	18.2	37-93	.398	19-68	.279	19-26	.731	4	18	22	1.6	27	0	13	19	3	9	112	8.0
05	CARLWELL, Brian	15	2	246	16.4	35-64	.547	0-0	.000	18-35	.514	20	33	53	3.5	29	1	4	12	10	5	88	5.9
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	12	3	219	18.3	32-67	.478	8-27	.296	9-23	.391	10	28	38	3.2	18	0	9	17	8	22	81	6.8
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	7	0	66	9.4	6-12	.500	1-1	1.000	5-6	.833	2	11	13	1.9	11	0	3	2	0	0	18	2.6
24	SHELTON, Tim	5	0	59	11.8	5-14	.357	2-7	.286	4-9	.444	6	6	12	2.4	7	0	8	5	1	1	16	3.2
10	HORTON, Bryan	4	0	27	6.8	2-6	.333	0-1	.000	1-5	.200	1	2	3	0.8	2	0	2	1	0	1	5	1.3
20	DEUTCHMAN, Jason	3	0	11	3.7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	0.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.7
33	KNELLER, Ben	1	0	1	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.0
TEAM												29	12	41	2.7	0			6				0
SDSU TOTALS		15				411-850	.484	81-253	.320	213-348	.612	217	358	575	38.3	224	1	231	182	85	136	1116	74.4
OPPONENTS		15				309-801	.386	87-273	.319	145-212	.684	166	287	453	30.2	276	-	179	236	51	71	850	56.7

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	525	591			- 1,116
OPPONENTS	391	459			-850

## Road/Neutral: 11-7 (Away: 9-7, Neutral 2-0)

No.	Player	GPGS	Min	Avg	TOTAL		3-PTS			REBOUNDS				PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg		
					FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot									Avg	
23	GAY, D.J.	15	15	538	35.9	54-138	.391	32-76	.421	36-53	.679	10	24	34	2.3	28	0	46	32	2	15	176	11.7
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	18	18	566	31.4	83-180	.461	8-39	.205	43-60	.717	54	112	166	9.2	52	3	30	49	11	23	217	12.1
23	GAY, D.J.	18	18	657	36.5	60-164	.366	36-90	.400	43-63	.683	11	30	41	2.3	31	0	56	37	3	15	199	11.1
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	18	18	589	32.7	71-132	.538	0-2	.000	49-89	.551	42	97	139	7.7	47	1	32	36	20	13	191	10.6
32	WHITE, Billy	17	15	498	29.3	76-137	.555	4-11	.364	33-58	.569	45	44	89	5.2	45	2	23	37	12	15	189	11.1
22	TAPLEY, Chase	17	8	376	22.1	51-101	.505	19-53	.358	12-15	.800	11	27	38	2.2	22	0	24	21	1	16	133	7.8
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	17	5	320	18.8	35-84	.417	8-34	.235	23-38	.605	14	52	66	3.9	29	0	15	24	5	15	101	5.9
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	18	5	355	19.7	34-89	.382	16-57	.281	12-21	.571	4	14	18	1.0	36	0	21	27	5	12	96	5.3
05	CARLWELL, Brian	18	1	231	12.8	28-37	.757	1-1	1.000	12-19	.632	13	23	36	2.0	37	0	11	20	7	3	69	3.8
24	SHELTON, Tim	4	2	57	14.3	4-12	.333	2-2	1.000	4-9	.444	4	2	6	1.5	9	1	5	3	0	0	14	3.5
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	5	0	21	4.2	2-6	.333	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.2	4	0	0	1	1	0	5	1.0
10	HORTON, Bryan	2	0	3	1.5	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
33	KNELLER, Ben	1	0	2	2.0	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM												17	31	48	2.7	0			6				0
SDSU TOTALS		18				444-944	.470	95-293	.324	231-372	.621	216	433	649	36.1	312	7	217	261	65	112	1214	67.4
OPPONENTS		18				416-990	.420	130-352	.369	227-327	.694	196	354	550	30.6	323	-	231	206	52	128	1189	66.1

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	566	613	35		- 1,214
OPPONENTS	548	614	27		-1,189

# 2009-10 San Diego State - Win/Loss Stats

## Wins: 25

No.	Player	GP	GS	Min	Avg	TOTAL		3-PTS			REBOUNDS								Pts	Avg																					
						FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A			TO	Blk	Stl																		
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	25	24	791	31.6	130-269	.483	13-56	.232	64-88	.727	85	170	255	10.2	59	2	53	51	17	41	337	13.5																		
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	25	24	771	30.8	111-197	.563	2-3	.667	60-118	.508	75	123	198	7.9	51	0	56	44	41	25	284	11.4																		
32	WHITE, Billy	24	24	671	28.0	106-171	.620	3-13	.231	60-93	.645	47	52	99	4.1	56	0	35	54	18	25	275	11.5																		
23	GAY, D.J.	25	25	859	34.4	73-204	.358	42-114	.368	57-83	.687	12	44	56	2.2	33	0	82	44	2	30	245	9.8																		
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	24	8	447	18.6	56-137	.409	29-96	.302	28-41	.683	6	23	29	1.2	41	0	22	32	6	18	169	7.0																		
22	TAPLEY, Chase	24	12	551	23.0	65-128	.508	20-53	.377	13-21	.619	15	36	51	2.1	33	0	57	22	10	25	163	6.8																		
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	21	6	398	19.0	54-117	.462	14-51	.275	24-47	.511	14	56	70	3.3	35	0	19	26	10	29	146	7.0																		
05	CARLWELL, Brian	25	2	367	14.7	44-77	.571	0-0	.000	25-45	.556	28	42	70	2.8	46	1	7	23	16	6	113	4.5																		
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	9	0	79	8.8	8-15	.533	2-3	.667	5-6	.833	2	12	14	1.6	13	0	3	3	1	0	23	2.6																		
24	SHELTON, Tim	6	0	75	12.5	5-14	.357	2-7	.286	7-13	.538	7	7	14	2.3	9	0	8	5	1	1	19	3.2																		
10	HORTON, Bryan	4	0	27	6.8	2-6	.333	0-1	.000	1-5	.200	1	2	3	0.8	2	0	2	1	0	1	5	1.3																		
20	DEUTCHMAN, Jason	3	0	11	3.7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	0.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.7																		
33	KNELLER, Ben	2	0	3	1.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5																		
TEAM											32		31		63		2.5		0		9		0																		
SDSU TOTALS		25				655-1339		.489		127-397		.320		348-566		.615		325		600		925		37.0		379		3		344		314		122		201		1785		71.4	
OPPONENTS		25				519-1329		.391		154-466		.330		239-359		.666		272		466		738		29.5		457		-		298		363		72		132		1431		57.2	

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	836	922	27		- 1,785
OPPONENTS	650	764	17		- 1,431

## Losses: 8

No.	Player	GP	GS	Min	Avg	TOTAL		3-PTS			REBOUNDS								Pts	Avg																					
						FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A			TO	Blk	Stl																		
23	GAY, D.J.	8	8	276	34.5	31-80	.388	17-40	.425	16-21	.762	5	12	17	2.1	16	0	25	15	1	7	95	11.9																		
22	TAPLEY, Chase	8	5	206	25.8	32-64	.500	15-37	.405	7-7	1.000	6	17	23	2.9	13	0	14	16	2	12	86	10.8																		
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	8	8	240	30.0	31-81	.383	3-18	.167	19-27	.704	31	40	71	8.9	23	1	10	24	4	4	84	10.5																		
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	8	8	254	31.8	27-55	.491	0-2	.000	24-43	.558	14	44	58	7.3	20	1	17	19	9	3	78	9.8																		
32	WHITE, Billy	7	5	183	26.1	28-57	.491	3-8	.375	13-22	.591	18	18	36	5.1	22	2	8	11	6	8	72	10.3																		
05	CARLWELL, Brian	8	1	110	13.8	19-24	.792	1-1	1.000	5-9	.556	5	14	19	2.4	20	0	8	9	1	2	44	5.5																		
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	8	1	163	20.4	15-45	.333	6-29	.207	3-6	.500	2	9	11	1.4	22	0	12	14	2	3	39	4.9																		
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	8	2	141	17.6	13-34	.382	2-10	.200	8-14	.571	10	24	34	4.3	12	0	5	15	3	8	36	4.5																		
24	SHELTON, Tim	3	2	41	13.7	4-12	.333	2-2	1.000	1-5	.200	3	1	4	1.3	7	1	5	3	0	0	11	3.7																		
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	3	0	8	2.7	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0																		
10	HORTON, Bryan	2	0	3	1.5	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0																		
TEAM											14		12		26		3.3		0		3		0																		
SDSU TOTALS		8				200-455		.440		49-149		.329		96-154		.623		108		191		299		37.4		157		5		104		129		28		47		545		68.1	
OPPONENTS		8				206-462		.446		63-159		.396		133-180		.739		90		175		265		33.1		142		-		112		79		31		67		608		76.0	

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	255	282	8		- 545
OPPONENTS	289	309	10		- 608



# 2010 Mountain West Conference Tournament

**Record: 3-0 (Away: 1-0, Neutral: 2-0)**

No.	Player	G	P	GS	Min	TOTAL		3-PTS		FT-FTA		REBOUNDS		PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg		
						FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg										
32	WHITE, Billy	3	3	99	33.0	20-30	.667	1-2	.500	9-13	.692	3	4	7	2.3	7	0	5	7	0	4	50	16.7
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	3	3	99	33.0	15-37	.405	3-8	.375	10-11	.909	12	27	39	13.0	9	1	7	10	1	6	43	14.3
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	3	3	107	35.7	11-23	.478	0-0	.000	7-11	.636	7	12	19	6.3	6	0	9	5	7	2	29	9.7
22	TAPLEY, Chase	3	0	53	17.7	9-12	.750	4-7	.571	2-3	.667	1	6	7	2.3	3	0	3	2	0	1	24	8.0
23	GAY, D.J.	3	3	119	39.7	6-26	.231	4-14	.286	7-10	.700	1	6	7	2.3	3	0	10	5	1	0	23	7.7
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	3	3	70	23.3	6-14	.429	3-8	.375	0-2	.000	1	2	3	1.0	7	0	4	3	0	4	15	5.0
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	3	0	23	7.7	3-4	.750	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	0.3	5	0	2	2	0	1	8	2.7
05	CARLWELL, Brian	3	0	30	10.0	2-3	.667	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	6	6	2.0	5	0	1	5	1	0	7	2.3
TEAM												3	1	4	1.3	0			1			0	
SDSU TOTALS		3				72-149	.483	15-39	.385	40-56	.714	28	65	93	31.0	45	1	41	40	10	18	199	66.3
OPPONENTS		3				69-163	.423	21-58	.362	26-36	.722	33	50	83	27.7	52	-	40	38	9	20	185	61.7

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	104	95			- 199
OPPONENTS	94	91			- 185

## Nationally Ranked Opponents: 3-3

No.	Player	G	P	GS	Min	TOTAL		3-PTS		FT-FTA		REBOUNDS		PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg		
						FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg										
23	GAY, D.J.	8	8	276	34.5	31-80	.388	17-40	.425	16-21	.762	5	12	17	2.1	16	0	25	15	1	7	95	11.9
32	WHITE, Billy	6	6	155	25.8	31-49	.633	2-6	.333	20-24	.833	9	10	19	3.2	16	1	10	13	4	7	84	14.0
23	GAY, D.J.	6	6	227	37.8	24-62	.387	15-33	.455	17-23	.739	4	11	15	2.5	10	0	27	9	2	2	80	13.3
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	6	6	186	31.0	24-61	.393	6-16	.375	9-13	.692	19	43	62	10.3	20	1	11	12	4	4	63	10.5
22	TAPLEY, Chase	6	5	175	29.2	22-48	.458	13-27	.481	5-8	.625	5	18	23	3.8	16	0	10	10	4	11	62	10.3
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	6	6	192	32.0	19-42	.452	0-1	.000	16-28	.571	10	33	43	7.2	13	1	15	10	12	5	54	9.0
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	6	1	124	20.7	15-41	.366	9-28	.321	2-4	.500	4	10	14	2.3	15	0	11	6	2	3	41	6.8
05	CARLWELL, Brian	6	0	67	11.2	12-16	.750	1-1	1.000	7-9	.778	3	13	16	2.7	13	0	5	8	2	0	32	5.3
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	6	0	73	12.2	6-17	.353	1-4	.250	0-4	.000	4	8	12	2.0	9	0	4	6	3	5	13	2.2
24	SHELTON, Tim	1	0	26	26.0	2-6	.333	1-3	.333	3-7	.429	2	2	4	4.0	4	0	3	3	1	1	8	8.0
TEAM												13	2	15	2.5	0			4			0	
SDSU TOTALS		6				155-342	.453	48-119	.403	79-120	.658	73	150	223	37.2	116	3	96	81	34	38	437	72.8
OPPONENTS		6				146-344	.424	42-114	.368	98-137	.715	65	136	201	33.5	105	-	78	61	23	39	432	72.0

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	OT	2OT	Total
SAN DIEGO STATE	208	221	8		- 437
OPPONENTS	213	209	10		- 432

# 2009-10 Team Game-By-Game

Opponent	Site/Date	FG-FGA	Pct	3P-3PA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def	Tot	PF	AT	TO	BS	ST	1st-2nd	Pts
at SDSU	H	32-54	.593	3-9	.333	10-20	.500	10-33	43	11	16	20	3	9	31-46	77
UC San Diego	11/14	22-64	.344	6-30	.200	2-7	.286	9-19	28	16	10	14	0	6	28-24	52
SDSU	A	20-56	.357	4-12	.333	14-20	.700	12-24	36	16	7	14	2	6	21-37	58
at Saint Mary's	11/16	28-65	.431	13-29	.448	11-15	.733	15-25	40	18	17	10	10	9	42-38	80
at SDSU	H	35-66	.530	8-22	.364	8-17	.471	17-28	45	19	16	14	6	11	38-48	86
Santa Clara	11/19	18-65	.277	4-19	.211	13-16	.813	20-17	37	14	10	19	4	7	22-31	53
SDSU	A	21-55	.382	7-25	.280	13-17	.765	15-21	36	14	11	12	1	8	25-37	62
at Fresno State	11/23	24-51	.471	5-18	.278	5-8	.625	8-21	29	15	18	14	2	7	29-29	58
SDSU	A	23-53	.434	7-20	.350	10-15	.667	14-15	29	22	9	10	2	7	29-34	63
at Pacific	11/25	25-49	.510	4-12	.333	17-23	.739	14-21	35	16	12	11	3	5	42-29	71
at SDSU	H	36-64	.563	3-16	.188	14-24	.583	16-27	43	19	19	7	3	12	45-44	89
Northern Arizona	11/28	13-49	.265	4-24	.167	18-19	.947	8-15	23	20	6	16	1	5	18-30	48
SDSU	A	26-51	.510	5-18	.278	12-18	.667	10-28	38	15	8	13	6	8	27-25-17	69
at San Diego	12/2	21-61	.344	11-25	.440	9-13	.692	14-19	33	16	11	11	2	8	28-24-10	62
SDSU	A	27-53	.509	5-20	.250	10-18	.556	13-22	35	17	11	16	5	4	28-41	69
at UC Santa Barbara	12/5	19-51	.373	8-18	.444	15-22	.682	14-20	34	17	11	14	0	9	26-35	61
at SDSU	H	31-61	.508	7-14	.500	13-32	.406	19-22	41	15	20	13	3	9	41-41	82
CS Fullerton	12/9	24-47	.511	9-17	.529	11-13	.846	3-22	25	23	14	19	3	4	25-43	68
at SDSU	H	27-56	.482	4-13	.308	5-9	.556	17-21	38	20	8	19	10	10	33-30	63
Arizona	12/12	16-45	.356	2-10	.200	12-18	.667	10-15	25	14	10	16	2	4	20-26	46
SDSU	A	18-44	.409	3-15	.200	13-19	.684	12-29	41	19	10	24	4	7	22-30	52
at Arizona State	12/19	18-49	.367	8-26	.308	11-19	.579	8-18	26	20	10	12	1	13	28-27	55
SDSU	A	25-53	.472	9-19	.474	17-24	.708	11-29	40	18	10	15	3	5	36-30-10	76
at Drake	12/22	25-54	.463	11-24	.458	12-21	.571	5-21	26	20	14	10	1	6	31-35-7	73
at SDSU	H	19-50	.380	3-20	.150	17-34	.500	16-19	35	15	8	13	10	7	29-29	58
UC Riverside	12/29	22-53	.415	1-5	.200	8-12	.667	14-20	34	25	14	16	4	4	20-33	53
at SDSU	H	35-66	.530	7-23	.304	12-13	.923	16-23	39	8	22	3	3	10	40-49	89
Pomona-Pitzer	12/31	25-56	.393	6-22	.273	4-6	.667	11-16	27	11	14	13	3	1	31-23	54
at SDSU	H	24-54	.444	7-18	.389	19-31	.613	16-27	43	22	17	12	4	11	38-36	74
(15/14) New Mexico	1/5	20-57	.351	8-21	.381	16-26	.615	17-22	39	22	9	14	3	5	36-28	64
SDSU	A	31-56	.554	7-15	.467	14-23	.609	15-22	37	19	21	19	3	5	45-38	83
at Wyoming	1/9	27-58	.466	9-20	.450	22-27	.815	11-13	24	20	15	9	3	9	31-54	85
SDSU	A	24-57	.421	2-16	.125	16-28	.571	15-29	44	21	8	20	0	6	39-27	66
at UNLV	1/13	25-62	.403	5-17	.294	21-25	.840	11-24	35	20	13	10	2	8	33-43	76
at SDSU	H	23-47	.489	6-15	.400	15-25	.600	8-16	24	12	15	11	5	8	29-38	67
TCU	1/16	23-44	.523	12-22	.545	4-6	.667	7-18	25	17	19	20	2	5	38-24	62
SDSU	A	29-61	.475	2-7	.286	10-23	.435	19-25	44	19	10	14	6	11	37-33	70
at Utah	1/19	22-60	.367	7-21	.333	17-23	.739	17-20	37	19	11	13	10	4	29-39	68
at SDSU	H	27-67	.403	7-22	.318	8-10	.800	17-23	40	12	17	12	6	8	34-35	69
(14/13) BYU	1/23	27-60	.450	9-21	.429	8-8	100.0	10-25	35	11	16	11	9	6	35-36	71
SDSU	A	21-50	.420	4-14	.286	18-33	.545	15-25	40	18	10	15	3	10	32-32	64
at Colorado State	1/30	18-49	.367	2-15	.133	14-23	.609	12-21	33	25	8	19	4	6	24-28	52
at SDSU	H	23-53	.434	7-23	.304	17-22	.773	15-20	35	9	11	6	3	7	26-44	70
Air Force	2/2	19-45	.422	9-19	.474	1-6	.167	9-18	27	16	11	15	2	2	17-31	48
SDSU	A	30-59	.508	12-27	.444	14-27	.519	15-20	35	27	15	14	3	3	37-41-8	86
at (15/23) UNM	2/6	29-58	.500	8-19	.421	22-35	.629	13-19	32	24	17	8	1	7	42-36-10	88
at SDSU	H	33-63	.524	4-16	.250	18-29	.621	17-26	43	18	23	14	9	11	39-49	88
Wyoming	2/10	20-51	.392	4-15	.267	13-24	.542	11-17	28	24	11	20	8	6	31-26	57
at SDSU	H	20-47	.426	5-14	.357	23-31	.742	11-28	39	19	14	18	9	9	33-35	68
(23/25) UNLV	2/13	19-54	.352	3-17	.176	17-23	.739	9-21	30	23	11	14	3	7	25-33	58

## 2009-10 Team Game-By-Game

Opponent	Site/Date	FG-FGA	Pct	3P-3PA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off-Def	Tot	PF	AT	TO	BS	ST	1st-2nd	Pts
SDSU	A	28-46	.609	1-10	.100	11-18	.611	8-26	34	11	14	11	2	2	29-39	68
at TCU	2/16	21-53	.396	7-17	.412	2-5	.400	8-16	24	12	9	9	1	5	19-32	51
at SDSU	H	23-54	.426	2-7	.286	20-33	.606	12-23	35	12	10	5	6	9	36-32	68
Utah	2/20	22-56	.393	8-17	.471	9-12	.750	13-25	38	24	12	15	6	3	26-35	61
SDSU	A	27-63	.429	7-22	.318	7-12	.583	8-29	37	21	17	16	8	5	28-40	68
at (13/11) BYU	2/24	27-61	.443	7-15	.467	21-28	.750	8-30	38	13	12	8	2	10	36-46	82
at SDSU	H	23-48	.479	8-21	.381	14-16	.778	10-22	32	13	15	15	5	5	33-35	68
Colorado State	3/3	22-55	.400	2-14	.143	9-16	.563	15-17	32	16	12	14	1	6	19-36	55
SDSU	A	22-38	.579	5-14	.357	12-21	.571	6-24	30	10	15	8	7	7	27-34	61
at Air Force	3/6	18-46	.391	4-18	.222	2-4	.500	5-16	21	16	13	10	1	2	14-28	42
SDSU	N-MWC QF	27-51	.529	1-10	.100	17-28	.607	11-16	27	18	16	13	5	9	41-31	72
vs. Colorado State	3/11	28-57	.491	8-15	.533	7-11	.636	16-14	30	19	15	17	2	6	33-38	71
SDSU	N-MWC SF	27-52	.519	10-16	.625	8-9	.889	6-23	29	15	16	9	4	2	38-34	72
vs. (8/8) UNM	3/12	24-54	.444	7-21	.333	14-17	.824	8-19	27	12	13	6	5	4	39-30	69
SDSU	A-MWC CH	18-46	.391	4-13	.308	15-19	.789	11-26	37	12	9	18	1	7	25-30	55
at UNLV	3/13	17-52	.327	6-22	.273	5-8	.625	9-17	26	21	12	15	2	10	22-23	45
SDSU	N-NCAA 1R															
vs. Tennessee	3/18															

# 2009-10 Individual Game-By-Game (Points/Rebs./Asts.)

Opponent	Result	0	3	4	5	10	15	20	22	23	24	32	40
		Alec	Tyrone	Malcolm	Brian	Bryan	Kawhi	Jason	Chase	D.J.	Tim	Billy	Kelvin
		Williams	Shelley	Thomas	Carlwell	Horton	Leonard	Deutchman	Tapley	Gay	Shelton	White	Davis
UC SAN DIEGO	W, 77-52	6/7/1	INJ	20/9/1	9/5/0	4/1/1	8/8/3	4/1/0	11/3/3	5/4/4	INJ	INJ	10/3/3
at Saint Mary's	L, 58-80	0/0/0	6/6/2	14/8/1	6/1/0	0/0/0	4/7/0	DNT	3/1/1	10/1/3	INJ	10/7/0	5/2/0
~SANTA CLARA	W, 86-53	1/0/1	12/4/1	6/4/3	6/6/0	0/1/1	9/13/4	0/0/0	12/2/1	12/2/4	INJ	17/8/1	11/2/0
~at Fresno State	W, 62-58	CD	17/6/2	3/3/1	4/2/0	CD	5/7/0	DNT	0/0/0	6/6/6	INJ	22/8/1	5/2/1
~at Pacific	L, 63-71	0/0/0	10/2/0	8/8/0	0/3/0	0/0/0	6/3/2	DNT	5/4/3	11/2/1	INJ	20/4/1	3/0/2
~NORTHERN ARIZONA	W, 89-48	0/0/0	17/1/2	21/10/3	2/4/0	1/1/0	10/10/1	1/1/0	11/2/5	3/6/7	INJ	12/2/1	11/2/0
at San Diego	W-ot, 69-62	INJ	10/6/3	8/10/0	0/0/0	CD	8/7/2	DNP	6/2/0	22/1/1	INJ	8/9/1	7/1/1
at UC Santa Barbara	W, 69-61	INJ	17/8/2	15/4/3	4/3/1	CD	13/9/2	DNT	3/1/0	13/1/1	INJ	4/3/1	0/1/1
CAL STATE FULLERTON	W, 82-68	0/0/0	5/2/1	9/7/0	10/4/0	0/0/0	23/18/5	CD	10/2/4	8/0/4	3/0/2	14/5/4	CD
ARIZONA	W, 63-46	CD	9/4/1	6/5/1	5/4/0	CD	13/12/2	CD	2/3/0	12/1/2	2/4/2	7/2/0	7/1/0
at Arizona State	L, 52-55	CD	0/3/0	5/10/2	2/1/0	DNT	6/11/1	DNT	17/2/2	10/2/3	0/0/1	8/10/0	4/0/1
at Drake	W-ot, 76-73	CD	3/5/0	6/8/2	0/0/0	DNT	14/11/1	DNT	0/2/2	18/1/3	3/2/0	16/9/1	16/0/1
UC RIVERSIDE	W, 58-53	CD	4/2/0	6/7/4	6/3/0	DND	12/6/0	DND	5/1/1	6/1/1	3/3/1	13/6/1	3/0/0
POMONA-PITZER	W, 89-54	11/3/1	DND	15/7/2	13/6/0	DND	17/12/5	DND	5/4/9	10/2/1	0/1/0	13/1/2	5/0/2
*(15/14) NEW MEXICO	W, 74-64	CD	3/1/0	18/15/1	4/3/0	DND	5/8/3	DND	7/5/4	12/2/5	8/4/3	8/2/1	9/2/0
*at Wyoming	L, 83-85	0/0/0	0/4/2	14/7/4	9/2/2		25/12/2	DNT	17/4/1	7/2/4	6/0/4	INJ	5/0/2
*at UNLV	L, 66-76	CD	12/9/0	12/7/1	3/3/2		13/10/1	DNT	9/2/2	5/3/2	5/4/0	5/3/0	2/1/0
*TCU	W, 67-62	CD	2/1/1	11/9/6	4/1/1		9/3/1	DND	6/0/3	9/1/1	INJ	16/6/2	10/0/0
*at Utah	W, 70-68	2/0/0	3/3/1	23/13/0	4/0/0		16/11/2	DNT	5/1/1	7/5/4	INJ	0/4/1	10/2/1
*(14/13) BRIGHAM YOUNG	L, 69-71	CD	4/2/1	2/6/5	8/4/0		16/11/1	DND	11/3/3	12/2/2	INJ	8/2/2	8/4/3
*at Colorado State	W, 64-52	CD	5/1/1	5/13/1	5/3/0		14/12/3	DNT	12/4/2	17/0/1	INJ	1/3/2	5/0/0
*AIR FORCE	W, 70-48	0/0/0	10/7/0	10/12/3	6/4/0		15/7/1	DND	2/1/2	9/1/4	INJ	6/3/1	12/0/0
*at (15/23) New Mexico	L-ot, 86-88	CD	2/2/0	10/7/1	10/3/0		11/12/2	DNT	11/1/2	25/1/5	INJ	10/4/1	7/2/4
*WYOMING	W, 88-57	0/3/0	12/8/0	5/7/3	0/2/2		26/8/2	DND	14/3/6	9/2/4	INJ	10/3/3	12/4/3
*(23/25) UNLV	W, 68-58	CD	2/1/2	4/5/4	2/2/0		13/14/1	DND	11/5/1	11/3/3	INJ	19/5/2	6/2/1
*at TCU	W, 68-51	CD	6/4/0	8/8/1	9/4/1		18/3/1	DNT	8/1/5	0/4/2	INJ	17/9/3	2/0/1
*UTAH	W, 68-61	CD	1/5/0	28/6/0	7/4/0		14/15/1	DND	3/1/3	7/3/5	INJ	8/0/0	0/0/1
*at (13/11) Brigham Young	L, 68-82	CD	2/6/0	13/5/3	6/2/4		3/5/1	DNT	13/6/0	15/4/5	INJ	11/6/4	5/2/0
*COLORADO STATE	W, 68-55	CD	INJ	10/8/5	6/1/1		14/15/3	DND	6/1/2	16/2/4	INJ	7/1/0	8/2/0
*at Air Force	W, 61-42	3/1/0	INJ	18/9/3	0/3/0		18/7/3	DNT	INJ	10/1/5	INJ	7/3/2	5/2/2
`vs. Colorado St. (MWC)	W, 72-71	CD	3/0/1	15/7/4	5/4/0		12/6/2	DNT	15/3/2	7/2/3	INJ	15/4/3	0/0/1
`vs. 8/8 New Mexico (MWC)	W, 72-69	CD	0/0/1	7/5/1	2/2/1		15/12/3	DNT	9/3/0	5/3/7	INJ	28/0/0	6/2/3
`at UNLV (MWC)	W, 55-45	CD	5/1/0	7/7/4	0/0/0		16/21/2	DNT	0/1/1	11/2/0	INJ	7/3/2	9/1/0

^vs. Tennessee (NCAA)

CD - Did Not Play-Coach's Decision. DND - Did Not Dress. DNT - Did Not Travel. INJ - Did Not Play-Injured. ~ - West Coast Classic. ^ - Mountain West Conference Championships (Thomas & Mack Center; Las Vegas, Nev.).

## 2009-10 Starting Lineups

F	F	C	G	G	W-L	Record As SDSU Starter	Season	Career
Leonard	Thomas	Carlwell	Davis	Gay	1-1	Brian Carlwell	2-1	2-1
Leonard	White	Carlwell	Davis	Gay	1-0	Mehdi Cheriet		2-0
Shelley	White	Thomas	Leonard	Gay	6-2	Kelvin Davis	8-1	11-3
Davis	White	Thomas	Tapley	Gay	1-0	D.J. Gay	25-8	59-23
Leonard	White	Thomas	Tapley	Gay	11-3	Kawhi Leonard	24-8	24-8
Leonard	Shelton	Thomas	Tapley	Gay	0-2	Tyrone Shelley	6-2	6-2
Leoanrd	White	Thomas	Davis	Gay	5-0	Tim Shelton	0-2	13-5
						Chase Tapley	12-5	12-5
						Malcolm Thomas	24-8	24-8
						Billy White	24-5	61-26

# San Diego State Season/Career Highs

## #0 • ALEC WILLIAMS

	Season/Career
Points	11 vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 12-31-09
Rebounds	7 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09
Assists	1 - three times
Steals	-
Blocked Shots	1 at Air Force, 3-6-10
Minutes	21 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09

## #3 • TYRONE SHELLEY

	Season	Career
Points	17 - three times	34 vs. CS Northridge, 11-17-07
Rebounds	9 at UNLV, 1-13-10	14 - two times
Assists	3 at San Diego, 12-2-09	3 - two times
Steals	4 vs. Northern Arizona, 11-28-09	4 - four times
Blocked Shots	3 - two times	4 vs. Gonzaga, 1-14-08
Minutes	31 at Fresno State, 11-23-09	36 - three times

## #4 • MALCOLM THOMAS

	Season	Career
Points	28 vs. Utah, 2-20-10	28 vs. Utah, 2-20-10
Rebounds	15 vs. New Mexico, 1-5-10	16 vs. Long Beach State, 11-21-07
Assists	6 vs. TCU, 1-16-10	6 vs. TCU (1-16-10)
Steals	4 vs. UNLV, 2-13-10	4 vs. UNLV, 2-13-10
Blocked Shots	6 vs. UC Riverside (12-29-09)	6 - two times
Minutes	38 - two times	42 vs. Portland, 3-7-08

## #5 • BRIAN CARLWELL

	Season	Career
Points	13 vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 12-31-09	13 vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 12-31-09
Rebounds	6 - two times	6 - three times
Assists	4 at Brigham Young, 2-24-10	4 at Brigham Young, 2-24-10
Steals	2 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09	2 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09
Blocked Shots	3 vs. Wyoming, 2-10-10	3 - two times
Minutes	27 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09	27 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09

## #15 • KAWHI LEONARD

	Season/Career
Points	26 vs. Wyoming, 2-10-10
Rebounds	21 at UNLV, 3-13-10
Assists	5 - three times
Steals	4 at Air Force, 3-6-10
Blocked Shots	2 - three times
Minutes	39 at Air Force, 3-6-10

## #20 • JASON DEUTCHMAN

	Season	Career
Points	4 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09	4 vs. UC San Diego, 11-14-09
Rebounds	1 - two times	2 vs. Air Force, 2-7-09
Assists	-	1 vs. Ark.-PB, 12-29-08
Steals	-	-
Blocked Shots	-	-
Minutes	4 - two times	4 - three times

## #22 • CHASE TAPLEY

	Season/Career
Points	17 - two times
Rebounds	6 at Brigham Young, 2-24-10
Assists	9 vs. Pomona-Pitzer, 12-31-09
Steals	4 vs. New Mexico, 1-5-10
Blocked Shots	2 - two times
Minutes	32 at New Mexico, 2-6-10

## #23 • D.J. GAY

	Season	Career
Points	25 at New Mexico, 2-6-10	25 at New Mexico, 2-6-10
Rebounds	6 - two times	6 - two times
Assists	7 - two times	7 - two times
Steals	5 at Colorado State, 1-30-10	5 at Colorado State, 1-30-10
Blocked Shots	1 - two times	1 - six times
Minutes	45 at New Mexico, 2-6-10	45 at New Mexico, 2-6-10

## #24 • TIM SHELTON

	Season	Career
Points	8 vs. New Mexico, 1-5-10	17 - two times
Rebounds	4 - three times	12 vs. UNLV, 3-7-09
Assists	4 at Wyoming, 1-9-10	4 - three times
Steals	1 vs. New Mexico, 1-5-10	3 vs. Seattle, 11-28-08
Blocked Shots	1 vs. New Mexico, 1-5-10	3 at Air Force, 1-3-09
Minutes	26 vs. New Mexico, 1-5-10	35 at Air Force, 1-3-09

## #32 • BILLY WHITE

	Season	Career
Points	28 vs. New Mexico, 3-12-10	28 vs. New Mexico, 3-12-10
Rebounds	10 at Arizona State, 12-19-09	12 at Wyoming, 2-19-08
Assists	4 - two times	4 - four times
Steals	5 vs. Brigham Young (1-23-10)	5 vs. Brigham Young (1-23-10)
Blocked Shots	2 - six times	4 - three times
Minutes	43 at San Diego, 12-2-09	43 at San Diego, 12-2-09

## #33 • BEN KNELLER

	Season
Points	1 vs. Colorado State, 3-3-10
Rebounds	1 at Air Force, 3-6-10
Assists	-
Steals	-
Blocked Shots	-
Minutes	2 at Air Force, 3-6-10

## #40 • KELVIN DAVIS

	Season	Career
Points	16 at Drake, 12-22-09	19 vs. Saint Mary's, 12-8-07
Rebounds	4 vs. Wyoming, 2-10-10	6 - three times
Assists	4 at New Mexico, 2-6-10	4 at New Mexico, 2-6-10
Steals	3 at Brigham Young, 2-24-10	3 - eight times
Blocked Shots	2 at Utah, 1-19-10	2 at Utah, 1-19-10
Minutes	32 at UNLV, 3-13-10	32 at UNLV, 3-13-10

# 2009-10 Miscellaneous Statistics

San Diego State's Record When...			
Category	2009-10 Season	Fisher Era	SDSU Streak
Home	14-1	126-47	Won 5
Away	9-7	52-88	Won 2
Neutral	2-0	20-13	Won 2
Scoring First	18-5		Won 4
Opponent Scores First	7-3		Won 3
Leading at Half	21-2	150-37	Won 11
Trailing at Half	4-6	38-109	Won 1
Tied at Half	-	10-2	Won 1
Leading with 5:00 Left	21-1		Won 12
Trailing with 5:00 Left	3-7		Lost 4
Tied with 5:00 Left	-		Lost 2
In Overtime	2-1	10-13	Lost 1
SDSU Outrebounds Opp.	21-5	141-58	Won 6
SDSU is Outrebounded	3-3	52-85	Won 1
Opp. Commits More TOs	14-1	121-46	Won 12
SDSU Commits More TOs	11-7	68-92	Won 3
SDSU More FT Attempts	21-3	145-49	Won 10
Opp. More FT Attempts	3-4	47-96	Won 1
SDSU Shoots Better than Opp.	20-4	157-33	Won 9
Opp. Shoots Better than SDSU	4-4	36-114	Lost 2
SDSU Shoots 50% or Better	12-2	76-14	Won 5
SDSU Shoots 40-50%	9-5	96-69	Won 1
SDSU Shoots 40% or Less	3-1	25-65	Won 3
Opp. Shoots 50% or Better	2-2	19-51	Lost 1
Opp. Shoots 40-50%	6-5	90-85	Won 2
Opp. Shoots 40% or Less	16-1	88-12	Won 10
SDSU Bench Outscores Opp.	13-5	98-60	Won 3
Opp. Bench Outscores SDSU	11-3	96-81	Won 3
SDSU Scores Less Than 60	2-2	14-49	Won 2
SDSU Scores Between 60-69	11-4	54-61	Won 2
SDSU Scores Between 70-79	7-0	72-21	Won 13
SDSU Scores Between 80-89	5-2	48-15	Won 1
SDSU Scores Between 90-99	-	9-2	Won 2
SDSU Scores 100+	-	1-0	Won 24
Opp. Scores Less Than 60	15-1	83-10	Won 10
Opp. Scores Between 60-69	8-0	68-35	Won 10
Opp. Scores Between 70-79	2-3	43-52	Won 1
Opp. Scores Between 80-89	0-4	4-34	Lost 5
Opp. Scores Between 90-99	-	0-14	Lost 24
Opp. Scores 100+	-	0-3	Lost 9
Wearing Black	9-5		Won 3
Wearing Red	1-2		Lost 1
Wearing White	15-1		Won 6
On Monday	1-1		Won 1
On Tuesday	5-0		Won 5
On Wednesday	4-3		Won 1
On Thursday	3-0		Won 6
On Friday	1-0		Won 4
On Saturday	10-4		Won 4
On Sunday	-		
In November	4-2		Won 1
In December	7-1		Won 3
In January	4-3		Won 1
In February	5-2		Lost 1
In March	5-0		Won 5

## LEADS AND DEFICITS

SDSU Biggest Halftime Lead	27 vs. Northern Arizona (11-28-09)
SDSU Biggest Halftime Lead Lost	14 at Wyoming (1-9-10)
SDSU Biggest Halftime Lead Lost in a Loss	14 at Wyoming (1-9-10)
SDSU Biggest Halftime Deficit	21 at Saint Mary's (11-16-09)
SDSU Biggest Halftime Deficit Overcome	9 vs. TCU (1-16-10)
SDSU Biggest Halftime Deficit Overcome for Victory	9 vs. TCU (1-16-10)
SDSU Biggest Lead	45 vs. Northern Arizona (11-28-09)
SDSU Biggest Lead Lost	17 at Wyoming (1-9-10)
SDSU Biggest Lead Lost in a Loss	17 at Wyoming (1-9-10)
SDSU Biggest Deficit	25 at Saint Mary's (11-16-09)
SDSU Biggest Deficit Overcome	14 vs. TCU (1-16-10)
SDSU Biggest Deficit Overcome for Victory	14 vs. TCU (1-16-10)

## DUNKS

	SEASON
Malcolm Thomas	.31
Billy White	.25
Kawhi Leonard	.18
Brian Carlwell	.10
Kelvin Davis	.5
Tyrone Shelley	.3
Chase Tapley	.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>.94</b>

## TOP SCORING PERFORMANCES

28, Billy White vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)
28, Malcolm Thomas vs. Utah (2-20-10)
26, Kawhi Leonard vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)
25, D.J. Gay at New Mexico (2-6-10)
25, Kawhi Leonard at Wyoming (1-9-10)
23, Malcolm Thomas at Utah (1-19-10)
23, Kawhi Leonard vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)
22, D.J. Gay at San Diego (12-2-09)
22, Billy White at Fresno State (11-23-09)
21, Malcolm Thomas vs. No. Arizona (11-28-09)
20, Billy White at Pacific (11-25-09)
20, Malcolm Thomas vs. UC San Diego (11-14-09)
19, Billy White vs. UNLV (2-13-10)
18, Kawhi Leonard at Air Force (3-6-10)
18, Malcolm Thomas at Air Force (3-6-10)
18, Kawhi Leonard at TCU (2-16-10)
18, Malcolm Thomas vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)
18, D. J. Gay at Drake (12-22-09)

## TOP REBOUNDING PERFORMANCES

21, Kawhi Leonard at UNLV (3-13-10)
18, Kawhi Leonard vs. Cal State Fullerton (12-9-09)
15, Kawhi Leonard vs. Colorado State (3-3-10)
15, Kawhi Leonard vs. Utah (2-20-10)
15, Malcolm Thomas vs. New Mexico (1-5-10)
14, Kawhi Leonard vs. UNLV (2-13-10)
13, Malcolm Thomas at Colorado State (1-30-10)
13, Malcolm Thomas at Utah (1-19-10)
13, Kawhi Leonard vs. Santa Clara (11-19-09)
12, Kawhi Leonard vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)
12, Kawhi Leonard at New Mexico (2-6-10)
12, Malcolm Thomas vs. Air Force (2-2-10)
12, Kawhi Leonard at Colorado State (1-30-10)
12, Kawhi Leonard at Wyoming (1-9-10)

12, Kawhi Leonard vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)
12, Kawhi Leonard vs. Arizona (12-12-09)
11, Kawhi Leonard vs. Brigham Young (1-23-10)
11, Kawhi Leonard at Utah (1-19-10)
11, Kawhi Leonard at Drake (12-22-09)
11, Kawhi Leonard at Arizona State (12-19-09)
10, Kawhi Leonard at UNLV (1-13-10)
10, Malcolm Thomas at Arizona State (12-19-09)
10, Billy White at Arizona State (12-19-09)
10, Malcolm Thomas at San Diego (12-2-09)
10, Malcolm Thomas vs. No. Arizona (11-28-09)
10, Kawhi Leonard vs. No. Arizona (11-28-09)

## TOP ASSISTS PERFORMANCES

9, Chase Tapley vs. Pomona-Pitzer (12-31-09)
7, D.J. Gay vs. New Mexico (3-12-10)
7, D.J. Gay vs. No. Arizona (11-28-09)
6, Chase Tapley vs. Wyoming (2-10-10)
6, Malcolm Thomas vs. TCU (1-16-10)
6, D.J. Gay at Fresno State (11-23-09)

## TOP 3-POINT FG PERFORMANCES

6, D.J. Gay at New Mexico (2-6-10)
5, Kelvin Davis at Drake (12-22-09)
4, D.J. Gay vs. Colorado State (3-3-10)
4, D.J. Gay at Drake (12-22-09)
4, D.J. Gay at San Diego (12-2-09)
4, Tyrone Shelley at Fresno State (11-23-09)

## GAMES MISSED DUE TO INJURY OR ILLNESS

	SEASON
Tim Shelton	.24
Tyrone Shelley	.3
Billy White	.2
Alec Williams	.2
Chase Tapley	.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>.32</b>

**SAN DIEGO STATE '09-10 SEASON STATISTICS**  
**SAN DIEGO STATE Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 14, 2010)**  
**All games**

<b>RECORD:</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
ALL GAMES	25-8	14-1	9-7	2-0
CONFERENCE	11-5	7-1	4-4	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	14-3	7-0	5-3	2-0

#	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
					fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fa	ft%	off	def	tot	avg								
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	33-32	1031	31.2	161-350	.460	16-74	.216	83-115	.722	116	210	326	9.9	82	3	63	75	21	45	421	12.8
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	33-32	1025	31.1	138-252	.548	2-5	.400	84-161	.522	89	167	256	7.8	71	1	73	63	50	28	362	11.0
32	WHITE, Billy	31-29	854	27.5	134-228	.588	6-21	.286	73-115	.635	65	70	135	4.4	78	2	43	65	24	33	347	11.2
23	GAY, D.J.	33-33	1135	34.4	104-284	.366	59-154	.383	73-104	.702	17	56	73	2.2	49	0	107	59	3	37	340	10.3
22	TAPLEY, Chase	32-17	757	23.7	97-192	.505	35-90	.389	20-28	.714	21	53	74	2.3	46	0	71	38	12	37	249	7.8
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	32-9	610	19.1	71-182	.390	35-125	.280	31-47	.660	8	32	40	1.3	63	0	34	46	8	21	208	6.5
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	29-8	539	18.6	67-151	.444	16-61	.262	32-61	.525	24	80	104	3.6	47	0	24	41	13	37	182	6.3
05	CARLWELL, Brian	33-3	477	14.5	63-101	.624	1-1	1.000	30-54	.556	33	56	89	2.7	66	1	15	32	17	8	157	4.8
24	SHELTON, Tim	9-2	116	12.9	9-26	.346	4-9	.444	8-18	.444	10	8	18	2.0	16	1	13	8	1	1	30	3.3
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	12-0	87	7.3	8-18	.444	2-5	.400	5-6	.833	2	12	14	1.2	15	0	3	3	1	0	23	1.9
10	HORTON, Bryan	6-0	30	5.0	2-6	.333	0-1	.000	1-5	.200	1	2	3	0.5	2	0	2	1	0	1	5	0.8
20	DEUTCHMAN, Jason	3-0	11	3.7	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	0	2	2	0.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.7
33	KNELLER, Ben	2-0	3	1.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
Team											46	43	89				12					
Total.....		33	6675		855-1794	.477	176-546	.322	444-720	.617	433	791	1224	37.1	536	8	448	443	150	248	2330	70.6
Opponents.....		33	6675		725-1791	.405	217-625	.347	372-539	.690	362	641	1003	30.4	599	-	410	442	103	199	2039	61.8

<b>TEAM STATISTICS</b>	<b>SDSU</b>	<b>OPP</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Att.</b>		
SCORING	2330	2039	11-14-09	UC SAN DIEGO	W 77-52	5520		
Points per game	70.6	61.8	11-16-09	at SAINT MARY'S (CA)	L 58-80	2774		
Scoring margin	+8.8	-	11-19-09	SANTA CLARA	W 86-53	5401		
FIELD GOALS-ATT	855-1794	725-1791	11-23-09	at FRESNO STATE	W 62-58	8041		
Field goal pct	.477	.405	11-25-09	at PACIFIC	L 63-71	2705		
3 POINT FG-ATT	176-546	217-625	11-28-09	NORTHERN ARIZONA	W 89-48	4390		
3-point FG pct	.322	.347	12-02-09	at SAN DIEGO	Wot 69-62	4662		
3-pt FG made per game	5.3	6.6	12-05-09	at UC SANTA BARBARA	W 69-61	2513		
FREE THROWS-ATT	444-720	372-539	12-09-09	CS FULLERTON	W 82-68	4774		
Free throw pct	.617	.690	12-12-09	ARIZONA	W 63-46	12414		
F-Throws made per game	13.5	11.3	12-19-09	at ARIZONA STATE	L 52-55	10055		
REBOUNDS	1224	1003	12-22-09	at DRAKE	Wot 76-73	4012		
Rebounds per game	37.1	30.4	12-29-09	UC RIVERSIDE	W 58-53	5315		
Rebounding margin	+6.7	-	12-31-09	POMONA-PITZER	W 89-54	4061		
ASSISTS	448	410	* 01-05-10	NEW MEXICO	W 74-64	7558		
Assists per game	13.6	12.4	* 01-09-10	at WYOMING	L 83-85	4826		
TURNOVERS	443	442	* 01-13-10	at UNLV	L 66-76	14530		
Turnovers per game	13.4	13.4	* 01-16-10	TCU	W 67-62	5871		
Turnover margin	+0.0	-	* 01-19-10	at UTAH	W 70-68	8520		
Assist/turnover ratio	1.0	0.9	* 01-23-10	BRIGHAM YOUNG	L 69-71	12414		
STEALS	248	199	* 01-30-10	at COLORADO STATE	W 64-52	3809		
Steals per game	7.5	6.0	* 02-02-10	AIR FORCE	W 70-48	6126		
BLOCKS	150	103	* 02-06-10	at NEW MEXICO	Lot 86-88	14586		
Blocks per game	4.5	3.1	* 02-10-10	WYOMING	W 88-57	6606		
ATTENDANCE	108412	150383	* 02-13-10	UNLV	W 68-58	9224		
Home games-Avg/Game	15-7227	16-7553	* 02-16-10	at TCU	W 68-51	3615		
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	2-14766	* 02-20-10	UTAH	W 68-61	10695		
			* 02-24-10	at BRIGHAM YOUNG	L 68-82	20124		
<b>Score by Periods</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Totals</b>				
SAN DIEGO STATE	1091	1204	35	2330	* 03-03-10	COLORADO STATE	W 68-55	8043
Opponents	939	1073	27	2039	* 03-06-10	at AIR FORCE	W 61-42	3352
					03-11-10	vs COLORADO STATE	W 72-71	11031
					03-12-10	vs NEW MEXICO	W 72-69	18500
					03-13-10	at UNLV	W 55-45	12728

\* - Conference game

**SAN DIEGO STATE '09-10 SEASON STATISTICS**  
**SAN DIEGO STATE Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 14, 2010)**  
**Conference games**

<b>RECORD:</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
ALL GAMES	11-5	7-1	4-4	0-0
CONFERENCE	11-5	7-1	4-4	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

##	Player	gp-gs	min	avg	Total		3-Point		F-Throw		Rebounds				pf	dq	a	to	blk	stl	pts	avg
					fg-fga	fg%	3fg-fga	3fg%	ft-fa	ft%	off	def	tot	avg								
15	LEONARD, Kawhi	16-16	505	31.6	89-184	.484	8-33	.242	44-62	.710	57	96	153	9.6	39	1	28	34	13	21	230	14.4
04	THOMAS, Malcolm	16-16	500	31.3	72-125	.576	1-2	.500	46-89	.517	43	94	137	8.6	31	1	41	31	21	14	191	11.9
23	GAY, D.J.	16-16	565	35.3	47-129	.364	31-74	.419	46-68	.676	8	28	36	2.3	26	0	56	27	1	17	171	10.7
22	TAPLEY, Chase	15-14	416	27.7	51-103	.495	20-49	.408	13-19	.684	12	26	38	2.5	27	0	37	24	9	24	135	9.0
32	WHITE, Billy	15-14	378	25.2	48-91	.527	1-8	.125	36-54	.667	27	27	54	3.6	37	2	24	28	12	12	133	8.9
40	DAVIS, Kelvin	16-2	313	19.6	36-98	.367	15-65	.231	19-25	.760	4	19	23	1.4	30	0	18	23	5	10	106	6.6
05	CARLWELL, Brian	16-0	235	14.7	32-51	.627	1-1	1.000	18-32	.563	14	27	41	2.6	33	0	13	14	11	4	83	5.2
03	SHELLEY, Tyrone	14-0	226	16.1	25-56	.446	5-22	.227	9-21	.429	12	42	54	3.9	22	0	8	15	5	14	64	4.6
24	SHELTON, Tim	3-2	60	20.0	6-18	.333	3-5	.600	4-12	.333	5	3	8	2.7	11	1	7	6	1	1	19	6.3
00	WILLIAMS, Alec	5-0	24	4.8	2-6	.333	1-2	.500	0-0	.000	0	4	4	0.8	7	0	0	2	1	0	5	1.0
33	KNELLER, Ben	2-0	3	1.5	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5
Team											24	19	43				6					
Total.....		16	3225		408-863	.473	86-261	.330	236-384	.615	207	385	592	37.0	263	5	232	210	79	117	1138	71.1
Opponents.....		16	3225		359-869	.413	104-288	.361	198-291	.680	176	322	498	31.1	302	-	199	209	58	91	1020	63.8

<b>TEAM STATISTICS</b>	<b>SDSU</b>	<b>OPP</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Att.</b>
SCORING	1138	1020	* 01-05-10	NEW MEXICO	W 74-64	7558
Points per game	71.1	63.8	* 01-09-10	at WYOMING	L 83-85	4826
Scoring margin	+7.4	-	* 01-13-10	at UNLV	L 66-76	14530
FIELD GOALS-ATT	408-863	359-869	* 01-16-10	TCU	W 67-62	5871
Field goal pct	.473	.413	* 01-19-10	at UTAH	W 70-68	8520
3 POINT FG-ATT	86-261	104-288	* 01-23-10	BRIGHAM YOUNG	L 69-71	12414
3-point FG pct	.330	.361	* 01-30-10	at COLORADO STATE	W 64-52	3809
3-pt FG made per game	5.4	6.5	* 02-02-10	AIR FORCE	W 70-48	6126
FREE THROWS-ATT	236-384	198-291	* 02-06-10	at NEW MEXICO	Lot 86-88	14586
Free throw pct	.615	.680	* 02-10-10	WYOMING	W 88-57	6606
F-Throws made per game	14.8	12.4	* 02-13-10	UNLV	W 68-58	9224
REBOUNDS	592	498	* 02-16-10	at TCU	W 68-51	3615
Rebounds per game	37.0	31.1	* 02-20-10	UTAH	W 68-61	10695
Rebounding margin	+5.9	-	* 02-24-10	at BRIGHAM YOUNG	L 68-82	20124
ASSISTS	232	199	* 03-03-10	COLORADO STATE	W 68-55	8043
Assists per game	14.5	12.4	* 03-06-10	at AIR FORCE	W 61-42	3352
TURNOVERS	210	209	* - Conference game			
Turnovers per game	13.1	13.1				
Turnover margin	-0.1	-				
Assist/turnover ratio	1.1	1.0				
STEALS	117	91				
Steals per game	7.3	5.7				
BLOCKS	79	58				
Blocks per game	4.9	3.6				
ATTENDANCE	66537	73362				
Home games-Avg/Game	8-8317	8-9170				
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	0-0				

<b>Score by Periods</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Totals</b>
SAN DIEGO STATE	542	588	8	1138
Opponents	455	555	10	1020



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As of 3/15/10



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## 1

**SDSU recruit is out; Davis gets 6th season**

By Brent Schrotenboer | San Diego Union-Tribune  
September 18, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team has lost a top recruit because of academic issues but has gained an extra year for one of its most inspirational players.

Senior guard Kelvin Davis has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA after being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in the spring of 2008. He didn't play most of last season while undergoing treatment.

His extra year will help offset the loss of prized guard recruit Eric Lawton, whose eligibility wasn't cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse. He instead plans to play at Mt. San Jacinto College in Riverside County for a season before pursuing a scholarship with a Pacific-10 Conference school.

"Somehow they wound up with two transcripts and they didn't match, so instead of keeping him out of school, I told him it would be good to go to a JC for a year and then go somewhere else," said Danny Davis, assistant coach at Hemet West Valley High, where Lawton played.

All other signed newcomers are in the fold and on campus, according to SDSU. However, one of them, Illinois transfer Brian Carlwell, has been hobbled by a recent foot injury. It is not considered serious enough to keep him out of action.

Davis was granted a sixth year because he missed almost two full seasons because of injuries. He missed the 2005-06 season at Texas-El Paso because of a broken foot. Last season, he was limited by cancer treatments. He played in eight games, averaging 2.5 points.

As a junior, he played in all 33 games but became fatigued at times and developed swelling in his neck. After averaging 11.5 points in the first 15 games that season, his production waned as symptoms increased.

His cancer is in remission. In March, he was given the Most Courageous Award from the U.S. Basketball Writers Association.

"The NCAA understood his situation and acted in an appropriate fashion," head coach Steve Fisher said in a statement. "Kelvin has the ability to make open shots and that is something every team can use."

Davis' return will help fill a senior leadership void left by the departure of senior starting guard Richie Williams, forward Lorenzo Wade, forward Ryan Amoroso and forward Kyle Spain.

Davis couldn't be reached for comment yesterday.

The 6-foot-1 Lawton had been expected to help replace Williams. He was one of five recruits signed by Fisher last November.

## 2

**SDSU picked to finish second in conference**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union Tribune  
October 7, 2009

Expectations are high for this year's San Diego State men's basketball team. And the presumption that the Aztecs should be among the Mountain West Conference elite isn't just internal.

The Aztecs were picked to finish second in the Mountain West Conference at yesterday's media day in Denver.

SDSU is coming off a school-record 26-win season and an NIT semifinals berth. Coach Steve Fisher said he doesn't mind others holding his team in high regard. "If you are in this business and you don't want people saying 'we expect you to be good, we think you're going to be good, you're going to be good' then something is wrong," Fisher said. "... I think we're going to be good.

And I want that to drum up interest. I don't want to oversell, but I know we have a product that if you come to watch us you're going to appreciate how hard we play and how competitive we are and how much fun you have at a game."

San Diego State received one first-place vote behind three-time defending MWC-champion BYU (23 first-place votes) — the overwhelming favorite by conference

media to win the league.

SDSU junior forward Billy White was selected to the all-conference preseason team and forward Kawhi Leonard was tabbed as the preseason Freshman of the Year.

White was an All-MWC honorable mention last season after earning all-conference and MWC Freshman of the Year honors in 2007-08. He led the league with a 66.3 field goal shooting percentage last season and also tied for sixth with 26 blocks. He returns as SDSU's leader in scoring (8.8 ppg), blocks and steals (31).

"I would say Billy White can rival anyone in the league for athleticism," Fisher said. "That doesn't always win for you. It's his third year potentially as a starter. He's long, he can play multiple positions. What Billy has to do now is what he's doing in practice — making open jump shots. Hopefully he'll be able to do that during the season to elevate his play, which will in turn elevate the play of our whole team."

BYU junior guard Jimmer Fredette was tabbed as the preseason Player of the Year and UNLV junior guard Derrick Jasper is the preseason Newcomer of the Year.

Fisher has said he wants to run and push the tempo because the team has good depth. He enters his 11th season as SDSU coach with an overall record of 173-140.

He'll look to experienced players like White, junior guard D.J. Gay and sophomore forward Tim Shelton to mentor a nationally recognized recruiting class, which includes Leonard, Chase Tapley, Malcolm Thomas and Alec Williams. San Diego native Tyrone Shelley, a sophomore guard who transferred from Pepperdine, is expected to contribute immediately.

"We expect the veterans to teach the new guys how we do things around San Diego State," Fisher said. "... And I like the fact that everybody thinks we should be good."

## 3

**Aztecs picked second; White named preseason all-conference**

By Staff | North County Times  
October 7, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team was picked to finish second in the Mountain West Conference and junior forward Billy White was named to the preseason all-conference team in a preseason media survey announced Wednesday.

Brigham Young is the overwhelming favorite to win its fourth straight conference title in voting done by 24 media members who cover Mountain West teams. The Cougars received 23 of 24 first-place votes. San Diego State received the other.

Nevada-Las Vegas and Utah were picked to finish third and fourth, respectively, followed by New Mexico, Wyoming, Texas Christian, Colorado State and Air Force.

White averaged 8.8 points per game and shot 66.3 percent from the field in helping the Aztecs win a school-record 26 games and reach the NIT semifinals in 2008-09. BYU guard Jimmer Fredette was named preseason MWC player of the year.

Additionally, San Diego State freshman Kawhi Leonard garnered preseason freshman of the year honors.

Leonard is a 6-foot-5, 200 pound guard who earned Los Angeles Times player of the year honors during his senior season at Riverside King High.

## 4

**SDSU forwards White, Shelton nurse injuries**

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union Tribune  
October 25, 2009

It's premature and probably unfair to draw many conclusions from a college basketball team's first intrasquad scrimmage, but if we learned anything from the San Diego State men yesterday it is this:

This team won't be playing many 43-41 games.

Unless, of course, you're talking about the halftime score.

"We will be a team that's hard to guard," Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said. "We have a team that should be able to score at any spot on the floor. We should be able to run. And we should be a good offensive rebounding team."

Red and black teams played a half, or 20 minutes, of timed basketball with a three-man officiating crew. One team scored 43 points, the other 41. Double that and you're looking at the 80s over a full game. Last year SDSU averaged 67.1 points.

The scrimmage revealed a few concerns, though: defense, turnovers and injuries.

Forwards Billy White and Tim Shelton, the top two returning scorers and rebounders, both sat out. White banged his left wrist against the basket stanchion a week ago and has done only fitness work since, and Shelton is limited to 30 minutes per day of non-contract drills after yet another offseason knee surgery.

Fisher said X-rays, an MRI and an exam involving injectable dye have not identified a fracture in White's wrist, yet there's still pain. White, who was named to the coaches' preseason all-conference team, is wearing a brace.

"We're going to be cautious with it until we get clearance from the doctors," Fisher said. "We're hopeful it's not anything long term."

## 5 Players fighting to stay healthy

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union Tribune  
October 28, 2009

The way things are going, San Diego State men's basketball coach Steve Fisher may have more players watching practice than actually participating in it.

Fisher's Aztecs escaped a major injury scare yesterday, learning that prized forward Malcolm Thomas probably doesn't need surgery on his swollen knee — only to have fellow star transfer Tyrone Shelley visit a foot specialist.

Four players were unable to practice full out yesterday: Thomas, Shelley, Billy White and Tim Shelton. All four are expected to be major contributors on an SDSU team that lost four key seniors and nearly 45 points per game of offense.

"Malcolm complained a little bit about some swelling in his knee on Saturday but he practiced," Fisher said of Thomas, who made himself available for the 2009 NBA draft before withdrawing so he could maintain his collegiate eligibility. "We didn't do anything on Sunday, and he came in on Monday and could barely walk."

An MRI exam was performed Monday night, and Fisher said the initial diagnosis was a torn meniscus that could require surgery. But further evaluation found no meniscus tear, and instead the 6-foot-9 junior will be rested.

"We feel like there's no long-term issue with it," Fisher said.

Thomas and Shelley, a 6-5 sophomore guard, played together at Crawford High before attending Pepperdine, where they averaged a combined 27.6 points and 14.6 rebounds as freshmen. Both transferred to SDSU and had to sit out a year of Division I basketball, Thomas spending it at San Diego City College and Shelley practicing (but not playing) with the Aztecs.

Shelley's ailment is a recurrence of past foot problems.

"It's very painful for him to run but he fights through it," Fisher said. "We don't want that for him all season."

White has been wearing a brace on his left wrist for the past week, unable to dribble or catch a basketball. And Shelton continues to be babied as he recovers from major knee surgery.

In addition, freshman guard Chase Tapley sat out Saturday's scrimmage with the flu.

The Aztecs have exhibition games Nov. 3 against Cal Baptist and Nov. 10 against Point Loma Nazarene before opening the season Nov. 14 against Div. II UC San Diego.

"We've got them watching on the sideline (at practice)," Fisher said of his growing MASH unit, "but you learn more when you're out there doing it ... We'll be very careful for a while with them, even it means missing some of the exhibition schedule."

## 6 Key players out for Aztecs hoops exhibition

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union Tribune  
November 3, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team breaks the monotony of preseason practice with an exhibition Tuesday night against Cal Baptist. Instead of spotting the NAIA school points, the Aztecs will provide a handicap in players.

Minus three.

Coach Steve Fisher will be without three potential starters — returnees Billy White and Tim Shelton, and touted transfer Malcolm Thomas — for the 7 p.m. tipoff at Viejas (formerly Cox) Arena. White has been sidelined for two weeks with a wrist injury; Shelton and Thomas have knee issues.

Add to that a roster with six new faces, and what you see Tuesday night probably won't resemble what it looks like a month from now.

"I like our kids, and they're anxious to learn," Fisher said. "But when you have so many people miss so many practices, it becomes a little disjointed on the floor."

For Crawford High star Tyrone Shelley, Tuesday can't come soon enough. Shelley spent his freshman year at Pepperdine before transferring to SDSU and sitting out last season per NCAA rules. Practices get old after a while.

"I'm going to have to get used to games again," said Shelley, who averaged 15.1 points and 5.8 rebounds at Pepperdine.

"I might be a little rusty, but I'm excited."

For Tuesday at least, Fisher's starting five will look like this: junior D.J. Gay and senior Kelvin Davis at guard, Shelley and freshman Kawhi Leonard on the wing, and junior transfer Brian Carlwell at center. Who knows what it will look like when everyone gets healthy.

"Most teams, you can't do that," Shelley said of injuries to three potential starters. "With our team, I feel like we have the depth where you can do that. We're all so versatile. If somebody gets hurt, you can just move someone else in there."

## Notes

Cal Baptist, located in Riverside, was ranked No. 1 in NAIA early last season and finished 22-9 ... The Lancers' top recruit is freshman center Luke Evans, who led El Camino High to the Division I section title last season. Also on the roster are senior Nedal Tartir (Orange Glen High, Palomar College), junior Jamar Ransome (Monte Vista High) and junior Jordan McDaniel (Mira Costa College) ... University City High alum Tim Island, who would have been a senior, has left the SDSU program. He appeared in 12 games last season, playing 32 total minutes.

## 7 White and Thomas return, but Shelton still out

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
November 6, 2009

San Diego State junior forwards Billy White and Malcolm Thomas returned to the practice floor from injuries that have kept them sidelined, but the Aztecs aren't at full strength yet for Tuesday's second exhibition against Point Loma Nazarene at Viejas Arena.

White (wrist) and Thomas (knee) practiced Friday afternoon for the first time since their injuries, but Tim Shelton (knee) remains sidelined. In addition, true freshman Kawhi Leonard and Alec Williams sat out practice while recovering from the flu.

"This was first time we had Billy and Malcom do anything, and I was nervous for both of them," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "Malcolm limped, but he said he just banged knees. I told Billy, 'You can't dunk the ball or catch the ball with your (injured) left hand; catch it with your right.' Right now I would say both are doubtful for Tuesday, but who knows what could happen by Tuesday."

"But it was nice to have them out there and it was good for them too."

Shelton, a sophomore forward, still has pain in his knee from offseason knee surgery. Fisher wants to bring him along slowly this year, feeling last year he was brought back from offseason knee surgery too quickly.

"He had an MRI and the doctor said it looked good," Fisher said, "but he's a little nervous about it right now, and so am I."

When the Aztecs have a full lineup, Fisher wants to exploit the depth with a team that runs the ball more than past years, although SDSU also has a bigger lineup than recent history.

"I believe we have an athletic group, and we should be able to score and score in a lot of ways," Fisher said. "We want to run harder and better than we have in the past. Depth helps you do that. Our depth is kind of a mirage right now (from injuries), but I believe in time we will have depth. We will be a better team that can execute a halfcourt offense, but I'd rather run and use the whole floor."

## 8 Top frosh standing by SDSU decision

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union Tribune  
November 8, 2009

Kawhi Leonard's father, Mark, was shot multiple times and killed outside the car wash he owned in Compton on the evening of Jan. 18, 2008. Leonard was playing a basketball game for Riverside King High when it happened, and his sister called with the news shortly afterward.

Riverside King had another game the next night, against Compton Dominguez High at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. Leonard played.

Marvin Lea, his club coach, was driving him to Pauley Pavilion when King coach Tim Sweeney called and told Lea: "Is Kawhi sure he wants to play? Let him know he doesn't have to. Let him know we understand."

Lea turned to Leonard and asked again: "Tell me. Do you really want to play?" Leonard stared straight ahead and answered quietly. "Coach, I have to."

The Kawhi (pronounced Kuh-WHY) Leonard era at San Diego State began Monday night, in a preseason exhibition against Cal Baptist at Viejas Arena. He had the flu, and 49 seconds into the game this happened: Aztecs guard D.J. Gay took a shot, missed, and the ball caromed high off the back rim. Leonard flew through a tangle of bodies, rose above them, grabbed the ball with his massive hands and jammed it home.

It was ruled offensive goaltending and the basket was disallowed, but the symbolism was undeniable: Leonard, head and shoulders above everyone else.

Some already consider him the best recruit in SDSU history. He was named California's prep Mr. Basketball by Cal-Hi Sports last season. The Mountain West Conference coaches picked him as their preseason Freshman of the Year. ESPN commentator Doug Gottlieb labeled him "the best incoming frosh on the West Coast, period."

Lea unabashedly calls him "one of the top five (freshmen) in the country."

He is 6 feet 7, 225 pounds. He has telephone poles for arms, catcher's mitts for hands. He turned 18 in June, meaning he is younger than most of his classmates and wasn't held back a year (or three) like many top prospects are these days — meaning his arc of physical and mental growth hasn't leveled off yet.

He can defend perimeter and post players alike. He can rebound (he had 20 in King's upset of Santa Ana Mater Dei against the 6-10, North Carolina-bound Wear twins). He can shoot with range. He is explosive going to the basket. He can handle the ball against pressure.

Leonard knows what you're thinking next.

"People would ask what college are you going to, and I'd say, 'San Diego State,'" he says. "And they'd say, 'Why?'"

"I'd have parents say, 'Can I ask you, why is he going there?'" says Kim Robertson, Leonard's mother. "We got that a lot. And I'd tell them, look, Kawhi doesn't care about all that glitz. He made his choice and he stuck by it and there is no going back. That's the attitude he took — and now (those other schools) have to

watch him beat them."

Leonard says he instantly "clicked" with the San Diego State coaches and players. He says SDSU was the first school to genuinely recruit him and "I had a relationship with them." He says he values loyalty and when the bigger schools — UCLA, USC, Cal, Arizona State — finally stepped up their recruiting pitches, it was "too late."

"Everybody talks about the Pac-10, even the kids at school, the cafeteria lady, the security guard," says SDSU assistant coach Justin Hudson, who was responsible for recruiting Leonard. "It's, 'You going to the Pac-10?' It's all they hear when they're growing up. So we have to fight that."

"We have to let them know we have a lot of great things to offer. We have to advertise that, but it's not an easy thing to do. You're fighting an uphill battle when they are getting calls from those people, and he was getting calls from everybody."

One of the things SDSU could offer, though, was playing time. The Aztecs were losing five key seniors and 45 points per game. Leonard could play, a lot, immediately.

All incoming freshmen want to play, a lot, immediately, but for Leonard it is different. I have to play.

"When I'm on the court, I feel all problems go away," Leonard says. "Everything outside doesn't matter. When I'm on the court, it's just me and nothing else. Family problems, school, what happened to my father, all the stress goes away."

"His outlet," Robertson calls it. "That's where he goes to relieve everything."

"He's a quiet, shy kid and you won't see him smile all day," Lea says, "and then he gets on the court and you'll see him smile. He just gets that joy when he plays. I don't know any other way to describe it."

Amazing, then, to think that he didn't play basketball as a freshman in high school. He played football, liked it OK, then missed basketball tryouts because his mother was out of town and he didn't have a ride. The coach was emphatic: No tryouts, no play.

He didn't play summer league ball that year, either, instead spending long hours working at his father's car wash. Not hanging around, helping out behind the counter, being the owner's kid, but scrubbing down hoods, wiping windows, cleaning rims and then cleaning them again if his father found the slightest smudge.

"That taught me work ethic," Leonard says, "that nothing comes easy."

The biggest lesson came Jan. 18, 2008, when his cell phone rang after a 71-58 win against Riverside Arlington.

It was his sister. Dad was dead.

"He became a different person after that," Lea says. "He grew up, for sure. I wasn't like, 'C'mon, Kawhi, when are we going to work out?' Now it was like, 'Coach, when are we going to work out?' He saw that life is short."

He saw his father was taken out of nowhere. He realized that he had this talent and he had to use it, that he couldn't waste it.

"When you're 6-7, 230, you're not put here to bag groceries. He realized life is not a game. It's serious."

Six weeks later, SDSU's Hudson was watching Riverside King play nationally ranked Woodland Hills Taft on the road in the Southern California regional play-offs, watching King win 83-82 in overtime, watching Leonard finish with 22 points and 12 rebounds, watching Leonard take over late.

Watching, and praying. Praying none of the other scouts squeezed into Taft's gym saw what he saw.

Other schools were interested in Leonard as a junior, certainly, but many of them seemed to have reservations — about his academics, about what position he would play in college (perimeter or post?) — and were holding out to see more. The early signing period arrived last fall, and Leonard committed to SDSU.

As he continued to improve during his senior season at King, as the Wolves con-

## 9-12

tinued to upset nationally ranked teams, the whispers about de-committing grew louder.

"We had a conversation one day on the way to school," says Robertson, his mother. "I said, 'UCLA and USC will come after you. Do you want to go there instead?' He looked at me and said, 'No, it's too late.' And that was it. We never talked about it again.

"What people don't understand is that Kawhi doesn't really care about the hype, or about this big name or that big name. That's not what he's about. He just wants to play basketball, that's it."

9

**Fisher concerned Aztecs need to find a leader**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
November 9, 2009

Injuries are one concern as San Diego State's basketball team plays its second and final exhibition game at 7 p.m. Tuesday against Point Loma Nazarene at Viejas Arena.

Forwards Billy White and Malcolm Thomas are questionable and forward Tim Shelton is doubtful.

Another concern before the regular-season opener at 2 p.m. Saturday against UC San Diego at Viejas is leadership.

"I am concerned," head coach Steve Fisher said. "To be candid with you, the leadership is coming from the coaches. We need that to evolve."

The Aztecs had genuine leadership last year in senior Lorenzo Wade, a player that commanded respect with his play on the court and his demanding personality in the locker room. The hope was Tim Shelton, a sophomore forward, would fill Wade's leadership role.

But Shelton has been struggling to overcome off-season knee surgery, and Fisher doesn't want to make the mistake made last year of rushing him back.

Shelton not only missed the first exhibition game against Cal Baptist last week - along with White and Thomas - he hasn't been able to practice. White and Thomas returned to the practice floor Friday, although they may still be held out of the exhibition.

Fisher has asked senior guard Kelvin Davis -- the team's lone senior since senior Mehdi Cherot plans to redshirt - to assume a leadership role. He's trying to play the role, but he missed last year with Hodgkins' Lymphoma and it's a role he hasn't played since high school.

"Tim Shelton is our leader - he's a natural," Fisher said. "But he hasn't been on the court yet. Whoever leads now, are they going to lead by example or vocally?"

10

**Thomas has strong debut in SDSU win**

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 11, 2009

Here was Malcolm Thomas' stat line last night in his San Diego State debut: Ten points on 4-of-6 shooting, two rebounds, one steal, one dunk, several opposing shots changed by his long arms.

That was in the game's opening six minutes.

"It was nice to have Malcolm on the court," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said after the 89-56 exhibition win against Point Loma Nazarene at Viejas Arena. "He makes a big difference for us at both ends of the floor."

Equally elated about Thomas' return from a tweaked left knee was Tyrone Shelley. They played together at Crawford High and then as freshmen at Pepperdine. And Shelley got to move to the wing, his natural position, after playing in the post in SDSU's first exhibition.

Shelley finished with a game-high 24 points on 9-of-12 shooting (5-of-8 on threes) to go with nine rebounds.

Thomas, who only recently resumed practicing, finished with 13 points, nine re-

bounds, three assists, three blocks and two steals. Freshman Kawhi Leonard had 16 points in 24 minutes.

PLNU, led by Serra High alum Greg Murray's 22 points, trailed by only 13 with 15 minutes to go. But SDSU's athleticism and depth finally overwhelmed the NAIA Sea Lions, who managed just eight points over the final 10 minutes.

"We're inching forward," said Fisher, whose team spotted Cal Baptist a 12-0 lead last week before winning by 15. "The theme tonight was progress, and I thought we had it. Far from perfect, but progress."

The Aztecs open the regular season Saturday night at home against UC San Diego.

11

**Aztecs rout PLNU in final exhibition**

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
November 11, 2009

Even without two key players, the San Diego State men's basketball team rolled to an easy, 89-56 exhibition victory over Point Loma Nazarene at Viejas Arena on Tuesday night.

The Aztecs' final exhibition game before its regular-season opener Saturday against UC San Diego wasn't pretty though, as the Aztecs had 16 turnovers and didn't pull away until late in the game against an undersized and outmanned opponent.

Sophomore guard Tyrone Shelley scored a game-high 24 points ---- connecting on 5-of-7 shots from 3-point range ---- and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Aztecs, who played without forwards Billy White (wrist) and Tim Shelton (knee) for the second straight game.

Freshman forward Kawhi Leonard scored 16 points for San Diego State, and junior forward Malcolm Thomas added 13 after missing the team's first exhibition game with a knee injury. Junior center Brian Carlwell had 15 points in the win.

12

**White ready to lead Aztecs**

By Edward Lewis | Daily Aztec  
November 11, 2009

Take a step back in time with San Diego State men's basketball junior forward Billy White. He's around 8 years old and is about 5 feet 6 inches and lives in an apartment complex several miles from the Las Vegas Strip. He knows he wants to play basketball and he's ready to get in a game, but there's just one problem: There's only one court in the area.

It's about 10 minutes from his apartment complex, and there are these kids there who never let him play. He's little, and the kids there are all in middle school and always push him around. But he loves the sport, so he starts on the road to the courts and when he gets there, he asks the kids a question: "Can I play?"

They all tell him no.

But then a kid named Lorenzo Wade lets him in, and consequently, shapes White's future.

He takes White under his wing, shows him the ropes and lets him play on his hoop.

"He just taught me from there," White said. "I just looked up to him."

Wade moved some years later, and while White kept track of Wade in high school, Wade almost forgot about White.

While Wade was tearing it up on the high school floor, White was growing, and eventually, so was his basketball hype.

"I heard about this 6(-foot) 8(-inch) kid that could give me a run for my money," Wade said.

"He went to Green Valley High School where my sister went, so I asked her about him. My sister said it was Billy. I didn't believe it until I saw him."

White had grown into a force. And a few years later, when it came time to pick a college to play ball at, White found out Wade was at SDSU.

"I came on my visit and he was so thankful to get me here," White said of Wade. "I just wanted to play with Lorenzo before he left. And I had the chance to play with him for two years and it was wonderful."

The two were hardly a dynamic duo on the floor, but off of it, Wade was the mentor. There was some X's and O's talk, but one of the biggest things Wade taught White was how to lead.

Last season, even with an eight-game suspension, Wade was the unquestioned leader of the Aztecs. He was at every press conference fielding questions from the media, win or lose; he was vocal on and off the court and he was a teacher to the younger SDSU players.

"He used to tell me, 'When you see somebody doing something wrong, just step up and try to lead the team,'" White said.

Wade is now playing ball overseas, but White has already begun to take Wade's role as the leader of the Aztecs.

Three members of the San Diego media and two SIDs were in the stands at Viejas Arena for an SDSU practice, when one player on the court roared, "F---!"

The five in attendance gave a little wince, but then somebody yelled from the sideline: "Hey! Watch your mouth!"

It was White, and he was dead serious. Swearing is bad enough, but doing it in front of the media?

"I just try to do what (Wade) did," White said.

Last season, White was shy and quiet. After a game in which he went 12-for-12, scored 24 points, racked up eight rebounds and blocked four shots, he went to the post-game podium with Wade to talk about the 71-60 win against Wyoming. The media fired questions at the two Aztecs for a little more than four minutes. White only spoke for 34 seconds.

This season, though, White was one of the first players sought out at SDSU's first practice of the season on Oct. 16. He stood tall and poised and answered reporters' questions for several minutes.

"On this year's team, Billy seems to be the front-runner, to be the leader because of performance and experience in years past," Wade said. "It's not a given, but if he wants the role, it should be his."

White hasn't just been working on his leadership skills this offseason, though.

Both Wade and head coach Steve Fisher said White has the tendency to get down on himself. They both know how much potential the 6-foot-8-inch, 226-pound White has, yet sometimes he can't let a bad play go.

"He gets frustrated," Fisher said. "And he thinks about what just happened and he's not engaged in the play that's going on right now."

That all may change this season. Even though everyone had high expectations for White, he knew his game was incomplete.

"Sometimes I would get frustrated, because sometimes I couldn't get in the paint like I wanted to," White said. "So I needed to use a 15-footer."

But White never had a 15-footer in his game. So in the offseason, White worked on it.

He hooked up with former Los Angeles Lakers forward, now Houston Rockets' Forward, Trevor Ariza a couple of times. Ariza, who is also 6 feet 8 inches, helped White get a jump shot.

"He was telling me, 'Just keep shooting even though you're missing,'" White said. "Just keep shooting and it will come to you."

White said he would put up 200 shots a day, and before he banged his wrist against the rim in a practice last month, a lot of them started to fall.

"I had seen a difference," Fisher said of White before the wrist injury. "He was shooting the ball better and he was a little more versatile offensively."

White called the injury just a bruise, and expects to play in the season opener on Saturday against UC San Diego. Whether he lives up to the expectations remains to be seen, but his old buddy from Las Vegas thinks he will if he believes he can.

"He is a unique talent to me because of his God-given athleticism," Wade said. "I'm not just talking about the fact that he jumps out of the gym. I'm talking about the fact that he might be the quickest, fastest, strongest and most explosive player on the floor all at the same time on any given night. For Billy, the sky is the limit if he realizes that he is a basketball player — not a small forward or a power forward, simply a ball player."

"Thinking like that will allow him to regain the swagger that he had in high school and will make the game so much easier than it already is for him."

### 13 Expectations high for Aztecs basketball in 2009-10

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
November 11, 2009

Some starting roles haven't yet been assigned. Several key players are battling nagging injuries. And the San Diego State men's basketball team is missing a huge chunk of a core group that helped the Aztecs achieve a schoolrecord 26 wins in 2008-09 while reaching the NIT finals.

But despite those dilemmas, and with the season opening on Saturday afternoon against UC San Diego, Aztecs coach Steve Fisher is excited about his 2009-10 squad. When asked what he expects, Fisher plainly stated: "more of the same."

That's seemingly a gargantuan task for a team that graduated starters Lorenzo Wade, Richie Williams, Kyle Spain and Ryan Amoroso. But with perhaps the top class of transfers and freshmen during Fisher's 11 years on campus ---- a group featuring highly touted freshman Kawhi Leonard, sophomore Tyrone Shelley (a freshman All-American at Pepperdine in 2007-08), junior center Brian Carlwell (who played two seasons at Illinois) and junior forward Malcolm Thomas (who averaged eight rebounds at Pepperdine in '07-08) and freshman guard Chase Tapley ---- joining a solid returning group, featuring juniors Billy White and D.J. Gay, the veteran coach is highly confident his team will bounce back.

"I'm smart enough to know that the guys who are not here were paramount in the success we've had the last two, three, four years," Fisher said. "And they're not here. We've lost four starters plus five of our top eight, and that's more than anybody else in our league. So we've got holes to fill and we've got growing to do. That being said, we've got talented players. And we've got a core group of guys that have been there and done that."

One of the Aztecs' strengths, Fisher said, is that his team should be able to produce a lot of points in a variety of ways. A staple of Fisher's systems over the years is that his teams have always had the ability to run the floor. But short of Marcus Slaughter earlier this decade, SDSU rarely, if ever, has had a legitimate inside presence like Carlwell ---- who is listed at 297 pounds. Carlwell, who was limited to 29 games at Illinois after suffering a knee injury three games into his sophomore season, sat out last season per NCAA transfer rules but has been on Montezuma Mesa for more than a year.

"Everybody keeps saying, 'I can't wait for you to play ---- that you're going to be the biggest guy we've ever had,' said the 6-foot-11 Carlwell. "I didn't realize the actual team itself would be that big. We have all big wings and big post players and we do a good job of running the floor. ... We have a number of ways to score."

Much of the running will be left to Gay, Shelley (6-foot-6) and Leonard, who was the Los Angeles Times high school player of the year in 2008-09 while at Martin Luther King High in Riverside. Shelley, a Crawford High grad along with Thomas, averaged 15.1 points in his freshman year at Pepperdine but elected to return home. Tapley, who averaged 23.2 points as a senior at Sacramento High, also will see minutes at point guard.

One concern is the Aztecs may not have sufficiently replaced Williams at point guard, since Gay is more of a shoot-first guard and Tapley is also more of a shooter than a passer.

The team also returns sophomore forward Tim Shelton ---- who is still battling knee injuries but has averaged 7.9 points per game ---- and senior guard Kelvin Davis, who was granted a medical redshirt for 2008-09, and a sixth year of eligibility.

White, who has averaged 8.7 points and started 58 of his 66 games the last two seasons, believes the team has the right mix of new and returning players.

"We've been there before and know what to expect," White said. "So we're trying to teach the young guys what it's like on the court and off the court. Once we get that together and they understand college life, we'll be ourselves again."

Finding that mix is Fisher's main focus. The team has been hampered by injuries to White (wrist), Thomas (knee) and Shelton (knee), all of whom missed the team's exhibition opener Nov. 3. White and Shelton also missed Tuesday's exhibition against Point Loma Nazarene.

"I'm still trying to say, 'What's our best starting lineup going to be?'" Fisher said. "I don't know. I don't think the kids know. They all think they're one of the five, so we're going to find that out and I don't know whether it will happen before UCSD, whether it will happen before Saint Mary's (Nov. 16), whether it will happen before Arizona (Dec. 12) or Arizona State (Dec. 19). But it will happen. We'll find it."

## 14

### So much to prove

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 13, 2009

It wasn't a particularly good practice, filled with silly turnovers and elementary mistakes, and when it had mercifully ended Steve Fisher gathered his San Diego State men's basketball team around him at midcourt for a little chat.

He noted that junior Billy White is on most preseason All-Mountain West Conference teams.

That freshman Kawhi Leonard was California's Mr. Basketball last season (18 of the previous 20 winners of which reached the NBA). That Malcolm Thomas is a decorated transfer who flirted with turning pro last summer. That Tyrone Shelley is the all-time leading scorer in San Diego Section history.

And then Fisher told them this: "You know what? Nobody cares about any of that."

He paused and repeated himself: "Nobody cares."

The next night, the Aztecs blew out a capable Point Loma Nazarene team by 33 points in their final preseason exhibition.

The message, apparently, resonated.

"You haven't done anything yet," junior forward Tim Shelton said. "You still have to prove yourself."

Fisher never has had a team with more potential in his 11 years on Montezuma Mesa, or with more unknowns.

Or put it this way: He's missing eight players (four of them starters) along with 67 percent of the offense from a roster that went 26-10 and reached the NIT Final Four, and people are saying this team could — should — be better.

The reason: an incoming class rated in the top 15 in the country overall and the best among mid-major schools.

But potential is a fickle master, and nobody is awarded a conference title or gets in the NCAA Tournament because you're supposed to be good.

"We've got an opportunity to be very good, but so do a lot of teams," said Fisher, who opens the regular season Saturday afternoon at home against UC San Diego. "It may take us a while. It may click quickly."

"I really don't know."

Here are five keys to what, if nothing else, should be a highly entertaining season.

### Chemistry exam

You can replace talent and athleticism, and there's little debate the Aztecs did that. Replacing leadership and experience is a bit trickier.

"Sometimes I find myself saying, 'I miss those guys,'" Shelton said of Richie

Williams, Kyle Spain, Lorenzo Wade and the rest of the departed seniors. "There was just an atmosphere about last year's team. We all knew each other. We knew the plays. Everything went smoothly. Right now, there are some rough edges we kind of have to smooth out."

Shelton is clearly this team's leader, the closest thing to a coach on the floor, the kind of guy who holds people accountable and makes those around him better. Mr. Intangible.

The problem: He had offseason knee surgery and still hasn't been cleared to play games, and might not be for a while.

### The point is

People look at this roster, at its embarrassment of athletic riches, and keep coming back to the same question: Can junior D.J. Gay run the point?

He split time there last season with Williams, but he has always been regarded as shoot-first, pass-second. He averages fewer than two assists per game and has a career field-goal percentage of .346.

Recruit Eric Lawton, a point guard in the more classic mold, was expected to be his backup but didn't gain academic clearance and is at junior college. Another freshman, 6-foot-2 Chase Tapley, is being groomed as the backup instead, but he was primarily a scorer in high school.

Gay has heard the whispers, though, and is said to have done more in the offseason than anyone else to improve his game, putting 10 pounds of muscle on his 6-foot frame and tirelessly working on his shot.

Said Fisher: "I love D.J. — his disposition, his work ethic, his desire to show everybody he can be the point guard. He's grown tremendously from last year to this year ... I'm not worried about D.J."

### In the zone

Fisher expects to play more zone defense than in past seasons. He'll also probably face it more often, too.

"If I were playing against us," he admitted, "I'd try that."

Teams that can't match the Aztecs' athleticism (which means most of them) will merely pack in a 2-3 zone and dare them to shoot over it. Statistically, SDSU's five most accurate three-point shooters from last season are gone, and the new crop of players is not known as long-range bombers. The top returning marksman, Gay, shot a mediocre .328 behind the arc.

There is, however, one lights-out shooter at practice. Torrey Pines High alum James Rahon broke the freshman school record for three-pointers made (59) at Santa Clara. But as a transfer, he must sit out a year.

"It's one of those things we'll have to prove people wrong about," Shelton said.

### Glass eaters

Playing zone comes with two caveats. Teams can push the ball upcourt before the zone sets up. It also leaves you vulnerable to offensive rebounds because you're blocking out an area, not a man.

And the Aztecs can exploit both. They will run more this season, and they could rank among the best offensive rebounding teams in the nation.

White is one of the rebounders in the Mountain West. Now add Leonard, Thomas and 6-foot-11 transfer Brian Carlwell, and this sequence from the Point Loma Nazarene game could be a familiar sight: Missed three-pointer, offensive rebound, missed three-pointer, offensive rebound, layup.

### Quality wins

The Aztecs were snubbed by the NCAA Tournament at 23-9, presumably for not having enough "quality wins."

Translation: The eight NCAA Div. I teams they beat in nonconference games had RPIs (ratings percentage index) of 126, 176, 189, 197, 223, 243, 251 and 274. That's out of 343 schools. That's not good.

This season's nonconference schedule doesn't include anyone in the preseason Top 25, but it doesn't have Hampton, Northern Colorado or Arkansas-Pine Bluff, either. In their place are three teams from the West Coast Conference, four from the Big West and two from the Pac-10.

That enhances your chances of building a stronger résumé for NCAA selectors.



That also enhances your chances of getting beat early, particularly for a new team plagued by preseason injuries.

Fisher understands that. He also knows nobody cares.

"People just want results," Fisher said. "Don't make excuses. Give us results."

## 15

### Fisher happy with Gay's transition to point guard

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
November 14, 2009

San Diego State's D.J. Gay, the Aztecs' point guard in transition, found himself directing a third lineup his third time out this year with Tyrone Shelley sitting to allow a toe injury to heal before Monday's game at Saint Mary's.

The result was predictably a slow start against UC San Diego, although the Aztecs rebounded in the second half to put away the pesky NCAA Division II Tritons, 77-52, before 5,520 fans Saturday afternoon at Viejas Arena.

The win was SDSU's regular-season opener after also playing injury-shuffled lineups in exhibition wins over Cal Baptist and Point Loma Nazarene.

But don't blame the slow start on Gay, who finished with only 7 points on 2-of-7 shooting and 0-of-3 from 3-point range with five turnovers and four assists. That was head coach Steve Fisher's message despite the Aztecs committing 12 turnovers in the first half and 20 for the game.

"Read the paper and replay what was on the radio," Fisher said. "I would tell everybody, don't worry about point guard. We're in very capable hands.

"No one worked harder from March until now in this basketball program, and it's showing. He's extremely competitive, he's tough-minded and he's smart. Those are all the qualities you want in a basketball player, especially your point guard. We're excited with what D.J. brings to the table as the leader of this team."

Gay, a 6-foot, 167-pound junior from Sun Valley, played point guard part time last year behind Richie Williams, who graduated. He was set to take over a major role at the point this year, but that role increased even more when incoming freshman Eric Lawton, recruited as a point guard, failed to qualify academically.

"We had too many turnovers," Gay said of the slow start. "We tried to go too fast and I personally was pressing ..."

Fisher then interrupted Gay's comment.

"They gave him three turnovers that should have gone to someone else; they didn't catch the ball," Fisher said. "I said (to Gay), 'You've got to lead. You've got to have broad shoulders. You've got to lead and not worry about stats.' I'm very proud of what D.J. is doing for this team."

Someone else who isn't worried about Gay is junior forward Malcolm Thomas, who led the Aztecs with 20 points and nine rebounds. Counting his first outing, the Point Loma Nazarene exhibition win, he has 33 points and 18 rebounds in two games.

Thomas, a transfer from San Diego City College by way of Pepperdine, says the adjustment to playing in a big arena has been more than he expected. Pepperdine is a West Coast Conference school that plays in largely glorified gyms.

"If D.J. isn't on the court, I don't know how I'd play," Thomas said of the nerves he has felt. "He guided me through the game."

Gay has prepared himself to embrace the role, and that has to be helping him now that the options to relieve him are reduced. He played 30 minutes against UCSD after playing 32 against Point Loma (10 points, 5 assists, 2 turnovers) and 33 against Cal Baptist (18 points, 4 assists, 1 turnover).

"This was a big summer for me," Gay said. "We lost a lot of players, and I had learned a lot from Richie Williams. I was focused on leadership and becoming a true point guard and taking responsibility. Last year I was primarily on the wing."

Now he's primarily in the spotlight, and Fisher and Thomas say not to worry about him.

## 16

### Shelley rests before 11 o'clock game at Saint Mary's

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
November 14, 2009

Next up for San Diego State's men's basketball team is some Midnight Madness. Whether sophomore guard/forward Tyrone Shelley dresses for Monday's game at Saint Mary's, which begins at 11 p.m. as part of ESPN's 24 Hours of basketball, may not be known until the betwitting hour.

Shelley nursed a toe injury and sat out the Aztecs' regular-season opener against UC San Diego, a 77-52 win Saturday at Viejas Arena. It's the same toe that bothered him and limited his practice time before he played -- and played well -- in the first two exhibition wins.

"He wanted to play," said Fisher, who preferred caution by holding him out.

Fisher said the team doctor, Dr. Christopher Behr, told him on Friday he originally feared a stress fracture before studying the X-Rays. Behr recommended Shelley rest 36 hours, and he was wearing a protective boot on his right foot as he watched the game.

"He could have dressed and played in an emergency," Fisher said, "but rather than tempt ourselves, we said we're not going to play him."

Also not playing Saturday were junior forward Billy White (wrist) and sophomore forward Tim Shelton (knee). They missed the two exhibitions as well as the UCSD game. White is considered closer to returning to the lineup than Shelton.

The SDSU-Saint Mary's 11 p.m. start is part of a schedule that has ESPN broadcasting games around the clock for 24 hours from the East Coast to Hawaii. Fisher said the national exposure is worth the odd starting time.

"I'm excited or I wouldn't be a participant," Fisher said. "Would I prefer 8 o'clock? Absolutely. Am I excited about playing? Most definitely. And our team is also.

"It's a good team we're going against. Anytime you can go on the road and get a win against a good team, which is our goal, it's significant. Our kids aren't worried about the 11 o'clock start. That's the way of the world today. It's the second year they've (ESPN) had these games."

## 17

### SDSU's sluggish start OK vs. UCSD

By Nicole Vargas | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 15, 2009

Yesterday's men's basketball game between San Diego State and visiting UC San Diego was listed as an exhibition on the Tritons' schedule.

Between a lackluster first half and having more starters on the bench than on the court, the Aztecs might as well have listed it as such on their schedule, too.

But behind the play of Malcolm Thomas and D.J. Gay, SDSU was able to overcome a slow start in its season opener to finish with a convincing 77-52 over the Division II Tritons at Viejas Arena.

"We've got lots to do," said Aztecs head coach Steve Fisher. "We'll get better. We need to get better. (Thomas and Gay) are two that are going to be catalysts. We need to grow together. But this was a good start for us."

Getting to that result was made more difficult because of the number of SDSU starters in street clothes. Not only was SDSU still without forwards Billy White and Tim Shelton, but Fisher decided to hold out guard Tyrone Shelley, too.

Shelley, who averaged over 20 points in SDSU's two true exhibitions, sat out with a nagging foot injury Fisher said has been ruled out as a stress fracture, but still was troubling the 6-foot-6 Crawford High grad.

Asked if he expected Shelley and White to suit up for the Aztecs' televised game against nationally ranked Saint Mary's Monday night, Fisher appeared hopeful.

"We look over and see in street clothes three guys that all three of them think are good enough to be starters for us," Fisher said. "We talk about our depth, but we're missing three guys that really enhance our depth."

## 18-20

Despite being short-handed and ahead just 31-28 at the half, SDSU returned to the court in the second half with a renewed focus on putting distance between itself and UCSD.

Determined to score first, Gay found Thomas coming off a screen, and the 6-9 junior scored the first of 16 consecutive Aztecs points. Meanwhile, the Tritons were unable to make 12 shots before finally scoring with 12:25 left in the game.

Thomas scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half, making 8-of-11 from the floor, while Gay dished out four assists and was one of three SDSU players to tally two steals.

"We competed pretty well, but we only did that for 28 minutes," UCSD head coach Chris Carlson said. "At this level, you have to compete for 40, as the cliché goes. Anytime you play a Steve Fisher-coached team, there's going to be great adjustments in the second half. We knew they were going to up the tempo and try to speed the game up and we didn't act accordingly."

The combination of SDSU's size, especially in the paint, and early pressure from its defense, left the Tritons with few options but to shoot from behind the three-point line, something they tried 30 times, making six.

The Aztecs were 3-of-9 from long distance.

The Tritons' early offensive struggles allowed SDSU to lead by as many as eight points midway through the first half thanks to a baseline layup by Brian Carlwell. But as the half progressed, the Aztecs' defensive intensity seemed to falter, opening the door for the Tritons to close the gap.

With seconds left in the period and UCSD down just 29-28, Tritons guard Jay Weh had the ball at midcourt with the opportunity for UCSD to take the lead. But Thomas stole the ball and scored to build a 31-28 lead at intermission.

In addition to Thomas' 20 points, Kelvin Davis — starting for the first time since Feb. 13, 2008 — had 10.

Chase Tapley came off the bench for 11 points.

Senior guard Tyler Acevedo's 22 points led the Tritons.

## 18 Sluggish Aztecs pull away from Tritons

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
November 14, 2009

On paper, San Diego State may have its most talented men's basketball team in coach Steve Fisher's 11-year tenure.

The team's incoming class, which received national recognition in several recruiting publications, features several key transfers and a handful of highly regarded freshman.

As they work out the kinks, however, the Aztecs are more appealing on paper than in real life. With three key players out with injuries, the Aztecs needed a monster second half run to overcome a sluggish start and visiting UC San Diego 77-52 in the season opener for both teams Saturday afternoon at Viejas Arena.

Playing without frontcourt players Tyrone Shelley (foot), Billy White (wrist) and Tim Shelton (knee), the Aztecs committed 12 turnovers in the second half and clung to a 31-28 lead at halftime. But San Diego State scored the first 16 points of the first half and eased to victory over the NCAA Division II Tritons from there.

It wasn't exactly a banner opening for a team that Fisher expects to continue the success of last year's 26-win squad that reached the NIT final.

"We tried to speed it up but we weren't playing with the intelligence that you have to have," Fisher said of the first half. "But we did what we were supposed to do. We won."

Junior forward Malcolm Thomas, one of the newcomers, scored 13 of his game-high 20 points in the second half to lead the Aztecs. Thomas committed three turnovers in the first half but contributed a pair of highlightreel dunks after halftime and helped San Diego State outscore UCSD 46-16 in the paint for the game.

"I (started) kind of sluggish," Thomas said. "But I kind of picked it up (in the second half)."

A bigger test will come on Monday night, when the Aztecs travel north to face Saint Mary's at 11 p.m. in a nationally televised game.

Fisher said he was unsure if White or Shelley will play against the Gaels. The team no longer believes Shelley has a stress fracture, but it did not say what the sophomore transfer from Pepperdine might be suffering from.

"I hope," Fisher said of the trio's availability for Monday's game. "We look over and see three guys on the bench, and all three think they're good enough to be starters."

Still, even with several of their top scorers sidelined on Saturday, SDSU found ways to score, turning to Thomas and 6-foot-11 center Bryan Carlwell (nine points) inside. Guards Kelvin Davis (10 points) and Chase Tapley (11 points) also scored in double figures for the Aztecs, who shot 59 percent from the field.

Tyler Acevedo led UCSD with 14 points.

## 19 Aztecs hoopsters ready to play their part

By Nicole Vargas | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 16, 2009

It's hard to turn down an opportunity to play a college basketball game on national television in prime time.

Granted, it's prime time in Hawaii. But SDSU's men's basketball team sees plenty of upside in its part in ESPN's 24-hour College Basketball Tip-off Marathon.

"I'm excited about it, or we wouldn't be a participant in it," said Aztecs head coach Steve Fisher, whose team will play at Saint Mary's in Moraga tonight at 11 p.m. "Would I prefer to be playing at 8 o'clock? Absolutely. Am I excited about playing? Most definitely, and our team is also."

SDSU (1-0) will not only get valuable national exposure, but after two exhibitions and another game against Division II UCSD, they will finally play D-I competition against a familiar opponent.

The game marks the seventh meeting in the past six years for the squads, including last year's NIT quarterfinals.

"I'm anxious and excited," Aztecs guard D.J. Gay said. "We all are. We have to take a step back and look at the new team they have without Patty Mills. It's going to be a good game and I'm excited about it."

It could be argued that SDSU's team will look just as new, especially if returners Billy White and Tim Shelton are not yet healthy enough to play after sitting out with wrist and knee injuries, respectively.

The Aztecs also could miss the familiarity former Pepperdine guard Tyrone Shelley has with the Gaels. Like White and Shelton, Shelley has been sidelined with an injury, his to a foot.

Fisher said he was hopeful Shelley and White could be suited up after Saturday's convincing 77-52 victory over the Tritons. However, no change was reported in their conditions as of last night, leaving their status uncertain.

That makes it all the more important to the Aztecs that Gay and players such as forward Malcolm Thomas, who scored a game-high 20 points, pick up where they left off against UCSD.

It's a very good team we are going to play," Fisher said. "Any time you can go on the road and get a win, which is our goal, it's significant, so we'll have our hands full."

## 20 Early cold spell sinks Aztecs against hot Gaels

By Damin Esper | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 17, 2009

It didn't seem like it, but St. Mary's men's basketball team missed some shots during the Monday portion of the late night game with San Diego State. In fact, the Gaels even missed their first shot — Wayne Hunter's jumper.

But they didn't miss many in the early going. Unlike the opposition. The Aztecs

just couldn't sink a shot in the early going and the result was a nationally televised embarrassment – an 80-58 loss.

"We were amped, we were excited," San Diego State guard D.J. Gay said. "We pressed the issue a little bit too much, we were overanxious, took us a while to settle down and play our game."

St. Mary's (2-0) used a 20-3 run to build a 25-5 lead in the early going. Guard Mickey McConnell did a lot of the damage early, burying a 3-pointer to put the Gaels up for good at 3-1, hitting four more without a miss in the first half and finishing the night with a career-high 24 points.

McConnell is expected to fill part of the scoring load of Patrick Mills, who now is in the NBA. He looked more than capable on Monday night/Tuesday morning.

In contrast, San Diego State (1-1) missed 11 of its first 12 shots. For the first half, the Aztecs were an atrocious 6 of 28 (21 percent).

Worse, San Diego State wanted to pressure St. Mary's but couldn't because the Aztecs needed to make a shot to set up the press.

"We wanted to put a little bit of pressure (on them) but shots weren't falling," Gay said. "It was hard to get them to turn the ball over or slow them down without making shots."

Throw in eight turnovers which led to 15 of St. Mary's points, and you get a 42-21 halftime deficit.

Anybody who stayed up for this one probably did the sensible thing at that point and went to bed.

"This was a night that we got thoroughly whipped by a better team," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said.

"They're not that much better and hopefully when the dust settles at the end of the season, we will be significantly better.

"This is a very good team that beat us. And we did not play very well."

Gaels coach Randy Bennett credited his defense.

"We made it tough for them to score and we wanted to keep them in front of us," he said. "They're quick and long, so we wanted to make them shoot tough shots over a hand and no second shots."

The Aztecs came out better in the second half, making half their field goals and cutting the score to 12 a couple of times. But St. Mary's responded and never really lost control of the game.

Gaels center Omar Samhan tied a career-high with 16 rebounds to go along with 17 points. Matthew Dellavedova also scored 17 for the winners.

Malcolm Thomas led San Diego State with 14 points. Gay and Billy White added 10 apiece.

The Aztecs return home on Thursday to host Santa Clara.

## 21

### Gaels deal SDSU slice of humility

By San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 18, 2009

San Diego State men's basketball fans who tuned into ESPN on Monday night at 11 to watch the game against Saint Mary's were greeted with two harsh realities.

They got a preview of the type of teams on the Aztecs' nonconference schedule, followed by a look at the Aztecs team that will play them. Neither was particularly promising.

ESPN pre-empted the start of SDSU-Saint Mary's so it could show the conclusion of its earlier game, in which Cal State Fullerton upset UCLA at Pauley Pavilion in double overtime. The Aztecs host Fullerton on Dec. 9 at Viejas Arena.

And by the time ESPN cut to McKeon Pavilion in Moraga, there was 7:51 left in the first half and the Aztecs trailed 29-9 — well on their way to a humbling 80-58 loss in their first real test of the season.

"We were thoroughly beaten from start to finish," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said, "and that didn't change when I watched the tape."

The team didn't practice yesterday, leaving one day to fix things before facing another West Coast Conference team, Santa Clara tomorrow night at 7 at Viejas Arena. That's followed by road games at Fresno State and at Pacific, the latter which beat USD on Monday night.

In fact, there's a whole lot of meat and not a lot of cupcakes through Christmas. Of the next 10 games, the easiest on paper is Nov. 28 at home against a Northern Arizona team that went 9-19 last season. Otherwise, it's a grind.

"There's no question about that," Fisher said of a nonconference schedule that includes six of the next 10 on the road. "We're going to have to play. We can't show up and expect to win. I'm aware of it, and our players are aware of it. These are good teams."

Particularly Saint Mary's, which had already made 6-of-9 three-pointers by the time ESPN went to the game.

The Aztecs missed their first seven shots and didn't make one until 12:35 left in the first half.

Even so, they trimmed the margin to 12 with eight minutes left and had a two-on-one break after a steal by Tyrone Shelley.

Said Fisher: "If he makes that and cuts it to 10, you think, 'Maybe we can win this.'"

Instead, Shelley dribbled off his thigh and out of bounds.

### Game time change

Tip-off for the Northern Arizona game on Saturday, Nov. 28, has been changed from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Viejas Arena.

## 22

### Home far sweeter for SDSU's Rahon

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 19, 2009

As a transfer who must sit out this season, James Rahon is tasked with running the opposing team's offense at practice. Yesterday he was simulating Santa Clara's offensive sets, pretending to be highscoring sophomore guard Kevin Foster and doing a darn good job of it.

He should. Rahon was Foster's roommate last year.

Rahon can't play for San Diego State in tonight's basketball game against Santa Clara at Viejas Arena, but it still figures to have its awkward moments for him, right down to the postgame handshake line. A year ago he was a freshman guard for the Broncos, averaging 11.3 points and making the West Coast Conference All-Freshman team. Now he's sitting on the opposite bench.

"I try to see it as just another game," Rahon said. "But yeah, knowing the guys on the other team will be a little different."

Players transfer more and more frequently these days (SDSU currently has seven), but what makes Rahon's move unique is that his move wasn't based on playing time. The Torrey Pines High star started 17 games as a true freshman at Santa Clara, averaged 27 minutes — third-most on the team — and was given the green light to launch 145 threes.

What more could he want?

"The coaches and staff, I can't complain. They're good coaches," said Rahon, who has three years of eligibility remaining. "My teammates were cool guys. It just was the whole feel being away from home. I really realized what was important. I wanted to watch my (younger) brother play down here and be with my parents and family, and have them come to all my games.

"Also, being from San Diego, playing for San Diego is definitely something I take pride in — playing for my city is a big thing. There were important things I felt I was missing out on up there."

Rahon's departure was not the smoothest. He and Santa Clara coach Kerry Keating never sat down to hash it out, instead trading quotes in the student newspa-

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per. Rahon also claimed the school wanted to remove his scholarship for the spring quarter, an issue that eventually was resolved (Rahon finished the year at Santa Clara under scholarship).

A Broncos spokesperson said Keating declined comment about Rahon, deferred to a statement issued last spring that confirmed Rahon would transfer and said: "We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors."

In April, Keating told the student newspaper, The Santa Clara : "It is disappointing for me because we have spent a lot of time, energy and effort recruiting James. We definitely had goals for our team that involved James' production for us."

Said Rahon: "He took it a little hard."

Santa Clara's loss, San Diego's gain. Rahon, who shot 40.7 percent behind the three-point arc for the Broncos, is expected to fill an immediate void next season with his deep range. He has grown an inch to 6 feet 4½ and gained 15 pounds to 205. His improved ballhandling gives the Aztecs depth at point guard as well.

"I really like it here so far," Rahon said. "I think I made the right decision."

## 23

**Aztecs get to show off firepower**

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 20, 2009

There was the San Diego State men's basketball team that played Monday at Saint Mary's. And there was the SDSU team that played last night against Santa Clara.

Same names on the back of the jerseys. Same numbers.

Same SD logo with the spear on their shorts.

That's pretty much where the similarities ended.

The Aztecs did to Santa Clara what Saint Mary's did to them, only worse, winning 86-53 before 5,401 at Viejas Arena in a game that wasn't even that close. With four minutes left, SDSU led by 40.

On Monday the Aztecs had seven total assists; last night they had eight in the first half. On Monday they scored 21 points in the entire first half; last night they put up 30 in a dizzying, electrifying 10-minute stretch in the second half.

"That wasn't an SDSU team (on Monday)," forward Billy White said. "That was someone else out there."

White had come off the bench in the 22-point loss to Saint Mary's, and last night Fisher started him in place of Malcolm Thomas to put some octane in the gas tank.

To "energize us," as Fisher put it.

White finished with a game-high 17 points and continually harried Santa Clara at the front of the press, and a close game became a 38-22 halftime lead.

The lead was still at 16 in the second half when, suddenly, as if someone noticed the Christmas lights were unplugged and stuck the cord back in the wall, the Aztec team everyone had so eagerly anticipated this season was on display in all its sparkling glory.

White converted a steal into a fast-break layup. White soared to tip in a missed shot. Shelley drained a three.

Chase Tapley drained a three. Kawhi Leonard flew in seemingly from El Cajon for an acrobatic tip-in. Leonard threaded a half-court bounce pass to Tapley – true freshman to true freshman – for a layup.

A three from Leonard, a jump hook from Thomas, a layup by Brian Carlwell, a three from Shelley, a steal and dunk from Kelvin Davis, a twisting reserve layup from White ... The Broncos blinked. When they opened their eyes, they were down 40.

Five SDSU players scored in double figures, and Leonard had nine points to go with 13 rebounds and four assists. In all, nine players scored and 11 played. Santa Clara (2-1) was without sophomore guard Kevin Foster, who was averaging

20 points but was left home to complete what coach Kerry Keating called "academic obligations." Another player, 6-foot-8 post center Chris Cunningham, was out with an injury.

Not that it would have mattered the way the Aztecs (2-1) played for long stretches.

"They're long and they're deep, and they're well-coached," Keating said. "Just seeing them out there and seeing their size can be intimidating. I expect them to be a postseason team, an NCAA team."

Next up for the Aztecs are road games at Fresno State and Pacific.

"I'm anxious to see," Fisher said, "if we play a little more like we did here and less like we did (at Saint Mary's)."

## 24

**Aztecs finding their game with altered lineup**

By Tom Shanahan | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 20, 2009

The season is a little more than month old since practice began and less than a week since the first official game was played Nov. 14 against UC San Diego. Somewhere in the middle is the state of the San Diego State basketball team (2-1), which has been hit by preseason injuries that limited court time for roster that includes three transfers, three freshmen and one, Kelvin Davis, back from a bout with Hodgkins Lymphoma.

In the hunt for the combinations that click, SDSU head coach Steve Fisher unveiled a new lineup in an 86-53 win over Santa Clara Thursday before 5,401 fans at Viejas Arena.

The bounce back win came three days after the Aztecs were embarrassed when they started slowly and lost 80-58 at Saint Mary's on a ESPN national telecast.

One of the changes Fisher made was giving junior forward Billy White his first start. White had missed the two exhibitions and season-opening win over UC San Diego with a wrist injury before coming off the bench against Santa Clara to score 17 points with eight rebounds.

"All of us were mad," said White of the Saint Mary's debacle. "That wasn't San Diego State. That was someone else."

We took the loss hard. It was in the back of our minds when we came out here, but we had to forget it and move on. That's what we did tonight."

In all, five players were in double figures and freshman Kawhi Leonard just missed a double-double as he finished with nine points and 13 rebounds.

"This is what we hoped for," Fisher said. "We started and ended with effort. We played very hard, and when you play hard you give yourself a chance to win."

"I thought Billy White was the catalyst. He got us started with the press and the way he ran the floor. In my opinion, that energized everyone. We moved the ball and when we got open looks we made them."

The first half moments that led to a 38-22 halftime lead included:

- Two 3-point field goals by Davis, a senior guard, within a minute of each other;
- A thunder dunk by junior forward Malcolm Thomas when his spin move took him to the middle of the lane and he reached to the rim with arm extended and dunked; Thomas had another move inside when he was quick to the offensive rebound for a basket;
- A fastbreak give-and-go executed by White when he passed to junior point guard D.J. Gay, positioned on the left side, and Gay gave the ball right back for a layup. It would have been a 3-point play, but White missed the free throw;
- An offensive rebound basket by junior center Brian Carlwell after Thomas missed a hook;
- Leonard and fellow freshman Chase Tapley hit from outside with Leonard sinking an 18-footer and Tapley his only 3-point attempt of the first half.

The improved rhythm continued in the second half as the three transfers -- Thomas, Carlwell and Tyrone Shelley -- and the three freshmen -- Leonard, Tapley and Alec Williams -- and Davis pushed the Aztecs to 48 points in the second half.

In addition to White and Gay, the other players in double figures were Shelley,

12; Tapley, 12; and Davis, 11.

Fisher's mixing up the lineup continues to develop depth from a talented but inexperienced roster still learning to play together. Carlwell, Davis, Leonard and Gay made their third straight starts, but White started in place of Thomas.

Thomas, who finished six points and four rebounds, had started the first two games. Shelley, who was a starter in the exhibition season before he was held out of the season opener, came off the bench, too.

"I could have started five different guys," Fisher said. "I felt there were certain things we wanted to get; we wanted to get some consistency. You don't just look at the box score.

"It was not directed in a negative way to the two that didn't start. I told them, 'I could have started five different guys, but I'm not going to do that. I'm going to change the lineup and be prepared, you might not start.' Nobody knew who would start until they got to the locker room."

Santa Clara played without Kevin Foster, its leading returning scorer (14.7) and leading scorer this year. The sophomore guard was averaging 20.0 points a game after wins over Cal State Bakersfield and Menlo College. Foster didn't make the trip to San Diego. Santa Clara head coach Kerry Keating said he was left home for academic reasons.

## 25

### Aztecs' White has 'monster' evening

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 24, 2009

San Diego State's most effective play last night was patiently working the ball around the perimeter against the Fresno State zone and jacking up a three-pointer. And missing badly.

And then having Billy White snag the offensive rebound and score.

It happened three times in the final three minutes - twice on air balls - and it proved to be the difference in a gritty 62-58 win against Fresno State before 8,041 at the Save Mart Center.

Memo to Pacific, which hosts the Aztecs tomorrow night: You might want to block out No. 32.

White had two points and three rebounds at halftime. He finished with 22 points and eight rebounds, including six on the offensive end. Twelve of his second-half points came after SDSU offensive rebounds.

"Billy's a monster," said guard D.J. Gay, who had more than a few of his 10 misses vacuumed up by White's endless arms. "He definitely stepped up and put the team on his back and carried us."

The score was knotted at 56 when SDSU coach Steve Fisher called a timeout with 44 seconds left and diagrammed a play. It was supposed to go to Kawhi Leonard at the top of the key, but the screen came late and Leonard wasn't open. So Gay dribbled to his right and, with the shot clock expiring, went to the old standby. He jacked up a deep three. And missed badly.

White was there on the left block to corral it, just as he was when Tyrone Shelley and Leonard air-balled threes on consecutive possessions a few minutes earlier. White was fouled and made both free throws (PI:85) impressive because of the juncture of the game and also because 10 days ago he had a splint on his left (shooting) wrist. Last night he was 6-for-6 from the line.

After Fresno State guard Mike Ladd missed a runner that would have tied it, and Shelley (17 points) made two free throws to seal the Aztecs' first road win of the season.

"Fortunately, the balls kept going to my side," White said. "I think they were trying to block me out, but I got around them. I just kept saying, 'It's my rebound.'"

White wasn't alone. The Aztecs (3-1) finished with 15 offensive rebounds, nine coming in the second half. Of the last six three-pointers that the Aztecs missed, they got the offensive rebound on all six. It's not supposed to work that way.

"We have to get a body on a man," said Bulldogs coach Steve Cleveland, who had six freshmen or sophomores in his seven-man rotation. "This was a team that

beat us by (24 points) last year. They just drilled us. So I'm pleased with the improvement. We were three or four offensive rebounds from winning this game. w "It was that close."

The positive for the Aztecs, of course, was that they won a close game on the road in a traditionally tough place to play despite a marginal shooting performance.

The negative was their marginal shooting performance. Fresno State (2-2) packed in a 2-3 zone most of the evening and was content to let the Aztecs fire away. They were 7-of-25 behind the arc, and just 3-of-18 after a hot start.

"After that performance, I'm guessing so," Gay said when asked if he expects more teams to play zone.

"Anyone watching that game knows we kind of struggled against the zone. It's something we're definitely going to have to work on."

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### FISHER BUILDING A NEW LEGACY AT SAN DIEGO ST.

By Jagdip Dhillon | Stockton Record  
November 25, 2009

The man who reached the pinnacle of his profession just weeks into his head coaching career has spent the past decade immersed in a rebuilding project.

Steve Fisher, who guided the Michigan Wolverines to the 1989 NCAA championship after he was named interim coach in the final week of the regular season, is in his 11th season as coach at San Diego State. The Aztecs will play Pacific at 7 p.m. today at Spanos Center. San Diego State had suffered losing seasons in 13 of the 14 seasons before Fisher's arrival, but he has guided the school to six post-seasons, including an NIT Final Four appearance last season.

"We're very proud of how much we've grown the program," Fisher said. "With four consecutive 20-win seasons, our attendance and the expectations have increased."

The Aztecs won a school-record 26 games last season, and Fisher said despite losing four starters, he feels he has another postseason-caliber team.

Pacific coach Bob Thomason said Fisher's track record speaks for itself.

"He's really turned around that program, because he's done a great job recruiting and coaching his kids," Thomason said. "He's not only a great coach, but he's a good person. I have the utmost respect for him."

Fisher, who has a 345-218 career record, affirmed his abilities as a coach at Michigan when he guided a group of talented freshmen known as the "Fab Five" to the championship game in 1992. Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King and Ray Jackson made a return appearance to the championship game in 1993 and an Elite Eight appearance in 1994 after Webber left for the NBA.

"We captured the imagination of the country when the Fab Five came to town," Fisher said. "We were the white-hot team in the country. Kids from Florida to California were following us."

Fisher was fired by Michigan in 1997 after an NCAA investigation revealed the program's ties to booster Ed Martin, who later was indicted for money laundering and running an illegal gambling operation. Michigan eventually vacated three of Fisher's seasons (1992-93 and 1995-97) in wake of the scandal. Fisher said despite the sour ending, he looks back fondly at his time in Ann Arbor.

Before heading to San Diego State, Fisher made a short stop in Northern California in 1999. He was an assistant coach for the Sacramento Kings for one season and said he loved working with Hall of Fame coach Pete Carril and Rick Adelman.

"That was a wonderful experience for me," Fisher said. "It's 24/7 basketball and to sit and pick Pete Carril's mind was wonderful.

I have great memories and learned a lot."

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**Sluggish Aztecs lose again in NorCal**By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 26, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team has worn black uniforms on the road this season, and last night they unveiled new red ones.

Can it try any other colors?

Or maybe it should just stay out of Northern California.

The Aztecs wore red and then saw it against the University of the Pacific, losing 71-63 at the Alex G. Spanos Center in one of those games that may haunt them when the NCAA selection committee fills out its Tournament bracket in March. They are now 0-2 in NorCal, and 3-0 against everyone else.

The 22-point loss at Saint Mary's on Nov. 16, they could blame on the funky 11 p.m. tip-off and the Gaels' cracker-box gym and a brutal opening seven minutes. This one wasn't so easy to dismiss.

All you needed to know is that the Aztecs usually wrap up their post-game chat in under five minutes, and last night the visitors' locker room was still closed 15 minutes later. Head coach Steve Fisher talked.

Assistant coaches talked. Players said their piece.

"We have a lot of talent," Brian Carlwell said. "But everybody has to be hungry." Added Fisher: "We're in a state where we all have to say, 'What can I do? What I can I do to help this team?'"

We're a team right now that, it doesn't matter who we line up against, we've got to play harder and play smarter.

We do that in stretches, but just doing it in stretches isn't enough."

This was a game lost not in the closing minutes, when a spirited Aztecs rally fell short, but in the closing minutes of the first half. The Aztecs had just taken their first lead at 25-22 with five minutes to go; at halftime they trailed 42-29.

The Tigers (4-0) closed the half with a 15-1 run that was sparked by a hard slap of the backboard. Pacific's Nyika Williams had just missed a fast-break layup when Carlwell, trailing the play, smacked the glass with his palm.

Referees generally let it slide if the player is trying to block the shot, but they deemed Carlwell was not — he slapped the right side of the backboard and Williams' shot was on the left — and whistled the 6-foot-11, 297-pound center for goal tending and a technical foul in what amounted to a four-point play. The halftime numbers were ugly.

Bench scoring: 21-3, Pacific.  
Fast-break points: 8-0.  
Points in the paint: 26-8.  
Points off turnovers: 11-1.

The Aztecs returned for the second half re-energized and cut the lead to three on Kawhi Leonard's layup with 4:29 left. But the next sequence typified their night and sealed their fate.

Pacific's Terrell Smith drove the baseline and reverse dunked with no Aztec there to help followed by a missed SDSU three-pointer followed by Pacific's big men beating the Aztecs down court for a fast-break layup followed by two straight SDSU turnovers.

"We came out kind of sluggish, took them for granted a little bit," said forward Billy White, who finished with 20 points after making the first two three-pointers of his career. "It's a lesson learned."

**Next up**

The Aztecs play Northern Arizona on Saturday at Viejas Arena. Game time has been changed from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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**Aztecs try new lineup with Tapley starting at guard**By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
November 28, 2009

The matchmaker in Steve Fisher tried something different with his San Diego State starting lineup for Saturday's game against Northern Arizona.

Fisher has earlier gone big with 6-foot-11 center Brian Carlwell and two forwards and he's gone smaller and quicker with three forwards.

But this time he tried starting three guards, including true freshman guard Chase Tapley.

Tapley, making his first career start, wasn't the only reason the Aztecs (4-2) routed the Lumberjacks 89-48 before 4,390 fans at Viejas Arena, but he was a key reason SDSU got off to a fast start and ran the floor better than they have this year.

"I thought we ran the floor with more purpose on offense," Fisher said. "I thought we did a better job of how we ran, where we ran and who ran. It was good to get the win and get the win in the fashion we did."

There will be plenty of options to choose from when Fisher wants to highlight what he liked during film study with his team.

Junior forward Billy White stole a pass at the top of the key, fed Tapley on a side-by-side sprint down court, Tapley gave the ball back on the run and White swooped and dunked the alley-oop return pass from Tapley.

Junior forward Malcom Thomas stole the ball at the free throw line, pushed the ball upcourt and fed Tapley for a fastbreak basket.

Thomas dunked off a pass from junior point guard D.J. Gay.

Sophomore guard/forward Tyrone Shelley stole the ball at the top of the key and went the rest of the way for a layup Thomas dunked again, this time off of a pass from Shelley.

And all that was in the first nine minutes as the Aztecs led 23-2 with 11:46 remaining in the first half en route to a 45-18 halftime lead.

Thomas finished the night with a double-double of 21 points and 10 rebounds, including hitting 10-of-11 field goals. But Thomas, bouncing back from double teams that slowed him in a win at Fresno State and loss at Pacific earlier this week, has scored 20 in a game earlier this season.

Tapley, though, played his most prominent role of the season. The Sacramento High alum finished with 11 points on 5-of-7 from the field with five assists and no turnovers. He was 1-of-3 from 3-point range.

"Chase is as willing of a young freshman as we've had in my 11 years here," Fisher said. "I love Chase. He's a 'Yes sir, No sir' guy that looks you in the eye. He accepts responsibility -- maybe more than he needs to.

"I believe he will be someone our fans will grow to love. He will progress as a basketball player over his career. He's got to get better -- he sticks on screens too much -- but he is what you hope to have in young players. He's someone willing to learn, anxious to get better and looking for someone to help him. You're going to see good shots from him. He's someone that will be better in February than he is now, which is important."

In all, the Aztecs had six players in double figures, including a double-double of 10 points, 10 rebounds from true freshman forward Kawhi Leonard off the bench. Shelley finished with 17, White 12 and guard Kelvin Davis 11.

It was also a game when the Aztecs recorded season highs of 19 assists and 12 steals. Gay led the way with seven assists and only one turnover as the Aztecs finished with only seven turnovers as a team.

San Diego State's win brought to a close its portion of the Santa Clara Classic. The tournament was played at home sites across the state, and the Aztecs finished up winning three of four games. They also beat Fresno State and Santa Clara but lost to Pacific.

Northern Arizona (2-3) beat Santa Clara but lost to Fresno State to finish 1-2. The Lumberjacks game against Pacific had to be suspended due to a power outage.

The Santa Clara Classic, which allows teams to schedule an extra game when it's played as a tournament rather than as normal nonconference games, matched five teams from western conferences -- Mountain West (SDSU), Big Sky (Northern Arizona), West Coast (Santa Clara), Western Athletic (Fresno State) and the

Big West (Pacific).

"I told our squad after the game that sometimes in a lopsided victory, you don't have as good of a feeling as the fans with the things you saw," Fisher said. "But today I did. I thought we did as good job as we done all season playing half-court defense. We didn't give up gap dribble drives. We helped better. They didn't make shots, but we contested the vast majority of them and didn't give them easy looks."

29

### Lumberjacks feel wrath of SDSU

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
November 29, 2009

When Northern Arizona finally made its first basket yesterday, 8½ minutes into the game and trailing 23-2, the San Diego State student section stood and erupted in a robust cheer.

Maybe it was just youthful sarcasm. Or perhaps the usually merciless SDSU students were exuding the holiday spirit and showing genuine compassion toward their fellow man. Some heartfelt sympathy.

The Lumberjacks were missing two key players and using walk-ons in their regular rotation. And the Aztecs were at home, looking for a heavy bag following a disappointing road loss.

It's a combustible mixture.

We saw it last week with the 33-point spanking of undermanned Santa Clara. The script was similar yesterday, the Aztecs felling the Lumberjacks 89-48 before 4,390 at Viejas Arena in a game that midway through the first half was on pace to finish 108-9.

Hard to fathom this was the same Aztecs team that lost by eight at Pacific on Wednesday — or, for that matter, lost by eight against anybody.

"You could tell (SDSU coach Steve Fisher) had their attention after the loss they had the other night, and they played accordingly," NAU coach Mike Adras said. "We showed up, got punched in the face and wanted to go home."

It was just the tonic the Aztecs (4-2) needed. They turned up the defensive pressure, got out and ran, got heralded transfer Malcolm Thomas untracked, got freshman Chase Tapley his first start, and continued their streak of 41 games without consecutive losses in the month of November. They had season highs in assists (19) and steals (12), and came within one of equaling the school record for fewest turnovers (six).

"Sometimes in a lopsided victory you don't have quite as good a feeling as the fans do with the things you see," Fisher said. "But today I did I believe that's progress, but we have lots of work to do and a long way to go."

And not a lot of time to do it. The next five opponents entered yesterday with a combined 18-4 record. Here's the tricky part: Three of them are on the road, starting with Wednesday's game at USD.

"The Pacific loss was a rude awakening for us," said Thomas, whose team is 1-2 away from Viejas Arena. "We thought we were playing better, but they came out and just smashed us."

Thomas was a combined 2-of-8 from the floor over the two-game road trip and struggled defensively at times.

Yesterday: 21 points on 10-of-11 shooting, 10 rebounds, three assists, one block and no turnovers.

In all, six Aztecs scored in double figures and 10 players got in the book. Even more impressive was fast-break scoring. In the past two games, SDSU had six total points on the break; yesterday they had 18 in the first half.

Fast-break points by NAU (2-3): zero.

Yet for all the lopsided numbers — the Aztecs led by as many as 45 — and elevated defensive intensity, two ominous trends continued for SDSU. It was poor again behind the three-point arc (3-of-16) and at the freethrow line (14-of-24).

"It was good to get the win in the fashion that we did," Fisher said. "It will take

that and then some (at USD).

We need to turn the page tomorrow and get ourselves ready for a very, very good team."

30

### Aztecs put together complete win over Northern Arizona

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
November 29, 2009

When Steve Fisher's team plays together, it can be quite a sight.

On paper, the group is teeming with talent, size and depth. But thus far, continuity has been lacking for the San Diego State men's basketball team in the 2009-10 season.

That wasn't the case Saturday afternoon.

Playing perhaps their most complete game of the season, the Aztecs rolled to an easy 89-48 nonconference victory over Northern Arizona in front of 4,390 at Viejas Arena.

The effort was a total turnaround from Wednesday ---- when SDSU lost by 8 points to an undermanned Pacific squad on the road ---- and it couldn't come at a better time for the Aztecs (4-2), who travel to face the upstart University of San Diego on Wednesday.

Junior forward Malcolm Thomas had 21 points on 10-of-11 shooting to pace SDSU, which jumped ahead early with a 19-0 run on the way to its second consecutive home win by 30 or more points.

"Sometimes in a lopsided victory, you don't have quite as a good (of) a feeling as maybe the fans do with the things you see," Fisher said. "But today, I did. I thought we did probably as good (of) a job as we did all season playing half-court defense. ... I thought we contested the vast majority (of their shots) and didn't give them easy looks. I believe that's progress."

With their defense in overdrive and an overwhelming advantage on the glass against a talent-poor Northern Arizona squad, the Aztecs' offense found itself in transition early and often.

Starting with a Billy White (12 points in 17 minutes) dunk with 18 minutes, 11 seconds left in the first half, SDSU turned a two-point edge into a 23-2 lead in a span of 6:25.

Eight of the team's nine baskets made during the stretch came via a layup or a dunk, including four off turnovers or blocked shots. Thomas, who was one of six players to score in double figures, had six points during the run for the Aztecs, who held a 34-4 advantage in the paint, including 18-0 on fast-break points.

"Once we're in front, we just run the offense," Thomas said. "We're kind of comfortable, but we still have a lot of things to work on. But everybody comes in and works hard every day. Nobody makes excuses, and I think we'll be ready on Wednesday."

One area in which improvement is needed is outside shooting. The Aztecs made just 3-of-16 3-point attempts. But that could be overlooked since SDSU had 43 rebounds to the Lumberjacks' 23, including 16 on the offensive end. Thomas had six offensive rebounds and Kawhi Leonard (10 points) had five for the Aztecs, who had 23 second-chance points.

"It was good to get the win, but good to get it in the fashion we did and it will take that and then some on Wednesday," Fisher said.

Tyrone Shelley scored 17 points in the win and freshman Chase Tapley had 11 in his first start.

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### Bragging rights on line for Aztecs, Toreros

By Hank Wesch | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 2, 2009

**Who guards Brandon Johnson?** Normally SDSU's D.J. Gay takes the other team's lead guard, but he might be needed elsewhere tonight against USD's three-guard offense, particularly when USD point guard Patrick McCollum is in the game.

SDSU coach Steve Fisher expects "any of three or four guys could ultimately spend time guarding" Johnson, a fifth-year senior averaging 15.6 points. That means senior Kelvin Davis, freshman Chase Tapley or — the most intriguing possibility — 6-7 freshman Kawhi Leonard ends up on the 6-0 Johnson. Leonard has long arms, gigantic hands and has proved so far to be a formidable perimeter defender.

**The screens:** USD likes to run Johnson off one screen, and another and another. That poses two problems for the Aztecs. One is that his defender could get caught in the screen, leaving Johnson open. The other is that SDSU players might "switch" defensive assignments, putting a bigger player on Johnson and a smaller guy on a Torero post. "I don't want to get stuck on him," says 6-9 forward Malcolm Thomas, who went 0-for-3 against Johnson and the Toreros as a freshman at Pepperdine. "He's very good." The Aztecs have been lazy defending screens at times this season but have worked to tighten that up in recent games.

**How does USD handle SDSU's size?** The flip side of playing three guards is that there are going to be some major mismatches at the other end of the floor. The Toreros handled No. 25 Oklahoma, but the Sooners had one legit post player and the Aztecs regularly use a lineup with four players 6-6 or taller. "Just a really long, athletic lineup," USD coach Bill Grier says. If the Toreros stick with their preferred man-to-man defense, that means double-teaming in the post. Another option is to zone an Aztecs team that is merely shooting 30.8 percent behind the three-point arc. Fresno State had success packing in a 2-3 zone against the Aztecs and nearly beat them. "If I were them," Fisher admitted, "I'd play some zone against us and see how we react."

**Crunch time:** If it's a close game, and all indications are it will be, it will be interesting to see who responds the best under pressure. Neither team has much experience this season in nail-biters — each team has played only one game decided by four points or less. Give the Aztecs the advantage in that they pulled out a win (62-58 at Fresno State), scoring with 19 seconds left in a tie game and then snuffing Fresno State's attempt to force overtime. USD, meanwhile, lost by a point at Pacific. But give the Toreros the advantage if they have a late lead. They have plenty of ball handlers, and they're better at the free-three line, where close games are often won and lost. They're shooting 77 percent from the line, compared to 61.1 percent for SDSU.

**Home-court advantage:** SDSU has been two completely different teams this season at home and away. In three games at Viejas Arena, they're averaging 84 points, shooting 56 percent from the field and have a plus-14.3 rebounding margin. In three games on the road: 61 points, 39 percent and a minus-1 rebounding margin. "On the road, it's their fans talking to you and their fans hyping their team up, and you kind of get lost in that," Thomas said. "We have to work harder on that and get better than that."

It took him three years, but the record shows that Steve Fisher has managed to restore Aztec order to San Diego's Division I men's basketball universe.

In the decade before Fisher arrived at Montezuma Mesa, 1989-98, USD won five of seven meetings in the crosstown rivalry, and in three years (1993, '94 and '97) the competition was allowed to lie fallow, mainly because of a lack of enthusiasm on SDSU's part.

Fisher took his lumps upon his arrival as the Aztecs lost the first three matchups with the Toreros. But since then, SDSU has won six of seven and the Aztecs will take a three-game winning streak in the series into tonight's 7 p.m. contest at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

"They beat us by 28, I think (correctly), the first year," Fisher said. "They had significantly better players. So having good players helps. Now, I think both of us have good players.

"We're talking about city bragging rights. I think when I first came here there was probably more of a premium by them than us. They were better than we were, but maybe they circled it (on the schedule) and we didn't. I don't know.

"Lately, both teams have been circling it. This is a big game for us. I know it's a big game for them also. ... But for us, it's an extremely important game now."

Both teams are 4-2. The Aztecs come in off a rout of Northern Arizona on Saturday. The Toreros were routed Saturday by Washington State in the championship game of the Great Alaska Shootout in Anchorage after knocking off No. 25 Oklahoma and well-regarded Houston on the way to the tournament final.

"We're playing a really good team," Fisher said. "Even though our records are the same, you watch tape on them, they're more impressive with who they've

beaten and how they have beaten them."

Both teams have a minority of upperclassmen with experience in the rivalry and a majority of underclassmen and newcomers with little or no experience of it.

Brandon Johnson is the only Toreros player to savor a USD victory in the series. As a freshman reserve point guard, he played in USD's 90-80 victory in 2005.

A personal rivalry between Johnson and SDSU counterpart Richie Williams was initiated that year and continued through 21/2 more matchups — until Johnson suffered a season-ending Achilles' tendon rupture near halftime of last year's game.

"Me and Richie had the same thing going, all right-hand guards and full of speed," Johnson said of the 2005 circumstances. "I didn't really know the rivalry then, but after that game I understood the rivalry and the battle between State and San Diego.

"Richie competed every minute and he inspired me to be just as competitive back against him. Yeah, I'll miss him."

Johnson is back for a fifth SDSU game because a medical redshirt season was granted by the NCAA for the injury. With Williams graduated, dealing with the quickness and scoring ability of Johnson will be one of the major tasks for SDSU.

"I got hurt last year in it but I'm hoping there's no karma in there and I'm looking forward to the game," Johnson said. "I feel like I have to make my guys understand the seriousness of it in this city and the jam that we've got going on."

USD coach Bill Grier, 0-2 against San Diego State, is wary of the Aztecs.

"They're incredibly athletic and talented across the board. I like their team," Grier said. "I know they're young in some positions, but they've made a lot of growth since the season opened and it seems like they're pretty dialed in and they're a scary team right now.

"We have to come out with the energy and effort that this game deserves."

While most of the Aztecs have known victory over USD, forward Malcolm Thomas and teammate Tyrone Shelley, both San Diego High products, are 0-for-3 against USD.

The losses came in their freshman seasons two years ago at Pepperdine before they transferred to SDSU. The margins were three and four points in regular-season games and 18 points in the quarterfinals of the West Coast Conference Tournament at USD.

"They were tough," Thomas recalled. "They played as a team. It was really hard to get a win against them. It's my revenge time for us right now for them beating us three times while I was at Pepperdine.

"They just have guys who work hard and do everything the coach says and give 110 percent every night. They are the kind of players who are hard to beat."

SDSU has, however, found a way six of the last seven years.

## 32

### Aztecs' Gay is getting the point

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
December 2, 2009

Six games into his transition from being part of the show to running it, D.J. Gay faces his sternest challenge to date when the San Diego State men's basketball team plays at the University of San Diego on Wednesday.

Having converted from shooting guard to point guard this season, the Aztecs junior will go head-to-head with Toreros point guard Brandon Johnson, a player whom San Diego State coach Steve Fisher believes to be among the most versatile guards he has coached against.

And though Gay won't be the only Aztec to defend Johnson ---- Fisher said he may use as many as three or four defenders on Johnson ---- he's ready to test himself.

"(Johnson) is a great guard," Gay said by phone on Tuesday. "Coach (Fisher) said of all the guards he's faced, he's probably the one who gives us the most prob-



lems. He's a true test, but I'm excited for it."

Gay has faced a series of hardships since Fisher asked him to replace four-year starter Richie Williams at point guard after prized recruit Eric Lawton failed to qualify academically.

Calling it a "whole new experience," Gay first had to alter the score-first mentality of a shooting guard to become more cognizant of the offensive tendencies of his teammates. Gay, who's averaging 7.8 points and 4.2 assists in six games this season, is now in charge of knowing where his teammates are on every offensive play, identifying their tendencies and then anticipating how those tendencies can affect any given play.

Perhaps the more complex alteration, however, the one Gay and Fisher admit the guard is struggling with, is being a vocal presence on the court.

"He must become more verbal," said Fisher, who said he's pleased with Gay's performance thus far, but also noted the guard must improve upon his 34-percent shooting from the field. "He knows what to do but doesn't always communicate that to everybody else. He needs to become more assertive when he's on the floor, because he has the ball more than anybody else."

Gay entered the 2009-10 season having started 49 of the Aztecs' 69 games during his first two years. But rarely was he called upon for any sort of vocal leadership.

"I've been pulled out of my comfort zone," Gay said. "The last two years, I was a wing and had Lorenzo (Wade), Kyle (Spain) and Richie to lead. It's the hardest transition for me. (Being vocal) is definitely something I wasn't doing. But I'm in a position now, not where I can do it, but I have to do it."

As challenging as his transition is, Gay said he is encouraged by his progress. He has 10 steals in six games after having 50 through his first two seasons. His assist-to-turnover ratio has improved from 1.42 to 1.9, and Gay is enjoying his role a distributor on a team loaded with offensive threats. And though there's no doubt he has and will continue to struggle at times, Gay said he's prepared.

"Richie let me know it's going to be tough," Gay said. "At times, there will be adversity. But he told me my teammates were going to support me."

That they have. Gay's enthusiasm and willingness to accept the position switch have turned his teammates into his biggest fans. Fellow junior Billy White said the Aztecs are highly confident in Gay's abilities because of the way he has handled difficult tasks in the past. Gay temporarily played point guard during his freshman year when Williams broke his wrist.

Gay started 26 games that season and led the team with 45 percent shooting from 3-point range.

"He could do anything under pressure," White said. "D.J. is holding his own out there. I'm very proud of him, and our whole team is proud of him. ... He's still shooting when he's wide open, he's still creating offense. He's becoming a real good point guard in this conference."

#### Aztec notes

F Alec Williams (sprained ankle) will not play against University of San Diego, according to coach Steve Fisher. ... Fisher said F Tim Shelton (knee) is still limited, but he could return to game action later this month. ... G Chase Tapley (hip flexor/groin) was limited in practice on Sunday, but should play Wednesday.

### 33

#### Fisher builds program and City Championship game

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 2, 2009

This time of year, we're reminded Steve Fisher has built more than a basketball program in town in what is now his 11th season as San Diego State's head coach. Whether his rival coach at cross-town University of San Diego was former coach Brad Holland or is current coach Bill Grier, Fisher has created a legitimate City Championship game to follow and get worked up over. The showdown played with more meaning now than in past decades is renewed at 7 p.m. Wednesday at USD's Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Fisher, as the head coach of the town's higher-profile program with a larger fan following, could easily have treated USD like a little brother once he arrived here. But he's long trumpeted this game and said both programs benefit from the suc-

cess of the other.

"We are preparing for what has turned out to be a very exciting, challenging, eventful game between San Diego State and the University of San Diego," Fisher said. "I think what has now happened is that both teams have circled that game as one of the most important games of the season. Not one team, but both teams. I know we have and I am positive that they have."

This is the 12th consecutive year the teams have played -- yes, believe it or not, they didn't play in 1997 or in 1993 and 1994. The games are sellouts at USD's 5,200-seat JCP and or near-sellouts such as the 9,923 that turned out at SDSU's Viejas Arena last year for a game won by the Aztecs, 57-46.

They ought to play a home-and-home each year, a subject Fisher says has been discussed.

The players have embraced the City Championship, too. That's true if they're San Diegans playing college basketball in their hometown or they're out-of-town recruits that have been around long enough to feel protective of their turf.

SDSU's local players are sophomore guard/forward Tyrone Shelley (Crawford), junior forward Malcolm Thomas (Crawford) and redshirt guard James Rahon (Torrey Pines), who is sitting out this year as a transfer from Torrey Pines.

USD's local player is Parick McCollum, a freshman guard from San Diego High. "Our kids either knew one another, have gotten to know one another, have an opportunity to mingle, both in the offseason socially and they have played in the other another's venues," Fisher said. "From that standpoint, that's a part of it. When it's this close, you're both talked about in the same newspaper. You don't want to say you watch who's above the fold or who has more inches of coverage, but you want to be perceived to have a leg up from winning this year's game."

Both teams are 4-2 this season, but USD is considered an overachieving unit playing with a sum that is better than the parts, and SDSU underachieving as it tries to find a cohesive unit.

The Toreros were only picked sixth in the West Coast Conference, but they've enjoyed early-season upsets of Stanford, then-No. 25 Oklahoma and Houston.

USD senior guard Brandon Johnson, granted a fifth-year medical redshirt after he suffered a torn Achilles' tendon in last year's USD-SDSU game, leads the Toreros. The 6-footer from Houston is averaging 15.6 points a game.

"We're both 4-2, but they're playing a little bit better, and I'm not surprised," Fisher said. "They have two fifth-year seniors in Brandon Johnson, who was injured (at Viejas Arena) last year, and (Chris) Lewis, who are starters. De'Jon Jackson is a fourth-year starter for them, who may be the glue to the team. They bring in another senior off the bench (6-9 center Roberto Mafra, a junior college transfer).

"They have a veteran ballclub and Bill Grier and his staff have done a great job with that team at this early stage of the season. As I watch their tape, I am very, very impressed with them."

SDSU, picked second in the Mountain West Conference, is still trying to mesh its talent after a preseason injuries and illnesses interrupted their continuity. Billy White (wrist), Thomas (knee), Shelley (foot) and Tim Shelton (knee) missed practice time toward what Fisher calls a key figure of 30 straight practices together. Shelton is the only one that hasn't seen playing time, but he is getting closer to seeing the court.

After struggling with their outside shooting in a win at Fresno State and loss at Pacific, Fisher inserted freshman Chase Tapley into the starting lineup for Saturday's win over Northern Arizona. One of the results was the Aztecs found their running game again in an 89-48 victory.

In the early going, White is leading the Aztecs with 16.2 points a game. Shelley is averaging 12.4 and Thomas 12.0.

"Our team right now, I think we are a little bit better as a result of the road swing to Fresno State and Pacific," Fisher said. "We had some blemishes exposed in both of those games, even though we won one, and we were better served when we came back home and practiced on Friday after Thanksgiving and played very good basketball against Northern Arizona. Hopefully we play that way (on Wednesday)."

And a lot more people care who wins the game than before Fisher arrived in

town.

### 34

#### Point guard Gay has a game to remember

By Tim Sullivan | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 3, 2009

D.J. Gay has chosen his title. The plot, however, is a work in progress.

San Diego State's junior point guard would call his autobiography, "From Nothing To Something." The nothing reflects his low-profile past. The something, so far, is unspecific.

"I'm from a little town where nobody has really made it," Gay said last night at Jenny Craig Pavilion. "I think the last person from my school to play professionally was Gail Goodrich."

It's been 48 years since Goodrich completed his glory days at Sun Valley's John H. Francis Poly, and it may be 48 more years before the school produces a player of that exalted caliber.

But D.J. Gay was certainly something last night. And for the most part, something pretty special.

Gay scored a career-high 22 points in the Aztecs' 69-62 overtime victory over the University of San Diego Toreros, frustrating USD star Brandon Johnson early and making most of the big free throws late in a city championship game that was more exciting than it was exacting.

"I'll never forget it," Gay said. "I'll tell my kids about this game."

And what will he tell them?

"Your dad had a great game."

As a demonstration of basketball brilliance, this ballgame did not belong in any textbooks. The three-guard Toreros shot just 34.4 percent on their home court and looked alarmingly lean inside. The longer, more athletic Aztecs confronted Bill Grier's zone defenses as if trying to perform a crossword puzzle in Chinese.

SDSU staggered toward the end of regulation with a series of groan-inducing gaffes that included a bounce pass out of bounds and a series of clanked free throws. Neither team produced a single point in the last 2:23 of regulation.

Yet as an individual matchup, the head-to-head battle between Gay and Johnson was fairly compelling drama.

Gay held Johnson to three shots in the first half — all of them off-target — and he was able to withstand the furious closing rush of USD's most assertive scorer, who eventually willed his way to 21 points.

"He played great tonight," Johnson said of Gay. "He's got a nice little jumper. I think he outplayed a couple of us."

Both Johnson and Gay are listed at 6 feet even, but their program weight shows a 28-pound disparity. Johnson weighs 195 pounds, mostly muscle; the 167-pound Gay is comparatively gaunt.

But when push came to shove last night, Johnson was hard-pressed to shed his slight SDSU shadow. Johnson did not sink his first field goal until 12:33 remained in regulation, and as the game wore on, his face was a study in frustration.

"I watched tons of film on him," Gay said. "I got to see what he likes to do, his go-to move and stuff like that."

That's what helped me defensively.

"I was just getting into him, always having a hand there, trying to be a little physical, making it uncomfortable for him to shoot."

Both players played more than 40 minutes, and both of them demonstrated fatigue as their duel developed.

"He went off for a second," Gay said. "He had nine straight points and I said, 'Here we go.' Luckily, I think he got a little tired, but so did I."

Most nights, D.J. Gay does little to grab your eye. He seldom shines on the stat sheet or makes a move worthy of a highlight reel. He has played in every game of his SDSU career and generated less buzz than a cell phone on vibrate. He appeared for the opening tipoff last night averaging 7.8 points per game and shooting just 20 percent from three-point range.

But he was plainly the difference in this ballgame, the guy who neutralized USD's leader, the guy who sealed the game with five free throws in the final minute of overtime. When D.J. Gay tells his children about this game, he need not embellish his efforts.

"He's a winner. He has been everywhere he's been," Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said. "Of all our players tonight, he kept his composure and kept his head as the game went on. He scored a lot of points, but it was more than points that he did for us."

He was, for the most part, something to see.

### 35

#### All Aztecs, again

By Hank Wesch | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 3, 2009

USD struggled against San Diego State's sizable height advantage in the paint.

Putting a triple whammy on USD, San Diego State's men's basketball team last night extended its victory streak over the Toreros to four with a 69-62 overtime win before 4,662 at Jenny Craig Pavilion.

First five minutes of the game — whammy, SDSU 6, USD 0.

First seven minutes of the second half — whammy, SDSU 13, USD 0.

First three minutes of the five-minute overtime — whammy, SDSU 8, USD 0.

The time in between was either USD surging or the teams exchanging counter-punches. But the way the Aztecs came out of the starting blocks on those three occasions determined which team went to 5-2 on the season and which slipped to 4-3.

"One of the bullet points we put up (on the locker room bulletin board) is have three runs of eight or more (points) in the game," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said. "This was a nice step for us, to beat a team as good as they are in their building. I think we've taken some growth. Now we can't get full of ourselves."

Point guards Brandon Johnson of USD and D.J. Gay of SDSU engaged in a riveting personal duel, which wound up a virtual push. Johnson had 21 points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal, Gay finished with 22 points, one rebound and one assist.

But the Aztecs' superior length and athleticism, exhibited at all the right times, turned the tide.

"Early in the game, it looked like we played almost scared," said USD coach Bill Grier. "Like some of our guys were afraid of their size and getting shots blocked. The second half, I don't know why we started like that. In overtime, we had two point-blank shots we missed, and that took the wind out of our sails."

SDSU outrebounded USD 38-33 and blocked six Toreros shots. Malcolm Thomas (6-foot-9) had 10 rebounds, eight points and a block; 6-6 guard Tyrone Shelley 10 points, six rebounds and three blocks, and 6-8 forward Billy White eight points, nine rebounds and two blocks.

White blocked a three-point attempt by Chris Lewis, recovered the ball and took it to the other end for a slam in the final minute of overtime to put the final seal on the victory.

"We were just trying to make it hard for them," said White. "Coach said use our length, that's the one thing we have over them."

USD's best chance to end the years of frustration against the crosstown rivals came at the end of regulation.

With the score tied 52-52, USD had five shots, getting four offensive rebounds and calling one timeout in a span of 46 seconds.

Four of the five were from extremely close range, but all missed. From inside the three-point arc, USD shot 27.8 percent for the evening.

Johnson brought USD back from 12 points behind after the first eight minutes of the second half, scoring 16 of USD's 24 points in the period. But the effects of a hamstring strain, fatigue and Gay's defense took his effectiveness away in the final minute.

"Those guys (SDSU) came out and competed," Johnson said. "He (Gay) really ran his team well and took a couple of us out of it. I feel like they were throwing the first blows and we were falling back. And once we got going, it was too late."

### 36

#### Aztecs are city champs

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
December 2, 2009

For his team's first six games, San Diego State men's basketball coach Steve Fisher constantly reminded newly converted point guard D.J. Gay not to forget about his shooting guard roots. On Wednesday night, the junior brought his best marksmanship to Jenny Craig Pavilion. He also brought his composure.

The combination led to a career-high 22 points, including seven in overtime, and a personal victory in a head-to-head battle with Brandon Johnson as the Aztecs rallied several times late to defeat cross-town rival University of San Diego 69-62 in front of 4,662. It was San Diego State's fourth straight win over the Toreros (4-3) and provided the team with its biggest road victory of the season.

"It was all effort and adrenaline," said Gay, who made 4-of-8 3-point tries. "When we got down the second or third time we said, 'Enough was enough.'"

Extra efforts on missed shots early in the overtime period led to second-chance baskets by SDSU freshman Kawhi Leonard ---- who saved the Aztecs in the closing seconds of regulation with a steal of Johnson ---- and Malcolm Thomas. Junior Billy White followed that effort with a steal of USD's Clinton Houston that led to a breakaway layup and a 58-52 SDSU lead. Gay then fired one more dagger after Thomas (eight points, 10 rebounds) gathered in a USD miss ---- one of 14 over the team's final 17 shot attempts.

Working on the right wing, Gay attempted to get the ball inside to Thomas, but couldn't as the Toreros' zone continued to swallow up the Aztecs' inside opportunities. But Gay continued working, moving to the top of the key and driving inside until he knocked down a 10-foot jumper for a 60-52 lead. From there, Gay made 3-of-6 free throws to seal the victory.

"He's unassuming and he's been a winner everywhere he's been," Fisher said of Gay. "Of all our players, he maintained his composure, kept his head and that was a calming influence. He scored a lot of points but it was more than just points."

So was Johnson's second half for USD. Nearly a year after his season ended when he suffered a left Achilles' injury against the Aztecs, Johnson single-handedly rallied the Toreros from a 40-28 deficit with 13:21 left in the second half.

The senior point guard ---- who didn't make his first basket until the 12:28 mark ---- drilled a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 9. After Devin Ginty hit a 3-pointer, Johnson (21 points) followed with a 3-point play, another field goal and another triple to cut SDSU's lead to 43-42. Several minutes later, Johnson went nearly off-balance to hit a 3-pointer that gave the Toreros a 49-48 lead.

"He's a keeper," Fisher said. "He can make shots that are closely guarded. He can make shots that are impossible."

USD coach Bill Grier credited SDSU's long arms for giving his team fits on the offensive end. With hands in the face of nearly every shot, the Toreros hit just 34.4 percent of their field goal attempts. They only made 2-of-9 shots to begin the game, went 0-for-7 to start the second half and were 0-for-4 to start out overtime.

"Devastating loss," Grier said. "We certainly had our chances. ... We missed some point-blank shots and when we did that in overtime it took the wind out of our sails."

### 37

#### Rivalry game lives up to its billing

By Jay Paris | North County Times  
December 3, 2009

It started 30 minutes before tipoff and never stopped.

"Let's Go Aztecs!" came the cry from the northwest corner. "Let's Go Aztecs!" The reply from the Toreros' bunch below the basket was predictable and equally as loud: "USD, USD!"

OK, it's not North Carolina-Duke, Oklahoma-Texas or UCLA-USC.

It is the University of San Diego-San Diego State men's basketball game and for this city, for these schools, there is no bigger local athletic stare down.

When these colleges square off in baseball, it's a similarly chippy. But nothing matches being inside ---- on this Wednesday, at the Jenny Craig Pavilion ---- watching hoops with plenty of hop.

The Aztecs prevailed, 69-62 in overtime, before a packed house that was treated to a battle of basketball, of fans, of mascots and school bands.

It was a game to see and where to be seen ---- and what other college tussles in the 619 can say that? Bill Walton was among those on hand. The Padres' Jeff Moorad, Buddy Black and Chris Young were in the Slim Gym; ex-Padres general manager Kevin Towers found a seat.

Hallelujah, even Father Joe was spotted.

The stars ---- San Diego's version ---- were out. And the in-crowd saw a spirited competition.

"It's fantastic," Walton said. "It's great for the city of San Diego with these powerhouses going head-to-head before a sold out crowd ---- with all the power brokers of the city. But mostly, this is fun."

It was a hoot, more so for Aztecs than the Toreros. Those bragging rights acquired with the win will last the entire year.

"I think what has now happened is that both teams have circled that game as one of the most important games of the season," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said beforehand. "Not one team, but both teams. I know we have and I am positive that they have."

Billy White, whose thunderous dunk off a steal put the exclamation point on the triumph, had to correct his coach.

"We circled it twice," he said. "This is exciting to be in San Diego and just to play this game."

Teammate D.J. Gay, who had a game-high 22 points, agreed.

"To play in a game like this is what a basketball player dreams about," said Gay, whose battle with Brandon Johnson was enticing. "Whatever you think it is, multiple it by 30 and that is what it is."

The first half saw the Toreros almost become the bull instead of the bull fighter. They fell behind 15-7 midway through the half, but rebounded to tie the game at the 5:35 mark and then seized the lead on Chris Lewis' sweet jumper moments later.

The second half started in the same manner, as the Aztecs built a 40-28 lead and looked primed to run the Toreros off the court.

But SDSU got sloppy and the Toreros pulled to within 40-34.

This night, though, belonged to San Diego sports fans ---- as well as SDSU.

"It is a great rivalry game," said Johnson, who was nursing a sore hamstring.

Both teams are trying to find their court legs.

The Aztecs, fresh from last year's NIT final four, have athleticism in newcomers Malcolm Thomas, Kawhi Leonard and Tyrone Shelly.

The Toreros, fresh from dropping the Alaska Shootout final after beating Oklahoma and Houston, is leaning on those longer in the tooth: Johnson, De'Jon Jackson, Chris Lewis and Clinton Houston.

It was in this showdown last year Johnson was lost for the season, shredding an Achilles' tendon when hustling for a ball.

He started slow Wednesday, not scoring a basket until nearly eight minutes into the second half. But once he got revved, he went red-line scoring 11 of the USD's 14 points to slice its deficit to one.

The Toreros tied the game at 52 and after White missed two free throws, they had numerous chances to skip out winners before the regulation ended.

But USD had a problem when Houston misfired on two short shots for the lead. It maintained possession with 40 seconds remaining, but Johnson couldn't sink on a difficult, left-handed drive.

White inbounded to Gay, and with Johnson on him, he tired to get the ball to White and Johnson punched it away and raced the opposite direction. Leonard caught Johnson ---- to save the game ---- racing down the court and stealing the ball.

The overtime was dominated by the Aztecs; the experience was embraced by San Diego's college hoop junkies.

### 38 Hostile UCSB crowd doesn't deter Aztecs

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 6, 2009

The UC Santa Barbara men's basketball team has three televised home games this season. Last night wasn't one of them.

That wasn't a good thing for San Diego State fans wanting to see their team play from the comfort of their living room.

That was a good thing, though, for SDSU fans wanting to see their team win.

The Aztecs prevailed 69-61 at UCSB's Thunderdome amid incessant chants of "Dirty, dirty state school" from the notorious Gaucho Locos student section, but not before what appeared to be a huge assist from the home team's shot clock operator.

Here was the situation: Aztecs up 64-61 inside of 30 seconds, with the shot clock down to about three seconds. SDSU guard D.J. Gay drove and launched an 8-foot leaner from the right baseline.

It went 6.

Forward Malcolm Thomas, camped out under the hoop, grabbed the air ball, pump faked and scored while getting fouled to make it 66-61 with 25.3 seconds left.

The problem: The shot-clock operator pushed "reset" because he thought Gay's shot hit the rim. The referees conferred but without TV replays had no definitive proof to reverse the call and award UCSB the ball down three with a sharp-shooter, James Powell, who had already made six three-pointers.

"You can't reset the thing if the ball doesn't hit the rim," a frustrated Gauchos coach Bob Williams said. "That's the disappointing part."

Instead, Thomas went to the free-line with a five-point lead and missed ... only for freshman Kawhi Leonard to snatch the offensive rebound and score for a 68-61 lead.

"For anybody to win on the road is difficult," said Aztecs coach Steve Fisher, whose team has won three of its last four road games. "I don't care who you are. It's tough. I think you've got to feel good about that."

As much as fortune shined on the Aztecs (6-2) in the closing seconds, this victory was forged with less glamorous commodities — grit, fortitude and composure. There were numerous opportunities to break last night, and the Aztecs merely bent.

"Nobody put their head down when the other team was going on a run," said transfer Tyrone Shelley, who finished with 17 points and eight rebounds in his most complete performance as an Aztec. "We took their best punch, and we kept throwing punches back."

It was a night when Gay, coming off a career-high 22 points against USD, had seven turnovers. A night when foul trouble limited forward Billy White to four points and three rebounds in 23 minutes. A night when UCSB's 1-1-3 zone defense was maddeningly hard to crack. A night when the Aztecs once again were poor behind the three-point arc (5-of-20).

But it also was a night when they found a way to get it done.

The key stretch came midway through the second half. White had returned to the game with 12:52 to go with three fouls. Thirty-nine seconds later, he had No. 4 and was back on the bench.

The Aztecs have struggled on the road all season. But they've really struggled on the road when White — their heart, their soul, their veteran presence, their Energizer Bunny — is on the bench.

He went out with 2:38 left in the half. A nine-point lead evaporated to a two. It happened again early in the second half, when he picked up his third foul. A 10-point margin became three.

But it didn't happen after White got his fourth and sat for nearly six minutes. Powell (20 points) and the Gauchos (4-2) would close to a single point, at 53-52, but they never took the lead. When White returned with 6:32 left, SDSU led by 10 again.

Another way of putting it: The Aztecs, with so many new faces this season, may have grown up last night. The other four starters all scored in double figures and shot a combined 60.5 percent.

"We rely on Billy a lot," Fisher said. "To be able to sustain and perform when (he) went out is significant. It was nice to see that we hung in there."

### 39 Aztec shooting percentage down, but not confidence

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 9, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team often ends practice with someone shooting a free throw. Make it, and practice is over. Miss, and everyone runs.

First up Monday was Malcolm Thomas. He missed. Everyone ran.

Then it was Billy White's turn. Another miss, another sprint.

Then Brian Carlwell. Miss. Sprint.

Then coach Steve Fisher stepped to the line himself. He missed, too, and joined in the sprint as punishment.

Then, mercifully perhaps, he ended practice.

It has been a recurring theme this season, the sharp reduction in accuracy as the Aztecs (6-2) move farther from the basket. They are shooting 61.1 percent from the free-throw line, by far the worst among Mountain West Conference teams. They're an equally mediocre 29.6 percent behind the three-point arc, including 24.1 percent over their past three games.

But here's the bizarre part: They're also missing shooting themselves in the foot. They're making 68.6 percent of their free throws and 34.4 percent of threes in losses ... compared to 58.8 percent and 28.2 percent in their six wins.

"You know, everybody's worried about it but me," Fisher said. "I mean, we've got to be able to make some shots, but I'm not worried about it. ... We won't be a lights-out shooting team maybe. But we'll shoot the ball well enough where people will have to respect our ability to shoot it."

Added point guard D.J. Gay: "The only way you can get out of a slump is keep on shooting, so that's what we're going to have to do. They'll start falling for us."

They better. The Aztecs' shooting struggles are no secret within the college coaching community, and teams have thrown one variety of zone at them after another. There have been traditional 2-3 zones, 1-2-2 zones, 1-1-3 zones, extended zones, compact zones.

Tonight's opponent at Viejas Arena, Cal State Fullerton, prefers a 3-2 zone that clogs the middle yet somehow coaxes teams into horrible perimeter shooting

nights. The Titans have a pedestrian 3-2 record, but teams are shooting a mere 24.8 percent behind the arc against them. The national average hovers around 35 percent. In a double-overtime loss to the Titans at Pauley Pavilion, UCLA was 5-of-29.

"They almost dare you to shoot threes," Fisher said.

Part of SDSU's problem is the inability to get the ball inside to Thomas and White against zones, instead growing impatient and jacking up ill-advised bombs from the perimeter. Part of it, though, may be the makeup of the team.

"We're not natural three-point shooters," said Tyrone Shelley, who at 33.3 percent is the most accurate of the team's perimeter options. "We're all scorers. I wasn't known as a three-pointer shooter (in high school). I could shoot the three, but I was known more as a scorer, as someone who could get to the basket."

The numbers reflect that. Inside the arc, the Aztecs are shooting a sizzling 57.4 percent. Most of those are dunks, layups, jump hooks or put-backs after rebounding errant heaves from the nether regions. They also compensate in other ways, ranking first among MWC teams in offensive rebounds and second in defensive field-goal percentage.

Fresno State started a Nov. 23 game in a 2-3 zone. The Aztecs quickly drained four of their first seven treys.

Undeterred, Fresno State stayed in the zone and the Aztecs went just 3-of-18 the rest of the night, needing an offensive rebound by White off — what else? — a missed trey to seal a four-point win.

USD employed a zone in the first half that gave the Aztecs fits, then went away from it in the second half because, Toreros coach Bill Grier said, he didn't feel "comfortable" with it. The Aztecs won in overtime.

"Yeah, it did shock us that they came out of their zone," Gay said. "But I have no complaints about it."

At their current pace, this would be the third-worst shooting SDSU team behind the arc since the advent of the line in 1986. The four teams that shot 30 percent or below all had poor seasons — losing 16, 17, 22 and 23 games.

This SDSU team is also on pace to finish 23-7. The worse the Aztecs shoot, the better they play.

Their worst perimeter shooting game this season came against Northern Arizona on Nov. 28, when they were 3-of-16 behind the arc and clanked 10 free throws. And won by 41 points.

#### Notes

- Tonight marks the return of Jer'Vaughn Johnson to Montezuma Mesa. "JV," as he is known, averaged 7.7 minutes in 54 games (starting once) before transferring to Fullerton following his sophomore season. For the Titans, the 6-foot-6, 240-pound junior forward is starting and averaging 9.8 points in 28.6 minutes. Said Fisher: "JV will be coming home. He'll want to prove to me that he should have been playing as many minutes for us as he is for them."
- About 2,500 public tickets remain for Saturday's 7 p.m. home game against Arizona.

#### 40

##### It's home sweet home for SDSU

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 10, 2009

Kawhi Leonard of SDSU dribbles past Fullerton's Aaron Thompson Wednesday night at Cox Arena. Leonard was the game's high scorer.

The only person who might have felt more pain last night at Viejas Arena than Cal State Fullerton coach Bob Burton, whose team was on pace to finish with 35 turnovers midway through the first half, was the fan sitting courtside with a large cup of coffee, casually chatting with his date.

The Titans chucked another errant pass to the ghost of a teammate, and the ball sailed out of bounds into the courtside seats, spilling the coffee into his lap.

But the Aztecs (7-2) will do that to you at Viejas Arena, which is rapidly becoming a house of horrors for opposing teams. Counting exhibitions, SDSU has played

here six times this season. Won by 15, 33, 25, 33, 41 and last night's 82-68 clash against the Titans.

It would have been another 30-point win had the Aztecs made some free throws (they were a beyond-embarrassing 13-of-32 and at one point missed seven straight). But who needs accuracy from the line when Kawhi Leonard will just grab the offensive rebound anyway?

The 6-foot-7 freshman from Riverside showed why he was the California prep Player of the Year and why many think he may be in the NBA before he's a junior, grabbing nine rebounds to go with 11 points, two steals and two assists.

That was in the first half.

Leonard finished with 23 points and 18 rebounds, including an audacious 10 on the offensive end. It was the second-best rebounding performance in the 12-year history of Viejas Arena and the most by an SDSU freshman since Michael Cage had 20 in 1981.

"I'm feeling more confident due to the experience and playing more games," said Leonard, who had seven fewer rebounds than the entire Fullerton team. "The first game, I really didn't know how the competition was going to be."

Added SDSU coach Steve Fisher: "Big hands, long arms and he pursues every shot that goes up. I'm hopeful this will not be his career high for rebounding."

Fisher is also hopeful this is the valley of the team's free-throw shooting woes. The Aztecs entered the game shooting 61.1 percent from the line, worst among Mountain West Conference teams and 309th out of 330 NCAA Division I schools.

Last night's effort — Fisher called it "abysmal" — drops them to 57.5 percent. Only five of 330 Div. I schools are worse.

"I think we didn't want to be the next guy to miss a free throw," Fisher said. "You can't think that way. You have to step to the line and know it's going in and be shocked if it doesn't. But I'm not worried about the freethrow shooting."

Fisher said the same thing about the team's poor three-point accuracy before last night's game. Sure enough, the Aztecs shot 7-of-14 behind the arc (including a banked-in three by Tyrone Shelley) and forced the undersized Titans to play more man-to-man defense than Burton probably wanted, creating some sizable mismatches.

On several trips, Leonard had 5-11 guard Jacques Streeter covering him.

The Titans trailed 15-12 midway through the first half before they started throwing passes into coffee cups, and it was 41-25 at the half. SDSU pushed the margin to 22 before the rim started to look as small as a coffee cup from the free-throw line.

The game marked the return of former Aztecs forward Jer'Vaughn Johnson, who led Fullerton with 19 points before fouling out. It also marked the return of Tim Shelton to the Aztecs lineup after yet another offseason knee surgery. Shelton made his season debut with three points and two assists in five first-half minutes.

"He gave us an extra boost, extra energy," forward Billy White said of Shelton.

#### 41

##### Leonard, Shelton lift Aztecs over Fullerton

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
December 10, 2009

The continued growth of freshman Kawhi Leonard and Tim Shelton's return to the court helped the San Diego State men's basketball team overcome a dismal performance from the free throw line on Wednesday.

Coming off a career night at UC Santa Barbara on Saturday, Leonard established career highs with 23 points and 18 rebounds in an 82-68 victory over Cal State Fullerton in front of 4,774 at Viejas Arena. The freshman's 10 offensive rebounds were a key part of his second career double-double and helped the Aztecs ---- who host Arizona on Saturday ---- win their fourth straight despite missing 19 of 32 free throw attempts.

"We made it a little too easy on them inside (in the second half), and that helped energize them a little," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "I think we will

be better for this."

Experience has clearly aided Leonard in a career that is only nine games old. Behind his 18 rebounds ---- the most by an SDSU freshman since Michael Cage had 20 on Feb. 24, 1981 ---- the Aztecs held a 41-25 edge on the glass over the Titans (3-3).

"I didn't know how the competition would be," said Leonard, who is averaging 9.5 points and 9.1 rebounds per game. "... I didn't expect this in the beginning, but I knew if I worked hard, it would gradually come."

Off to a slow start on offense, San Diego State got a big lift when Shelton ---- who missed the team's previous eight games with a knee injury ---- entered with 12 minutes, 18 seconds left in the first half and his team leading by five.

After shaking off the cobwebs and committing two turnovers, Shelton kick-started the offense with a pair of inside assists that set up easy baskets by Billy White (14 points) and Leonard. The junior forward then knocked down a wide-open 3-pointer, his only shot attempt, to give SDSU a commanding 22-14 lead.

"He's an energy player," White said. "He helped us a lot and gave us an extra boost."

The Aztecs went on scoring runs of 11-2 and 8-0 and led by 16 at halftime, eventually building a 22-point advantage. But 15 missed free throws in 25 second-half attempts, including seven in a row, allowed Fullerton to creep within 14. After previously missing two in a row, White connected on one of two from the line with 4 minutes left to end the drought.

"Sometimes you get on a roll and make every shot," Fisher said. "Billy looked over (after a miss) like, 'What's going on?' You can't shoot like that."

## 42

### Inside Wednesday's box scores

By Jeremy Lundblad | ESPN.com  
December 10, 2009

A look at five things you need to know from Wednesday's action:

1. That Oklahoma senior Tony Crocker set a career-high in points is impressive. That he did it in the first half alone is stunning. Crocker finished with 33 points and 13 rebounds in OU's 86-62 win over Centenary, but his first-half performance was the real story. He scored the first 13 points of the game, and eclipsed his old career-high (28) with just under two minutes to go in the first half. The 29 points in a half are the most by a Sooner since Ebi Ere had 29 against Arkansas in 2001.

2. San Diego State's Kawhi Leonard had 23 points, 18 rebounds and five assists in an 82-68 win over Cal State Fullerton. He is just the second player to put up a 20-15-5 line this season (Morgan State's Kevin Thompson is the other). Leonard's performance is particularly stunning considering he is a freshman, and all three totals were career highs. Leonard, the #56 incoming freshman in the ESPNU 100, is the first freshman with a 20-15-5 game since Eastern Kentucky's Michael Haney in 2002.

3. Providence exploded for 110 points against George Washington, which led to some fun stats. All five starters scored at least 16 points, led by Marshon Brooks with 19. Sharaud Curry set a career high with 13 assists, which is tied for the third-most in Division I this season. The Friars connected on 16 of 29 3-point attempts, tied for the third-most in school history.

4. Missouri entered Wednesday's game averaging 21.1 free throw attempts per game. Want a good reason the Tigers lost to Oral Roberts? The Tigers attempted just three free throws all game, making one. It was both the fewest free throws made and attempted by Missouri since a loss to Oklahoma in 2003.

5. Sure it was against a Division III school, but 24 rebounds is still 24 rebounds. Lamar's Justin Nabors pulled down 24 boards to go with 16 points in a win over Louisiana College. That ties North Texas's George Odufuwa for most in a game this season. Nabors' total is tied for the fourth-most in school history and the most in over 20 years. Adrian Caldwell, who went on to play six seasons in the NBA, had 24 in a game for Lamar in 1989.

## 43

### Costumed fans bring 'The Show' to SDSU hoops

By Don Norcross | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 11, 2009

The journalism major dresses as a gecko. Another guy shows up in a 4-year-old banana suit.

"It's starting to disintegrate," Sean Mongan said of the banana bit. "It's getting these brown spots, like a banana."

There's the dude who dresses as Santa Claus, every game of the season. Plus the guy in a red-and-black speedskating suit. And don't forget the freshman kinesiology major with the sombrero, poncho and green shades.

"I wanted to add a cape," said the Hispanic-clad Dayne Carmichael during Wednesday's 82-68 thumping of Cal State Fullerton, "but I couldn't find a ride to Target."

Welcome to the costume collection of "The Show," the rowdy San Diego State men's basketball fans who heckle, holler and figure to be out in full-throat tomorrow night when the 7-2 Aztecs host 4-4 Arizona at Viejas Arena.

The first thing members of "The Show" will tell you is they're not the Cameron Crazies, the Duke Blue Devils loyalists. Let all the Crazies paint their faces blue and white. "The Show" shows far too much individuality to be painted by the same brush.

"We liken it almost to a Mardi Gras parade," said Conor Mongan, an original 'Show' cast member. "Everyone's out there having fun, going crazy."

Another way "The Show" differentiates itself from the Cameron Crazies: you don't have to be an SDSU student to participate.

"You just have to love the Aztecs and hate whoever we're playing," said Jason Shirtless. (Shirtless is not Jason's surname but describes his game-day attire.)

Last year, an Afro-wearing member of "The Show" was in his 30s. Conor Mongan, 32, finally exited this year after eight seasons. He still attends game but sits in a different section. Parting was not easy.

"It's kind of like breaking up with a girlfriend," Mongan said. "You can't hang and still be friends. You almost have to ostracize yourself and sit on the other side of the arena."

Seated next to the pep band, strategically located behind the basket near the visitors' bench, "The Show" morphs into action with pregame introductions.

When the visitors are announced, the fans turn their back to the court. When the lights go dark and the Aztecs are introduced they turn around and begin jumping up and down on the metal bleachers, creating a ruckus. The fans don't sit down until the Aztecs score.

Even then, sitting is seldom an option.

Some sample heckles from Wednesday's win over Fullerton: after the Titans tossed an outlet pass into the front row -- "That was stupid" (clap-clap, clap-clap-clap); on Titans head coach Bob Burton's wardrobe selection of brown slacks and matching sweater -- "Buy a jacket" (clap-clap, clap-clap-clap.)

When USD's Brandon Johnson fell to the court with an Achilles-tendon injury last year, "The Show" literally counted him out from 1 to 10 like a fallen boxer, then yelled, "Stay Down" and "Don't You Get Up."

The fans, of course, didn't know Johnson had suffered a season-ending injury. "Doesn't matter," said Vince Silva. "It's USD."

"The Show" decided that former Wyoming coach Steve McClain resembled a rat and copied pictures of him, inserting whiskers, sharp teeth and cheese. McClain didn't take the ribbing well, reportedly swearing at the spectators.

A Utah player who got busted for making fake parking permits was greeted by -- you guessed it -- pictures of fake parking passes.

"The guy comes over after the game and says, 'I can't believe you guys did that,'" recalled Conor Mongan. "Then he signed some of the fake tickets."

"The Show" started in the 2001-2002 season when about six to eight raucous

fans (mostly students) found themselves riding refs, opposing players and bleeding Aztecs red.

Mongan, who wore a Mexican wrestling mask, was one of them. Soon, they banded together.

"If only five people are being loud in the arena," said Mongan, "you might as well flock together."

On an Aztecs message board, one fan complained, "You guys think you're the whole show."

Alas, "The Show" was born.

Mongan deserves credit for one of the "The Show's" comedic staples: oversized poster-board celebrity cutouts held up when the opposing team shoots its first free throws. Celebrities who have been pictured: Michael Jackson, Conan O'Brien, Miley Cyrus, Lil Wayne, Chuck Norris, Joaquin Phoenix and the Geico caveman.

Debuting tomorrow night: Tiger Woods and a more-bleached Sammy Sosa.

No one enjoys "The Show's" act more than Aztecs head coach Steve Fisher and his players.

"They're nothing short of amazing," said forward Tim Shelton.

"They definitely bring us energy," said point guard D.J. Gay.

Since "The Show" hit town in 2001, the Aztecs' home record is 98-31. They're 22-2 in their past 24 home games and 55-8 in the last 63.

A coincidence? Fisher thinks not.

"They are sensational," said the head coach. "They've created an atmosphere that makes it fun for others to watch, wondering what they're going to do tonight, wondering what chant they're going to have; what somebody's going to look like; what big head they're going to throw up.

"They're more than a sixth man. That group has created a home-court advantage for us. They are invaluable to us."

#### 44

##### **Aztecs hope to end long dry streak vs. Arizona**

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 12, 2009

There will be the tactical decisions by the two coaches: how to stop dribble penetration by Nic Wise, how to keep Kawhi Leonard off the boards, how to defend against the pick and roll, when to call timeouts, whether to zone inbounds plays.

And then, if San Diego State defeats Arizona tonight, basketball fans at Viejas Arena will have a tactical conundrum of their own:

Do they rush the court?

It's a question that has been debated on Internet bulletin boards all week, and Aztecs forward Billy White hinted at it in a Thursday news conference, saying: "Maybe they'll storm the court (if we) beat a big team like that. ... A lot of fans are talking about it."

So do you stay in your seat because it's an Arizona team that's 4-4 and has an RPI (ratings percentage index) of 92, just ahead of Wright State and Wisconsin-Green Bay?

Or do you deliriously spill onto the Viejas hardwood because, well, it's Arizona?

One thing that isn't up for debate: The Aztecs are treating this as a massive game.

"A huge deal," point guard D.J. Gay said.

It's because of Arizona's storied basketball history — and because of SDSU's futility in denting it. The Aztecs haven't defeated the Wildcats since the first Reagan administration, a 90-80 decision at the Sports Arena on Dec. 17, 1983. Head coach Steve Fisher is 1-9 against Arizona all-time, including 0-5 since coming to

Montezuma Mesa in 1999.

SDSU's record against Pac-10 schools in the Fisher era: 2-15.

None of the 15 losses, though, stung like last December's 69-56 defeat to the Wildcats in Tucson. The Aztecs led 26-21 at the half, would amass a 28-0 advantage in bench scoring and were tied with five minutes left — only to be outscored 15-2 the rest of the way.

Three months later, the NCAA Tournament selection committee chose Arizona, despite a 19-13 record and losses in five of their final six games, over a 23-9 Aztecs team with an RPI 28 spots better.

"It's definitely something that we've been looking forward to," Gay said of tonight's 7 o'clock tipoff. "It's a game we circled twice on our (schedule), and I'm sure our fans did the same. ... To beat them would be a highlight. It's something where, when it's all said and done, we can look back on and tell our young kids."

Understand that this isn't the Arizona basketball team you've become accustomed to seeing over the decades, not the team with silver-haired Lute Olson and his NBA farm club, not the team that has gone to 25 straight NCAA tournaments, not the team that rolled across its nonconference schedule like a combine harvester through a wheat field.

Wise, a senior averaging 17.5 points, is as good as any lead guard in the country, and local product Jamelle Horne, a 6-foot-7 junior forward, is leading the Wildcats in rebounding at 8.5 per game.

After that, it's a bunch of freshmen and sophomores who struggled to put away a Northern Arizona club the Aztecs drilled by 41. Sean Miller, formerly at Xavier, is the fourth head coach in three seasons.

The proud folks of Tucson are getting worried that "The Streak," which at 25 is two short of North Carolina's NCAA record, is in serious jeopardy.

"The reality of our team is we've never been more vulnerable," Miller told the Arizona Daily Star before the season. "Can that streak break this year under my watch? Absolutely."

Fisher would prefer to talk about the demise of a different streak. His debut as a head coach was in the 1989 NCAA Tournament, after Michigan unexpectedly fired Bill Frieder, and he went 6-0 en route to the championship. His first career loss came in the opening game the following season — against Arizona.

The Wildcats have remained his bogey team ever since.

"They are a good team," Fisher said. "They are a beatable team. But I thought they were beatable in the past, and we haven't quite been able to do it."

#### Notes

Fewer than 1,500 tickets remain for the game. The Viejas Arena box office opens at noon. ... Fisher said SDSU guard Kelvin Davis didn't play Wednesday against Fullerton due to health and academic reasons but is expected to go tonight. ... Fisher said forward Tim Shelton, who made his season debut Wednesday after offseason knee surgery, could play about 10 minutes tonight.

#### 45

##### **Aztecs seek key win for resume come NCAA time**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 12, 2009

Billy White's memory might prompt Viejas Arena to re-think post-game security as its crews prepare for Arizona's visit Saturday to face a San Diego State squad eager to make its mark against a Pac-10 opponent.

White recalls fans storming the court last year to celebrate San Diego State's quarterfinal win over Saint Mary's that sent the Aztecs to New York City for the NIT Final Four.

"I never experienced anything like that in my life," said White, the Aztecs' junior forward and leading scorer at 13.4 points a game. "I want to do that a couple more times in my career here. A lot of fans are talking about the game -- the whole school is talking about it. I'm prepared and anxious to play. The last two years we lost to them, so I'm going to take it a little personal and try to get a win."

Arizona (4-4) comes to SDSU (7-2) with a modest record, but, still, it's Arizona. The Wildcats are a traditional power that even in a rebuilding year under a first-year coach, Sean Miller, are picked fourth in their Pac-10.

Steve Fisher, in his 11th season of lifting SDSU's program to unprecedented heights, also doesn't care about Arizona's record. Any win over the Wildcats is significant, in his mind.

"I haven't been able to find a way to help my team win in my tenure here," Fisher said. "We get another opportunity in our building against a team we're capable of beating, yet they're good. They have youth, they have a new coach and they're led by Nic Wise, a veteran point guard. (Forward) Jemelle Horne is their other veteran player.

"They will come at us with a lot of athletes and a good team. We need our crowd; we need their enthusiasm to help us like it has all season and especially in previous years in big games. I'm imploring them to buy a ticket and bring a friend and fill up that arena on Saturday."

Fisher pointed out the importance of a win over Arizona come NCAA tournament time.

"We had three (prominent) non-conference games last year and we were 0-for-3 against Saint Mary's, Arizona, and Arizona State," Fisher said. "We get another test in our building, and it can be significant if we follow up with success as we move forward that we can have that in our basket to show a committee way down the road in March if we don't win our conference."

In the series, Arizona leads 20-5 and the Aztecs haven't beaten Arizona since 1983. Last year SDSU fell 69-56 when Arizona finished the game with a 15-2 run that was sparked by Horne, a San Diego High alum.

Expect a higher scoring game this year, with both teams averaging around 72 points. Plus, the Aztecs want to push the ball now as they have during home routs of Santa Clara (86-53), Northern Arizona (89-48) and Cal State Fullerton (82-68) on Wednesday, SDSU's most recent outing.

"I think we're going to be faster than last year," White said. "We'll be more comfortable than the last two years when we played at their house. It was a rough crowd. This time we got them in our house and we can play our tempo. We can do things to try and slow them down, because they're a fast-paced team, too. But we'll try and get some runs and pressure them at halfcourt. I think our defense is improved from last year."

In addition to White's steady play, freshman forward Kawhi Leonard is coming off career highs of 23 points, 18 rebounds and five assists against Fullerton.

The scoring of Leonard, sophomore wing Tyrone Shelley (11.8 ppg) and junior forward Malcolm Thomas (11.6 ppg) are weapons that will make a difference from last year, too, according to junior point guard D.J. Gay.

"I think we bring more athleticism this year," Gay said. "With all the new faces, we bring different weapons to the table. I think last year we kind slowed it down and ran the offense. This year we pick it up and run as fast as we can to get into defenders."

Arizona might not have Chase Budinger -- the La Costa Canyon High alum now with the Houston Rockets -- or other recognizable All-American candidates, but the roster isn't lacking talent.

Wise, the 5-foot-10 veteran point guard from Houston, averages 17.5 points and 4.8 rebounds to lead the team in both categories. Horne, a 6-7 junior, averages 11.8 and leads the team in rebounding at 8.5.

Two highly touted freshmen in the starting lineup are 6-8 Derrick Williams (14.1 ppg) and 6-6 Solomon Hill (9.9 ppg).

Rivals.com ranked Hill, from Los Angeles Fairfax, the No. 3 small forward and No. 28 overall prospect in the nation in the Class of 2009. Williams, from La Mirada, earned all-state honors in Division II.

## 46

### Aztecs tame Arizona in lopsided victory

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 13, 2009

Arizona coach Sean Miller erupted out of his chair with 7 1/2 minutes left in the first half, milliseconds after San Diego State had missed its third straight shot of the possession and gobbled up its third straight offensive rebound.

He called timeout and started jerking random players off the bench to sub into the game. He screamed. He pounded his clipboard. He took a white towel in front of his seat and angrily chucked it down the bench.

Miller wasn't throwing in the towel. He might as well, though.

It was merely a 10-point margin at that juncture, but the tone of the game was eminently clear and it wasn't changing. The Aztecs weren't losing to their desert nemesis this time. No way.

San Diego State exorcized that ghost last night, beating Arizona 63-46, for the first time in 26 years before 12,414 at soldout Viejas Arena and holding the Wildcats to their lowest offensive output in their last 801 games.

So convincing, so lopsided was the win — it was the largest against a Pac-10 school in the 40-year era of Division I basketball on Montezuma Mesa — that the Aztecs' notoriously poor free-throw shooting wasn't a factor down the stretch. Arizona was so far behind that Miller didn't bother having his players foul in the closing minutes; instead he put in the scrubs.

"They were the bigger, stronger, heavier, nastier, deeper, more athletic ... more ferocious, tougher, meaner team," Miller said. "They overwhelmed us."

Maybe it was a sign of SDSU's basketball program coming of age and fans expecting emphatic wins like this on rainy December nights before a packed house. Maybe it was acknowledgement that this is the worst Arizona team (4-5) in a quarter-century and Miller used seven freshmen or sophomores in his nine-man rotation. Or maybe it was that it just seemed so, well, easy. But no one stormed the court at the final buzzer.

"It's great to beat Arizona under any circumstances," said SDSU coach Steve Fisher, who entered the night 1-9 all-time against the Wildcats. "But it doesn't mean anything if we go 8-12 in the next 20 games."

In his Friday morning news conference, Miller talked over and over about SDSU's prowess on the offensive boards, how "keeping them off the glass is pivotal for us," how "if we don't do that, we won't win."

Prophetic words. By the time Miller threw his tantrum and the towel with 7:28 left in the first half, SDSU (8-2) had 10 offensive rebounds — including six by freshman Kawhi Leonard.

Or here's another way of looking at it: When the Aztecs missed a shot, it was a better than 50-50 proposition they were getting the rebound. They finished with 17 offensive boards; Arizona had 15 defensive boards.

"For a while there, I almost was hoping they would make the (first) shot so we didn't have to watch them get a second one," Miller said. "It was like when you're shooting (by yourself). You just keep getting the rebound and shooting until you make it. That's what they were doing to us."

Lost in the audacious rebounding numbers was D.J. Gay's lock-down defense on Arizona senior guard Nic Wise, the primary reason why 16 NBA scouts were in attendance. Wise entered the game averaging 17.5 points.

He had exactly zero until 18:10 left in the game and finished with four on 2-of-9 shooting. Leonard led a balanced Aztecs attack with 13 points and 12 rebounds, and afterward had Miller calling him "one of the best rebounders in college basketball." SDSU had 10 blocks and 10 steals, and held the Wildcats to 35.6-percent shooting from the field.

Arizona trailed by 13 at halftime and as many as 21 in the second half.

"Tonight we were the better team," Fisher said. "No question about that."

## 47

### No letdown here as Aztecs thump Arizona

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
December 13, 2009

Viejas Arena was packed and rolling. A big-time program ---- albeit one in decline ---- was in town. And the Aztecs seemingly were cruising to a shockingly easy vic-



tory.

But at no time during Saturday's 63-46 win over Arizona in front of 12,414 did the chance of a collapse remotely seem possible. In breaking a seven-game losing streak to the Wildcats, the Aztecs improved to 28-80 against Pac-10 teams with a victory that was so matter-of-fact that the San Diego State student section began chanting, "This one's over!" with 2 minutes, 20 seconds to play.

"Any time you beat a Pac-10 school it's a resume win," said junior guard D.J. Gay, who scored 12 points. "We had a good start and we just stuck with it. ... We never let up."

San Diego State's effort was visible in a number of ways.

When their shooters missed, the Aztecs (8-2) usually got another chance. San Diego State's 17 offensive rebounds were more than Arizona grabbed on the defensive end (15). Of freshman forward Kawhi Leonard's 12 rebounds, seven came on the offensive end.

Every time the Aztecs' offense, which had 19 turnovers, appeared to stall, Gay or Leonard (13 points) drove the lane and scored an easy bucket.

But SDSU's defense had the most impact.

No matter when or what Arizona (4-5) did to get into its offense, the Aztecs had an answer. Over the game's first 13:32, San Diego State forced 11 turnovers while only committing four. One highlight included Gay stealing the ball when Arizona had a two-on-one advantage and appearing poised to score an easy layup.

The Aztecs also finished with 10 blocked shots and finished with 14 more first-half shots than their opponents.

"We defended with passion and an intelligence, and we pursued the ball, and that wins," coach Steve Fisher said. "This was a really nice win."

Any time the Wildcats appeared to show a semblance of momentum, the Aztecs simply brushed it away. SDSU kept Arizona from finding an easy bucket both inside and out as star guard Nic Wise, who averages 17.5 points per game, was limited to 4 points on 2-of-9 shooting.

The Wildcats shot only 32 percent in the second half and finished with their lowest point total since March 15, 1985, when Alabama held them to 41. The 17-point margin of victory was the Aztecs' largest over a Pac-10 school in Division I history and its biggest since beating Arizona State by 25 on Dec. 27, 1955.

"From the opening tip to the final buzzer, they were the stronger, more physical, more ferocious, tougher and taller team," Arizona coach Sean Miller said.

## 48

### Aztecs dominate Arizona for key win over Pac-10 foe

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 13, 2009

The win played out not as a storm-the-court victory, which had been the subject of pre-game debate considering the opponent was storied Arizona of the Pac-10.

Instead, the win was a convincing one as San Diego State beat the Wildcats 63-46 in a style you could say was anticlimatic, judging by how San Diego State (8-2) had the game in hand early and how that prompted many fans among the sell-out crowd of 12,414 at Viejas Arena to leave early on a rain-soaked night.

But even if the blood pressure of fans was back to normal after bursting in the early moments of fan frenzy, no win over Arizona (4-5) should be dismissed. It's the first win for a Steve Fisher-coached SDSU team and the first for the school since 1983 over Arizona.

"Anytime you beat a Pac-10 school, it's big on the resume no matter how many points you win by," said junior point guard D.J. Gay, who outplayed highly touted senior Arizona point guard Nic Wise. "It's a great win for our team and a great win for our program. They're a great team, and I'm enjoying it now."

Gay finished with 12 points and two assists, while Wise, who was scoreless at halftime, was well below his average of 17.5 with only four points.

Kawhi Leonard led the Aztecs with his second straight double-double, finishing

with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Leonard, an early commit to SDSU before Pac-10 schools started recruiting him, said he had something to prove.

"I wanted to come out and win and show that the Mountain West (Conference) is better than (the Pac-10)," he said.

"The fans got me riled up; it was crazy."

Something else about how the way the win played out was role reversal. Nationally prominent Arizona, with a first-year coach, was out-classed by stable San Diego State, with an 11th-year coach.

The Aztecs -- flexing their superiority -- went on two dominating runs. A 9-0 run for a 23-14 lead with 10:07 left in the first half and an 8-0 run for a lead of 43-24 with 15:18 left in the game. Arizona, by contrast, never was better than two 4-0 runs in the second half. The Aztecs were quick to end both before the Wildcats could cut into a steady, double-digit lead.

Arizona's point total was its lowest in 801 games, dating back to the 1985 season. SDSU's win was the largest margin over a Pac-10 team since 1955.

"This was a really nice win, but we must continue to grow from it," Fisher said. "It will mean nothing if we go 8-12 in the next 20, but tonight we feel good. We have not beaten them since I've been here, so it's nice to beat Arizona under any circumstances. We got a good lift at home and now we have to go next week (Dec. 19) and generate our own enthusiasms against a tough Arizona State squad."

A year ago SDSU lamented losing three key non-conference games to Saint Mary's, Arizona and Arizona State when it the NCAA tournament committee met to compare season records for the final spots in the bracket. Arizona was widely considered the last team in and SDSU the first team eliminated.

The same three non-conference games are on the schedule this year, with the Aztecs ahead of last year despite having already lost to Saint Mary's. The win over Arizona could make a difference. A year ago SDSU let Arizona pull away at the end in a 69-56 victory, but this year the Aztecs never let Arizona back in the game.

"That shows our potential and how good we can be," Gay said. "We still have a lot of work to do, but being able to hold a lead and not fall down, that goes to show we're progressing and we're going to be a pretty good team."

## 49

### Aztecs' Gay outplays Wise in battle of point guards

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 13, 2009

Arizona senior point guard Nic Wise came into the game with the West Coast name recognition as the Wildcats' leading scorer and assist man.

He averaged 17.5 points, 4.8 points and even 4.0 rebounds, despite standing only 5-foot-10, as the night began.

But, in a bit of role reversal, the best point guard on the floor in San Diego State's dominating 63-46 win over Arizona Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 12,414 at Viejas Arena was Aztecs junior D.J. Gay.

The 6-foot, 167-pounder from Sun Valley was the one in double figures, scoring 12 points to go with two assists that didn't fully tell the story of his floor leadership. He had only two turnovers against Arizona's steady pressure as he kept the ball moving.

Wise? With Gay guarding him throughout the night, the kid that put his name into the NBA draft last year before withdrawing it was scoreless at halftime. He finished with only four points. And with only four assists, he wasn't able to compensate for his inability to score in another aspect of the game.

"Our coaches prepared us for the game, and I watched a lot of film on Nic Wise," Gay said. "He's a great player -- real fast, real strong and he runs his team really well. But with the atmosphere, I just couldn't let up tonight. I wanted that win so bad."

Gay kept a chest on Wise, but SDSU's team defense stood out, too. That's was a

reason the Aztecs not only beat the Wildcats, they dominated them.

"I think D.J. did a wonderful job chasing [Wise], but he got a lot of help too," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said.

"When Billy (White) ran those high-ball screens and Malcolm (Thomas) and Tim Shelton and Brian Carwell did a nice job of not allowing him to turn the corner and drive between the lane lines. We made it hard for them to score the way they wanted to score. (Arizona will) have days when they make more open shots, when they make more threes and when they play better, but we didn't allow them to get on a run by making shots they wanted to."

Gay also recorded the night's most impressive defensive play when he broke up a two-on-one fastbreak. Such situations are almost an automatic score, but Gay faked coming out on the man with the ball on the left side and pounced back to the right to deflect the pass and pick it up for a steal.

Gay then pushed the ball upcourt to Billy White. White missed the shot, but Kawhi Leonard rebounded for a basket.

Instead of Arizona cutting SDSU's lead to six points, the Aztecs went up 27-17 with 5:25 left in the first half.

In all, SDSU forced 13 first-half turnovers and 16 for the night.

## 50

### Leonard named Co-MWC Player of the Week

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 14, 2009

This was Arizona basketball coach Sean Miller Saturday night on San Diego State freshman Kawhi Leonard after the Aztecs defeated his Wildcats, 63-46.

"He has to be one of the best rebounders in college basketball, certainly for a young player," Miller said. "He has a very bright future. He adds an element to their team that is really special and it's very difficult to keep him away from keeping him from getting second shots."

This was the Mountain West Conference on Monday when it announced player-of-the-week honors.

"New Mexico senior Roman Martinez and San Diego State freshman Kawhi Leonard have been named the Mountain West Conference Men's Basketball Co-Players of the Week for games through December 12. This is the fourth weekly accolade of Martinez's career and the first for Leonard."

After the week Leonard put together leading SDSU to an 82-68 win over Cal State Fullerton before the Arizona victory, it would take a talented senior such as Martinez to force SDSU's rookie to share the award.

Leonard, a 6-foot-6, 225-pounder, posted double-doubles in both of last week games, using his big hands to grab offensive and defensive rebounds with equal ability.

Against Fullerton, he had career-highs with 23 points and 18 rebounds in addition to a career-high with five assists. His 18 rebounds were the most by an SDSU freshman since Michael Cage had 20 in the 1981 season.

"Eighteen rebounds numbers was kind of shocking," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "Kawhi plays hard. He pursues the ball aggressively and if he gets a piece of the ball, it's his. That's the way he pursues it. We need to get a couple more guys who are doing that same thing. He was exhausted, but I told him, 'I'm not taking you out, I expect you to go and get one more rebound.'"

Against Arizona, Leonard's double-double was 13 points and 12 rebounds, totals that led the team in both categories. His play led the Aztecs to their first win over Arizona since the 1983 season.

"He doesn't look like a freshmen, he doesn't have a body like one," Fisher said. "He's 225 pounds and strong. He's not afraid to go in there and have someone elbow him in the nose, he'll get after it. We knew we had a keeper when we got him now we have to help him get better. We have to keep him growing and keep him hungry, but he is going to be a terrific player for us."

The Riverside King alum was the CalHiSports.com State Player of the Year.

The Arizona-SDSU game drew 13 NBA scouts.

## 51

### Aztecs facing tall task in ASU

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 19, 2009

It lost two players off last year's team to the NBA. It already has two double-digit losses this season and an RPI ranking of No.138. The student section will be decimated by winter break.

What can be so tough about a Saturday afternoon game in mid-December at Arizona State?

A balding guy who was cut from the basketball team at Division III Carnegie Mellon University in the mid-1980s, it turns out.

James Harden may be on the Oklahoma City Thunder and Jeff Pendergraph on the Portland Trail Blazers, but the problem for the San Diego State men's basketball team today at Wells Fargo Arena is that Herb Sendek, the pride of the Carnegie Mellon Tartans, is still Arizona State's coach.

"They look pretty good," Aztecs assistant head coach Brian Dutcher said of the 7-3 Sun Devils. "I was hoping they wouldn't be quite as good, losing two NBA players. But that gets to what kind of coach Herb is. You don't lose two NBA players and do what he's doing this year."

There may be no harder team in college basketball to prepare for, particularly in a one-off game that comes at the end of a week where your players were preoccupied with final exams. The funky zone defense. The slow tempo. The back cuts. The multiple offenses. The seemingly inevitable stretches, as Aztecs head coach Steve Fisher puts it, "where you can't score, where you go five minutes without a basket."

Upping the ante today is the notion that, while there is no shame in losing to a Sendek team on the road, another nonconference "L" could put a serious dent in SDSU's NCAA Tournament aspirations. Mountain West Conference foes BYU and UNLV have only one loss; New Mexico has none and is ranked No.19 nationally.

The Aztecs are 8-2, and the conference season begins Jan. 5.

"We need this win for our résumé," forward Tim Shelton said.

And that means solving a unique zone defense by an Aztecs team that, while it can be a terror on the boards, has struggled against pedestrian zones with its shaky perimeter marksmanship.

It is a 3-2 zone with man-to-man principles — "half man, half zone," Dutcher says — and it gives opposing coaches fits. Run man-to-man defense, and it suddenly acts like a zone. Run zone offense, and it looks like man-to-man. The result: The Sun Devils began the week ranked ninth nationally in scoring defense at 56.3 points per game.

"As good as any (zone) in the country," Western Illinois coach Jim Molinari said after his team shot 23.1 percent against ASU on Nov. 13 and was drilled 87-35. "A tremendous system."

At least they got 35. Delaware State lost 76-34 to ASU last Saturday, the fewest points scored against the Sun Devils in 60 years.

On the offensive end, Sendek is a discipline of the Princeton offense with its myriad backdoor cuts and possessions deep into the shot clock. At ASU he has gone away from that, yet is known to dust it off in crucial segments of games — or just often enough that you have to waste valuable practice time preparing for it.

"A lot of coaches get such a huge reputation," Dutcher said. "It's almost like the media and everybody selfpromotes those coaches, whereas Herb just quietly goes about his business. He's not a self-promoter. He's not out there banging his chest. But he always just gets the job done."

"Maybe the media and the general public don't realize what a great coach Herb Sendek is, but everybody who plays against him knows it."

52

**Aztecs seek another first win over Arizona foe**By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 19, 2009

San Diego State basketball coach Steve Fisher began his press conference before Saturday's game at Arizona State with much the same thoughts as before last weekend's Arizona matchup, a convincing 63-46 Aztecs' victory.

Only the names and homecourt advantage changed, with San Diego State (8-2) traveling to Arizona State (7-3).

"We are preparing do what we haven't been able to do since I've been here, and now we have a chance because we got the job half-done," said Fisher of his first win over Arizona and quest for a first win over Arizona State. "We beat the first Arizona team from the Pac-10; now we get a chance at the second one. The second one's a lot better than the first one. Arizona State, from what I have watched on tape, is a tough out for anybody, and if they're not one, two, or three in the Pac-10, I'll be surprised."

Even the key individual matchup, at point guard, is similar. Arizona was led by Nic Wise, whom SDSU's D.J. Gay outplayed, and ASU is led by 6-foot-1 senior Derek Glasser.

"So to go their building, to play this team led by a point guard that's probably more valuable to his team than any other player in the country, we will have our hands full, and yet I think we're good enough to win," Fisher said. "We're excited to be going over with one victory that we hadn't been able to get in the past and that was over Arizona on Saturday. This will be a very, very big challenge in their building, so we'll see where we are to play a really good team on the road."

Against Arizona, the Aztecs shut down Wise, holding him to four points, 13 points below his scoring average. Gay finished with 12 points and two assists, but Fisher pointed out team defense is needed to slow down a key point guard.

"I think D.J. did a wonderful job chasing (Wise), but he got a lot of help too," he said. "Billy (White) ran those highball screens and Malcolm (Thomas) and Tim Shelton and Brian Carlwell did a nice job of not allowing him to turn the corner and drive between the lane lines."

Glasser isn't the scorer Wise is as he averages 8.8 points with 4.8 assists. But he's the one that keeps the ball smartly moving in the motion offense of ASU head coach Herb Sendek, the former North Carolina State coach.

"It's not unlike preparing to play a vintage Air Force team when Air Force was really good," Fisher said. "You cannot emulate in practice with your scout team how they are going to do things at either end of the floor. You have to have two or three concepts in mind and then work to try to play to those."

On the other side of the ball, ASU's matchup zone defense will test SDSU's improved halfcourt offense and spurts of improved 3-point shooting.

Fisher believes a key to the game will be limiting Arizona State's scoring runs that result from the Sun Devils' ability to set the tempo at both ends of the floor.

"No matter who you are, Arizona State has a knack of having a couple of gaps in the game where you can't score, where you go five minutes without a basket," he said. "That's been one of our strengths; we've been able to have runs for us. A year ago we were ahead 15-2 at our place and then they had a run. They had a run at the end of game, a game that we felt we should have won."

Against Arizona last week, the Aztecs had key runs of 9-0 for a 23-14 lead with 10:07 left in the first half and 8-0 for a lead of 43-24 with 15:18 left in the contest. The latter run prevented Arizona from getting back in the game.

Earlier this year in the NIT Season Tipoff, ASU played Duke tough, losing 64-53, and beat LSU, 71-52.

But a more recent interesting score comparison is Brigham Young defeated ASU on Dec. 8, 81-68. BYU was the Mountain West Conference preseason favorite and the Aztecs were picked second.

The Aztecs have won five in a row and their 8-2 overall record is one game ahead of last year's 7-3 pace that ended with a school-record 26 wins. The 8-2 record matches SDSU's best 10-game mark in 40 years of Division basketball.

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**Aztecs trapped in Devils' slow zone**By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 20, 2009

Earlier this week, San Diego State assistant head coach Brian Dutcher was talking about how hard it is to generate offense against Arizona State's screwy, unorthodox, unique zone defense. He wondered aloud: "If we score 52 points, is that going to be enough to win?"

He got his answer. The Aztecs scored 52 against ASU yesterday.

It wasn't enough to win.

The 55-52 loss looked a lot better on the Wells Fargo Arena scoreboard than it did on the court below for most of the afternoon. An Aztecs team that earlier this season scorched the nets for 30 points in 10 minutes had just 22 at the half. With 11 minutes to go, they had 10 baskets, four assists and 19 turnovers, and trailed 46-28.

Despite all that, the Aztecs (8-3) still had the ball down three with 11 seconds left. ASU coach Herb Sendek called off the zone for the first time all game, opting instead for a switching man-to-man defense, and all SDSU could muster was a desperation three-pointer by D.J. Gay that was well short.

"It threw us for a loop," Gay said.

But the game wasn't lost on Gay's air ball launched from 25 feet over a defender's arms. Twenty-percent shooting behind the three-point arc (3-of-15) and 24 turnovers did the Aztecs in.

That's not 24 turnovers in a wild, end-to-end game with 60, 70, 80 possessions per team. That's 24 turnovers in a game played at the deliberate, walk-it-up pace dictated by Sendek's offensive and defensive schemes.

Translation: That's a lot of turnovers.

"You have to get a shot," said SDSU coach Steve Fisher, whose team entered the game averaging 13.8 turnovers. "A bad shot is better than no shot, and we had too many no-shot possessions."

Part of that was the 3-2 matchup zone itself, with its vexing hybrid of man-to-man and zone principles. Part of that, no doubt, was pure frustration with the slow tempo and inability to score. How else do you explain guys traveling 40 feet from the basket with no defensive pressure?

"You don't know if it's a man or a zone," freshman Chase Tapley said. "And they're sagging (into passing lanes). It's hard to run your plays ... Man, zone, man, zone, it was real confusing."

And that's from the one guy who had reasonable success against it. Tapley had his most productive day as an Aztec, finishing with a game-high 17 points on 7-of-10 shooting. The rest of his teammates? They were a combined 11-of-34, or 32.4 percent.

"We knew coming in they love to get the ball down low to Billy White and Malcolm Thomas — that's their heart," ASU senior guard Derek Glasser said. "So that's what we tried to do, take away their heart."

Mission accomplished. White and Thomas combined for 13 points, and only two in the first half.

The Aztecs were better when they didn't have the ball, amassing a 41-26 advantage on the boards and holding ASU (8-3) to 36.7 percent shooting. It broke a streak of nine straight wins when SDSU holds an opponent under 40-percent shooting.

The good news: The Aztecs don't have to wait long to play again, traveling to Iowa, for a Tuesday game vs. a 5-6 Drake team.

The bad news: Drake is coached by Mark Phelps, Sendek's longtime assistant who has installed his matchup zone defense.

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**Aztecs' big rally ends a little short**By Staff | North County Times  
December 20, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team ended Saturday's game on a 24-9 run, but it wasn't enough as Arizona State held on for a 55-52 victory.

Even though the Aztecs trailed by as much as 18 points in the second half, junior guard D.J. Gay had a chance to tie the game at the end of regulation with a fall-away 3-point try. The attempt wasn't close and the loss snapped a five-game winning streak for the Aztecs (8-3), who held the Sun Devils' to a season-low 36.7 percent shooting percentage from the floor.

"They knew we had to have a 3, so they covered around the 3-point line and they didn't let it happen," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "It was a heave at the end that we would have liked to have had a better opportunity. But they didn't let us have a better opportunity."

Freshman Chase Tapley scored a career-high 17 points off the bench for San Diego State, which lost for the first time in three games against Arizona's Division I schools, having defeated Northern Arizona and Arizona by a combined 58 points.

It was a sloppy, ragtag game between two teams that hadn't played in a week.

San Diego State finished with more turnovers (24) and personal fouls (19) than buckets (18).

The Aztecs shot 40.9 percent from the floor, and made only 3-of-15 shots (20 percent) from beyond the arc.

Billy White finished with eight points and a season-high 10 rebounds in the losing effort and Malcolm Thomas also added 10 rebounds. Freshman Kawhi Leonard (six points) had a game-high 11 rebounds for the Aztecs, who out-rebounded the Sun Devils 41-26.

After fattening its record against lesser teams, Arizona State needed a victory that might grab the attention of the NCAA tournament selectors in March.

Rihards Kuksiks and Jamelle McMillan each had 12 points in the win.

It was the Sun Devils' most impressive victory so far and a rare quality win for the Pac-10, mired in one of its worst seasons in memory. The Sun Devils (8-3) had lost to Duke, Baylor and Brigham Young, and victories over Delaware State and Western Illinois aren't worth much when the NCAA puts together its bracket.

"We knew if we had any shot of making the tournament that we needed this win for our resume," said ASU senior point guard Derek Glasser, who had five assists to tie Bobby Thompson for the school's all-time lead, with 454. "This was a game that we must, must win, and we came away with it."

But they almost blew it. Leading by 18 with 10:56 to play, the Sun Devils let the Aztecs edge to within 53-50 on D.J. Gay's driving bucket with 55 seconds to play.

"That evaporated pretty quick," ASU coach Herb Sendek said. "I don't think we played particularly smart."

Gay added two free throws with 13 seconds left to cut ASU's lead to 1, but Glasser hit two free throws with 11 seconds left.

55

**Aztecs' comeback comes up short at ASU**By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 20, 2009

San Diego State basketball coach Steve Fisher warned that Arizona State was a better Pac-10 foe than the Arizona team his Aztecs defeated a week earlier.

He cautioned his team needed to take better care of the ball than it did against Arizona, when it committed 19 turnovers, against Arizona State's matchup zone defense.

And he said his team had to prevent ASU from going on runs -- or at least better runs than the Aztecs -- or they would lose.

He was right on all three counts as SDSU committed 24 turnovers and allowed ASU to open the second half with a 9-2 run en route to a 55-52 victory Saturday at Wells Fargo Arena in Tempe.

"We had ample opportunities, but a bad shot is better than no shot we had too many no shot possessions. We talked about in the halftime we were in the same boat second half as first half.

The Aztecs had a 9-2 run of their own in the final three minutes, but it wasn't enough to overcome an 18-point deficit of 46-28 after a 6-0 run midway through the second half.

"I feel miserable that we lost, but I'm very pleased with how we competed down the stretch rather than rolling over and letting it be a 15-point loss," Fisher said. "Yet it's a loss. But I do think this will help us if we allow it to help us."

ASU's Rihards Kuksiks and Jamelle McMillan each had 12 points.

It was the Sun Devils' (8-3) most impressive victory so far and a rare quality win for the Pac-10, mired in one of its worst seasons in memory.

ASU senior point guard Derek Glasser had five assists to tie Bobby Thompson for the school's all-time lead, with 454.

Freshman Chase Tapley scored a career-high 17 for the Aztecs (8-3), who had their five-game winning streak snapped.

San Diego State lost for the first time in three games against Arizona's Division I schools, having defeated Northern Arizona and Arizona by a combined 58 points.

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**SDSU combating turnover troubles**By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 22, 2009

Steve Fisher reviewed the tape from Saturday's 55-52 loss at Arizona State, then watched it again, and he noticed the scorekeepers made some errors in the turnover statistics. They charged Kawhi Leonard with a turnover committed by Tyrone Shelley. They charged Leonard with another one that Fisher contends should have been D.J. Gay's.

One thing they didn't get wrong, though, was the total number of San Diego State miscues.

Twenty-four.

"That part was right," Fisher said.

Another basketball truth: You're not winning very many games with 24 turnovers, even if you are entering the softest part of your nonconference schedule, as the Aztecs are when they play at Drake tonight followed by home games against UC Riverside and Pomona-Pitzer after Christmas.

It is a troubling trend that Fisher, as sage coaches will, first noticed in the midst of the 17-point victory against nemesis Arizona two Saturdays ago before a sold-out Viejas Arena. As jubilant fans were walking to their cars, fresh off the Aztecs' first win against the Wildcats in 26 years, Fisher was digesting a detailed statistics packet and realizing his team had just three turnovers midway through the first half — and finished with 19.

The ugly math: In the last 70 minutes of basketball, the Aztecs have 40 turnovers, or one every 1 minute, 45 seconds.

That's about twice as often as before the Arizona game.

"It does concern me," Fisher said. "You can't turn the ball over in back-to-back games 19 and 24 times and not be concerned about it. You're not being honest with yourself then. Are they correctable? Absolutely. But yeah, I'm worried."

Added junior forward Billy White: "I think we're trying to force stuff a little bit. We're way too fast. I think the young guys are trying to do everything right so coach won't be mad at them. ... I think we just need to slow down a little bit and we'll be fine."

Tonight's game is part of the inaugural Mountain West-Missouri Valley Challenge, and somehow the Aztecs drew a very short straw — having to travel to Des

Moines, Iowa, three days before Christmas. Drake is not to be confused with Duke, not with a 5-6 record that includes losses to IUPUI, Akron, Central Florida and Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

The flip side is that they are coached by Mark Phelps, a longtime assistant under Arizona State coach Herb Sendek who runs an almost identical system. The main difference is that Drake lives and dies behind the threepoint line, where nearly half its shot attempts come from.

"I guarantee you their coach is on the phone with Herb Sendek, saying: 'Tell me what you did, tell me what we can do to beat them.'" Fisher said. "And they'll try to do some of the same things."

It is a game the Aztecs should win, and one they almost can't lose as they gaze toward March and an at-large NCAA Tournament berth. Three teams in the Mountain West — New Mexico, UNLV and BYU — have one or zero losses, likely putting the Aztecs (8-3) behind them in the postseason pecking order entering the conference season.

It doesn't mean the Aztecs can't reach the NCAA Tournament. It does probably mean they must win the MWC postseason tournament on UNLV's home floor in March or separate themselves during the conference season by finishing, say, outright first or second.

"We feel we still have a chance," Gay said after the loss at ASU, a game SDSU trailed by 18 with 11 minutes left before closing to three. "We just have to get back in the gym and work hard. Our heads are not down. There were glimpses out there of what we can do."

#### Notes

- Another troubling stat for Fisher after reviewing the ASU film: The Sun Devils had 23 "conversion" points, most of them because the Aztecs didn't match up quickly enough with their defensive assignments after a missed shot.
- SDSU is ranked 22nd nationally in rebound margin at plus-8.2 but is 327th (out of 334 Division I schools) in free-throw percentage at .584.
- Forward Tim Shelton played seven minutes in the first half at ASU, then told Fisher, "I can't go," because of his sore knee.
- After tonight's game players will get four days off to spend with their families before returning to campus Sunday.

## 57

### Gay blocks shot in OT to preserve Aztecs win

By Mike Malloy | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 23, 2009

San Diego State fans know what to expect from D.J. Gay: Scoring. Assists. Steals. But blocked shots?

The six-foot Gay delivered a surprising rejection of Craig Stanley's driving layup attempt with 1.2 seconds remaining yesterday, helping the Aztecs protect a two-point lead at Drake.

"Perfect timing," Gay said of his first block of the season.

The play was the final coup in a taut, 76-73 overtime win in which the Aztecs trailed 62-54 with less than five minutes remaining in regulation.

Gay, who had 18 points and moved into ninth place in school history for three-pointers, made consecutive shots from behind the arc. The second cut the gap to 63-60 with four minutes left. His running shot with 1:08 left tied the score at 66, where it stayed until overtime.

Drake (5-7) entered the game third nationally in free-throw shooting at 78.8 percent, but was well off at the most critical time. Drake missed 6-of-7 free-throw attempts late in regulation and early in overtime, none more critical than Josh Young's back-to-back misses with 39 seconds to go.

The game wasn't perfect for Gay, however. On the final play of the second half he was bottled up in the lane and badly missed a would-be winning shot.

"It was probably one dribble too many," Gay said.

And in overtime he fouled Stanley while he was shooting a three-pointer, with 1:02 on the clock and the Aztecs ahead 75-71.

Stanley made two of three free throws, and then the Aztecs had a shot clock vio-

lation with 7.7 seconds to go.

That set up Stanley vs. Gay one more time.

"I played off him a little bit for the drive and it worked to my advantage," Gay said. "I know he probably would have made that shot, and we'd have been going to another overtime."

Billy White, who had 16 points and nine rebounds, feared the worst when he heard a whistle.

"I thought it was a foul," White said. "They had called it close all night. It looked like he had the layup, but I'm proud D.J. saved the game for us."

The referee merely signaled that the ball bounced off Stanley before going out of bounds. Tyrone Shelley then made one free throw followed by a length-of-the-court throw from Drake's Ben Simons that bounced off the backboard as the horn sounded.

The Aztecs (9-3) have won nine straight overtime games — the longest such streak in the nation.

Good as Gay was, the play of senior Kelvin Davis was just as important. Davis scored 16 points and made five of San Diego State's season-best nine three-pointers.

It was by far Davis' best effort since being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in April 2008.

"We could not have won without Kelvin," coach Steve Fisher said. "He's not back to 100 percent, and he won't be back to 100 percent, but we hope he can provide the impetus that he did tonight. He's a scorer, and when he's on we need to find him."

The chemotherapy sessions, the coughing up of blood and the swollen neck are gone for Davis while the shot has returned.

"He didn't look very sick on the court," Gay said.

Davis, winner of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association 2009 Most Courageous Award, doesn't mind talking about his illness, but he'd still rather talk about his game.

"I've been in remission since last year," Davis said. "I'm not looking back, I'm looking forward."

## 58

### Aztecs come from behind to defeat Drake in overtime

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 23, 2009

For a time, San Diego State was letting Drake pull away to an eight-point lead midway through the second half in a game playing out eerily similar to three nights earlier when the Aztecs allowed Arizona State to pull away en route to holding on for a three-point win.

But this time the Aztecs not only came back against Drake, they came all the way back to beat the Bulldogs 76-73 in overtime in Des Moines, Iowa.

"To have the fighting spirit (at ASU) helped us," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "It signaled to us we can be behind, we can have a couple stops and make baskets. We were able to get a hard fought victory. Life on the road is always difficult. This is a team (Drake) that will surprise people in the Missouri Valley (Conference)."

San Diego State (9-3) extended the nation's longest active win streak in overtime games to nine by outscoring the Bulldogs (5-7) in the extra period 10-7. Six of those points from the free-throw line to keep their OT streak alive.

Drake, hitting three-point shots, went on a 12-0 run to turn a 51-47 deficit with 10:40 left in the game to a 59-51 lead with 6:08 remaining. But the Aztecs gradually cut away at the lead until they forced overtime with the score 66-66 in regulation.

Junior guard D.J. Gay led the Aztecs with 18 points, including crucial baskets in the final minutes. Gay hit 7-of-10 for the night and was 4-of-5 from 3-point

range.

Gay also blocked a driving layup with 1.2 seconds remaining that would have tied the game.

Junior forward Billy White added 16 points and true freshman forward Kawhi Leonard posted his fourth career doubledouble with 14 points and 11 rebounds before he fouled out.

Senior guard Kelvin Davis was also in double figures with 16 points as he hit 5-of-8 from 3-point range.

Fisher was happy with his team's half court offense after committing 24 turnovers at ASU, although SDSU finished with 15 turnovers against Drake.

"I thought we did a better job of when we had open looks, we weren't hesitant to shoot it," he said. "Then we were able to stretch the defense. They tried to squeeze White and (Malcolm) Thomas, but we stretched the defense and we got those looks."

SDSU is off until Dec. 29 when the Aztecs play host to UC Riverside on a night that UCLA transfer Drew Gordon will be attending the game as part of his tour of possible schools he will pick to continue his career.

"We feel good about ourselves right now," Fisher said. "We have to exhale and get ourselves regrouped to play Riverside."

Drake was led by Josh Young with 17 points. Craig Stanley added 13, Ryan Wedel had 11 and Adam Templeton 10 for the Bulldogs.

NOTES: San Diego State made a season-high nine three point field goals and made a season-high 17 free throws.

Freshman guard Chase Tapley made his second career start and first since earning the starting nod against Northern Arizona on Nov. 28. This was the fifth different starting lineup used by Steve Fisher this season. Junior guard D.J. Gay remains the only players to start every game this season (12).

## 59

### Aztecs fine-tuning as they prep for conference play

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 29, 2009

Sitting on a 9-3 record with two games remaining in the nonconference schedule, the San Diego State Aztecs have identified their strengths, pinpointed their weaknesses and — following the Christmas break — are looking for ways to exploit both.

The Aztecs open Mountain West Conference play at home next week against New Mexico. That leaves tonight's game against UC Riverside (6-5), whom the Aztecs have never lost to, and Thursday afternoon's game against Pomona-Pitzer (first meeting) as the last chance to bone up on the little things that have been ailing SDSU.

"We're where we are," said coach Steve Fisher. "I think we've made progress. We're growing as a team. Are we ready for league play? We'll find out Jan. 5 when New Mexico comes to town because they are really good.

I think we've done the things you need to do as you move through your non-league schedule and get ready for conference play. But we need to keep getting better. That's the key. Keep getting better."

Twelve games into the season, the pros are obvious. The Aztecs can run, create second and third opportunities on offense and have a pretty stingy defense (36th nationally in scoring defense). Following practice Sunday, the first after a five-day break, Fisher was quick to point out the drastic improvement the team has made since its ill-fated 80-58 loss to Saint Mary's last month.

Yet a new cause for concern has emerged the past three games that Fisher wants to snuff out before it spreads: Turnovers.

Through the first nine games, SDSU averaged 13 turnovers per game. In their past three, the Aztecs have surrendered an average of 19.3 per game.

"Those are killing us," said forward Billy White, who shoulders a lot of the blame and is second on the team with 27 turnovers. "That was our biggest mistake

against Arizona State (a season-high 24 turnovers in a 55-52 loss). We just need to fix those and we should be fine."

Fisher listed three key areas he wants to shore up this week: turnovers, execution in the half-court offense and defensive rebounding.

"This next game won't be easy," Fisher said. "Riverside will be hard for us. We need to come out, hold serve at home, finish strong and make sure you do the little things that give you a chance to win. We're playing hard.

Now we need to get better with our execution in the little things. We've made progress."

But...

"We have to do a better job of taking care of the ball and decision making," he said.

After the Aztecs defeated Arizona at home earlier this month, point guard D.J. Gay called it a "résumé" win for the program. The flip side to that is Saint Mary's, Pacific and Arizona State are résumé losses. But with an entire Mountain West Conference schedule still to be played, Gay said it's too early to start thinking about March.

"We still have the potential to do so much more," he said. "We can win a conference championship, the conference tournament. We have our hands full with conference coming up. You can never be too satisfied. We lost some games we felt we shouldn't have lost. We know our weaknesses and our strengths. We have a pretty good comfort zone for where we're at."

## 60

### Ex-King star Leonard a steal for Aztecs

By Michael Becker | The Press-Enterprise  
December 29, 2009

On a recent evening in San Diego, more than a dozen NBA talent evaluators sat inside Viejas Arena on the campus of San Diego State and watched with curiosity the play of Kawhi Leonard.

What they saw from Leonard, a San Diego State freshman from Riverside King High School, were some of the attributes NBA-types value most. He has big hands, athleticism and a freakish wing span. At 6-foot-7, Leonard can handle the ball and even shoot from the perimeter.

On this night, Leonard scored 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and seemed at times like the most talented big man on the court. And surely some of those scouts walked away wondering, as many fans do, how such a talented player could end up in San Diego when more prestigious programs were within an hour's drive.

But prestige didn't matter to Leonard as much as opportunity and loyalty. Leonard's rise in the prep basketball hierarchy was late and atypical. San Diego State, Leonard said, was with him from the onset.

"I just stuck with them. They were the first one that really liked me a lot," said Leonard, who has returned San Diego State's faith by becoming the team's leading rebounder and fourth-leading scorer heading into tonight's game against UC Riverside.

It is easy in hindsight to label every school that passed on Leonard as foolish, but most schools had reason to be hesitant. At a time when most big-name recruits began to make their names on the AAU basketball circuit, Leonard played only recreationally on the blacktop.

He didn't play organized basketball until his sophomore year of high school, and he joined his first AAU squad that same year.

"My name wasn't nowhere to be found," Leonard said, referring to Internet recruiting Web sites. "Nobody thought I was good because I wasn't playing since I was little, so I was under the radar. I just had to work my way up from there. When I did, coaches didn't believe I was as good as the people that were already in AAU for their whole lives."

Instead of sulking, Leonard became motivated. He transferred from Moreno Valley Canyon Springs to King after moving with his mother and worked hard at every aspect of the game, especially his defense. What college recruiters saw

during Leonard's junior year was a player who wasn't great at any one thing, but good at many.

Some labeled Leonard an undersized power forward. Some labeled him as a wing player who had trouble with his jump shot. San Diego State assistant coach Justin Hutson saw simply a basketball player.

Hutson watched Leonard play twice during his junior season and reported back to Coach Steve Fisher. "I saw him as a 6-6 player who could do a little bit of everything," Hutson said. "He was capable of playing on the perimeter as well as the post. ... I just thought I didn't want to label him."

UCLA gained interest during Leonard's junior season, as did USC and other Pac-10 schools, but no school invested the time and effort into Leonard as did San Diego State.

"San Diego showed they wanted him," said Leonard's mother, Kim Robertson. "UCLA and USC, I think, were waiting to see if they could get somebody better."

San Diego State appealed to Leonard because of its interest and the likelihood of ample playing time. He committed just weeks before signing day and kept his word despite persistent pressure from other college coaches and peers.

"We had to educate him on what was important and not make a decision on stuff that wasn't important -- name, prestige," Hutson said. "He had to live with his decision, not the person that was in the math class or the person hanging out on campus or the person at the 7-Eleven."

While San Diego State coaches wondered internally whether their star recruit might renege on his verbal commitment, Leonard never wavered. It's a character trait Leonard said he learned from his parents, mother Kim and father Mark, who was shot and killed in 2008 outside of a car wash he owned and operated in Compton.

Leonard learned of his father's death 30 minutes after a game against Riverside Arlington and played in a showcase game at Pauley Pavilion the next day.

"My team needed me," Leonard said.

Now the Aztecs are reaping the benefits of his loyalty and opponents are regretting their decision to pass.

"Everybody called," Hutson said. "Arizona State, Arizona, UCLA, USC, Cal -- they were all there. They all knew about him."

They all saw him play. He was not some little guy from the I.E. that nobody saw play .... They just liked him. They didn't love him."

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## 61 Introducing Kawhi Leonard

By Diamond Leung | ESPN.com  
December 29, 2009

Hey, I'm new here, but I heard one of my ESPN colleagues calls talented freshmen "diaper dandies."

Kawhi Leonard of San Diego State would certainly qualify as one, even if a bunch of other schools didn't necessarily see it coming, as Michael Becker of The Press-Enterprise writes today.

Leonard, a 6-foot-7 forward and California's reigning Mr. Basketball, announced his arrival with a 23-point, 18-rebound performance against Cal State Fullerton that opened some eyes.

He's versatile, averages nearly a double-double for the Aztecs and has a Mountain West Conference player of the week honor under his belt. NBA scouts must be loving that they get to spend more time in San Diego these days.

But coming out of high school in Riverside, Calif., Leonard was passed over in recruiting by schools from the Pac-10 and other major conferences.

For inspiration, Leonard also has the memory of his father, Mark, who was shot to death last January.

Leonard played the day following the incident and is still going strong.

## 62 Frigid Aztecs have the hots for Gordon

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
December 30, 2009

It was the guy in a white undershirt, jeans and red hat sitting three rows back who got a lot of the love from the crowd last night at Viejas Arena.

While the Aztecs were sneaking past UC Riverside with a 58-53 win, the fans (at least the students still on campus during the winter break) were pining over Drew Gordon, the 6-foot-9 transfer from UCLA who is considering San Diego State as one of his landing spots.

On the court, Billy White did his best to keep the Aztecs in the game, scoring a team-high 13 points. Malcolm Thomas did his part, matching a career high with six blocks, including a swat on David Chavarría's threepointer with six seconds left that would have tied the game.

But it was Gordon who got a round of applause when he tipped his cap to the crowd following a "we want Drew" chant from the student section.

His father, Ed, played for San Diego State in the 1980s, so the "Like Father, Like Son" signs didn't hurt either.

Neither did the steady stream of fans that came by to shake his hand and offer sage-like advice to the forward, who has also made trips to Notre Dame, New Mexico and UNLV.

"They are a fun team to watch," the younger Gordon said of the Aztecs during halftime. "They are athletic."

They look like they are really jelling as a team."

He almost saw the Aztecs (10-3) lose their first game at home this season.

Barring a few brief stretches, SDSU looked considerably disjointed most of the night against the smaller and less athletic Highlanders. The Aztecs overcame poor shooting (5 of their first 14) and almost seven minutes without a field goal midway through the first half before White scored SDSU's next nine points. They finished 19-of-50 from the field.

"It's not often that you shoot 3-for-20 (three-pointers) and 17-for-34 from the free-throw line and win a game," said coach Steve Fisher. "And we did that. You won't lose many games when your opponent scores 53 points."

I'm always a half-filled glass guy. I'm proud of how we defended."

The first-half highlight came after Thomas swatted Larry Guganious' shot to mid-court. Chase Tapley recovered and served up a perfect alley-ooop to White in transition as the Aztecs finished the first half on a 10-2 run for a 29-20 lead. It looked like the rout was on.

"I think we started off slow," White said. "But the last three minutes we picked it up and found our mojo and kept going with it ... our free throws were bad. We couldn't hit threes. But our inside game was working for us."

But the Highlanders (6-6) inched their way back in the second half thanks to SDSU's poor shooting, cutting the deficit to one in the final minute. They packed their defense inside the box in the final 10 minutes, showing little respect for SDSU's outside shooting (8-of-23 from the floor in the second half). The strategy worked and Riverside had a chance to tie at 56-56 in the final seconds. But Thomas' block and subsequent free throws by Kawhi Leonard, stretched SDSU's home-court win streak to 11.

"It would have been a real coup for us to come in here and beat this team," said Riverside coach Jim Wooldridge.

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## 63 Aztecs perform a great escape

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
December 30, 2009

The San Diego State men's basketball team did little offensively to impress Drew Gordon on Tuesday night. At the very least, however, the UCLA transfer, who was among the 5,315 at Viejas Arena, was treated to a wild and ---- from the Aztecs' perspective ---- far-too-close finish to absorb.

Despite an atrocious shooting performance, SDSU did just enough on the defensive end to hang on for a 58-53 win over UC Riverside for its seventh victory in eight games. But it took a late blocked 3-point attempt and four clutch free throws for the Aztecs (10-3) to escape what would have been a disastrous loss.

"It's not often that you shoot 3-for-20 from 3-point range and 17-for-34 from the free throw line and win a game," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said.

"And we did that. You won't lose many games when your opponents score 53 points. ... I thought enough good things happened at the defensive end."

Few, if any, positives occurred whenever the Aztecs took a shot outside of six feet. The team's slumping ways ---- SDSU shot 38 percent ---- caught up to it when a lead which never was bigger than 10 points was cut to one on Sean Cunningham's jumper with 44 seconds remaining.

With 27 seconds left, Riverside (6-6) opted to foul freshman Kawhi Leonard (12 points) and put him on the free throw line. Leonard, who missed a pair of free throw attempts with one minute left, calmly sank both this time to give his team a 56-53 lead.

Kyle Austin's 12-foot try then rimmed out but the Highlanders regained possession when SDSU turned the ball over at the baseline.

But Malcolm Thomas ---- who tied a career-high with six blocked shots ---- blocked David Chavarria's 3-point try with six seconds left. Leonard grabbed the ball and was fouled.

"We just had an off night," said SDSU's Billy White, who scored a team-high 13 points. "But fortunately we played well enough defensively to make up for it. ... If you play defense and get steals you can create."

Said UC Riverside coach Jim Wooldridge: "We knew we were going to have an extraordinary effort ... we just couldn't finish enough of those plays."

White stepped up when the Aztecs needed him most. He scored seven of his 13 late in the first half as SDSU built its lead to nine before the break. Prior to White's free throw at the 4:36 mark, SDSU hadn't scored in 5 minutes, 47 seconds.

Gordon was in attendance to witness it all with Montezuma Mesa being his fourth stop among the schools he's considering. Gordon, who is deciding between San Diego State, Nevada-Las Vegas, Notre Dame and New Mexico, said he will wait until after the new year to make a decision.

The sophomore with 2 1/2 years of eligibility averaged 11.2 points per game and 5.3 rebounds in six games at UCLA this season before opting to transfer out of Ben Howland's program.

Gordon's father, Eddy Gordon, who was also in attendance Tuesday, played for the San Diego State basketball team alongside Tony Gwynn from 1980-83.

Twice during the first half fans in SDSU's student section started "We want Drew" chants while others wielded signs saying "Hey Drew, Like Father Like Son." Another held a poster of Gordon wearing a San Diego State jersey.

"It's been welcoming," said Gordon, noting the Aztecs program is on the rise and the team was "very athletic."

## 64

### Gordon watches as Aztecs defeat Riverside

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
December 30, 2009

Two problems plagued San Diego State in the last couple games -- too many turnovers and not enough free throws.

The Aztecs cut down on the turnovers Tuesday night against UC Riverside, committing only 12 for the night. But they still found a way to keep their opponent in the game by struggling at the free throw line before surviving a scare with a 58-53 win in the non-conference game before 5,315 fans at Viejas Arena.

The Aztecs hit only 17-of-34 free throws for 50 percent. Making just half of the 17 misses would have provided a comfortable winning margin, but SDSU head coach Steve Fisher blamed the rocky performance on playing tentatively more than than the one week layoff from last week's overtime win at Drake.

"I think that you get a little bit guarded when you are playing with a lead and see that lead start to shrink on you," Fisher said. "That wears on your psyche a little bit. You can't play that way. I think this will be a good learning experience for us."

Watching the game was UCLA transfer Drew Gordon, who is looking to play for a program that plays more up-tempo offense than UCLA's deliberate style.

Gordon, who was welcomed by signs from the student section that said "We Want Drew," saw SDSU is athletic and likes to run.

But the Aztecs poor free-throw shooting combined with 38 percent shooting from the field and 15 percent (3-of-20) from the 3-point range led to the low-scoring game.

Fisher was happy with other phases of the game, particularly the defense.

"I thought we guarded well and guarded hard," he said. "I thought we did a good job in most areas with exception of free throws. Obviously we were holding the lead instead of playing solid basketball. When we missed a couple of shots we got reluctant to shoot."

"If we make the free throws, we win by 10 or 12. I believe we will make them New Year's Eve (against Pomona Pitzer) and Jan. 5 (against New Mexico)."

The Aztecs improved to 10-3 overall as they won their 11th straight home game. They have one non-conference game remaining Dec. 31 against Pomona Pitzer before facing New Mexico at home Jan. 5 in the Mountain West Conference opener.

Junior Billy White led the Aztecs with 13 points and six rebounds and freshman Kawhi Leonard added 12 points and six rebounds.

Junior Malcolm Thomas didn't score double figures, but he had a nice line with six points, seven rebounds, four assists and six blocks. The blocks and assists tied career highs.

"We just had a bad night (on free throws)," White said. "We just had to pick it up on defense and that's how we got the win."

UC Riverside's Kyle Austin, a USC transfer, led the Highlanders with 19 points.

SDSU may have won the game in the final five minutes of the first half. The score was tied at 19-19 with 4:22 remaining in when SDSU went on a 10-1 run for 29-20 halftime lead that sophomore Tim Shelton forged with a basket with 1:16 left.

The Aztecs maintained an eight-point lead throughout the first 10 minutes of the second half before UC Riverside closed the gap.

The Highlanders trimmed the lead to three twice at 48-45 and 50-47 before freshman Chase Tapley hit two free throws to bump the lead back to five at 50-45 with 1:57 left.

The teams traded baskets as the lead continued to alternate between three and five points before Austin made two free throws and Leonard then missed two. Leonard was 1-for-5 at the time, dropping the team to 13-for-30 at that point in the game.

The sequence was followed by a 17-footer by Sean Cunningham to trim SDSU's lead to one, 54-53, with 34 seconds remaining. But Leonard went to the line again and made both of this time for a 56-53 lead with 27 seconds remaining.

Malcolm Thomas blocked his sixth shot of the game -- a shot by Austin -- with 2.3 second remaining to essentially wrap up the game. Leonard was fouled on the rebound and hit two free throws for four in a row in the last minute and half.

"When I missed my two free throws, I ran back on defense to try to get it back," Leonard said. "Once I got fouled, I stepped to the line and was just thinking about the team and how much we needed this victory as we go into conference (play)."

## 65

### Aztecs gobble up plucky Sagehens

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 1, 2010

Pomona-Pitzer started Thursday's game as little more than a sparring partner for the San Diego State Aztecs. By the time it was over, the Division III Sagehens



were punching bags in blue uniforms.

The decade-finale at Viejas Arena in front of an announced crowd of 4,061 was essentially a tuneup for the Aztecs, who open Mountain West Conference play Tuesday night at home against No. 19 New Mexico. The Sagehens didn't offer much in the way of resistance. Rather they served as warm bodies for the Aztecs to work out their kinks in an 89-54 victory.

"We tried like crazy to get a Division I game and couldn't find one," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said. "I felt it would be in our best interest to play a game. And I think what we did was good for us and the way it unfolded was good for us."

Six Aztecs scored in double digits, with freshman Kawhi Leonard leading all players with 17 points and 12 rebounds. SDSU played selfless basketball, with 22 assists on 35 baskets while committing a season-low three turnovers (also a record at Viejas Arena).

"They did a great job of passing up an OK shot to get a better shot," Fisher said. "You have to do that, doesn't matter time, score, opponent. If you do, you're going to have a chance."

SDSU (11-3) never trailed and took the lead for good at the 18:39 mark of the first half. Pomona-Pitzer (4-5) did put up a fight in the first 20 minutes, keeping the Aztecs' lead to single digits for a 40-31 score at the half.

But the Aztecs opened the second half with an 11-1 run. By the time the student band fired up "Auld Lang Syne" midway through the second half, the Aztecs had a 21-point lead.

Earlier in the week, SDSU had a nine-point lead at halftime against UC Riverside, only to see it disintegrate to three points in the final minute. That wasn't going to happen again.

"The first half they weren't scared at all," said junior center Brian Carlwell. "They were jacking threes and crashing the glass. I think it kept us humble. We talked amongst ourselves at halftime and said put them away."

Keep our mind focused ... that can be your most dangerous opponent, people who have nothing to lose."

Even with a 25-point lead, the Aztecs were pressing, bombing from three-point land and running their way to 12 fast-break points.

While turnovers had been a problem the past few games for the Aztecs, free-throw shooting had been just as bad. But yesterday SDSU converted 12-of-13 (92.3 percent).

The victory doesn't count toward the team's win total in the eyes of the NCAA selection committee, which only looks at Division I victories, nor does it count toward SDSU's RPI rating. Though had the Aztecs lost, it would have no doubt been held over their heads.

But it was the kind of game Fisher wanted to see before his team begins conference play.

"We accomplished some things that you have to do to win against anybody," he said.

## 66

### Rout wraps up Aztecs' nonconference schedule

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 1, 2010

The suspense at Viejas Arena on Thursday was as thin as the New Year's Eve crowd. As expected, the San Diego State men's basketball team dominated its final nonconference tuneup, routing NCAA Division III Pomona-Pitzer 89-54 in front of an announced crowd of 4,061.

Buoyed by a 13-1 run to open the second half, the Aztecs cruised to their seventh victory in eight games and set their sights on No. 19 New Mexico, which visits Tuesday to open Mountain West Conference play.

Following a game in which the Aztecs committed a school-record-low three turnovers, players and coaches said they believe they're ready.

After starting the season with six new players and struggling to discern either a

starting rotation or roles for specific players, the Aztecs have developed into a team that is defensively sound and sure to provide opponents with matchup issues ---- though they're also prone to sloppy play and poor outside shooting.

"We're doing pretty good," said junior center Brian Carlwell, who scored a season-high 13 points and had six rebounds. "There's always room for improvement, of course. There's always things we can get better at. But I think we're doing OK. Everybody's positive about it. Everybody knows we still have work to do, but everybody still realizes that we're going to be a really good team. We are a good team, and as long as we keep working, everything is going to fall into place."

Kawhi Leonard scored a game-high 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead six Aztecs (11-3) in double figures. Westview High graduate Adam Chaimowitz led Pomona-Pitzer (4-5) with 16 points.

Leonard is one of only five Aztecs to play in all 14 of the team's game, and guard D.J. Gay (10 points) is the only player to start every game, a result of the injuries and health issues that have hampered San Diego State for 2 1/2 months. But only forward Tim Shelton (sore knee) remains hindered with the conference opener approaching fast.

"We're ready to go play," coach Steve Fisher said. " ... And we're relatively injury-free given the state of what we do, and we just now need to go out and compete. We've got the ability to go eight, nine deep. And when you come in you have to perform."

Considering how the Aztecs did during the NCAA tournament selection process last March, when they were bypassed for an at-large bid despite carrying an RPI rank of 34, the 2009-10 team will have to fare well in what appears to be an improved Mountain West Conference.

Entering Thursday's win, San Diego State was ranked 45th in the nation. The team posted arguably its most notable victory over a name program (Arizona) in December and had good road wins at Fresno State, UC Santa Barbara and Drake.

But the Aztecs also lost at Saint Mary's in November and dropped road games at Pacific and Arizona State.

And though there is speculation the conference could get as many as four teams into the NCAA field of 65 in March, Fisher knows not to count on it.

"We talked in the locker room today," Fisher said, "if we had won all of our home games (last season), we would have tied for first and would have gone to the NCAA tournament. We are going to have a lot of close games. We need to win our share and a couple more. ... Who knows what will happen this year?"

## 67

### Gay expands his role as point guard on the run

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
January 4, 2010

As the defensive rebound comes off the rim, San Diego State's point guard looks for a face and jersey number before he breaks.

If junior point guard D.J. Gay recognizes it's one of the Aztecs' forwards that can handle the ball, he breaks for a passing lane to possibly finish the fast break. If it's a big man that stays inside, he breaks back for the ball to start the fastbreak.

"When I see somebody with the ability to push the ball, I don't need to run back and have the ball come back to me for the break," Gay said. "That gives our opponents time to get back. Our coaches and I feel comfortable letting someone else push the ball while I run the lane. I know they're going to make the right play."

In that way, don't grade Gay as a conventional point guard. SDSU, taking advantage of its overall team athleticism, isn't limiting him to centering up the ball on every possession. The same is true when freshman Chase Tapley replaces Gay at the point.

"Our team is so versatile, our philosophy is to get out and run," Gay said. "Tyrone (Shelley), Kawhi (Leonard) and even Billy (White) know when they get a rebound, Chase or I are going to get out and fill a lane. It's a way to get a quick basket instead of making that extra pass back to me."

One of the concerns entering the season was SDSU's play at point guard. The last

two years Gay, a 6-foot, 167-pounder from Sun Valley, would spell the graduated Richie Williams at point guard, but he largely played a shooting guard role. That made for a transition period this year for him.

But 14 games into the season, with the Aztecs having posted an 11-3 record entering Mountain West Conference play on Jan. 5 against New Mexico at Viejas Arena, Gay has proven head coach Steve Fisher's confidence in him.

"I made the comment when we started the season -- when everybody was saying we've got everything but a point guard -- and I said, 'Don't worry about the point guard spot. D.J. will be fine.'" Fisher said. "He may not be as flashy and spectacular as Richie was in some areas, but D.J. will grow into what he can do and do well, and he's doing that.

He's not going to score 20 points every game, but if he can give you solid leadership, four assists, no turnovers, make open shots, he will be to us what [Derek] Glasser is to Arizona State."

In matchups against Glasser and another Pac-10 point guard, Arizona's Nic Wise, Gay has played Glasser even in a 55-52 loss to the Sun Devils and outplayed Wise in 63-46 win.

Against Wise, Gay finished with 12 points, two assists and two turnovers. Wise, scoreless at halftime, had four points and four assists with two turnovers.

Against Glasser, both point guards struggled from the field. Gay scored 10 points (3-of-10) with three assists and no turnovers. Glasser scored 11 (3-of-9) with five assists and two turnovers.

In conference play, opponents always know more about how to game-plan their opponent since they see a team twice a year, year after year. But SDSU's fast break is a new twist for MWC foes to adapt to this season.

"I think it started the first day of practice," Gay said. "Nobody knew for sure what to expect with so many new faces.

But we soon saw our new teammates were capable of running, and we decided other people can push it, too."

Gay, who is the only Aztec to start all 14 games, is third in scoring on the balanced lineup with 10.4 points a game.

He's averaging 2.9 assists -- running the break instead of always centering the ball reduces his assist total -- and 1.8 turnovers. He leads the team in free-throw percentage at .769 (20-of-26).

"Point guard is just a title," Gay said. "There's no reason for me to always come back to the ball when we have other guys that can run with it."

## 68

### New Mexico major test for Aztecs

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 5, 2010

Over the weekend during practice, San Diego State forward Billy White took an inbounds pass, fired and swished a three-pointer from the corner, then let his shooting hand dangle in the air for a couple of extra seconds. Nice play, nice shot.

Fast forward 10 seconds.

"Everyone can shoot against the zone in practice!" screamed assistant coach Justin Hutson, snapping the team out of the lighthearted moment. "Nobody is scared of a press during practice!

Can you do that in a game!?"

The rhetorical question — and the manner in which it was asked — underscored the seriousness of San Diego State's basketball practices leading up to tonight's Mountain West Conference opener against No.15 New Mexico.

The message was clear. Playtime is over.

"They are riding us hard," White said after practice.

And with good reason.

"This is the most talented team in the league," coach Steve Fisher said. "This is not smoke and mirrors. They have more talent than anybody in the league."

So SDSU's first major conference test comes in its first conference game. A win would open up some national eyes because New Mexico is ranked. It could elevate the team from question-mark status into the legitimate contender conversation. At the very least, it would be a heck of a win.

And if they lose, well?

"I don't even want to think about that," point guard D.J. Gay said. "We just have to come in well prepared. We're thinking on the positive end. It's going to be a battle from beginning to end. If we come out on top, it could be what we need to spark us and give us another step forward. I don't want to think about it if it goes the other way."

Fisher said he sculpted the nonconference schedule to emulate the difficulties that lie ahead in the next 16 games. The Aztecs (11-3) have played seven "true" road games — not just on neutral courts — but on an opposition's actual court. The hope is that the Aztecs have reached a level or preparedness not seen in Fisher's previous 10 seasons.

"We're ready," Fisher said. "Whether we're good enough is the question. We're good enough if we play well. We can play well and not win, that's how good New Mexico is. But we have to do the things that good teams do and if we do that, we'll have a chance.

"If we don't win, we'll be looking up and we'll have to say 'Ok, now what?' We'll have to win an extra one on the road. If you don't win at home, it's hard, whether it's your first game, second game or last game."

That's why Fisher has been tightening the noose at workouts.

"Coach knows what he's doing," Malcolm Thomas said. "He's trying to get us mentally prepared. We know every other team is going to be just as athletic as us."

Historically, SDSU hasn't fared well against ranked teams and is just 13-76 against ranked opponents in the Division I era. However, the Aztecs are 3-3 in their past six and have won three of their past four against conference teams ranked in the Top 25.

It doesn't help that Viejas Arena probably won't have its usual energy tonight because most of the students are still out of town on winter break. That hasn't stopped players from soliciting everyone they see to come out tonight and support the team.

"I'm glad we've got them here first in our building," White said. "We get to see them at home and hopefully set the tempo for our conference. Our goal is not to lose any home games. Coach has been telling us since Day One that the team that doesn't lose at home is going to win this conference, so our goal is not to lose in this building at all."

Fisher also has been tinkering with the right combination of players. He said he likes the idea of having freshman guard Chase Tapley and Gay on the court at the same time. Though a smaller look, it gives the team more shooting/distribution options.

Tonight's game also features four of the conference's top five rebounders. SDSU's Kawhi Leonard (first) and Thomas (fourth) will battle Roman Martinez (T. fifth) and Darington Hobson (third) underneath.

## 69

### Mountain West Conference men's predicted order of finish

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 5, 2010

Men's teams listed in predicted order of finish

1. No. 25 BYU (14-1): Jimmer Fredette, the 6-foot-2 junior guard/MWC preseason Player of the Year, and Jonathan Tavernari, a 6-6 guard/forward, are the reasons the Cougars are conference favorites. It doesn't hurt either that four of their five starters from last season's tri-championship team return.

2. No. 15 New Mexico (14-1): Playing as well as anyone at this point. Darington Hobson and Roman Martinez

are scoring machines. Dairese Gary might be the best point guard in the league. The question surrounding this team is, can the Lobos do it against quality teams on the road? First test is tonight at SDSU.

3. San Diego State (11-3): If there is to be another three-way tie like last year, expect the Aztecs to be in the mix. They are as athletically talented as any team in the league. But they probably will have to steal a tough road game to reach the top. Consistent play will be a top priority for the hometown team.

4. UNLV (12-2): The Louisville win looks great on a résumé; the USC loss doesn't. Tre'Von Willis, a 6-4 guard, is explosive — averaging 14.5 points per game heading into conference play. This is a much better team than the one that went 9-7 in the conference last season.

5. Colorado State (9-5): Freshman guard Dorian Green has quietly emerged as the go-to player, averaging 13.7 points per game. Forward Andy Ogide is still a force under the basket and Adam Nigon and Andrew McFarland will fire three-pointers every chance they get.

6. Utah (7-7): Don't be fooled by their record — the Utes can play. With three players averaging double-digit points per game — Carlon Brown, Luka Drca and Marshall Henderson — Utah is a scary unknown. Utah has good experience with three returning starters.

7. Air Force (8-5): Only junior guard Evan Washington returns to start from last year's team. The Falcons are sitting three games over .500, but haven't played anyone of note. Forward/center Grant Parker likes to pop out and shoot threes and is leading the team, averaging 17.1 points per game.

8. Wyoming (7-7): After sitting out last season, San Diego's JayDee Luster (Hoover) is back on the court after transferring from New Mexico State. Sophomore guard Afam Muojeke was the conference Freshman of the Year last season. Muojeke is averaging 17.6 points per game.

9. TCU (7-7): The Horned Frogs return three starters from last year's team, which went 5-11 in conference play. Sophomore guard Ronnie Moss was the top scoring true freshman in the conference last season, and enters the week averaging 14.9 points per game.

## 70

### Aztecs aim to protect their house

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 5, 2010

The sting of its lone home loss in conference play last season, one in which it blew a 12-point lead to Brigham Young, wasn't completely felt until 19 days later. On March 15, 2009, the San Diego State men's basketball team — which owned an RPI figure of 34 — was bypassed for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

Had they prevailed in their Feb. 24 game against the Cougars, had they been able to hold BYU's Jimmer Fredette to a modest performance, the Aztecs eventually would have ended the season in a three-way for first place in the Mountain West Conference.

But it wasn't to be.

Fredette torched the Aztecs — who finished with an 11-5 conference record — for 28 points. The loss and resulting snub by the NCAA selection committee provided them with a frustrating reminder of what happens when you don't win at home.

It's an example that coach Steve Fisher has leaned upon heavily leading up to Tuesday night's conference opener against No. 15-ranked New Mexico at Viejas Arena at 7:30 p.m.

"We talked in the locker room (Saturday)," Fisher said. "If we had won all of our home games (last season), we would have tied for first and would have gone to the NCAA tournament. We are going to have a lot of close games. We need to win our share and a couple more."

Billy White wasn't in the lineup for the loss to BYU. The junior forward had sprained his ankle in a game three days earlier. But White witnessed as SDSU rallied from a 13-point deficit and took a 47-35 lead in the second half, only to lose. Given the difficulty of winning on the road in the MWC — the Aztecs are 7-9 in his two seasons — White knows the importance of winning at home.

"(BYU) set us back a little," White said. "I think that cost us a bid at the NCAA tournament because we also lost at BYU. We lost to them twice. ... The road games are very hard. That's the hardest part. Every time we play at home, we've gotta win."

San Diego State has done just that this season, winning all seven of its home games. The Aztecs haven't trailed at Viejas Arena since last March 7, when Nevada-Las Vegas led 32-31 early in the second half.

Junior Brian Carlwell — one of the team's vocal leaders — believes that the Aztecs are capable of continuing that trend. The Illinois transfer, who is in his first season at SDSU, was convinced of the strength of the Mountain West after watching conference play from the bench last season.

"There is no one team that you can take for granted," Carlwell said. "Everybody comes to play. Air Force is going to grind you, so you have to be mentally tough for that. UNLV is going to press you, so you have to be physically ready for that. And you've got New Mexico; they're running at you. So you have to be ready. ... This conference is real good."

SDSU might be starting against the best the conference has to offer. The Lobos enter the game with a 14-1 record and impressive victories over then-ranked foes Cal, Texas Tech and Texas A&M. Fisher called the Lobos the most talented team in the conference before reiterating the need to play well at Viejas, where the Aztecs are 60-9 since the start of the 2005-06 season.

"We are playing one of the best teams in America," Fisher said. "We are going to need all of our fans to help make this the kind of home-court venue it has become. We will have our hands full."

## 71

### SDSU savors home cooking

By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 6, 2010

Viejas Arena is worth points. It may not be Cameron or any of the more famous college basketball houses, but it's become a mighty tough place to visit. And San Diego State's men's basketball team is very hard to play in it.

In fact, San Diego State's men's basketball eventually could prove tough to play anywhere. Matching up against them isn't going to be easy for anybody.

They're long, good, quick and extremely athletic. But on their own floor, with their band of crazies in tune — even with school on semester hiatus — they can dance to the music and move things along.

Going into last night's Mountain West Conference opener against 14th- or 15th-ranked New Mexico (pick your poll), Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said the 14-1 Lobos might be the best team he's seen in the league since he arrived on campus in 1999.

New Mexico is good, all right, and for a while last night they were very good, shooting like madmen — hitting five of their first seven threes in the early going — but in the end State played with its depth showing, and the result was a stirring 74-64 win.

Over the years, the Aztecs haven't had overwhelming success against ranked teams, which is one of the reasons why at times they've been passed up by the NCAA despite outstanding records. State is 12-3 now, and this win isn't going to hurt their stature.

Fisher doesn't have the best shooting team — from the floor or the line — that he's had during his tenure, and he knows full well that can damage his chances when March rolls around. And this is a club that still seems to be feeling its way, trying to find cohesion.

Having watched them play, I had the feeling they were deeper than last year's team, which reached the NIT semis, but they didn't seem to have the on-court leadership, nor could they play defense with the 2008-09 Aztecs, who seemingly had eight hands apiece.

But last night, point guard D.J. Gay had control of the floor, playing 36 minutes, scoring 12 points, handing out five assists and keeping the Lobos at bay. And defense is how this was won, especially in the second half, when New Mexico became so frustrated it missed wide open layups.

"They were tougher than us," Lobos coach Steve Alford would say. "I told our guys this was going to be a tough place to win, and they didn't do it. We couldn't make shots, and once we started missing shots it affected how we guarded."

Both teams shot well early, but that stopped. The visitors managed 28.6 percent from the floor in the second half, missing 8-of-10 three-point tries after hitting 6-of-11 in the first 20 minutes. After shooting 50 percent in the first half (and leading 38-36), State made just 11 of 28 of its tries following the break.

Asked if he thinks this ever will be a good-shooting team, Fisher said: "Probably not, no. But as long as we make enough of 'em, I can live with it."

The key for this team, as it was with last year's, will be defense, and the fact Fisher probably has the deepest group he's had. He'll need it. Last night, his best player, forward Billy White, went down with a high ankle sprain with 5:45 remaining in the first half. High ankle sprains are not good, and Fisher said there was immediate swelling.

"I'm worried about Billy," the coach said. "We have to wait and see, but I'm not overly optimistic."

Fisher told his team it needed to do three things defensively.

Calling New Mexico the best transition team in the MWC, State had to shut down the Lobos' running game. They had zero fast break points.

He said they had to do a job guarding forward Darington Hobson. They did. He was 4-of-17 from the floor (12 points).

He said he they had to stop forward Roman Martinez. He scored 12.

The 64 points were the fewest New Mexico scored this season. State got 18 points and 15 rebounds from forward Malcolm Thomas, and a nice, sure all around game from forward Tim Shelton, whose knee problems have limited his minutes. But he logged 26 last night.

"It was a great effort from Thomas and we got, without question, the best effort from Shelton. He was good," Fisher said.

"We were a real good defensive team tonight. We did the things we had to do and beat a real good basketball team. That was a good win. They're good. They were away from The Pit, and if we want to battle for the league, we had to win at home."

Home has become a very tough place for other guys to hang their hats.

## 72

### Aztecs lasso the Lobos

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 6, 2010

The first "overrated" chant from the always enthusiastic San Diego State student section at Viejas Arena started just one minute into last night's Mountain West Conference opener against No.15 New Mexico.

They provided an "overrated" reprise with 1:15 left in the game and the Aztecs holding an 11-point advantage over the visiting Lobos. It continued as the seconds ticked away, capping the Aztecs' 74-64 win in front of an announced crowd of 7,558.

But the victory came at a cost. Forward Billy White, the team's leading scorer, left the game in the first half with a high ankle sprain and did not return.

Coach Steve Fisher didn't immediately know the severity of the injury. White is expected to undergo Xrays today.

Despite White's absence for most of the first half and all of the second half, the Aztecs (12-3, 1-0) managed to do the little things that Fisher always talks about — minimizing turnovers, hustling for loose balls and taking charges.

"That was a tough, hard-fought win against a very, very good New Mexico team," Fisher said. "... We did what we were supposed to do. We won at home. And if you want to contend you have to win at home."

Malcolm Thomas turned in a double-double with 18 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Aztecs. Tim Shelton, who continues to nurse a bad knee, provided 26

minutes — his most of the season. Off the bench, Shelton contributed eight points, three assists and four rebounds.

But more important, it was the veteran leadership Shelton brings that helped calm the Aztecs, who trailed by six points seven minutes into the first half.

"His stats don't distinguish how much he helped us tonight," Fisher said. "It was by far his best contribution to the team this season."

The win is San Diego State's fourth in its past five games against Mountain West Conference teams ranked in the Top 25 and its 13th consecutive at home.

The Lobos (35.3 percent from the field) shot well below their season average of 45 percent. Part of it was San Diego State's defense — part of it was just poor shooting.

SDSU held pro prospect, forward Darington Hobson to 4-of-17 shooting from the field while denying sharpshooting Roman Martinez clean looks. It was New Mexico's lowest point total this season.

"We made it hard for him (Hobson) to get layups and unguarded shots," Fisher said. "All of us get frustrated when the ball doesn't go in. I still say he's the best professional prospect in our league. He didn't look it tonight because of the guys guarding him."

White went down with 5:45 remaining in the first half following a fast-break basket by Thomas. White jumped for a follow-up shot, then landed awkwardly and his right leg buckled. He was carried off the court and returned to the bench on crutches.

In his absence, Thomas provided the muscle in the paint.

"Billy White is our energy on the court," Thomas said. "When he went out, we didn't really hang our heads, but we tried to figure out where that energy was coming from."

New Mexico coach Steve Alford saw it coming from Thomas.

"He dominated the post," said Alford, whose team fell to 14-2, 0-1 in conference play. "They were more physical than we were. They were tougher."

## 73

### Home cooking

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 6, 2010

Malcolm Thomas fired both arms upward, imploring the Viejas Arena crowd for more energy. Tim Shelton quickly matched his teammate, turning at the baseline and clapping in approval of the home fans' effort.

Despite losing energetic forward Billy White indefinitely to a high-ankle sprain, the San Diego State men's basketball team captured a rare victory over a ranked opponent Tuesday night by utilizing its remaining resources.

Combining perhaps their top defensive showing of the season with standout performances by Thomas and Shelton and a collective effort on offense, the Aztecs handed No. 15 New Mexico a 74-64 defeat in both teams' Mountain West Conference opener before 7,558 fans.

The 14th victory over a ranked opponent in school history kept San Diego State (12-3) unbeaten in its last 13 home games, including all eight this season. The Aztecs are 14-76 all-time against ranked opponents.

"The crowd, they pumped us up a lot," said Thomas, who finished with a game-high 18 points and 15 rebounds. "Billy White is our energy guy. When he went out, we didn't really hang our heads, but we needed to figure out where that energy was going to come from. The crowd stepped in and pushed us through it."

So did a defense that harassed the Lobos (14-2) into 12-of-43 shooting after a sharp start. New Mexico made nine of its first 14 shots, including five 3-pointers to grab a 23-17 lead. But the Aztecs shut down the Lobos' multi-faceted attack the rest of the way, with much of the focus on stopping junior Darington Hobson. Hobson ---- who is among the conference leaders in points, rebounds and assists ---- made his first two 3-point attempts but finished 4-of-17 from the field.

"We made it hard for him to get layups, we made it hard for him to get un-guarded shots," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "Our guys played with a measure of resolve, and they got tired of hearing me say how good (Hobson) was. ... He's the best pro prospect in our league, and he didn't look it tonight." Thomas did.

With White limited to nine minutes ---- he hobbled off the court with 5 minutes, 44 seconds left in the first half ---- the onus was on the remaining eight players in Fisher's rotation to respond. Thomas, who scored 11 second-half points, scored several easy buckets by exploding past defenders for dunks. He also helped the Aztecs overcome an eight-rebound deficit in the first half to rebound the Lobos 43-39.

Shelton played 26 minutes despite battling a sore knee and opened up the offense with his passing, finishing with eight points and three assists. Kelvin Davis added nine points, including two 3-pointers for SDSU, which was 7-of-18 from behind the arc.

"(This win) definitely puts us in the right direction," said junior guard D.J. Gay, who finished with 12 points. "Winning this game was big for us. It's a game we've been talking about for the last two weeks. New Mexico is a great team, and this game just gives us the momentum going into Wyoming."

## 74

### Thomas' double-double leads San Diego State to 74-64 upset of No. 15 New Mexico

By Bernie Wilson | Los Angeles Times  
January 6, 2010

Malcolm Thomas had 18 points and 15 rebounds to lead San Diego State to a 74-64 upset of No. 15 New Mexico on Tuesday night in the Mountain West Conference opener for both teams.

It was the second loss in four games for the Lobos (14-2), the defending conference champions.

The Aztecs (12-3) won despite losing leading scorer Billy White with a sprained right ankle with just under 6 minutes left in the first half.

Thomas put on a show in the final minutes, scoring seven straight points for the Aztecs. He had a shot blocked but grabbed the ball and had a slam dunk for a 60-51 lead with 6:22 left. He made one of two free throws, a reverse baseline layup, then, after the Aztecs stole the ball, a fastbreak layup for a 65-55 lead, the biggest of the game.

SDSU has won four straight games and nine of 10. Although the Aztecs are only 14-76 against Top 25 teams, they are 4-3 in their last seven games against ranked opponents.

New Mexico's leading scorer, Darington Hobson, was only 4 of 17 from the field and finished with 12 points. He came in averaging 16.8.

Dairese Gary led the Lobos with 15 points, while Roman Martinez had 12 and Philip McDonald 10.

The game was tied 46-46 with 13:23 to go before the Aztecs began pulling away. Kelvin Davis made a bank shot, Tim Shelton made two of three free throws, Davis hit a 3-pointer and Thomas dunked to give the Aztecs a 55-47 lead with 10:13 left.

White was injured with 5:45 left in the first half and the Aztecs trailing 27-26. He didn't return, finishing with eight points. He later came out to the bench in street clothes and on crutches.

His replacement, Shelton, hit a 3-pointer just less than a minute later to give the Aztecs a 29-27 lead.

New Mexico went cold from the field after Chad Adams made a jumper with 6:50 to go, and got only six free throws until Martinez hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to pull the Lobos to 38-36.

## 75

### White doubtful with ankle sprain

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 7, 2010

San Diego State forward Billy White underwent X-rays yesterday, and it was determined he suffered a "significant" high ankle sprain, coach Steve Fisher said. There were no breaks or ligament damage, Fisher added.

White, the Aztecs' top scorer with an average of 12.3 points per game, injured his right ankle during the first half of Tuesday's 74-64 win over No. 15 New Mexico. Fisher said there was significant swelling and pain and it would likely be a few days before they discuss a timetable for his return.

"I would say he's doubtful for Wyoming (on Saturday in Laramie), but stranger things have happened," Fisher said.

"He's going to travel with us, in all probability with crutches and a boot. But I've seen crazy things happen so for me to say he's out, I can't say that."

White was trailing a fast break, jumped for a rebound and rolled his ankle on another player's foot when he landed.

"At first I didn't feel it," White said. "Then I stood up, tried to step and I couldn't move it. Right now, I'm just taking it day to day."

Not only do the Aztecs lose White's scoring, but they lose an aggressive defender who is second on the team in blocks (12) and fourth in steals (17).

Tim Shelton, whose own injuries are well-documented, came off the bench and played 26 minutes — his largest contribution of the season.

Fisher said he hopes Shelton can continue to provide 20-plus minutes after slowly increasing his playing time following offseason knee surgery.

"I was pleasantly surprised he was out here today doing some stuff," Fisher said. "It's not like he said, 'Coach, I can't go today because my knee is hurting.' He did some and sat some. That's the way he'll be this year in practice."

Shelton said he was surprised he's not more sore — and that he was able to defend New Mexico's top shooter, Roman Martinez.

He knows more will be expected of him during White's absence.

"(White is) a player," Shelton said. "He's a key guy. We're definitely going to miss his presence on the court. We're counting the days until he gets back. But until then, other people will have to step up."

### Notable

- Sophomore walk-on Bryan Horton left the team because of personal reasons not related to basketball, Fisher said. Horton appeared in six games this season and scored five points.

- Tyrone Shelley did not practice yesterday because of a foot/toe injury that has been bothering him. Fisher said Shelley received an injection during halftime of the New Mexico game so he could play in the second half.

"We sat him today so he can be ready to go on Saturday," Fisher said.

## 76

### White on crutches with sprained ankle

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 7, 2010

X-rays taken on Billy White's sprained ankle Wednesday were negative, though the San Diego State forward is considered "very doubtful" for Saturday's game at Wyoming, a school official said.

White attended Wednesday's practice on crutches and was wearing a temporary boot, one day after he left a 10-point win over No. 15 New Mexico with the injury.

The junior, who leads the Aztecs in scoring with 12.3 points per game and is shooting a Mountain West Conference-best 62.5 percent from the field, scored nine points in nine minutes against the Lobos before landing awkwardly on his ankle after an SDSU basket.

The Aztecs (12-3) believe it will be several days before swelling in White's ankle will subside enough to get a good idea of how much time he will miss.

77

**White's injury leaves Aztecs short-handed**By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 8, 2010

Over the years, winning in the thin air of Laramie, Wyo., where the San Diego State men's basketball team plays on Saturday, has proven complex. But the Aztecs' chances of winning this time at Wyoming appear increasingly more difficult without junior Billy White in the mix.

On Thursday, San Diego State coach Steve Fisher ruled out the possibility of White ---- who suffered a high-ankle sprain in Tuesday's win over New Mexico ---- participating on Saturday. Fisher also said he expects to wait several more days before the swelling in White's ankle subsides enough for doctors to properly gauge how long the team will be without its top scorer.

"(Billy) will not play Saturday, and we'll see what that means for us moving forward," Fisher said by phone.

San Diego State handled the loss of White, who played only nine minutes in a 10-point home win over No. 15 New Mexico, well enough at sea level on Tuesday.

But Saturday's contest will be played at an altitude of 7,165 feet in conditions that have previously left those playing Fisher's up-tempo brand of basketball sucking wind. The Aztecs are 4-6 in 10 games at Wyoming under Fisher.

Fisher's current squad will take only eight experienced players to Wyoming, including two who are battling ailments: Tim Shelton (knee) and Tyrone Shelley (foot).

Until Tuesday, Shelton ---- who had eight points and three assists in 26 minutes -- -- had not played more than 16 minutes in a game this season after undergoing a second microfracture knee surgery in the offseason. Team officials said Shelton was extremely sore after Tuesday's win, but he practiced on both Wednesday and Thursday and is expected to play a significant role Saturday.

After missing Wednesday's practice to rest a sore foot ---- he was stepped on during Tuesday's win ---- Shelley returned to the court Thursday.

"I'm a little concerned about having enough healthy bodies without Billy," Fisher said. "And Shelton is always a problem. He played 26 minutes the other night, but how's he going to deal with the next game?"

San Diego State, which graduated five significant players off last year's team, has few healthy bodies remaining. Fisher confirmed that rarely used reserves ---- sophomore guard Bryan Horton and junior Jason Deutchman ---- aren't with the team. Horton has left school for personal reasons, Fisher said, and will transfer to a school closer to home. Deutchman, who has had several knee surgeries, is on a "sabbatical" with an open invitation to return if he's healthy.

That leaves Fisher with Shelton, Shelley, Malcolm Thomas, D.J. Gay, Kawhi Leonard, Brian Carlwell, Chase Tapley, Kelvin Davis and freshman Alec Williams -- -- who has played all of 63 minutes this season. One intriguing option would be for the team to turn to forward Medhi Cheriet, a senior who averaged 4.6 points per game in 2008-09. But Cheriet opted to redshirt the 2009-10 season and Fisher said asking him to play isn't an option.

"We're not going to throw Medhi under the bus," Fisher said. "More things would have to happen where I'd even approach it. It's out of the question."

78

**Carlwell leaves his past behind**By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 9, 2010

The last thing Brian Carlwell remembers about the night of Feb. 12, 2007, is walking out of his friend's apartment and seeing a hallway light.

Then he blinks and sees another light.

It's a day later, maybe two, and he's looking up at the ceiling from a hospital bed.

Carlwell was in Champaign, Ill., a 6-foot-11 freshman center on the University of Illinois basketball team, and he had suffered a severe concussion when the car driven by inebriated teammate Jamar Smith slammed into a tree on an icy road. So severe that, according to police accounts, Smith thought his massive friend

was dead and drove him back to his apartment in a panic, leaving him in the car while he figured out what to do.

Witnesses at the apartment complex, police said, saw an unconscious man alone in a battered car and called 911.

"It forces you to grow up, definitely, definitely," says Carlwell, who spent four days in the hospital and needed six months before his equilibrium fully returned. "It caused me to realize that I have to live my life. I can't keep waiting because I don't know where that next deep breath is coming from."

Carlwell inhales. It is a warm, moist breath of air from the Pacific Ocean. He is a junior center for San Diego State now, far removed from the depressed Chicago neighborhood he survived as a youth, far removed from that snowy February night in Champaign. It's 70 degrees in January. There are palm trees everywhere.

The accident, Carlwell says, was not the sole reason he transferred from Illinois in 2008. But it did change his mentality, his outlook, and when he was injured his sophomore season and barely played, he was open to moving to a school and a place he knew nothing about. He didn't want to keep waiting.

The connection to Montezuma Mesa was Quinton Watkins, who had transferred from Illinois earlier that season. Watkins told Carlwell how much he enjoyed SDSU and the coaching staff, and Carlwell figured they would finish their collegiate careers there together.

And what happens? Watkins never played for the Aztecs, leaving school for personal reasons in the spring. Instead the Aztecs got the first true center of coach Steve Fisher's 11-year tenure even if at 295 pounds he is still 20 pounds heavier than Fisher would like.

They got someone who can step in and, beginning today at Wyoming, assume many of forward Billy White's minutes while he recovers from a high-ankle sprain.

They also got instant leadership on a roster largely devoid of it, someone whose 14.6 minutes and 4.7 points per game belie his true worth to the team.

"He says things in a fashion that his teammates and peers can accept," Fisher says. "He's the first guy to tell people little things he sees in practice or in games, to say, 'Hey, you need to do that better.' It has been invaluable."

Carlwell puts it this way: "Sometimes guys just have a hard time getting past the yelling. They don't hear what (a coach) is saying. They just know that he's yelling at them. I just go up to guys on the side and say, 'He's not saying that you're a bad person. He's just saying you need to do this or do that.'"

"Don't take the way they give you the message, just take the message ... That's what I try to tell some of the guys who really haven't been through as much stuff as I've been through."

Carlwell is not your ordinary 22-year-old, in other words.

He listens to Marvin Gaye, Al Green, the Chi-Lites — "old music," he calls it. He wears No. 5 not because he idolizes a pro star but because he is the fifth child of his family. He scored 11 touchdowns as a 6-10 wideout (you read that right) on his high school football team.

And when colleges began inviting the nation's No. 6-rated prep center on recruiting trips, promising to give him the regal treatment and take him to the wildest college parties, he declined and told them to take a trip to Maywood instead.

"I wanted them to come see where I was living, how I grew up," Carlwell says. "I just wanted them to know who I am, that I am a strong, intelligent black man. That I'm not a pushover. I just wanted them to come get a feel for that." Carlwell is from Proviso East High in Maywood, about 10 miles west of downtown Chicago. It is a high school that has produced, by some counts, nine NBA players — among them Boston Celtics coach Glenn "Doc" Rivers and current L.A. Lakers guard Shannon Brown. It is also a community where, according to government figures, one out of seven people live below the poverty line.

Carlwell starts counting with his fingers, inventorying the gangs in his neighborhood. He runs out of fingers on one hand.

"What kind of things did I see?" Carlwell says, repeating a question. "What didn't I see? My sophomore year, a teammate of mine was killed with an Ak-47 (assault rifle) ... I've seen some stuff, man. Let's just say that. I've seen a lot of stuff that

probably most people shouldn't see."

On Feb. 12, 2007, he remembers seeing a hallway light in an off-campus apartment complex, blinking, and then seeing another light ... in the hospital a day later, maybe two.

Smith, a highly touted guard at Illinois, was arrested, found to have more than double the legal blood-alcohol level and ultimately served 15 days in jail. The following year, he violated terms of his probation when he admitted consuming alcohol and was booted from Illinois.

Smith transferred to Division II Southern Indiana and played part of last season with an alcohol-monitoring ankle bracelet under his left sock. He is a senior there now, averaging 23.5 points for the 14-0 Screaming Eagles.

Carlwell knows all that because they have remained close friends. They still talk frequently. Carlwell even asked to be the godfather of Smith's son.

"People fail to realize, that's my boy regardless," Carlwell says. "People would say, 'Oh my god, he left you for dead. You must hate him.' I'd say, 'No, I hate you because of what you're doing to him right now. You're putting him in a bad light and making him seem like a bad person.' It was a mistake, on both our parts."

And anyway, life is too short not to forgive. Carlwell knows that now, understands that.

The Aztecs players were given a four-day break over Christmas, and Carlwell hopped on a plane so he could spend it in Maywood.

"People asked me what I got (for Christmas)," Carlwell says. "And I said, 'I got a good meal and a deep breath.' That was good enough for me."

## 79

### A reunion of sorts for Luster, 2 Aztecs

By Robert Gagliardi | Wyoming Tribune-Eagle  
January 9, 2010

JayDee Luster was born and grew up in San Diego, and played basketball with Malcolm Thomas and Tyrone Shelley.

Luster even was on the same Pop Warner football team as Thomas.

Today, Luster is a sophomore guard and captain on the University of Wyoming men's basketball team, while Thomas and Shelley play for San Diego State.

The two teams play each other at 4 p.m. today at the Arena-Auditorium in Laramie. It will be a reunion of sorts for Luster, Thomas and Shelley, and a chance for Luster to prove San Diego State missed out on a local product.

But that's not part of Luster's motivation today.

UW (7-8 overall, 0-1 Mountain West Conference) is coming off a lackluster 83-73 home loss to Colorado State Wednesday in its conference opener. The Cowboys never led, were out-rebounded 40-33 and were outscored 23-14 in second-chance points.

"I was surprised and a little disappointed in the way we came out," said Luster, who played well against CSU with 13 points, four assists and no turnovers. "I don't think we came out with enough intensity and aggressiveness that we needed. ... I feel like we will be better.

"It was a wake-up call. We've got to come ready to play every game. We're not the most talented team in this league by far. If we're going to beat people we've got to have that intensity and aggressiveness every night we step out on the floor."

UW will need to do just that to be competitive against San Diego State (12-3, 1-0), which is coming off a 74-64 home win over No. 15 New Mexico Tuesday.

The Aztecs lead the MWC in scoring defense (55.7 ppg) and rebounding margin (plus-8.4). They are expected to be without junior forward Billy White, their leading scorer and third leading rebounder, because of a sprained ankle.

Still, San Diego State has three other players that average in double figures in scoring.

"If they're not the most talented team in the league, they are top three," UW coach Heath Schroyer said.

No matter the opponent, this game is more about UW than who it's playing.

Many fans, along with Schroyer, weren't happy with the Cowboys' effort against their arch-rivals, at home and in the conference opener. Some are skeptical if UW can or will improve after the CSU game.

The players expect a different outcome.

"Obviously it was a disappointing game for the whole team," said sophomore forward Afam Muojeke, UW's leading scorer at 16.6 points per game but had just five points in 18 minutes against CSU.

"In practice we've worked on what we needed to work on and we're really motivated to try to get this next home victory. ... It's a big game. You've got to learn from it, and we're learning."

## 80

### Cowboys corral SDSU, win on Luster's 3-pointer

By Richard Anderson | Special to the San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 10, 2010

Road wins in the Mountain West Conference are like icing on the cake. Losing a 14-point lead late in the game left the Aztecs with a bad taste in their mouths.

With the exclamation point coming on a three-pointer by Hoover High alum JayDee Luster with 4.9 seconds left, Wyoming rallied to outscore San Diego State 24-8 in the final four minutes to shock the Aztecs 85-83 yesterday.

Luster, a 5-9 point guard, played his high school ball a short drive from Montezuma Mesa, and the Aztecs had two shots to recruit him — once out of Hoover and again when he transferred from New Mexico State in 2008.

For the first 35 minutes, it went better than expected for the Aztecs, who were playing without leading scorer Billy White, who stayed home with an ankle injury. San Diego State led 45-31 at halftime and was still up by 14 with 4:50 to play. Several Aztecs, including freshmen Kahwi Leonard (career-high 25 points) and Chase Tapley (17 points), easily picked up the scoring load.

None of that was of much importance to SDSU coach Steve Fisher and his team after the loss.

"All anyone cares about is the bottom line. The bottom line is they scored two more points than we did," said Fisher, whose team is 4-4 on the road and 12-0 at home. "We couldn't keep them from getting to the rim in the second half. They did what they wanted us to do against the press, which was turn the ball over enough to give them chances to get run-outs for layups and open threes, and that was the difference."

After only four turnovers in the first half, the Aztecs turned the ball over 15 times in the final 20 minutes. Wyoming scored 32 points off those miscues, 26 in the second half. Afam Muojeke led the Cowboys with 30 points, and Luster added 14 points, six assists and two steals.

"We played as well as we could and handled the ball well under stress in the first half, but about as bad as you can play during multiple stretches in the second half," Fisher said. "We had 15 or 16 second-half turnovers, and you can't win when you do that."

San Diego State junior guard D.J. Gay said they didn't do a good job of executing their press offense.

"The pressure definitely took us out of our comfort zone," Gay said. "But that is no excuse for the turnovers. We had some guys missing, but they played a great game and they hit some big shots."

Trailing 75-61, Muojeke hit two three-pointers and scored 10 points, and Luster and Arthur Bouedo hit threepointers to give Wyoming an 82-81 lead with 39 seconds left.

Leonard hit a free throw to tie the game at 82 with 29 seconds left, but Luster's three-pointer with 4.9 seconds proved to be the game-winner. Gay hit a free throw with 2.1 seconds, but after purposely missing the second attempt, the rebound wasn't controlled and time ran out.

## 81-82

"Obviously, this was what the doctor ordered," said Wyoming coach Heath Schroyer, whose team moved to 1-1 in the MWC and 8-8 overall. "San Diego State is a really good team; they are really well coached. This was a really big win for this program."

Although he said the Wyoming pressure took them by surprise, Leonard credited the Cowboys for making the plays down the stretch.

"They fought hard and played very hard the whole second half, and that is why they came back," Leonard said.

## 81

**Aztecs allow Wyoming to make late comeback**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
January 10, 2010

San Diego State worried losing junior forward Billy White to an ankle injury the game before traveling to Wyoming would set up a repeat of last year's devastating loss in Laramie when they played without Lorrenzo Wade after he went down with an injury in the previous game.

But White wasn't the player the Aztecs missed the most as Wyoming came from behind in the final minutes to shock the Aztecs 85-83 Saturday night before only 4,100 fans at Arena-Auditorium in a Mountain West Conference game.

The player the Aztecs (12-4, 1-1 MWC) missed was their steadying influence -- sophomore forward Tim Shelton. His balky knee allowed him to play 17 minutes on a night he made his first start, but he fouled out with 5:11 left in the game.

At the time Aztecs were ahead, 72-59, but Wyoming (8-8, 1-1 MWC) gradually chipped away at the lead the remainder of the way. The Aztecs, who had only four turnovers at halftime, finished with 19 turnovers, including ones that cost them the game in the final couple minutes.

"You can't panic when they make a mini run and we did that," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "We had 15 turnovers in the second half, and you can't do that. We led by 8 with two minutes to go you and you've got to suck it up and guard without fouling. We had a hard time doing both at critical times."

Now the Aztecs have to worry about be haunted by this game the way they were a year ago when they finished one game back of a three-way tie for first place in the conference.

Wyoming's JayDee Luster and Arthur Boedo both hit 3-pointers after turnovers for a 82-81 lead with 44 seconds to play. Then Luster, an alum of San Diego's Hoover High that finished with 14 points, hit another 3-pointer with six seconds remaining for an 85-82 lead in what turned out to be the winning basket.

"This is on us, and when I say us I mean the players and the coaches," Fisher said. "This is one that should have never, ever gotten away from us."

Freshman Kawhi Leonard led the Aztecs with another double-double of 25 points and 12 rebounds, but he also led the team in turnovers with six. Freshman Chase Tapley added 17 points and junior Malcolm Thomas 14.

Wyoming was led by 30 points from Afam Muojeke.

"Our guys stepped up and made plays," Wyoming coach Heath Schroyer said. "I think our pressure defense wore them (San Diego State) down. We had good ball pressure, and we rotated back well in our press."

The second-half collapse came after SDSU played some of its best basketball in the first half. The Aztecs led by as much as 17 points at halftime before taking a 45-31 advantage into the locker room.

But in the second half, Wyoming kept making runs at the Aztecs. Before the final comeback, midway through the second half the Cowboys went on a 12-2 run early in the second half to trim SDSU's lead to 54-50 with 12:05 left in the game.

The Aztecs, with Shelton still on the floor, gradually reasserted themselves and built their lead back to double figures at 69-59 with 6:06 left in the game.

But similar to the game's final moments, two turnovers that Wyoming converted into 3-point field goals trimmed the deficit to 75-67 with 3:45 to play. Wyoming was as close at five points, 77-72, with 2:27 to play after a 3-point shot by Luster.

## 82

**SDSU betting on bouncing back**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 13, 2010

Tonight we'll see if the No.1 rebounding team in the Mountain West Conference can, well, rebound.

Following Saturday's improbable 85-83 loss at Wyoming — improbable because SDSU led by 14 points with 4:50 to play — the Aztecs had plenty of time to stew in their defeat during the two-hour drive from Laramie to Denver, where they spent the night.

"Longest ride of my life," said point guard D.J. Gay. "I couldn't sleep. I wasn't hungry. It was awful."

Freshman Kawhi Leonard called it the worst loss of his basketball career. Yet the forward, who tallied a careerhigh 25 points in defeat, saw it as an opportunity for the younger players to grow.

"In a way I'm glad it happened because now I can learn from that experience," Leonard said. Tonight, we'll see how much has been learned when the Aztecs (12-4, 1-1) travel to Las Vegas to face UNLV (13-3, 1-1), which is coming off an impressive 74-62 win at then-No.15 New Mexico.

SDSU coach Steve Fisher was surprisingly upbeat at his Monday news conference — all things considered. He cracked a couple of jokes, slipped in a one-liner about injured forward Billy White wanting a free ticket home to Las Vegas just to see his mom, and gave the impression that he won't let the meltdown in Wyoming create a ripple effect.

"You move forward," said Fisher, whose team led by as many as 17 points against the Cowboys. "No complaining or me yelling and screaming will bring back a victory in the Wyoming game. Hopefully, when we're in that next situation the next time, we will respond a little bit better down the stretch.

"(Wyoming) led for, I think, 24 seconds of the game. Twenty-four seconds of a 40-minute game. But they led at the right time — at the end. To their credit, they fought. We didn't give them threes, they made threes. We needed to make a stop and couldn't make it."

UNLV coach Lon Kruger had a different take. Rather than focusing his team on the fact that SDSU couldn't hold a lead, he's preaching to them just how scary the Aztecs can be when they put it all together.

"To lead by 17 points on the road, they did a lot of good things," Kruger said. "Obviously it's not good the way it finished. ... We'll approach them as if they are coming off a win. They are very talented. Coach Fisher will have them playing extremely hard and we know how tough it will be."

Recent history dictates the Aztecs should have a big game. They are 10-1 in their last 11 following a loss, with a 20-point margin of victory. But don't expect it to come easily. The Rebels offer an array of challenges for the Aztecs. They lead the conference in field-goal-percentage defense, turnover ratio and have one of the top scorers in junior guard Tre'Von Willis, who enters the week averaging 15.5 points per game.

It's likely White, SDSU's leading scorer, will miss his second straight game with a high ankle sprain, which he suffered in the Aztecs' win last week over New Mexico.

"Billy tried to talk me into playing him (against UNLV)," said Fisher. "We are going to pack his bag, including his shoes. He'll be with us and the bag will probably still be packed when we come back home. I see no way that he can play."

The Aztecs, who despite the loss received a vote this week in the USA Today/ESPN poll, have a history of playing well at the Thomas & Mack Center. The Aztecs have won three straight against the Rebels and seven of the past 10 meetings.

"They are as good as it gets in this league," Fisher said. "We've played well against (UNLV) and we're going to go in with the determination that we are going to play well in that game. We've got enough talent, we've got enough experience to go in and win. We will have to play well because they're good anywhere, and they are better at home than they are on the road."



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**Leonard adjusts to role**By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 13, 2010

San Diego State's Kawhi Leonard pretty much was The Man during his prep basketball days in Riverside County.

Leonard was named state player of the year by CalHiSports.com after his senior year at Riverside King High, where he averaged 22.6 points and 13.1 rebounds. He was also the Los Angeles Times player of the year and arrived on the San Diego State campus last summer as one of the most highly touted recruits in coach Steve Fisher's tenure.

With a strong cast surrounding him, however, Leonard's has shifted from being the star player to being one of several talented players, an adjustment he admits was hard to handle at first. But having played 16 games at San Diego State ---- which plays at Nevada Las-Vegas at 7 p.m. on Wednesday ---- the 6-foot-7 freshman forward has learned how to make an impact even when the play isn't designed for him.

"When I got here it was not really my team, the ball didn't revolve around me," said Leonard, who is averaging 11.1 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. "That was one of the big keys. My number doesn't get called every play. So I have to find other ways to score, which was a little hard, and I was struggling in the beginning."

If Leonard was struggling, teammate Tim Shelton wasn't aware. He only saw the effort Leonard put forth in practice and noticed it wasn't limited to the offensive end. Leonard's work ethic has Shelton convinced that his younger teammate can handle a lot of responsibility.

"He doesn't get easily rattled," Shelton said. "He's had big expectations on him from the get-go. It's hard when people have big expectations for you. ... He definitely earned his starting spot. He's not big-headed. He's just a workhorse."

Leonard has made a name for himself as a rebounder, reaching double figures eight times. He has a 23-point, 18-rebound game against Cal State Fullerton to his credit.

But his impact also has been felt on the defensive end, as Fisher has routinely asked Leonard to guard the opposing team's top scoring threat. In a Dec. 2 win over the University of San Diego, Leonard shadowed star guards Brandon Johnson and De'Jon Jackson, and made a critical steal late in regulation to force overtime. Two weeks later, he shut down Arizona guard Nic Wise in a blowout victory.

During Saturday's 85-83 loss at Wyoming, Leonard was asked to bring the ball up the court against the Cowboys' fullcourt press when Shelton's minutes were limited by foul trouble. He finished with a career-high 25 points and 12 rebounds. But he also had six turnovers, including a critical mistake that aided Wyoming's late rally.

"He's a player," Fisher said. "Good players make plays. Sometimes you ask them to do a lot of different things. Kawhi was asked to do a lot of things. He was an absolute demon on the glass. And it looked like every time he went in, nobody jumped but him. He had six turnovers, which is too many. But he is unafraid. And he, like everyone, especially the young guys, learns from every experience."

Several months into his college experience, Leonard is feeling at home. His family is only 90 minutes away and attends all of his home games. His role is becoming more defined by the day. And his attention to the little details is paying dividends.

"(Shelton, D.J. Gay and Billy White) help me a lot, pushing me at practice, telling how hard things are, how the game goes, how competitive it is," Leonard said. "(Not being as involved) makes me work harder off the ball to score without the ball, like getting rebounds and putbacks. It just helps out the team. ... The little plays are the ones we need ---- they're the big plays at the end of the game and help us win."

**Note**

San Diego State women's coach Beth Burns aims for career win No. 300 when the Aztecs host Nevada-Las Vegas at Viejas Arena at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The Aztecs (10-4, 2-0 Mountain West Conference) are looking for their seventh straight victory.

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**Veteran guard D.J. Gay taking the reins for Aztecs**By Ryan Greene | Las Vegas Sun  
January 13, 2010

The moment of truth this season for San Diego State junior point guard D.J. Gay came Nov. 25, in the wake of a 71-63 loss at Pacific.

As has been the case in practically every game the Aztecs (12-4 overall, 1-1 Mountain West) have played this season, Steve Fisher's club had its opponent licked in terms of raw athleticism.

But the execution just wasn't there. That loss dropped the Aztecs to 3-2, with consistency feeling as if it was miles away.

Gay, the lone returning starter from last season's team which advanced to the semifinals of the NIT, had an epiphany in the visitor's locker room in Stockton, Calif.

"It kind of hit me that a change was needed, that people were looking to me during that game and it was my job to bring us together and get that win," he said. "And I didn't."

In that game, Gay scored 11 points, but had only one assist compared to two turnovers.

On a team which many thought coming into the season was merely a solid, veteran point guard away from being a contender for a deep NCAA tournament run, Gay had no choice but to fill those shoes.

Three days later, in an 89-48 victory over Northern Arizona, Gay had seven assists to one turnover and established himself as the leader on a team that, two months later, is beginning to come into its own.

Now, as SDSU comes to the Thomas & Mack for Wednesday night's MWC showdown against UNLV (13-3, 1-1), Gay has to show that he can rally his team following maybe its most devastating loss to date.

After leading by 14 at the half against Wyoming, the Aztecs saw a 14-point lead disappear in the final five minutes of an 85-83 upset.

"I don't think we took a step back," Gay said. "In Saturday's game, we kind of got in a comfort zone where we thought we had the game won and we played that way, where Wyoming never let up, kept up pressure and kept fighting. They got us on our heels, and for four minutes straight, they scored every time down.

"Anytime you win, you look good. Any time you lose, you can look bad. As a point guard, I'm not going to be able to make everybody happy, but my most important thing right now is winning for us."

Gay's numbers haven't popped off of the page, but he's brought some order to SDSU's stable of fresh talent, highlighted by freshman forward Kawhi Leonard, who is averaging 11.1 points and 9.6 rebounds a game for the Aztecs. He was ranked by rivals.com as the No. 48 prospect in last year's senior class.

Last season, as SDSU showed its veteran presence on almost a nightly basis, Gay was able to be a role player comfortably situated in the background.

But with the graduation of Cheyenne High product Lorenzo Wade and senior point guard Richie Williams, among others, Gay now is bridging the gap.

Wednesday he also will attempt to build on a winning streak which he played a small role in starting. The Aztecs swept all three meetings with the Rebels last season, including a 71-57 victory that all but killed UNLV's hopes of obtaining an at-large bid to the NCAA field of 65.

Gay said doing so won't be easy.

The Rebels already have done a solid job of shutting down the transition efforts of BYU and New Mexico in their first two league games.

In preparation for UNLV's heavy back-court pressure, San Diego State has practiced this week with five on offense and six on defense.

"The way UNLV plays defense, that's what it feels like sometimes," Gay said. "I expect there to be a lot of pressure on our guards. They're one of the best defensive team in our league. I expect their best shot. They just came back from a big

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win and I know they remember our three wins from last year."

**White doubtful**

SDSU junior forward Billy White, a Green Valley High grad and the Aztecs' leading scorer, is more than likely out for Wednesday night's tilt.

White missed Saturday's game at Wyoming after suffering a high ankle sprain in the first half of last Tuesday's 74-64 victory over New Mexico.

White is averaging 12.3 points and 5.4 rebounds a game while shooting 62.5 percent from the floor.

**Welcome home**

UNLV is playing its first game at the Mack since a Dec. 19 victory over South Carolina Upstate.

From here on out, the Rebels are through with massive breaks between games and will now, for the first time in quite a while, get in a regular routine.

"The routine of it is good," UNLV coach Lon Kruger said. "You know when you're playing, you know when you're practicing. It's good for the players as well as the staff."

UNLV follows up Wednesday's game with a Saturday matchup against Utah at 7 p.m. at the Mack.

**Reflecting on last year**

There were no objections to the fact that UNLV progressively struggled more and more against San Diego State as last season wore on.

Following a 68-66 loss Feb. 3 at home, the Rebels lost by 11 in San Diego in their regular-season finale, then by 14 in the opener of the MWC tournament.

"They just out-manned us, athletically and on the glass, but this year, this is a whole different team than last year's," UNLV junior guard Tre'Von Willis said. "We're more athletic ourselves, so we want to get after them a little bit, keep them off of the glass. We want to run up and down, get some easy buckets and stop their transition."

Current Rebels who took in last year's game as observers took notice, too.

"It definitely looked like they had our number last year," said Derrick Jasper, who redshirted following his transfer from Kentucky. "We really couldn't establish a good base, they played great defense and were real athletic. We've just got to go into this game really confident and focused, and we'll pull it out."

**85****Aztecs put up a fight, but Rebels deliver KO**

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 14, 2010

San Diego State's 76-66 loss last night to UNLV was a microcosm of everything we've come to expect from this team: vastly superior rebounding; blanketing, turnover-inducing defense; and tremendous individual athleticism interspersed with poor free-throw shooting, turnovers and stretches of sloppy play.

It was those very things that came back to haunt the Aztecs. Those — and the fact that they couldn't contain UNLV's Tre'Von Willis in the second half — all contributed to the Rebels' win at the Thomas & Mack Center in front of an announced crowd of 14,530.

The Aztecs (12-5, 1-2 Mountain West Conference) fought and clawed their way to a six-point halftime lead, only to watch Willis and teammate Chace Stanback tear it down and take the lead for good midway through the second half. Willis (23 points) and Stanback (18 points) accounted for 27 of UNLV's 43 second-half points.

"If you're going to win, you have to take care of the ball better, make free throws and make outside shots when you have good looks," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher.

The stat line tells the tale:

- Taking care of the ball: 20 turnovers.
- Make free throws: 16-of-28 (57.1 percent).
- Make outside shots: 2-of-16 on threes (12.5 percent, including 0-for-9 in the second half).

"I think we just need to slow down," said forward Billy White, who returned to action after missing Saturday's loss to Wyoming with a high ankle sprain. "We had an off night. We need to learn from our mistakes, correct them and get ready for our next game."

The win holds certain significance for UNLV (14-3, 2-1). Heading into last night's game, the Rebels were 33-3 in their last 36 home games against Mountain West Conference opponents. The three losses were compliments of the Aztecs.

San Diego State was clearly the more aggressive team in the first half — pounding the ball inside to Malcolm Thomas, Tyrone Shelley and Kawhi Leonard. It was enough to rattle the road-weary Rebels, who hadn't played on their home court in almost a month.

Leonard turned in his seventh double-double of the season with team highs in points (13) and rebounds (10) and Thomas added 12 points. Shelley recorded his first double-digit scoring night since Dec. 5, dropping 12 points and grabbing nine rebounds. He said it was nice to break out of his slump — but the fact that SDSU has dropped two straight conference games overshadows his performance.

"I think we came out flat in the second half and they capitalized," Shelley said. "That's what good teams do."

We have to be more confident as a team and not let up."

UNLV turned SDSU's 20 turnovers into 22 points while converting 21-of-25 free-throw attempts. Even though SDSU enjoyed a 44-22 advantage in points in the paint, they shot just 33 percent in the second half after shooting 51 percent in the first half.

And then there's the free throws.

"We have been an adventure at the free-throw line," Fisher said.

"Vegas is a whale of a team. They are significantly better than they were last year (when SDSU beat them three times)."

UNLV opened the second half with an 11-4 run, with Stanback providing seven of those points. After the Rebels took their first lead with 11:26 to play, SDSU was only able to tie the score once before trailing for the final 10 minutes. "We weren't good enough tonight," Fisher said.

**86****Aztecs fall at UNLV for second straight loss**

By Aztec Sports Report  
January 14, 2010

San Diego State wanted to put behind it a loss last week when it played a strong first half but then allowed Wyoming to come from behind for the win in the second half.

Instead, the Aztecs just about duplicated the performance as UNLV wiped out SDSU's 39-33 halftime lead to outscore the Aztecs 43-27 in the second half for a 76-66 win Wednesday before 14,530 fans at the Rebels' Thomas and Mack Center.

SDSU, which has received a vote in the latest ESPN/USA Today poll, lost back-to-back games for the first time this year as it fell to 12-5 overall and 1-2 in the Mountain West Conference. The Aztecs, the preseason league runner-up choice, fell two games back of No. 18-ranked Brigham Young (17-1, 3-0 MWC), a 67-49 winner over Air Force.

UNLV, which had votes among others in the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls, improved to 14-3 and 2-1 with its second straight MWC win after opening conference play with a loss at BYU.

"We were beaten by a really good team," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "They are a very good team -- one of the best teams in the nation in their building. We did have too many turnovers. Some of the turnovers were the variety we can live with, but you can't have 20 turnovers (19 actually) and be effective. More importantly we've got to be able to step to the line and make free

throws."

As a team, the Aztecs again struggled from the free-throw line and from 3-point range. They were 2-of-16 (12.5 percent) from 3-point range and 16-of-28 (57.1 percent) from the free-throw line.

On the 3-pointers, D.J. Gay was 1-of-4, Tyrone Shelley 0-of-3 and Kelvin Davis 0-of-4.

Freshman Kawhi Leonard put up another double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds, but he had three turnovers and was only 3-of-7 from the free throw line.

Shelley almost put up a double-double off the bench, finishing with 12 points and nine rebounds. Shelley hit all four free throws.

"He sparked us offensively," Fisher said. "He did things Tyrone is capable of doing. We need more of that. We need more of that from everybody."

Billy White was a surprise addition to the lineup since his high-ankle sprain last week was expected to keep him out of his second straight game. White finished with five points and three rebounds off the bench.

"We had the doctor's clearance," Fisher said. "They said he can't hurt it by playing, and he wants to try so we let him play. Given all the circumstances, he did a good job."

UNLV junior Tre'Von Willis, a Memphis transfer from Fresno in his second season with the Rebels, led his team with a career-high 23 points, including 10-of-13 from the free throw line. UCLA transfer Chance Stanback added 18 and Oscar Bellfield 12.

The Aztecs return home Saturday against Texas Christian before playing on the road at Utah and hosting BYU.

"We need to get back in the win column," Fisher said. "We've got a good basketball team and we will come back and get this going in the direction all of us want."

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### Mountain West standouts return

By Diamond Leung | ESPN.com  
January 14, 2010

BYU and San Diego State got their leading scorers back in action on Wednesday night.

Cougars guard Jimmer Fredette came off the bench and had eight points and three assists in a win against Air Force after a bout with mononucleosis. Fredette hasn't scored in double-digits in 2010 since a 49-point outburst against Arizona, having also suffered from strep throat. But BYU is glad to have him back and has now won 12 straight.

Aztecs forward Billy White, who suffered a high ankle sprain last week, also came off the bench with five points in 16 minutes, but a rising UNLV team took care of business on its home floor and won 76-66.

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### GVHS grad White toughs it out, but can't lift Aztecs past Rebels

By Ray Brewer | Las Vegas Sun  
January 14, 2010

There was no chance San Diego State forward Billy White was going to miss this game.

It had been circled on his family's calendar since the schedule was released.

Despite being limited the past week with a high ankle sprain, an injury he suffered early in the first half against New Mexico on Jan. 5, the 6-foot-8 White targeted his return for Wednesday's contest at UNLV.

White, who attended Green Valley High in Henderson, wouldn't pass on an opportunity to play in front of family and friends at the Thomas & Mack Center.

The outcome, however, didn't go as planned.

White was held to five points and three rebounds in 16 minutes before fouling out with four minutes to play, and the Aztecs were defeated 76-66.

"We had an off night all the way around," White said. "The second half we came out cold and they took advantage of it."

White entered the game with 13:53 left in the first half and picked up his first foul five seconds later. That trend continued the rest of the night. He was forced to the bench with three fouls before halftime and picked up his fourth foul with nine minutes to play.

The injury and foul problems were a bad combination. He entered averaging 12.3 points and 5.4 rebounds per game but couldn't find a rhythm.

"Billy is high-energy," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "He is a great athlete and allows that athleticism to be a significant part of his game."

White is no stranger to the Thomas & Mack.

He frequently attended UNLV games during his childhood with AAU teammates Marcus Lawrence (Idaho) and P'Allen Stinnett (Creighton). They would wait after the game to talk with local product Marcus Banks, a former Rebel who attended Cimarron-Memorial and now plays for the Toronto Raptors.

The athletes were just in middle school but already had dreams of playing college basketball.

"I wasn't there rooting for anyone," White said. "We just wanted to see some good basketball."

Now, White is the one putting on a show.

He's one of the best forwards in the Mountain West and is fifth nationally in field goal percentage at 63.7 percent. He's a vocal leader on the court and one of the players San Diego State (12-5, 1-2) will lean on the rest of the season.

"We just have to learn from our mistakes," White said.

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### Leaf near career scoring record

By Staff | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 14, 2010

#### PILING UP THE POINTS

San Diego Section career scoring leaders for boys basketball:

**Tyrone Shelley** Christian/Crawford 2004-07 2,962

**Chase Budinger** La Costa Canyon 2003-06 2,934

**Troy Leaf** Foothills Christian 2007-10 2,928

**Nick Corso** Santa Fe Christian 2001-04 2,610

**Tony Clark** Valhalla/Christian 1987-90 2,549

Senior Troy Leaf of Foothills Christian will try to break the San Diego Section career scoring record for boys basketball when the Knights play at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Eastlake High.

Leaf, a 6-foot-3, 165-pound guard, needs 35 points to break the record. Crawford's Tyrone Shelley, now with San Diego State, is the section's career scoring leader at 2,962 points. Right behind Shelley is La Costa Canyon's Chase Budinger, now with the NBA Houston Rockets, at 2,934.

Leaf is averaging 29.8 points, 5.8 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game for the Knights (15-3), ranked No.2 in the section.

After scoring 732 points as a freshman, Leaf followed with 827 as a sophomore and 833 as a junior. The section record for points in a season is held by Tony Clark, who scored 1,337 in 31 games for Christian in 1989-90.

Leaf originally committed to San Diego State but reversed his decision and now will attend UC Santa Barbara..

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**Shelton, SDSU's walking wounded, still a warrior**By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 16, 2010

It might just be a coincidence, but San Diego State's collapse last week at Wyoming started 21 seconds after Tim Shelton fouled out with 5:11 left in the contest.

Whether that's empirical evidence of Shelton's importance to the Aztecs, it's clear that SDSU is a different team when he's in the game. Veterans gush at his determination to play through pain. Younger players see him as a role model.

"You have to admire that he's willing to go out there and sacrifice for the team," said junior point guard D.J. Gay. "He's fighting every second he's out there, so kudos to Tim. You learn to appreciate him as a leader. He gives his all on the court, and when he's on the bench, he's cheering. He's the heart and soul of this team."

The problem has been getting — and keeping — Shelton on the court. Three knee surgeries in the past four years have left the 6-foot-7, 248-pound forward a one-legged work in progress. After tearing his ACL his junior year in high school, he's had two subsequent microfracture surgeries.

But you won't hear a "woe is me" out of Shelton. He never really lets anyone know just how bad it hurts. Swelling, not pain, dictates his playing time.

"It's something I've just learned to live with and accept, but I'm still playing, and I'm thankful for that," said Shelton, who's averaging just under 13 minutes a game despite limited participation in practice all season. "I'm fortunate to even have the opportunity, and I want to do the best I can for my teammates."

On the court, he throws his weight around and is a talented rebounder. When he's on the bench, he's the first one to pop up and high-five teammates. He's intelligent and charismatic, with the hope of one day being a coach.

"Tim Shelton is a coach's delight," said SDSU coach Steve Fisher. "He is smart. He plays smart most of the time. He doesn't complain, at least to us, about all the stress and issues he's having to deal with with that knee."

It's hard. It's hard to play and know you're going to have pain the next day. It's hard to not be able to practice all the time and still be able to contribute."

In the midst of their first two-game slump of the season, the Aztecs are looking for a leader to step up with TCU coming to Viejas Arena tonight — someone who can lasso all of the Aztecs' athletic talent and be a calming presence on the court when the team goes into its fits of chaos. Shelton wouldn't mind the job — if his knee will grant him floor time.

"I hope they look up to me," said Shelton, a sophomore after receiving a medical redshirt year. "I think it has to be the veterans that the younger guys look to. I'd like to be one of those guys."

He's made an impression on young, talented freshman Kawhi Leonard, who leads the team in points and rebounding.

"Toughness, mental and physical toughness. That's what I'm learning from him," Leonard said. "He knows the game and he's still aggressive. He keeps going through the pain and keeps fighting. He gets us going at practice and games, and he tells us when we're doing it right or doing it wrong."

The son of former NBA player Lonnie Shelton — and brother to former Chargers tackle L.J. Shelton and two college basketball players — Shelton jokes that he's been playing through pain his whole career.

"My first game in third grade I had a triple-double — on a sprained ankle," he said with a smile.

For the foreseeable future, that career trend will likely continue.

"He is doing everything he can to help himself and help us, and that is all anyone can ask," Fisher said. "He's got maturity about him. He's got some perspective."

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**White expected to play vs. TCU**By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 16, 2010

San Diego State leading scorer Billy White, who has been bothered by an ankle injury the past 10 days, is expected to play when the Aztecs host Texas Christian on Saturday, a team official said Friday.

White was a surprise participant in Wednesday's loss to Nevada-Las Vegas, his first game since suffering a high-ankle sprain against New Mexico on Jan. 5. He contributed five points and five rebounds but fouled out in 16 minutes. The 6-foot-8 junior forward averages a team-best 11.8 points and 5.3 rebounds per game.

White participated in a short practice on Thursday and practiced again on Friday.

Initially, team officials were uncertain how much time White would miss, citing the immediate swelling around his ankle. He did not travel with the team to Wyoming for a Jan. 9 loss, and coach Steve Fisher said prior to Wednesday's game that White would attend but not participate against UNLV.

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**Emotions carry Aztecs to victory**By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 17, 2010

San Diego State and TCU had been playing chippy all night; a well-placed elbow here, a lunging shoulder there, the occasional verbal jab and pry.

And it all boiled over with 13:49 left to play in SDSU's 67-62 win at Viejas Arena. The Aztecs were in the midst of mounting a 14-point comeback when TCU's Ronnie Moss pushed things over the edge by pulling Malcolm Thomas down on a fast-break layup, drawing an intentional foul and sparking a shoving match between several players from both teams.

Chase Tapley stole the ball from TCU's Zvonko Buljan at half court and dished to a breaking Thomas.

Moss, from behind, grabbed Thomas' shoulders with both hands and dragged him down. Thomas immediately got into Moss' face, players from both sides followed and a shoving match broke out.

"Everybody has emotions," said Thomas, who scored 11 points and led the team with nine rebounds.

"Everyone wants to win. That's all it was, just emotions. Nothing against TCU. We play hard and they played hard."

Moss and Thomas were given double technicals and Moss was slapped with the intentional foul following a 10-minute delay and stern talking to by coaches and officials.

While SDSU (13-5, 2-2) coach Steve Fisher discourages the fighting, he said both teams reacted well enough that no punches were thrown.

"I thought both teams did a pretty good job as it erupted and not have it go the level you're fearful it could," said Fisher, who did his best to pull players back. "That's not what you want to have."

Per Mountain West Conference policy, officials do no comment on specific calls. It was the spark, however, that brought the Aztecs back into the game after trailing in double digits for most of the first half. SDSU's 14-point comeback was the second-largest in the Steve Fisher era and a much-needed victory after back-to-back road losses.

TCU (9-9, 2-2) shot a blistering 69.6 percent from the field — including 6-of-8 (75 percent) from three-point land — to build a 38-29 lead at halftime. The Horned Frogs zone defense kept the Aztecs pinned outside the arc — not an optimal position for a team that makes its living with points in the paint and second-chance points.

TCU's Eastern Bloc assault of Buljan (Croatia), Edvinas Ruzgas (Lithuania) and Nikola Cerina (Serbia) combined for 23 of TCU's first-half points while shooting 10-of-14 from the field.

But the Aztecs heated up following the fracas — specifically Kelvin Davis who hit back-to-back threes and made the layup with 8:54 remaining in the game to give

SDSU its first lead.

"It was a time when you can make or break a game," said Davis, who scored all 10 of his points in the second half. "The energy was up. The crowd was standing. Both teams are intense. You need to get the first punch."

The Aztecs took the lead for good with 3:28 remaining. Billy White, who led the team with 16 points, made all four of his free throws in the final minute as SDSU won its 14th straight at Viejas.

SDSU was without Tim Shelton, whose knee was bothering him after the loss Wednesday in Las Vegas.

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### Aztecs get physical in win

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 17, 2010

As far as knockdown, drag-outs go, the San Diego State men's basketball game on Saturday night was a good one. All it took for the Aztecs to achieve victory in a physical 40-minute affair was a bunch of critical free throws made and the second-largest comeback in the Steve Fisher Era at San Diego State.

But the Aztecs were up to the challenge, winning their 14th straight home game and improving to 2-2 in Mountain West Conference play with a 67-62 victory over Texas Christian in front of 5,871 at Viejas Arena. The victory comes at critical point for San Diego State, which had lost two straight and plays at Utah on Tuesday and at home Saturday against No. 18 Brigham Young.

"Conference play, everybody's going to play hard and there are a lot of emotions," said Malcolm Thomas, who finished with 11 points, nine rebounds and a career-high six assists. "It was just hard play."

Even after the Aztecs (13-5) took a 60-56 lead on Kawhi Leonard's steal, acrobatic save and monster dunk off a Thomas pass with 3 minutes, 1 second left, they still needed a yeoman's effort at the free throw line from Billy White.

White (16 points) connected on four free throws in the final 41.8 seconds and TCU's Ronnie Moss then fumbled the ball away and Kelvin Davis (10 points) recovered and was fouled ---- making both free throws with 2.2 seconds left ---- to seal the win.

"We still feel we're good enough to contend for a championship," coach Steve Fisher said of the Aztecs, who had 25 freethrow attempts to their opponents' six and trailed 34-20 in the first half. "This was a very important win. I was proud of way we competed and played in the second half."

An extremely physical contest nearly got out of hand with 13:49 left when Moss intentionally fouled Thomas, who was headed for a breakaway dunk. The play, which also resulted in both players being called for a technical foul and lots of arguing, which lasted for one to two minutes until referee Bruce Hicks tripped over a player and went falling to the floor.

The two sides were then sent to their corners as the referees delayed the game for several minutes and eventually issued warnings to both sides.

"I wanted to make sure something crazy didn't happen," Fisher said.

Thomas, who apologized for the rough play afterward, was awarded a pair of free throws ---- he missed both ---- but the Aztecs grabbed the offensive rebound and Kelvin Davis responded with a 3-point basket. Greg Hill hit a 3 for the Horned Frogs (9-9, 2-2) but Davis answered back with another 3 to cut TCU's lead to 49-47.

San Diego State then turned up its full-court press on the Horned Frogs ---- who had 12 of 20 turnovers in the final 20 minutes ---- as part of a 17-3 run.

TCU had no problem scoring in the first half.

Led by Moss, who finished the half with an absurd nine assists, TCU found eight wide-open field goal attempts to open a 34-20 lead. Zvonko Buljan, who had several run-ins with White, scored 11 of his 13 in the first half on 5-of-6 shooting.

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### Aztecs come from behing to beat TCU

By Staff | Aztec Sports Report  
January 17, 2010

The last two times out San Diego State started strongly against Wyoming and UNLV and faded in the second half. This time the Aztecs tried the opposite approach Saturday to beat Texas Christian, 67-62, at Viejas Arena.

"It was very good second half for us," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "I thought we fought hard. They made every shot, but we did not put the stress on them in the first half that we did in the second half. They made some hard shots, but we allowed them to get in a comfort level that we didn't allow them in the second half."

Actually, it wasn't so much that the Aztecs started slowly in the first half as it was TCU's shooters were so hot it was difficult to keep up with them -- even with SDSU shooting 48.9 percent for the game.

But the problem Fisher saw was defense, and he demanded a better effort during his halftime talk.

"I was mad at halftime," Fisher said. "This was the first time I've gone in at half-time and I didn't talk strategy. I talked effort and pride. That's what we needed to have. It was get out and guard harder and play smarter, and we did that in second half."

SDSU is now 9-0 at home this year and has won 14 straight at Viejas.

The Aztecs took their first lead at 51-49 after a steal by Billy White, a pass to Tyrone Shelley and assist from Shelley on a layup by Kelvin Davis.

White led the Aztecs with 16 points and six rebounds. Malcolm Thomas nearly contributed a double-double, finishing with 11 points and nine rebounds.

The win came at a crucial point in the season, with the Aztecs confronted with traveling Tuesday to Utah before coming home to face first-place Brigham Young next Saturday.

A loss would have dropped the Aztecs three games back of 18th-ranked BYU (18-1, 3-0). Instead, SDSU (13-5, 2-2) is bunched with UNLV (14-4, 2-2) and New Mexico (16-3, 2-2). Utah (9-8, 2-1) is one game back after upsetting UNLV on Saturday.

TCU (9-9, 2-2) started the game by hitting nine of its first 10 shots in a sizzling first half that saw the Horned Frogs shoot 69.6 percent from the field (16-of-23) and 75 from 3-point range (6-of-8).

At one point in the first half, TCU was leading 36-22 while hitting 83.3 percent of its field goals (15-of-18) and 85.7 of its 3-point attempts (6-of-7).

SDSU shot 50 percent in the first half (11-of-22), but struggled again with free throws (5-of-9), 3-point shooting (2-of-6) and turnovers (8). But they only committed three more turnovers in the second half.

SDSU was below 50 percent on free throws for the game until White made 4-of-4 in the closing moments and Davis was 2-of-2 for the game's final points. SDSU finished 15-of-25 TCU's Zvonko Buljan, a 6-9 senior that was a preseason All-MWC pick after earning honorable mention in 2009, had 13 points and eight rebounds. Edvinas Ruzgas led the Horned Frogs with 16.

SDSU won without Tim Shelton, whose knee bothered him and didn't dress. Shelton has been a steady influence on the Aztecs in tight situations, an indication of the team's growing maturity to win without him.

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**95**

### SDSU's Tapley rising to the occasion

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 19, 2010

San Diego State freshman Kawhi Leonard is a dunker. Apparently so is fellow freshman Chase Tapley, much to the surprise of his teammates.

"That guy is a lot more athletic than people think," said jam-friendly forward Malcolm Thomas. "He can dunk it. A lot of people don't realize that."

Case in point: With 8:06 left in SDSU's game last week against UNLV, Tapley stole the ball mid-court from Chace Stanback and threw down the slam. It was just

one example of how the 6-foot-2 guard keeps surprising people.

"He dunks like a big guy," said the 6-9 Thomas.

It was the kind of fireworks you'd expect from the 6-7 Leonard — SDSU's more-touted freshman. Against TCU Saturday night, Leonard tipped a pass from Edvinas Ruzgas, dived into press row and flipped the ball behind his back to Thomas to keep it in play, then took a receiving pass from Thomas and finished with a jawdropping slam that brought the fans in Viejas Arena to a frenzy.

"We knew he was good," Thomas said. "But I don't think we expected him to be that good."

The two plays illustrate what SDSU's dynamic freshman duo is capable of. Both are active defenders who run the court well and create plays rather than waiting for them to happen.

With that said, they are also freshmen. And freshmen are prone to making freshmen mistakes.

Tapley says he needs to be a better passer. Leonard, while leading the team in rebounding, also leads the team in turnovers.

"They listen and they know they have a lot to learn," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "But they want to be taught. And that's why they are going to be good players. Kawhi has gotten the most attention, but we love Chase equally as well. We think that they will grow as they go in the program."

Tonight will offer Leonard and Tapley a new lesson as the Aztecs (13-5, 2-2) travel to Salt Lake City to take on Utah (9-8, 2-1) — a place that has not been historically favorable to San Diego State. The Aztecs are just 2-29 at the Huntsman Center.

"I like playing on the road," Tapley said. "I like when the other fans are booing and yelling. It's kind of funny. It makes it better when you win."

The buzz from conference coaches is these two are already a force in the Mountain West — and will be in the coming seasons.

"I think Leonard might be the best rebounder at his position in the country," Utah coach Jim Boylen said. "His physical presence is unbelievable. ... (Tapley) has the ability to score. Both of them are playing with a lot of poise for younger guys new to the league."

Leonard and Tapley agree the toughest adjustment so far to the college game has been the mental aspects — keeping up with classes, the monotony of long bus rides following plane rides and the day-to-day grind of the season. The competition is pretty good, too.

"It's a lot harder than I thought it would be from a speed and coaching standpoint," Leonard said. "All of the players on our team can do the same things I can do."

Leonard (11.1 ppg, 9.3 rpg) is on pace to finish among the top 10 for SDSU freshmen in several categories.

He's already sixth with 167 rebounds, has passed teammate Tim Shelton and should pass Billy White (195) in the next couple of games.

While Leonard has gotten the hype, Tapley has quietly strung together an impressive season. He's first among starters in turnover/assist ratio and in his last five games, he has 44 points, 15 rebounds and 19 assists to eight turnovers.

"I didn't expect to have this many minutes," said Tapley, who has seen his workload increased weekly and now averages 22.5 minutes. "I just wanted to come in and hopefully make some plays and help the team. I wasn't expecting to make this kind of impact."

And yet more and more Fisher is leaning on the youngsters — calling on Tapley to handle the ball more and letting him create more plays for Leonard.

"You can already see how much they are depending on them," Boylen said. "And that's a good thing. They are good players."

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**Aztecs maturing when Shelton isn't in game**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
January 19, 2010

San Diego State basketball coach Steve Fisher talked about his team growing and maturing two weeks into the Mountain West Conference season.

After back-to-back losses against Wyoming and UNLV when the Aztecs let their opponent come from behind in the second half, SDSU was the one that rallied after intermission Saturday to beat Texas Christian.

"We're anxious to see if we've grown and gotten a better," Fisher said as the Aztecs prepared for games Tuesday at Utah and Saturday against 14th-ranked Brigham Young at Viejas Arena.

The Aztecs will again be without Tim Shelton, the sophomore forward whose balky knee prevented him from playing against TCU. But unlike the Wyoming game -- the Cowboys mounted their comeback after Shelton fouled out with five minutes to play -- SDSU showed against TCU it can win without Shelton's leadership presence on the floor.

"Tim Shelton is a young man I have great empathy for," Fisher said. "He's not able to play the way he knows he can play. He didn't play against TCU and won't play at Utah. I told him he needs to be involved like he's an assistant coach. I think he did his part to help us get that win."

Shelton played in the UNLV game, but his knee bothered him then.

"He said it got increasingly more sore the day after," Fisher said. "He was very disappointed he wasn't able to have any lateral movement at Vegas. Plays he normally makes -- he referenced (Chance) Stanback -- he felt he should have stayed in front of Stanback and couldn't keep in front of him. He didn't feel he was helping the team. We took a step back and we'll have another doctor see him. We'll continue to evaluate and see what happens."

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**Aztecs sneak one in on Utes**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 20, 2010

It was a rare moment for San Diego State coach Steve Fisher — walking off the court at the Huntsman Center with a smile on his face.

The Aztecs defeated Utah on its home court last night, 70-68, for just the third time in school history, earning their first Mountain West Conference road victory of the season.

"Haven't had very many in here in the history of San Diego State and in my 11 years," said Fisher. "This was really a good win for us."

And it almost didn't happen.

The Aztecs (14-5, 3-2) held an eight-point lead with 41 seconds left to play, but watched the Utes (9-9, 2-2) cut it to two in the final 10 seconds. SDSU converting just 2-of-6 free throws in the final 30 seconds made the outcome closer than it should have been.

"If we make our free throws, we're holding on to a five- or six-point lead down the stretch," Fisher said. "But we didn't and we still got a win. It's one of the things we don't do very well and we need to keep working on it."

To our credit, we made just enough to sneak one in."

SDSU improves to 3-29 all-time at the Huntsman Center.

Unlike two weeks ago, when the Aztecs let a 14-point lead slip away on the road at Wyoming, SDSU was able to weather the second-half storm after holding a 37-29 lead at halftime.

"I think we learned from our mistakes," said Kawhi Leonard, who turned in yet another double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. "I think we're starting to grow up a little bit. We didn't make the same mistakes tonight that we did in the other games."

Malcolm Thomas was outstanding inside, scoring 23 while nabbing 13 rebounds. He spent most of the night battling Utah's 7-foot-3 center David Foster. But the Aztecs showed no fear against the league's leading shot blocker (his 4.3 average

included five blocks last night), pounding the ball inside for 36 points in the paint.

"He is really big and he knows how to block shots," Thomas said. "But the game plan was to go at him."

The Aztecs led by as many as 10 in the second half before Utah went on a run and closed the gap in the final minute.

"I think in the (Wyoming game) we hung our heads when they made a run," Thomas said. "We didn't do that tonight. A lot of different guys stepped up."

Utah shot an icy 23.3 percent in the first half, making just 7-of-30 shots. The Aztecs, meanwhile, continued to pound inside, shooting 55.2 percent in the first half and 47.5 for the game.

"Our thought process was we wanted to put our athletes in a mode to attack a little bit," Fisher said.

The win reinvigorated the Aztecs' hopes for a regular-season conference title and was a much-needed confidence boost with conference leader No. 14 BYU coming to Viejas Arena on Saturday night.

"You can learn from a victory," Fisher said. "The way the game went tonight, it was very important that we get a victory and we eked it out."

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### Aztecs survive missed free throws to beat Utah

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
January 20, 2010

One way for San Diego State to prevent the Wyoming loss from haunting it in the Mountain West Conference race was to bring home a win from one of those hard-to-win venues.

That's exactly what the Aztecs accomplished at Utah with a 70-68 victory Tuesday night, marking only the third time in 32 games that SDSU has ever won in Salt Lake City.

"We haven't had many victories here in the history of San Diego State, and in my 11 years, so this is a good win for us," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "This win makes you feel good about yourself, puts a little more bounce in your step when you come back the next day for practice getting ready for that next game. You can learn from a victory and tonight, the way the game went tonight, it was important for us to find a way to get a victory."

The win came just a week after SDSU lost at UNLV and then Utah won at UNLV.

SDSU improved to 14-5 overall and 3-2 in the MWC, while dropping Utah to 9-9 and 2-2. UNLV (14-4, 2-2) and New Mexico (16-3, 2-2) also are bunched with two losses. But since it was the only game in the MWC, Colorado State (11-6, 2-1) remained in second place behind 14th-ranked Brigham Young (18-1, 3-0), the latter SDSU's opponent Saturday at Viejas Arena.

San Diego State squeaked out the win, but better free-throw shooting could have made it a more comfortable win. SDSU made only 10-of-23 (43.5 percent) as Utah fouled to send the Aztecs to the line in the final minute.

The strategy nearly paid off, especially when sophomore Tyrone Shelley missed two free throws and D.J. Gay made only 2-of-4 in the final 30 seconds. But after Gay followed a miss with a make for SDSU's final two-point margin with four seconds remaining, Utah missed a shot at the buzzer.

"This was a really good win and well deserved," Fisher said. "We fought like crazy. We did some things down the stretch that gave them an opportunity to come back, but we got the win and that's the most important thing. We've all seen games across the country with teams fighting to hold a lead at the end." The Aztecs led 37-29 at halftime after they went on a 13-0 run midway through the first half to turn a 15-11 deficit into a 24-15 lead.

"I'm very proud of the way we guarded," Fisher said. "I thought we did a great job defensively for 40 minutes."

SDSU's biggest lead of the first half was by 11 points at 31-20 on a basket by Malcolm Thomas, who had 10 points and nine rebounds by halftime en route to his third double-double of the season with 23 points and 13 rebounds.

Freshman Kawhi Leonard also contributed a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Gay, the junior point guard, only scored seven points, but he had four assists and played a strong floor game.

"I thought he really did a nice job of putting the ball in the right place at the right time," Fisher said. "He played within himself."

## 99

### SDSU men are good, but their aim is off

By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 22, 2010

Steve Fisher doesn't see it quite as I do, and all he does is coach San Diego State's men's basketball players, which means he knows as much about them as Joseph Kennedy knew his sons. But Fisher doesn't write a column for this newspaper, either, so there are times he agrees to put up with me. He's a kind man.

Anyway, I find this his most fascinating team since he set up shop on Montezuma Mesa in 1999. But he doesn't think so. Almost? Perhaps.

"Probably not," says Fisher, whose 14-5 Aztecs entertain 19-1, 14th-ranked and dreaded BYU tomorrow night in Viejas Arena. "But then, I'm with them every day, so I'm used to them."

If nothing else, these Aztecs can drive you nuts, but playing them is very hard. Now that forward Tim Shelton, who really knows how to play the game, is resting his weary knees, Fisher runs eight deep, but it's still a quality eight deep. Going against these guys is like playing basketball on I-5 through the downtown S curve at 5 p.m.

They are very busy.

But this is not Fisher's best team (at least not yet).

It's probably his most athletic group.

It's his best rebounding team.

It's up there with his best defensive clubs.

It's his worst pure shooting team from the field.

It is by far his worst free-throw shooting team.

The last two, that's what can drive you nuts — especially the free-throw shooting, especially when tournament time rears its close-game head.

"I know," says Fisher, who won an NCAA title at Michigan, so he realizes clutch charity shooting is similar to, ahem, clutch field-goal kicking. So many basketball games are won at the line in college ball when trailing teams must foul.

Sometimes the Aztecs get away with it, sometimes they don't. They did the other night, when they didn't shoot foul shots well at Utah and won anyway.

"It was a huge win for us," says Fisher, who guided a State team to just its third victory (against 29 defeats) at Utah in school history. Having watched the Utes win at UNLV Saturday night, let me assure you they can be very good.

"Utah has beaten LSU, Michigan, Illinois and Vegas," Fisher says (the Utes lost to Oklahoma in overtime). "Watching that Vegas game, I was terribly impressed. They were sensational. But the other night (Tuesday), we were the better team for 40 minutes, and in their place."

The Aztecs won 70-68, but missed four of six free-throw attempts in the final 30 seconds and were a miserable 10-for-23 overall at the line.

For the season, they shoot .590 from there, which would be good if Fisher had eight Shaquille O'Neals running around, but in this case, it's totally unacceptable. And it's not as though the Aztecs don't work at it.

"Oh, yeah, without question," the coach says. "We spend a lot of time practicing free throws. There have been a couple of games where we've shot them well. We make them in practice."

Which doesn't count.

"It almost bit us at Utah," Fisher admits.

But the unusual — and fascinating — thing about this group is how it can clank free throws and make up for it many times by getting the ball on the miss. Hard to survive that way, though.

"The thing that's been a godsend for us is that we're a really good offensive rebounding team and we rebound a lot of our missed free throws," Fisher says. "So missing them hasn't been as big a liability as it's been made out to be."

Rebounding and defense, that's where the Aztecs get you. They've outrebounded their opponents 731-582 (271-216 on the offensive boards). Aztecs opponents shoot a miserable .390 from the field, while State, which can get so much stuff inside, shoots .479.

"We're the best rebounding team in our league (Mountain West), and we've got to continue to do that," Fisher says. "As a rule, when people talk about us, it's 'keep them off the glass and don't let them get pushbacks.' I think we have our players knowing what we expect of them — if you want minutes, here's what you need to do. I like this team. I like the disposition of this team."

"We've guarded very well and not given up many cheap (breakaway) baskets. The team we're playing Saturday can do that."

BYU returns four starters, and one of them, forward Jonathan Tavernari, comes off the bench. These guys, led by guard Jimmer Fredette, are good.

"They've got a little bit of everything," Fisher says. "They have size; they can score inside and outside with Fredette. They average 84 a game. They're probably the best running team in our conference. We can't let them get cheap baskets and wide-open threes."

This may be the best overall Mountain West in 10 years.

"Top to bottom," Fisher says, "absolutely. No question."

Fascinating, these Aztecs. No question.

## 100

### 'Cannibal' MWC may have BYU on menu

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 23, 2010

San Diego State loses at Wyoming and Las Vegas. Utah wins in Las Vegas. SDSU wins in Utah. BYU seemingly wins everywhere.

What does it all mean?

As Colorado State coach Tim Miles put it, the conference has "cannibalized" itself. His apt, albeit kind of creepy, analysis means that the landscape of the Mountain West Conference is about as distinguishable as Joan Rivers' original features.

And the feeding frenzy could continue tonight when No.14 BYU comes to Viejas Arena to face the Aztecs.

San Diego State (14-3, 3-2) has a chance to do what no other MWC team has done so far this year — beat the Cougars (19-1, 4-0). The Aztecs are tough at home, where they have won 14 straight. They are coming off a nail-biting road win against Utah, BYU's in-state brethren, and the Cougars, winners of 14 in a row, have dropped five of their past six in San Diego.

San Diego State coach Steve Fisher had no reservations playing up the importance of tonight's game. He called on all SDSU fans — and a few conference rivals — to come together and pull for the Aztecs.

"Will we have seven other teams rooting for us? Probably," Fisher said.

Just last week, there was a national buzz that the conference could have as many as four teams in the NCAA Tournament. But after another week of cannibalization, who knows?

"What I think is that this is what happens every year," said BYU coach Dave Rose. "And what has really changed is that the media starts talking about stuff three or

four months in advance now that they didn't do years ago.

"But that's what makes it exciting. You can talk about the teams that are hot this week and project it into the middle of March, and then next week we'll be talking about another group of teams that are hot and we'll project them. That's what gets the fans excited."

The conference is as tough as it has been in its 11 years of existence, which coincides with Fisher's term at SDSU. Affectionately dubbed "The Dean" of the Mountain West Conference, Fisher said it's too early to start talking NCAA, but he could see a scenario where more than two teams partake in the madness.

"I think historically people view this as a two-bid league," Fisher said. "I think we could legitimately lay claim right now to this being a three-bid league, with the potential for four. It makes for good copy, but it's too early to be talking about that now."

"This is a multi-bid league. Who they are? I don't know. But this is a really good league with a lot of good nonconference wins, and so let's just see how the league shakes out."

Unlike previous years, there are no longer any easy games in the conference — as evidenced by SDSU's loss on the road to Wyoming and desperation, come-from-behind home win against TCU. In the past, players might have allowed themselves to look ahead to, say, a Rick Majerus-coached Utah, when the league was dominated by one or two teams.

No more.

"(In my) freshman and sophomore year, you kind of knew who the teams to beat were, but now everyone is beating up on everybody besides BYU," said SDSU point guard D.J. Gay. "This conference has improved tremendously. (It has) great recruits around the conference. Every team is a team to be reckoned with this year."

SDSU could certainly impress some people with a win tonight. BYU is led by pre-season conference Player of the Year Jimmer Fredette, who has been slowed the past few weeks by mononucleosis. But according to Rose, he's closer to 100 percent, and Gay will be one of several Aztecs called upon to slow down Fredette.

"It will probably be me. I hope it would be me," Gay said. "I love the challenge. He is a great player (and) he has put up some great numbers this year."

Like the 49 points Fredette dropped on Arizona last month or the 19.4 per game he's averaging — and that's after missing time because of mono.

"We have to keep him off the sweet spot," Fisher said. "And he's got a lot of sweet spots."

But this is one game. And should the Aztecs fall, their season certainly won't be over.

"I don't know any coach who gets overly excited about their first road win or overly demoralized at a loss," Fisher said. "You just keep your head down and do your very best against whoever you are playing. ... That's what you have to do in this league."

## 101

### Thomas' passing picks up his scoring

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 23, 2010

Back in early November, San Diego State coach Steve Fisher asked for patience with his men's basketball team.

New players were everywhere. Cohesion was not.

The Aztecs struggled to work the ball to their group of talented post players throughout the season's first six weeks, putting undue stress on other areas of the offense. Of late, though, San Diego State has displayed both consistency and balance in its offense, and no player better exemplifies the improvement than junior forward Malcolm Thomas.

"You would expect us to be better, but our passing in tight spaces, especially our big guys', has improved significantly," Fisher said. "What Malcolm has done is he's been able to find people. He has become more of a distributor, and that's



helped his own scoring."

The Aztecs need Thomas and his teammates to continue to progress on Saturday when 14th-ranked Brigham Young visits Viejas Arena. The Cougars (19-1, 4-0) are the only Mountain West Conference team without at least two losses in conference play.

Over San Diego State's last six games ---- including five conference games ---- Thomas has become an all-around source of offense, averaging 15.5 points while shooting 68 percent from the field and contributing 14 assists. He has also averaged 9.7 rebounds per game.

Thomas scored 23 points to lead the Aztecs (14-5, 3-2) to victory at Utah on Tuesday, only the third time in 32 games San Diego State has won at the Huntsman Center.

Thomas said the improved numbers are a byproduct of better looks in the post as well as his own awareness of knowing when to look for the next open man.

"It's had a big impact," Thomas said. "D.J. (Gay) is doing a phenomenal job passing to the post, and we're getting better at passing out and not taking every shot when we get it inside. But we're going to continue to work at it."

Earlier this season, inside touches were rare for Thomas and White ---- the team's top two scorers along with Kawhi Leonard ---- as opposing teams consistently played zone defense and crashed inside whenever the Aztecs tried getting the ball to the post.

Thomas took a total of 20 shots in four games from Nov. 16-25 and was limited to 13 combined attempts against Arizona and Arizona State. White was limited to 26 shot attempts during a five-game span (Dec. 2-19) even though he averaged 31 minutes per contest. That forced San Diego State ---- a 31-percent shooting team from 3-point land ---- to rely on their perimeter shooting.

White said the team has worked hard while Fisher has stressed improved ball movement ---- not only in working the ball inside, but in not forcing bad shots once the ball is there. Now, players who were once eager to find shots for themselves are passing up shots hoping to find open teammates.

"It wasn't frustrating (early)," White said. "We just knew it was going to take time and it was a new team. Now everybody knows their role."

Fisher said the impact is big, especially in Thomas's case, because teams previously sent a host of defenders in his direction when he got the ball.

"Now they're not thinking that it's a black hole every time he touches it, that he's going to shoot it," Fisher said.

"He gives it up, he gets it back and gives it up for somebody else for a basket. So there's less of three people running at him when he gets it."

Said Thomas: "We're building a lot of chemistry with that."

## 102

### Aztecs try to black-out home loss to BYU

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
January 23, 2010

San Diego State would like to black-out from its memory last year's loss at home against Brigham Young and extend what is now a 14-game homecourt winning streak.

And one way they're attempting to do so is with a "Black Out" promotion that asks Aztecs fans to wear black shirts when 14th-ranked BYU plays SDSU at 7 p.m. Saturday at Viejas Arena before what may be a sellout crowd with only 500 tickets remaining Friday.

Last year's home loss to BYU -- as well as a road upset loss at Wyoming -- were two games that haunted San Diego State when they finished one game back of tie for the regular season title.

SDSU has already repeated the mistake of losing at Wyoming, but now comes a chance to avoid losing at home to Brigham Young.

This year's Wyoming loss contributed to the Aztecs falling two games back of BYU in the Mountain West Conference standings. In fact, BYU (19-1, 4-0) holds a

two-game lead in the loss column over the next six teams.

Among the six are the two teams that tied BYU for the regular-season title last year -- Utah (9-9, 2-2) and New Mexico (17-3, 3-2) and two teams picked second and third, respectively, behind BYU -- SDSU (14-5, 3-2) and UNLV (15-4, 3-2).

For now, SDSU balanced the damage of the loss at Wyoming by pulling off a road victory on Tuesday at Utah.

"We had a hard-fought, well-deserved victory at Utah -- a place that all of us know we've had a near impossible time winning and we went in and won, which makes us feel good," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "(It) allows us to believe that if we could protect home turf that we could put ourselves in a position to say we're going to have a chance to compete at the upper levels of this league."

Protecting that home floor is especially important against BYU since it would close the deficit in the conference standings loss column to one game. The Aztecs don't want to fall three games behind and then face the prospect of needing a win at BYU later in the season to salvage a split with the Cougars. A year ago, SDSU lost at home when the Aztecs couldn't solve BYU's zone defense with outside shooting and BYU guard Jimmer Fredette went for a then-career-high 28 points. SDSU is still struggling without outside shooting and since then Fredette has a new career high of 49 points last month in a win at Arizona.

Fredette was slowed by a mild bout with mono, but he is back in the lineup. He played 33 minutes but scored only 11 points on 3-of-11 shooting Wednesday in the Cougars' win over Wyoming.

SDSU was hoping for improved 3-point shooting this year with Kelvin Davis returning from illness and Tyrone Shelley coming off a redshirt year as a transfer. But Davis has been a streaky shooter hitting only 32.9 percent (23-of-70) and Shelley's toe injury may be bothering him more than he's letting on as he's hitting only 25.5 percent (12-of-47).

Junior point guard D.J. Gay tops the team at 36.9 (31-of-84).

One reason BYU coach Dave Rose, speaking of the importance of winning at home, says it might be tougher to steal at win at SDSU this season than a year ago is the play of two freshmen starters, forward Kawhi Leonard and guard Chase Tapley.

"Leonard might be the best rebounder at his position in the country," Rose said. "His physical presence is unbelievable. He plays with a lot of confidence. Tapley has the ability to score. Both of them are playing with a lot of poise for young guys that are new to the league."

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### Fredette makes Aztecs feel ill

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 24, 2010

As the national debate over health care rages, it's worth posing the question: Who is Jimmer Fredette's health care provider?

After spending most of the month being slowed by mononucleosis, BYU's junior guard looked to be in the pink last night, scoring 33 points on 11-of-19 shooting to lead No. 14 BYU to a 71-69 win over San Diego State at Viejas Arena.

"He didn't look sick," said San Diego State point guard D.J. Gay. "He didn't look like he lost a step.

He came out and scored 33 points, that doesn't sound sick to me. It's impressive."

Said Fredette: "My energy level is still a little bit low. I get tired a little bit quicker. Some of the movements may not be quite as quick as normal, but I'm feeling much better now. It's just about the energy and getting back into shape."

Gay was one of several Aztecs who drew the responsibility of guarding Fredette, who played 38 minutes. But no matter who was covering him -- Gay, Kawhi Leonard, Chase Tapley, Billy White, Malcolm Thomas -- the result was the same, Fredette turning the Viejas Arena floor into his personal shooting gallery.

"He truly is one of the best," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "He knows how to create opportunities for himself. He wiggles, he twists, he finds gaps, he can step back and make shots and he can shoot it on you when you are guarding

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him. He's very, very good."

Fredette commanded BYU's offense with poise and confidence despite a hostile, sold out Viejas Crowd of 12,414. When the Cougars needed a big shot, he made it. When they needed free throws to clinch the game, he didn't flinch.

His dribble-drive, left-handed scoop shot with 22 seconds left gave BYU (20-1, 5-0) a three-point lead and his back-to-back free throws with four seconds left put BYU ahead by five. SDSU (14-6, 3-3) got a cosmetic threepointer from Tapley at the buzzer.

The loss snaps SDSU's 14-game home winning streak.

It's the second-straight win in San Diego for BYU, which was the last road team to win in Viejas.

Leonard (16 points) and Gay (12 points) led the Aztecs, who erased a double-digit first-half lead and led by five points midway through the second half.

But it was the Fredette show all night, converting 5-of-8 three pointers and helping BYU go on a 15-0 run to re-take the lead in the second half. The Cougars zone defense forced SDSU to shoot from the outside, which does not play to the Aztecs' strengths.

"We tried a variety of things," said Fisher, whose team shot 36 percent in the second half, 40 percent for the game. "They were guarding the shot, but they were also guarding the passing lanes. We had a harder time (in the second half) getting the ball inside. We have a good team, they have a better team."

The Aztecs were clearly the superior team inside — scoring 40 points in the paint and outrebounding the Cougars 40-35.

They also had 11 more bench points. But that didn't matter with Fredette shooting 57.9 percent from the field.

The Aztecs weathered Fredette's first-half, 19-point storm, which came in unison with Tyler Haws' 10 first-half points. Fredette, the MWC preseason player of the year, averages 19 points per game. He looked every bit as advertised early on, converting on 6-of-8 shots and 3-of-4 beyond the arc.

BYU led by as many as 12, but SDSU chipped away with a nine-point run, eventually tying the game at 30-30 with 1:51 left in the half before BYU pulled away for a 35-34 first half advantage.

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**Aztecs sic fresh bodies on recuperating guard**

By Tim Sullivan | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 24, 2010

They took their turns and their lumps. They rotated responsibility for Jimmer Fredette, but they never solved him.

The San Diego State Aztecs tried almost everything and almost everyone on Brigham Young's junior guard, but Fredette kept finding his way free for open shots and scoring passes.

The mononucleosis that had slowed the Mountain West Conference's leading scorer since he dropped 49 points on Arizona last month has nearly run its course. Otherwise, BYU would have been hard-pressed to escape Viejas Arena with a 71-69 victory last night.

Otherwise, the Aztecs might have scored the sort of upset that can make a difference with the NCAA selection committee come tournament time.

"He was supposed to be sick," SDSU guard D.J. Gay said. "It didn't look like he lost a step. He came out here with 33 points. That doesn't sound sick to me at all."

The Aztecs' strategy was one of attrition. They tried to throw fresh bodies at Fredette on the theory that this would accelerate his fatigue.

Chase Tapley was given the first shift. The SDSU freshman started stalking Fredette near the top of the key on the game's first possession, shadowed him as he moved without the ball through the gangly gantlet closer to the basket and emerged unscathed from that draining possession when Fredette turned the ball over.

Then it was Gay's turn. Spotting Fredette 2 inches — according to their program heights — Gay had his shot swatted away, only to get beat off the dribble by the same dude on the defensive end.

This time, Fredette eschewed an open shot to make a pass. He would not pass up many more good looks as the game progressed, and he had 19 points when the teams left the floor at halftime.

Despite dealing with a succession of fresh Aztecs bodies, the recuperating Fredette would add five assists, three rebounds, a steal and the block on Gay to his 33 points, expanding on the tour de force he staged last February, when he rallied the Cougars from a 14-point deficit with a then-career-high 28-point effort in what was then Cox Arena.

"It felt good tonight," he said, standing in a hallway outside the Cougars' dressing room. "I feel like I'm getting back to normal shape. I was able to play a lot of minutes. And I'm not quite 100 percent still, but I'm getting there."

If this was a guy under the weather, Fredette was still overwhelming: 11-of-19 from the field, 5-of-8 from threepoint range, 6-for-6 from the free throw line, and all of this with everyone expecting him to get the ball when it mattered most.

"He truly is one of the best," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said. "He knows how to create opportunities for himself."

He wiggles. He twists. He finds gaps. He can step back and make shots and he can shoot it on you when you are guarding him. He's very, very good."

After Kawhi Leonard's jump shot sliced BYU's lead to a single point with 53 seconds to play, Fredette dribbled the shot clock down inside 10 seconds. Then, in his 38th minute on the floor, Fredette caught the Aztecs in a defensive switch, buzzed past Tyrone Shelley on a dribble drive and bounced in a left-handed layup to make it a three-point game.

This was right in front of the SDSU student section, not far from the tacky Mormon-taunting sign, "Which wife gave you mono?"

Poetic justice.

"It's on adrenaline then," Fredette said. "Nothing to do with fatigue. It's the last possessions of the game. You need to go and get a basket for your team, 'cause (the Aztecs) are able to come back and have a very, very good scoring team."

"We needed a basket and we got a switch and I was able to get by my guy and throw it up with the left hand and luckily it went in."

When Charles Abouo blocked the shot of SDSU's Kelvin Davis with five seconds to play, Fredette was there to claim the rebound and to sink the clinching free throws.

After making the first free throw, essentially securing the victory, Fredette gleefully slapped hands with his teammates as the teams returned to their benches for a time out. For a moment, Fredette had his hand extended as Shelley approached, but almost instantaneously pulled it back.

He didn't look sick at all.

"It's just the fact that my energy level is still a little bit lower," Fredette said. "I get a little bit tired a little bit quicker. So that's basically the main fact. Some of the movements that I have might not be quite as quick as normal. But they're feeling much better now."

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**Fredette, BYU in zone vs. Aztecs**

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 24, 2010

Brigham Young's Jimmer Fredette said he didn't play at 100 percent on Saturday night.

Imagine if he had.

The junior guard ---- who said he is still battling mononucleosis ---- displayed a deft shooting touch in scoring a game-high 33 points as the No. 14 Cougars ended San Diego State's 14-game home winning streak with a 71-69 victory at

Viejas Arena.

"We heard he was sick ---- he didn't look too sick," Aztecs guard D.J. Gay said. "It didn't look like he lost a step. ... Impressive."

While Fredette and teammate Tyler Haws (17 points) were expert marksmen from behind the arc ---- combining to make 8-of-12 shots ---- San Diego State struggled to solve BYU's zone defense. The Aztecs struggled to get the ball to post players Malcolm Thomas and Billy White, converted just 40.3 percent of their shots (27-of-67) from the field and made less than a third (7-of-22) of their 3-point attempts.

The victory gave the Cougars (20-1, 5-0 Mountain West Conference) a 2 1/2-game lead over the Aztecs (14-6, 3-3) in the conference standings.

Kawhi Leonard scored 16 points to lead San Diego State. Gay, perhaps the team's best perimeter shooter, added 12, but he left the game with leg cramps with 4 minutes, 12 seconds remaining and didn't return.

After burning the Aztecs with his perimeter shooting all night, Fredette got the ball on the perimeter and looked for an opening with his team leading 67-66 in the final minute. Unable to find one, Fredette drove to the basket and scored on a left-handed layup with 22 seconds remaining to give the Cougars a 69-66 lead. Following a timeout, the Aztecs found BYU's perimeter defense stifling, especially without Gay. Leonard looked for an opening up top before passing to Kelvin Davis, who was also guarded closely. Davis then opted to go inside but had his shot blocked by Charles Abouo with 4.4 seconds left.

Fredette grabbed the rebound and calmly sank two free throws, making Chase Tapley's 3-pointer at the buzzer irrelevant.

The Aztecs trailed 35-34 at halftime, then built a 50-45 lead to start the second half. But San Diego State then went 5:44 without scoring as BYU used a 15-0 run to take a 60-50 advantage.

"This was a game of runs," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "We were playing well, and then they went on that 15-0 run. We couldn't make a stop and we needed just one."

White and Thomas, who were each averaging more than 11 points per game, combined to take only 11 shots as BYU concentrated its defense in the front court. They made only three.

"(The zone) slowed our pace down and put us in a thinking mode," Gay said. "It wasn't playing to our strength."

Even though they knew it was coming, even though they threw everything they had at him defensively, and even though he is still feeling the remnants of mono, the Aztecs couldn't stop Fredette in the first half. San Diego State tried guarding the 6-2 junior with Gay and later rotated in the long arms of Thomas, Leonard, White and Tyrone Shelley, all to no avail. Fredette made 6-of-8 shot attempts, including three 3-pointers and finished the half with 19 of his team's 35 points.

"My energy level is still a little bit low," Fredette said. "I get tired a little bit quicker. Some of the movements may not be quite as quick as normal, but I'm feeling much better now. It's just about the energy and getting back into game shape."

## 106 SHOOTING THE BREEZE WITH .... San Diego State's Billy White

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
January 24, 2010

Less than three weeks have elapsed since San Diego State forward Billy White suffered a high ankle sprain in a victory over then-No. 15 New Mexico. Aztecs coach Steve Fisher, fearing the worst, wondered aloud how much time White would miss.

The answer was not very much. White missed only one game ---- Jan. 9 at Wyoming ---- and returned to the court eight days after sustaining the injury when the Aztecs visited Nevada-Las Vegas. Entering Saturday's game against No. 14 Brigham Young, White had appeared in three straight games, playing at least 16 minutes each time.

The North County Times caught up with White on Friday to talk about his speedy recovery, Mr. Miyagi's influence on his return and his love for eating Panda Ex-

press.

Q: The fact that you returned so quickly from a high ankle sprain, I think, has amazed a few people. How concerned were you when it initially happened?

A: Actually, I didn't know it was my ankle because I hadn't landed yet and was limping. I heard a crack and thought I broke my foot. It was hurting at the time and I was on crutches, but after a while it started slowing down and feeling better.

Q: Coach Fisher mentioned a couple of days later that you really wanted to take the trip with the team to Wyoming. A few days after that, you were pushing to go to Las Vegas. Why were you pushing so hard?

A: I just wanted to go for the team factor. But I pushed myself (while they were gone), and by Sunday I was feeling better and I told coach I wanted to play in Vegas, and not just because it's my hometown. I knew it was a big game and I kind of pushed myself to get ready.

Q: But why push for Wyoming ---- you weren't going to play and had to know about the weather forecast (It was 18 degrees)?

A: Yeah. But every game in conference counts, and I just wanted to be there for the team.

Q: From talking to other athletes in the past, they say traveling to cold weather can sometimes make bones ache and sometimes make things worse. Was that a concern?

A: I think that's why coach didn't want to me to travel to Wyoming. He didn't want me getting up and down for the flight and the bus and then getting up and down for the shoot around. I was surprised by Sunday because I could walk and put pressure on it. We had no practice on Monday and took off for Vegas on Tuesday. I knew it'd get better if I stayed off it more.

Q: How was the ankle during that Las Vegas game?

A: It was fine. It was just a little sore.

Q: What kind of treatment are you going through now to keep it in playing shape?

A: No treatment. We're just icing it and practicing and playing.

Q: Are you familiar with 'The Karate Kid'?

A: Yeah.

Q: When many of us heard high-ankle sprain, it seemed you'd be out for a while, but you returned in eight days. It kind of reminds me of Daniel LaRusso getting hurt and Mr. Miyagi healing him. Is Mr. Miyagi on the SDSU training staff?

A: (Laughing) I wish. I wish I had played for the Wyoming game because that could have really helped the team.

Q: On to more pressing matters: I hear you have a serious love for eating Panda Express. True?

A: Haha. Panda Express is my favorite food. During school I would eat it every day. I like to eat it before the games. It helps me focus on the games.

Q: What is your favorite item to order and do you always order the same thing?

A: I try to mix it up. My favorite thing is orange chicken. But I try to mix everything up and get different stuff.

Q: Have the coaches or the training staff talked to you about the possible long-term health ramifications from eating Panda every day?

A: The coaches always tease me a lot, like 'Did you eat orange chicken today?' 'Did you eat orange chicken to get this win?' I just try to eat it a little bit before the game ---- not right before the game.

Q: What's the window for eating before a game considering you guys are running up and down the court for 40 minutes?

A: If we play at 7 p.m., we have a pregame shootaround at 2, and you go home

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and have to be back at 5:30. You eat about three or four hours before the game.

Name: Billy White  
 School: San Diego State  
 Class: Junior  
 Sport: Basketball  
 Position: Forward  
 Quick Hits  
 Last movie you saw in a theatre: 'Twilight: New Moon'  
 What's in your MP3 player: Gucci Mane  
 Facebook or Twitter: Twitter  
 Favorite NBA player: Carmelo Anthony  
 Favorite class at SDSU: Women's studies  
 Funniest thing Coach Fisher says: "He's always telling me 'You gotta run like a gazelle.' That makes me laugh."

### 107 Aztecs fall three games back of BYU

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
 January 24, 2010

San Diego State opened Mountain West Conference play with an upset of then-15th-ranked New Mexico, but three weeks later the Aztecs came up short of a bookend home victory over a ranked opponent.

The Aztecs, playing before a sellout crowd of 12,414 Saturday night to see 14th-ranked Brigham Young at Viejas Arena, fell to the Cougars, 71-69. The loss ended SDSU's 14-game homecourt winning streak dating to last year.

"They're a very good team," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "They make every open shot so you've got to guard them and not give them open shots. And then they make guarded shots. They made too much of both in this game."

SDSU, after leading 50-45 in the second half, went cold at the same time the Cougars heated up with a 15-0 run for a 60-50 lead with 6:18 to play in the game.

"We had stretches where we were very good (on defense), but we had a killer stretch in the second half when they scored 15 in a row," Fisher said. "Our thought was to make a stop to get them out of the flow. We lost people a couple of times."

BYU junior guard Jimmer Fredette again burned the Aztecs, scoring 33 points. He tied his second highest total of the season and it was the most he's scored in an MWC game. Fredette, recovering from mono that limited his playing time until this week, played 33 minutes.

"He knows how to create opportunities for himself," Fisher said. "When he has the ball he wiggles and twists and finds gaps and steps back and he can shoot when you're on him."

The Cougars needed nearly all of their late lead as SDSU's Tyrone Shelley came off the bench to spark one final comeback attempt by the Aztecs with two baskets and a steal to set up a Kawhi Leonard bucket.

SDSU (14-6, 3-3) dropped three games behind BYU (20-1, 5-0) in the loss column and dropped one game back of a three-way tie for second. Elsewhere in the MWC, New Mexico (18-3, 4-2), UNLV (16-4, 4-2) and Utah (10-9, 3-2) all won to remain two games back in the loss column.

Freshman forward Kawhi Leonard posted his ninth double-double of the year with 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Aztecs. Junior point guard D.J. Gay added 12 points and freshman guard Chase Tapley 11.

The Aztecs only trailed 35-34 at halftime, but they had dug a hole early in the game. Turnovers, seven in the first 10 minutes, led to the Aztecs falling behind by double digits, 22-10.

The Aztecs starting closing the gap when they went on a 7-0 run to close the deficit to 22-17 with buckets by Kelvin Davis and Brian Carlwell that sandwiched a 3-pointer by Chase Tapley.

Fredette, the preseason pick as MWC Player of the Year that had 19 points at halftime, hit back-to-back 3-pointers to momentarily hold off the Aztecs until SDSU went on another 7-0 run.

"I had a lot of good looks early, and that got me going a little bit," Fredette said. "They're a team of runs. We made a run early, but we knew they would make a run, because they get energy from the crowd, they start making shots, get some offensive rebounds. We just had to weather the storm when they started making a run. Then we made a run of our own, they came back, but that's the way it's going to be. You have to be up for the challenge. It was an exciting game."

Billy White started the run with two free throws. Malcolm Thomas blocked a shot that led to a basket by Davis to trim the deficit to 30-27 with 3:29 left in the first half. After a timeout, Tapley hit a 3-pointer for the game's first tie at 30-30 with 2:27 remaining until halftime.

### 108 Shelley battles through pain and criticism

By Edward Lewis | Daily Aztec  
 January 28, 2010

Tyrone Shelley read the message boards once when he was a freshman at Pepperdine. They were brutal. Crass. Downright mean.

He vowed to never read them again.

But a few days ago, he got a text from one of his friends.

"Tyrone, they're dogging you on the message board," Shelley said the text read. So Shelley sat down, cracked open his computer and checked it out.

Tyrone is lazy and selfish.

I can't believe how poorly he has performed.

I thought Shelley would be the man and Thomas would be a throw in. I was 100% wrong. Shelley took it all in, leaned back and thought, "Dang. Am I really doing that badly?"

There was a time when Shelley probably deserved the criticism. Two years ago, he was a freshman at Pepperdine. Malcolm Thomas was, too. It was Jan. 21, 2008, and the Waves were playing Santa Clara in the Leavey Center. Shelley hadn't gotten the ball on the offensive end for at least six straight trips, when the ball finally came to him.

"He just got the ball and just shot it," Thomas said. "And it was an air ball, too. But he didn't care because he was mad."

That was Shelley then. That was the 20-year-old baller who could score at will. That was the superstar guard who averaged 34.9 points per game as a senior at Crawford High School. That was the kid who once posted 76 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in a single high school basketball game. That was the Shelley "labeled as a crazy kid," Thomas said.

But this is Shelley now. A soft-spoken, shy, mature 22-year-old San Diego State men's basketball player baffled by the criticism he's received this season.

"How am I being selfish if I don't take that many shots?" said a disheartened Shelley. "I don't understand what selfish is. So it's like, I'll score a lot of points, but am I still being selfish if I shoot a high percentage? So what's selfish to you guys?"

A few weeks ago, when SDSU took on UNLV in Las Vegas, Shelley laced up his sneakers, logged 19 minutes, scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds. After the game, he told the media about his foot.

"It's probably like 75 percent," Shelley said. Last week, he added, "Seventy-five was good for me. Other days it's like, 'Dang can I really do it? All right, I'll just focus on defense and not really try to score the ball.'"

Sound selfish? Head coach Steve Fisher says hardly.

"Fans are fans. We love our fans, but they sometimes don't always see what the coaches see," Fisher said. "He's got a foot that would keep most people on the sideline. He never complains. But it's bothering him a lot and he's fighting his way through it."

Shelley is dealing with plantar fasciitis, which swells the tissue on the bottom of the foot. He's had the problem since his days at Pepperdine, but this season, the pain has spread to his big toe.

"It jams and it just flares up," Shelley said of his toe. "It's painful and I can barely walk. And then the plantar fasciitis is like needles stabbing me consistently. I'm not as athletic as I used to be."

So Shelley's scoring is down this year. The sophomore guard is averaging just 7.4 points per game in 21.5 minutes. And because the injection that helps numb the pain in his foot hurts his body, he has to play basically medication-free.

"I wouldn't even play at all," Thomas said if he had the foot injury Shelley has. "That'd be horrible if I even tried."

Fisher said despite the lower scoring, Shelley is doing everything the coaching staff has asked him to do this year. He is, Fisher said, playing better defense, rebounding better, passing the ball better and is limiting his turnovers.

As for the scoring, Fisher just preaches patience with Shelley.

"I know that Tyrone, as his career goes on here, he will progress in terms of what people thought they would see, and that's more scoring," Fisher said. "But he's doing what we want him to do and what he needs to do to help this team win."

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### Aztecs' Gay taking his best shot at point guard

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 30, 2010

D.J. Gay isn't stupid.

The San Diego State point guard knows he has critics. He also knows what those critics say about him: "He's not a true point guard. He doesn't know how to lead a team. He shoots too much ... etc., etc."

Guess what? He doesn't care what they think.

"It never will be fair," Gay said. "I can't please everybody. Day in and day out, you have people who are against you and people who are for you. At the end of the day, it's all about doing what you can to help your team get a win.

"What I've learned is that you have to believe in yourself first. (As a point guard), people are going to knock you down when you lose, and when you win, they'll point at somebody else. That's just how it is."

Gay's transition from shooter to point guard this year hasn't exactly been silky-smooth. He steps into the role previously occupied by the graduated Richie Williams — a four-year starter, the all-time Mountain West Conference assist king and one of the best defenders to wear the red and black. It's not exactly Steve Young replacing Joe Montana. Think of it more as Jerry Rice replacing Joe Montana.

The point-guard position has a lengthy job description, said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher, whose team plays today at Colorado State.

"When you transition from being an off-the-ball player, you still can score, but your job is to run a team, organize a team, get guys involved and find ways to make plays for others," Fisher said. "It's not easy. He played in every game for two years, but was sparingly used at the point. He's taken over the reins of the team, and I think he's done a wonderful job."

The athleticism is there, but a different bundle of skills is required to operate an offense. More important, Gay has to suppress the instinct to score that initially attracted Fisher to him. At Poly High in Sun Valley, Gay was a scorer, averaging 29.4 points per game (fifth in California, 21st nationally).

"All of my life, I've been a scorer," Gay said. "As a point guard, you need to make sure everybody eats before you do. You have to keep them happy or they won't follow you."

The first few weeks were tough. Gay points to the losses at St. Mary's and Pacific as the turning point for him. He was a combined 8-for-19 in the two games, but it's not the 42 percent shooting that was the problem. It was the number of shots.

"Those were the games that I realized it's not my job anymore to just shoot the ball," he said. "A change had to be made. The team was going in separate ways, and someone needed to show some leadership on the court."

Gay balks, almost defiantly, at the insinuation that he's not a "true" point guard. To him, point guard is a state of mind.

"A true point guard is a floor leader, not just a position," he said. "I average the most minutes on the team (32.8). A point guard is someone who can run a team, keep them happy and keep them playing together."

Gay still averages 8.8 shots per game while averaging 9.9 points. The difference now, however, is that he's picking better shots while passing up the tougher ones to distribute the ball more.

"You'd never know he hasn't played point guard his whole life," said freshman Chase Tapley, who has also played some point, allowing Gay to return to his natural position for a few minutes per game. "He is a true point guard because he's a leader. That's what it's all about."

And Gay has been turnover-free the past two games — a huge plus with Fisher.

"Can he get better? Absolutely," Fisher said. "Does he need to get better? Positively. Will he get better? Yes."

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### True freshmen are playing big roles for teams throughout the MWC

By Kelly Lyell | The Coloradoan  
January 30, 2010

A year ago, Kawhi Leonard was playing basketball at King High School in Riverside, Calif., guiding his team to a 30-3 record and section championship.

Now, the 18-year-old freshman is leading the Mountain West Conference in rebounding (9.5 a game) and leading his San Diego State team in scoring (11.6 points a game).

In most years, Leonard would be a shoo-in for the MWC's freshman of the year honor at the end of the season, and he probably is the frontrunner. This year, though, he's got plenty of competition from the likes of CSU point guard Dorian Green, Brigham Young shooting guard Tyler Haws, Utah forward Marshall Henderson and a handful of others.

Four of the top 15 scorers in the MWC this year are true freshmen, led by Green at 13.2 points a game. San Diego State (14-6, 3-3 MWC), which faces the Rams (12-8, 3-3) today at Moby Arena, and Colorado State University have two true freshmen apiece in their starting lineups, while Air Force, Brigham Young, TCU and Utah regularly start at least one.

The MWC's nine schools had 22 seniors among the 45 starters last season, leaving a void in starting lineups that coaches needed to fill. And top recruits were eager to step in.

"Young people want an opportunity," CSU coach Tim Miles said. "We have kind of a microwave society; everybody wants it now, without waiting. And recruits want the chance to make an impact right away."

Leonard, a 6-foot-7, 225-pound forward and last year's Los Angeles Times player of the year and CalHi-Sports' Mr. Basketball as the state's top player, said that's what helped convince him San Diego State, which had to replace three starters this season, was the right school for him. He turned down offers from several Pacific-10 Conference schools, as well as Memphis and Marquette.

"I thought I was going to get a chance to play sooner here," Leonard said. "Get a feel for the game, rather than just sitting on the bench."

Leonard is averaging more than 30 minutes a game for the Aztecs and has reached double figures in both points and rebounds eight times this season. Green, a 6-2 guard from Lawrence, Kan., plays more than 33 minutes a game for the Rams.

Add in Chase Tapley, a guard from Sacramento, Calif., who averages 7.3 points, 2.2 rebounds and 2.2 assists a game for the Aztecs, and Pierce Hornung, a 6-5 forward from Arvada who chips in 3.2 points and 5.0 rebounds a game for the Rams, and there could be four true freshmen on the floor at tipoff today at Moby Arena. CSU has another true freshman, Greg Smith, a 6-6 forward from Ralston, Neb., who has come off the bench to lead his team in scoring in four of the past five games.

"Coaches, they recruit people for immediate impact," Hornung said. "And I think

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coach (Miles) is getting better and better at finding the right guys, and players are working harder and harder to make an immediate impact."

And not just at CSU and San Diego State.

Haws, a 6-5 guard-forward out of Alpine, Utah, was named Utah's Mr. Basketball as both a junior and senior in high school and now is the third-leading scorer (12.4 points a game) for a BYU team that leads the MWC and is ranked No. 12 in the nation. Henderson, a 6-2 guard from Hurst, Texas, is the second-leading scorer (11.2 points a game) on a Utah team that has three true freshmen in its regular playing rotation.

Five of the MWC's nine coaches are in their third seasons and this year's freshman class, Miles and Utah's Jim Boylen both said, really is the first with sustained success in mind instead of just plugging holes to get through the next season.

The anticipated rebuilding year for the league as a whole after losing so many seniors simply has not materialized. In fact, with two teams in the Top 25 this week and another receiving votes and a No. 7 conference Ratings Percentage Index that's higher than those of the Pacific-10 and Missouri Valley conferences, some coaches and analysts say that the MWC this year is stronger than it's ever been.

And the 38 freshmen in the league this year are a big part of that.

"I believe that the senior class that just left helped every coach be able to get the talented freshmen," BYU coach Dave Rose said. "Recruiting is momentum, and when you've got good teams, players want to come to good programs. The conference has elevated itself, and obviously the crowds and the venues kids can come and see. They want to play in a league just like this, and I think we're getting some pretty quality players in our recruiting classes."

Players who already are making their teams better.

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**Aztecs travel to CSU trying to stay in race**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
January 30, 2010

The schedule might be catching up to Brigham Young, and that's welcome news to San Diego State and the rest of the Mountain West Conference.

The Aztecs play Saturday at Colorado State hoping to pull off another road victory to stay in the MWC race.

SDSU (14-6 overall, 3-3 MWC) had dropped three games back of BYU in the loss column when the Cougars defeated the Aztecs on Jan. 23 at Viejas Arena. But BYU, which hadn't played any of the preseason favorites on the road until visiting SDSU, suffered its first conference loss Wednesday at New Mexico.

SDSU, idle during the midweek games, is now only two games back of 12th-ranked BYU (20-2, 5-1) with 10 conference games to play.

The Aztecs are one game back in the loss column of a tie for second between UNLV (17-4, 5-2) and 23rd-ranked New Mexico (19-3, 5-2). One of UNLV's losses was at BYU, so the Rebels still get the Cougars on their home court, which could lead to the race tightening more.

"BYU losing at New Mexico, I don't think was a shocker to anyone who follows college basketball, especially our league, especially at The Pit, against a really good New Mexico team," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "What it does, it says one game separates BYU from both (UNLV) and New Mexico. We're in that next layer with Colorado State and Utah, two games back on the loss side. It's the way most leagues are. BYU could have dropped their home game to (UNLV). That was a very close game."

CSU (12-8, 3-3) and Utah (10-10, 3-3) are tied with the Aztecs entering Saturday's games.

"Crazy things happen, home or away," Fisher said. "Playing at home doesn't guarantee anything. Usually if you play well and play tough at home, you have a better chance than you do on the road. We need to go with all of our might to find a way to get a win on Saturday and be 4-3 (in the MWC). (We) just need to hunker down and not worry about pulling for this team or pulling for that team and only pull for our team."

SDSU hasn't lost two in a row this year, but CSU is 9-1 at home. The Rams have three players averaging double figures, led by 6-foot-2 freshman guard Dorian Green at 13.2 points per game. Andy Ogide, a 6-9 junior, provides the inside presence with 11.2 points and 5.8 rebounds. Travis Franklin, a 6-7 junior, averages 11.0.

SDSU will again likely be without sophomore forward Tim Shelton, one of the team's leaders. He hasn't practiced since his knee problems flared up following the UNLV game two weeks ago.

But SDSU's improvement is marked by its ability to make progress without Shelton, something the Aztecs struggled to do when they lost at Wyoming after he fouled out in the final five minutes. Since then, SDSU won a close game at home against Texas Christian and on the road at Utah.

"Tim is no longer thinking about I will play tomorrow or will play the next day," Fisher said. "He's taken a step back and we'll have to wait and see what that step back means. Obviously, if we could play him this Saturday and he was feeling healthy enough to do it, we would. He's done nothing since the (UNLV) game, practice or play. There is no immediate plan for Tim to return."

Both teams are relying on key freshmen this year. The Aztecs have two freshman starters with forward Kawhi Leonard and guard Chase Tapley.

Green has started all 20 games as the Rams' leading scorer, but two other freshman seeing significant minutes are Greg Smith, a 6-6 forward averaging 7.6 points, and Pierce Hornung, a 6-5 forward averaging 3.2 points with 10 starts.

Smith led the Rams in scoring in Wednesday's 63-57 win over TCU when he finished with 15 points off the bench.

"There are a lot of freshman that are good, but because of veterans returning, they don't get an opportunity to display that for a year," Fisher said. "We have two starters and Colorado State has some terrific freshmen on their team that have stepped in and performed. They've had early success, and that youthful enthusiasm energizes everyone."

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**Leaping Leonard leads the Aztecs**

By Kelly Lyell | Special to the San Diego Union-Tribune  
January 31, 2010

The San Diego State men's basketball team had two offensive rebounds before its first basket of the game and two more before the second, both put-backs by true freshman Kawhi Leonard.

In a matchup of two teams that couldn't do much of anything right offensively, the Aztecs used a 40-33 rebounding edge and what coach Steve Fisher said was one of its best defensive efforts of the season yesterday to beat Colorado State 64-52 before 3,809 fans at Moby Arena.

The 6-foot-7 Leonard pulled down five rebounds in the first five minutes and secured his 10th double-double of the season by halftime with 12 points and 10 rebounds. He finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

"I just wanted to come out really aggressive on the boards," Leonard said. "That's what we needed to win this game, just be really aggressive on the offensive boards and just come out and play defense and play hard for the whole game."

D.J. Gay scored 17 points, Chase Tapley added 12 and Malcolm Thomas pulled down 13 rebounds and blocked two shots as San Diego State (15-6, 4-3 Mountain West Conference) won its ninth consecutive regular-season game over the Rams and its fifth in a row at Moby Arena.

"We are a very good offensive rebounding team," Fisher said. "It's not luck. They pursue the ball. Malcolm Thomas and Kawhi Leonard are guys that every time a shot goes up, they say, 'I'm going to get it,' and they get balls that don't just come to them, which is what really good rebounders do."

And yesterday, those efforts allowed the Aztecs to win a conference road game in which they shot just 42.0 percent (21-of-50) from the floor, 54.5 percent (18-of-33) at the foul line and committed 15 turnovers.

"For them to come out the first couple possessions and get four offensive rebounds, that's kind of demoralizing, and it's tough to bounce back from that,"

said Andy Ogide, a 6-9 junior forward who led the Rams (12-9, 3-4) with 13 points but spent most of the second half on the bench with four fouls.

San Diego State held Dorian Green, a freshman point guard and Colorado State's leading scorer, without a field goal until just 8:05 remained in the game, forced the Rams to commit 19 turnovers and limited them to 36.7 percent shooting (18-of-49), including a 2-for-15 effort from three-point range while handing the CSU just its second loss in 11 home games this season.

"We played defense as hard and as smart as we have all season to make them do some things that maybe were their second, third or fourth option," Fisher said.

Although CSU committed 10 fouls in the final 1:41 in a desperate attempt to get back in the game, the Rams were basically out of this one by halftime.

San Diego State, down 23-20 after a 12-1 run by the Rams, responded with a 12-1 run of its own to take a 42-34 halftime lead, then scored the first five points of the second half to push its lead to 13. The Aztecs led by nine points or more the rest of the game.

Travis Franklin, a 6-7 forward, had 10 points and seven rebounds for CSU but also committed eight turnovers and missed 6-of-8 free throws.

The road win was the second in a row in conference play for the Aztecs, who won Jan. 19 at Utah before losing at home last weekend to Brigham Young.

"Road wins are hard to come by in any league, especially our league," Fisher said. "So I'm elated. This was a really, really important, rock-solid win for San Diego State."

### 113

#### Aztecs enjoy comfortable win at Colorado State

By Staff | Aztec Sports Report  
January 31, 2010

Finally, a breather for San Diego State.

After a series of close games in both wins and losses -- including a tough two-point loss to Brigham Young at home last week -- the Aztecs came up with a comfortable win on the road, defeating Colorado State 64-52 at Moby Arena.

The win lifted SDSU back above .500 in the Mountain West Conference standings as they broke a tie with the Rams and Utah for fourth place. SDSU is 15-6 overall and 4-3 in the MWC, and CSU dropped to 12-9 and 3-4. Utah, which lost to Brigham Young, is 10-11 and 3-4.

SDSU trails 12th-ranked Brigham Young (21-2, 6-1) by two games and a tie for second between UNLV (17-4, 5-2) and 23-ranked New Mexico (20-3, 6-2) by one game in the loss column. The Aztecs close out the first half of the MWC with a home game Tuesday against Air Force.

"This was a team that had only one loss at home (against nine wins)," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "They're a well coach basketball team. I'm very proud of how we guarded and took them out of stuff. I'm proud of how we came in here and got a win."

Junior point guard D.J. Gay led the Aztecs with 17 points, but he also was effective defensively. Gay limited CSU's Dorian Green to nine points. Green, who was 0-for-2 from 3-point range, came into the game leading the Rams in scoring with 13.2 points.

"D.J. did a great job tagging Green," Fisher said. "He didn't let him get a clean look. I thought our defense was as good as it's been all season."

Freshman forward Kawhi Leonard added a double-double for the third straight game to finish with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

"I just try to crash and get rebound whenever I can," Leonard said. "Defenses wins game, and I try to get rebounds."

The Aztecs scored the first points of the second half and then continued to build on their 32-24 halftime advantage.

The Aztecs were up by as much as 17 points at 55-38 with 3:24 left in the game. SDSU went on its first run of the game when the Aztecs turned a 7-6 lead into a 15-6 advantage that was fueled by two buckets by Tyrone Shelley -- one a 3-

pointer.

SDSU was starting to build a steady lead at 19-11 when Colorado State mounted a comeback with seven unanswered points.

The Rams later took a brief 23-20 lead when Dorian Green hit three free throws after he was fouled on a 3-point shot. But the Aztecs closed out the half with a 7-0 run for their eight-point halftime advantage.

Leonard had his double-double at halftime with 12 points and 10 rebounds, but part of the reason for his numbers was he's such a good offensive rebounder and the Aztecs were shooting poorly. It was his 11th double-double in the last 14 games. It was his 12 double-double of the year.

"He had a great stat line in the first half with the points, rebounds and 5-of-8 from the field," Fisher said. "The things I like in the second half is he didn't try to force his offense. He passed up his shots to get a better shot. He recognized time management. I was proud of the intelligence he played with in the second half."

The Aztecs hurt themselves with nine first-half turnovers, but they finished with only 13. The turnover damage also was mitigated by CSU's own 10 turnovers and 19 for the game.

SDSU again struggled at the free throw line. The Aztecs hit only 18-of-33 for 54.5 percent.

### 114

#### Hit-miss Aztecs need to stay good long enough

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 2, 2010

The San Diego State Aztecs continue to be a complex team to comprehend. They are second in the conference in field-goal percentage (47 percent), yet last in free-throw percentage (59 percent). They have a ferocious defense and a temperamental offense.

SDSU is a high-octane, turbocharged conundrum that has runs of brilliance and bouts that make spectators bristle.

"You're going to have games where everything goes right and you make every free throw and you're going to have games where nothing goes right," said SDSU coach Steve Fisher. "And if you can win when you're struggling to make shots, you're going to be money in the bank."

The question is, can the Aztecs survive those droughts long enough to bring the cha-ching? So far their rebounding has been their best offense. Kawhi Leonard and Malcolm Thomas are No.1 and No.2 in the conference, and they're usually able to suck up and put back whatever comes off the rim. It's the reason Billy White leads the conference in field-goal percentage.

"One of our strengths is multiple shot opportunities," Fisher said. "We need to continue to do that. In this business, you have to find ways to win. You have to make ways to win. Sometimes it doesn't look pretty."

This is already a much different team than the one that started the season. Tim Shelton (knee) will undergo exploratory knee surgery tomorrow and will miss the rest of the season. White is still playing through the pain of a high ankle sprain suffered against New Mexico. Tyrone Shelley — the team's most active defender — continues to be slowed by plantar fasciitis.

Win or lose tonight against Air Force, the Aztecs find themselves in the unenviable position of having to rely on others to fail.

For the sake of argument, let's assume they win — after all, SDSU (15-6, 4-3) is almost unbeatable at home and Air Force (9-11, 1-6) has proved to be beatable in all time zones. That would put the Aztecs at 5-3 in the Mountain West Conference heading into the second half of league play. Of course, anything can and does happen in this league and a home loss to the last-place team would be devastating. But that's another story.

At this point, is the outright league title attainable with three losses? Maybe. But that would mean running the table and getting road wins this month in New Mexico and against league leader BYU. The Aztecs might be able to steal one — after all, they have won three of the past four in Albuquerque — but winning both is a lot to ask. Plus they would still need BYU to drop a third game.

Last season, the conference ended with a three-way tie for first place with BYU, Utah and New Mexico all finishing 12-4. SDSU was one game out at 11-5. The difference between the No.1 seed and the No.4 seed at the conference tournament was one game. The Aztecs still fought their way to the championship, but onethrough- four in the conference is tougher this year than it was last year. The Aztecs, obviously, don't want to have to face UNLV on its home court in their first game if they don't have to.

"If we can hold serve (at home), we'll be nudging up to the second- and third-place teams," Fisher said. "... (The second half of the season) will be a slugfest. Hopefully we'll be able to make plays that will give us a chance to win. Almost every game will come down to three or four minutes and either team can win."

The key down the stretch will be defense, where SDSU is holding opponents under 40 percent shooting. The Aztecs can weather their three-minute scoreless storms by forcing the opponent to have a five-minute scoreless stretch.

"We're going to have bad games or have bad times where we can't make anything for three minutes," White said. "But we hang our hats on defense. We're a defensive team. We like to get turnovers and we like to run. Our defense can make up for it."

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### Forward will undergo surgery

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 2, 2010

San Diego State forward Tim Shelton will miss the remainder of the season and undergo exploratory knee surgery tomorrow, coach Steve Fisher said yesterday.

The redshirt sophomore has had three knee surgeries in the past four years and already has used a medical redshirt year.

Fisher said he spoke with Shelton and his family Sunday night after they had made the decision.

"The options they've decided — and that's with great consultation with the doctors — they are going to go back in and do some exploratory and see what's there," Fisher said. "If there is nothing there, we're going to have time and rest, and hopefully that will be the cure. If they have to do something else, then they won't do it but report to the family, 'Here's what we saw,' and they'll make a family decision."

Mike May, SDSU media relations director, did not make Shelton available for comment.

Shelton spent most of this season in a limited capacity, working out sparingly with the team during practice and appearing in nine games.

His workload increased when Billy White went down with a high ankle sprain Jan. 5 against New Mexico, and Shelton played a season-high 26 minutes. He started and played 17 minutes in each of the next two games, but hasn't been back on the court since the Jan. 13 road loss to UNLV.

"He's still a valuable and inspirational part of this team," Fisher said. "We need to get the surgery; hopefully, it will be nothing of substance. If it is, we'll talk and deal with it."

Shelton averaged just 3.3 points and two rebounds per game but was viewed as a leader by his teammates.

"It's sad because we want Tim to play," said forward Malcolm Thomas. "He's going to be a leader no matter what. It's bittersweet. He's going to keep lifting guys and be Tim. We want him on the court, but we can't have him. We're just glad he'll still be around."

Shelton tore his ACL in his junior year of high school and has had two subsequent microfracture surgeries.

Fisher said there hasn't been any discussion about the long-term plan for Shelton, who has appeared in 47 games over three seasons.

"Our thought is to have Tim Shelton able to play," Fisher said. "We're going to do whatever we can to help him achieve that goal."

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### Aztecs lose Shelton, again

By Scott Bair | North County Times  
February 2, 2010

Tim Shelton's knee won't stop acting up.

It's stolen another season from San Diego State's talented, yet injury-plagued forward, who will go under the knife for a fourth time on Wednesday.

A San Diego State official confirmed on Monday that Shelton will have exploratory surgery on his knee, a setback after having surgery to repair the knee during the offseason. Shelton's knee prevented him from practicing regularly, limited his role in games and has kept him out since a Jan. 13 contest at Nevada-Las Vegas.

He averaged 3.3 points, two rebounds and in just nine games. That's a stark contrast to his production during healthy seasons. He averaged eight points and five rebounds per game in 2008-09, when he was a redshirt freshman. Shelton earned a medical redshirt in 2007-08 when he lost all but four games to knee surgery.

The latest setback hurts Shelton and the Aztecs team, who looked to him for leadership in times of stress.

"I feel very badly for him," Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said. "We've only had him available for nine of our games, but we certainly missed him when he wasn't there. This surgery will find out if there's anything wrong with the knee that's causing him problems. The long-range goal is to do what's best for him physically and get in position to contribute in the future."

The health of another ailing Aztec is on the rise. Forward Billy White, who has been plagued by ankle problems that have limit his contributions in recent games, will play this week.

"The ankle is improving," Fisher said. "We expect him to progress and eventually get back to full strength."

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### Leonard lends the Aztecs a big hand

By Edward Lewis | Daily Aztec  
February 2, 2010

On a Thursday evening inside Viejas Arena, the San Diego State men's basketball team practiced for its upcoming game against Colorado State. There was a scout team dressed in white scrimmage jerseys playing against SDSU's starting five dressed in black jerseys.

"This play is called 'Cash,'" a player from the scout team called out.

Players in white weaved in and out of the Aztecs' starting five. Then, one of them picked up his dribble, reared back and fired a pass to Kawhi Leonard's man. Leonard promptly stuck his paw out and stole the basketball.

"Dang!" the scout team player yelled. "Nice hands!"

Leonard has heard plenty of things about his hands since he first arrived at SDSU. Almost never, however, does he hear about them being nice.

"Everybody talks about his hands," junior guard D.J. Gay said. "I can't say all the jokes, but we always talk about what it would be like if you got slapped by him or something like that. Or how when he dribbles it looks like he's just holding it in midair or stuff like that."

Leonard, a freshman forward, has massive hands. He makes a basketball look like a miniature volleyball. When he shakes hands with reporters, many often joke that they have to ask for their hand back.

"He's got the biggest hands that I've seen on a player that we've had since Chris Webber," head coach Steve Fisher said.

The big hands, though, have come with a price. The Aztecs' squad is full of jokesters this year and they like to let Leonard have it whenever they can.

"They give me a hard time about my hands every day," Leonard said. "They talk about, 'Get away from me. Stop touching me with your hands. They're too big.'"

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Leonard's never measured his hands, so the exact size of them is unknown. Although Leonard did say he was going to measure them soon "because people keep asking me, 'How big are your hands?'"

What is known, however, is how useful they really are. Leonard says his hands give him extra length, which helps him grab rebounds better. This season, Leonard leads the Mountain West Conference in rebounding, averaging 9.6 boards per game.

"There's plenty of jokes that go around about his hands, but on the flipside, everybody's jealous of them," Gay said. "Because those hands, you saw what they do on the boards."

Leonard will try to lend a hand again when SDSU takes on Air Force at 7:05 p.m. tonight at Viejas Arena. The freshman forward will look to extend his double-double streak to four games tonight against the Falcons.

"He came in with a lot of hype and he's living up to a good portion of it," Fisher said. "He's an exceptional offensive rebounder, physically imposing at times, smart, aggressive and wants to learn and get better. He's a keeper."

## 118 Aztecs outwork Falcons

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 3, 2010

Last night's game against the Air Force Academy was exactly what the San Diego State Aztecs needed heading into a critical showdown Saturday against nationally ranked New Mexico in Albuquerque — a complete, drama-free performance.

The Aztecs cruised to a 70-48 victory in front of an announced crowd of 6,126 at Viejas Arena. There was no come-from-behind win, no player scuffles or offensive costumes from the student section. (Though the one fan who, rather vocally, likened Air Force coach Jeff Reynolds to a hobbit might have been a tad out of line.)

The Aztecs, who never trailed, did what they do best: outwork their opponent on the boards, create inside scoring and play shut-down defense. They even made 17-of-22 free throws.

"That was a good, solid, workman-like effort for us tonight," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "I was very proud of how we defended. At halftime we had one turnover and that is how you win games ... We did what everybody thought we should do and we did what we knew we had to do to win. I'm proud of our effort. We had a lot of contributions from a lot of different guys. We were steady from tip to the finish."

Four Aztecs scored in double digits and Kawhi Leonard led all players with 15 points. Kelvin Davis scored 12 and Tyrone Shelley and Malcolm Thomas (game-high 12 rebounds) added 10.

The Aztecs (16-6, 5-3) started the game on a 12-0 run, holding the Falcons (9-12, 1-7) scoreless until the 10:14 mark in the first half. During that span, Air Force missed its first nine shots and the Aztecs forced four turnovers.

Despite shooting just 29 percent from the field in the first half, the Aztecs gobbed up 11 offensive rebounds for nine second-chance points, allowing them to enjoy a 26-17 halftime lead.

"Tonight we lost the game because we didn't defend and we didn't rebound," Reynolds said.

Air Force started the second half with a mini-run, cutting the deficit to just six. But it was never really a threat as the Aztecs heated up, shooting 63.6 percent (14-of-22) in the second half and 55.6 percent beyond the arc (5-of-9). SDSU finished at 43 percent from the field for the game.

"I think we settled in the first half for that three-point shot," said point guard D.J. Gay. "They gave it to us so we had to take it. In the second half we forced the ball down low a little more. We ran the floor and pushed it. We got easier baskets in the second half."

The defense forced 15 turnovers — turning those into 23 points. Offensively, the Aztecs only committed six turnovers — their second lowest total of the season. As usual, the Aztecs dominated in the paint with a 28-12 advantage, and they also out-rebounded the Falcons 35-27.

"We did a nice job of not giving them the easy stuff," Fisher said.

Air Force toiled in the single digits for the next few minutes of the second half until Gay stepped up and made back-to-back three-pointers in a 35-second span, giving SDSU a double-digit cushion for the rest of the game.

"We played as a team offensively and defensively," said Gay, who finished with nine points, four assists and no turnovers. " ... We took it to another level."

## 119 ALL-FRESHMAN TEAMS HAVE SURPRISES; FROSH CLASS VERY DISAPPOINTING

By Jake Schaller | Colorado Springs Gazette  
February 3, 2010

The freshman class was regarded as lackluster, but at a close glance, it's even more depressing than initially anticipated.

John Wall has been the real deal, and guys like his Kentucky teammate DeMarcus Cousins and Texas guard Avery Bradley have been as good as advertised.

However, just 19 of Scout.com's Top 100 players are averaging in double-figures to this point.

There isn't a single freshman in the Top 20 in scoring in the ACC or the Big East, or anyone in the Top 15 among the Big Ten scoring leaders.

Here is my All-Freshman team thus far:

### FIRST TEAM

F — **Elias Harris, Gonzaga** — The little-known German native has been phenomenal and is among the leaders in the WCC in scoring (16.3), rebounding (8.5) and field goal percentage (58 percent).

F — **Derrick Williams, Arizona** — Another under-the-radar guy who checked in at No. 95 in Scout.com's rankings. He's athletic and is in the Top 10 of the Pac-10 in scoring (15.9), rebounding (7.3) and field goal percentage (57 percent).

C — **DeMarcus Cousins, Kentucky** — After an up-and-down start to his career, the strong and athletic big man has been terrific and has eight double-doubles in his last 10 games. He's in the Top 10 of the SEC in scoring (16.2), rebounding (9.7) and field goal percentage (55 percent).

SG — **Avery Bradley, Texas** — His impact can't be measured by his numbers (12.2 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.4 spg) because he's one of the top perimeter defenders in the nation and is also shooting 40 percent from beyond the arc.

PG — **John Wall, Kentucky** — He's neck-and-neck with Ohio State's Evan Turner for National Player of the Year honors, and while he's struggled a bit of late, Wall is fifth in the SEC in scoring (16.9), first in assists (6.75) and second in steals (2.0).

### SECOND TEAM

F — **Kawhi Leonard, San Diego State** — He's just outside of the Top 10 in the Mountain West in scoring (11.7) and ranks first in the league in rebounding (9.6) and steals (1.4) and is shooting 46 percent from the field.

F — **Derrick Favors, Georgia Tech** — The powerful and athletic Yellow Jackets big man has done it without fanfare, but he's averaging 11.5 points, 8.6 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game.

C — **Hassan Whiteside, Marshall** — The 7-foot Marcus Camby clone leads the nation in blocks at 5.4 per game. Whiteside is also averaging 13 points and 9.3 boards while shooting 56 percent from the field.

G — **Xavier Henry, Kansas** — While he's struggling a bit lately, Henry is still averaging 13.7 points and 4.1 rebounds while shooting 40 percent from long range.

G — **Matthew Dellavedova, Saint Mary's** — He's not quite as talented as former Aussie Patty Mills, but he can shoot the ball and is averaging 12.9 points, 4.5 assists and is making 42 percent of his threes.

**Almost Made the Cut:** Kenny Boynton (Florida); Aaric Murray (La Salle); Eric Bledsoe (Kentucky); Maurice Creek (Indiana); D.J. Richardson (Illinois); Marshawn Powell (Arkansas); Arsalan Kazemi (Rice); Jordan Williams (Maryland); Tommy

Mason-Griffin (Oklahoma); Lance Stephenson (Cincinnati); Reggie Moore (Washington State); Chris Gaston (Fordham); Ryan Colt (Evansville); Christian Watford (Indiana).

**Best Shooter:** John Jenkins, Vanderbilt – We had him in our top shooters in America entering the season and he hasn't disappointed, shooting 49 percent from beyond the arc and 85 percent from the line.

**Best Rebounder:** DeMarcus Cousins, Kentucky.

**No Burn:** The highest-rated player that hasn't made much of an impact this season is North Carolina's John Henson, who is averaging 3.1 points and 2.4 rebounds in less than 11 minutes per game.

**Most Underrated:** Alec Burks, Colorado – The 6-foot-6 guard out of Grandview High (Mo.) was listed by Scout.com as the 33rd-ranked shooting guard in the country. Burks is 10th in the Big 12 in scoring (16.3) and first in field goal percentage (53 percent).

Those who haven't played at all:

Mississippi State's Renardo Sidney (amateurism)  
Lorenzo Brown (prep school)  
Minnesota's Royce White (suspended)  
Karron Johnson (junior college)  
UCLA's Anthony Stover (redshirt)  
Oregon State's Roberto Nelson (not cleared by the NCAA)  
Georgia Tech's Kammeon Holsey (medical redshirt)

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### New Mexico's arena: visitors' Pit of Despair

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 6, 2010

The last thing San Diego State defensive coordinator Rocky Long was expecting on national signing day was a basketball question.

But when a reporter asked him about the basketball arena at his alma mater, his eyes lit up and he flashed a sinister grin. Long, the former head football coach at the University of New Mexico — where he also was a student and quarterback — saw more than his share of basketball games in the school's famed and raucous arena.

"Right off the bat, New Mexico has a 10-point advantage. At least," Long said. "It's loud. It's a simple design. The way it's designed, all the noise travels straight down. And it's loud."

Did he mention it was loud? As a student in the 1960s and '70s, he didn't miss a single game.

"The student section used to be first-come, first-serve, and we would line up all the way around the building trying to get in," Long recalled. "When it gets going, it's loud."

That tradition lives on today, where the No.15 Lobos still enjoy that 10-point advantage. And as San Diego State prepares for today's Mountain West Conference game here, the Aztecs' freshmen and newcomers will experience for the first time the building that's simply known as "The Pit."

#### History and tradition

Built in 1966, and given the rather uninspired moniker of University Arena, The Pit is at the hub of this city's sports center, resting on the southwest corner of Avenida Cesar Chavez and University Boulevard. Across the street is the football stadium — named, you guessed it, University Stadium — and Isotopes Park, home of Albuquerque's minor league baseball team.

It's like the Balboa Park of sports facilities.

But to students and those fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to play there, University Arena is and always will be The Pit.

The ball from the first game ever at The Pit sits in a trophy case in the adjoining practice arena. Because of its subterranean construction, from Day 1 it was The Pit. Written on the ball: First Game Ball Played At The Pit, Dec. 1, 1966, New Mexico 62, Abilene Christian 53.

"We have, and this is just an estimate, about 2,000 people who have been season-ticket holders for 40 years," said Tim Cass, New Mexico's senior associate athletic director. "They aren't giving up those tickets until they die."

More than 11.5 million people have filled its seats for 44 years and witnessed more than 750 games. NCAA Tournament games and national championships have been decided on its court. During that span, The Pit has maintained an astounding 95 percent capacity.

In 1999, Sports Illustrated rated it one of the top 20 sports venues of the century — ahead of Notre Dame Stadium, the Rose Bowl and St. Andrews.

"A lot of history there," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "That's a place that's filled with tradition. It's seen some great basketball games."

None greater than the 1983 national championship, when North Carolina State, a sixth seed, toppled No.1- seeded Houston on Lorenzo Charles' buzzer-beating dunk. The image of N.C. State coach Jim Valvano running around the court wildly in celebration is one of college basketball's defining moments.

#### New look, same Pit

The Pit is in the middle of an 18-month, \$60 million makeover. The exterior is getting a face-lift, with a grand entryway with large windows to allow exterior light in the day and twinkling views of the city below at night.

The bowl and court will remain unchanged, save some upgraded seats and bleachers.

The concourse is being expanded, 40 suites and a club level are being added and the arena will be brought up to code so it's compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It's also intended to entice the NCAA into bringing tournament games back to Albuquerque. In 2012, The Pit will host first- and second-round men's games.

The capacity is being reduced from 18,108 to about 17,000 (though capacity is only 14,586 this season during the renovation), but the arena is being retrofitted with many modern amenities, including video boards, new weight and training rooms, and new locker rooms for the men's and women's basketball teams.

"It's like a 43-year-old house," Cass said. "At some point, you need new plumbing and sinks and bathrooms. The reality is this needed a lot of attention ... but it was definitely a balancing act."

#### Oh, those fans

"It takes great fans and great teams to make great arenas," said ESPN announcer Dick Vitale in a telephone interview. "The Pit is in the discussion as one of the best in the country. I have many great memories there."

The rippled ceiling traps sound waves from thousands of screaming fans and bounces them back toward the court, creating a tympanic nightmare for opposing teams.

"(The fans) are a knowledgeable group," said New Mexico coach Steve Alford. "They are loud. They get there early. They are into the game. They know who you're playing. They stay with you and they are very loyal."

Decibel levels have been registered as high as 125 — near the human threshold for pain.

"Until you are there, you really have no idea what it is like," said SDSU point guard D.J. Gay. "It's completely insane. It's like everyone in the world came there just to watch them play."

New Mexico forward Chad Adams is from Albuquerque and first played at The Pit during high school playoffs. It was nothing compared to his first collegiate game.

"It was way different," Adams said. "It's a frenzy. You feed off that energy and when you score, everyone goes crazy. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

And it's not just students and die-hards. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson attends about a dozen games a year. Albuquerque is also becoming a hotbed for the movie industry, so it's not uncommon to see celebrities at games.

"It's just what you do in Albuquerque," Fisher said.

#### Newcomers beware

For several Aztecs, this will be their first experience at The Pit. True freshmen

starters Chase Tapley and Kawhi Leonard in particular can expect to hear it from fans, who are still reeling over the Aztecs' 74-64 win over their beloved Lobos last month in San Diego.

"Hostile," Lobos junior point guard Dairese Gary said. "It's going to be hostile. Our fans are going to get after them pretty good. They better be ready for a loud environment. You won't hear the screen switches or what plays are going to be run."

Gay has some experience winning at The Pit. As a freshman, he scored 12 points in his first game there, an SDSU win. In fact, the Aztecs have won three of their last four games there.

"I don't know if there is one common denominator to the teams that have won here," said Alford, who has lost three home MWC games in his three years as head coach. "I guess Steve would know. He's had more success here the last four years than probably anyone in the history of this building."

Fisher couldn't pinpoint his reason for success.

"It's a fun place to go and a hard place to play," he said. "If you win there, you really feel like you accomplished something."

## 121

### Aztecs open second half at New Mexico

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 6, 2010

It took reaching the midway point of the Mountain West Conference season, but there is finally some separation in the race.

No. 12-ranked Brigham Young (22-2, 7-1), benefiting from a favorable early schedule, stills leads the race but only by one game. The Cougars have a slim edge over No. 15-ranked New Mexico (20-3, 6-2) and UNLV (18-4, 6-2), which has received votes in the national polls.

San Diego State (16-6, 5-3), which travels Saturday to New Mexico, is alone in fourth place, having separated from Colorado State (13-9, 4-4) and Utah (10-12, 3-5).

The Aztecs have been up and down in the race with a loss at Wyoming and a win at Utah, but the Aztecs are only two games back of the Cougars and one game out of second place. That's significant since the national rankings suggest a third or even a fourth MWC could receive strong consideration for an at-large berth.

Last year the conference race finished in a three-way tie for first, with BYU, Utah and New Mexico all losing four MWC games.

But the Aztecs' second-half of the conference schedule will be tougher than the first half. They have road games at New Mexico and BYU, although they get UNLV and Utah at home.

SDSU wrapped up the first half with a convincing 70-48 win over Air Force.

"It was important," SDSU head coach Fisher said. "We needed it going into New Mexico. We did some things out there; we played as a team offensively and defensively. I think this game we took it to another level. We were doing things out there that we weren't doing in practice -- switching, just being more vocal and communicating. It feels good to know that we have each other's back. The trust just went to another level this game."

The Pit, New Mexico's home court, is a notorious as a difficult place to win on the road. But the Aztecs have managed to win three of their last four in Albuquerque.

In the first meeting to open MWC play at Viejas Arena, the Aztecs were too strong for New Mexico inside. Malcolm Thomas, a junior forward, led the Aztecs with a double-double of 18 points and 15 rebounds in a 74-68 win.

SDSU's season has been plagued by injuries in the preseason and regular season. Billy White missed a game and has played with a sprained ankle. Tim Shelton is gone for the year after undergoing his fourth knee surgery.

But through all the injuries, the Aztecs have found ways to remake their lineup and continue to improve for a push toward the Mountain West Conference tournament.

"There is a lot of progress being made," Thomas said. "We are passing out of the post better, our transition defense is getting better, our rebounding is getting better. We still have to work on a lot of things and we will continue to work on a lot of things, but I'm happy with our progress so far."

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## 122

### Gritty Aztecs fall short at The Pit

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 7, 2010

The New Mexico Lobos got their revenge. But San Diego State made them work for it, forcing overtime and standing toe-to-toe with one of the top teams in the country in one of the toughest places to play.

In their Jan. 5 meeting in San Diego, which SDSU won 74-64, the Aztecs held guard Darrington Hobson to just 12 points. Yesterday he was the difference, scoring a game-high 29 points and leading the No. 15 Lobos to an 88-86 overtime victory in front of a sellout crowd at The Pit.

Hobson scored eight of his team's 10 points in overtime — including the game-clinching free throws with 2.6 seconds left — willing the Lobos to victory

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over the gutsy Aztecs, who refused to go away and who had opportunities to win in regulation and overtime.

"We gave ourselves a chance to win, we just weren't able to pull the trigger," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "We had a lot of heart and made some big-time plays to come back from the dead when people were leaving the building."

The Aztecs (16-7, 5-4) trailed by 10 with 2:05 to play — that's when D.J. Gay took over the game. He scored 11 points, including three three-pointers in the final two minutes to force overtime.

Gay had a chance to give SDSU the win in regulation when Hobson fouled him shooting a three-pointer with one second left and the Aztecs trailing 78-76. Gay made the first free throw, missed the second and made the third to force OT.

"I've never wanted to win a game so bad that I didn't get," said Gay, who had a career-high 25 points and hit a career-best six three-pointers. "When I got to the free-throw line, it was so loud my eardrums started to hurt. I tried to shut it out as much as possible. I was confident in the second one and couldn't believe it didn't go in. But after I missed it, I knew I'd make the third one."

The Aztecs, who owned the nation's longest active winning streak with nine straight overtime wins, had a chance to make it 10 at the buzzer. After Hobson made the free throws to put New Mexico (21-3, 7-2) ahead 88-86, Kelvin Davis took a long inbounds pass from Brian Carlwell at the top of the three-point arc, spun, got a clean look and fired up a three that bounced off the rim as time expired.

"It was college basketball at its finest," said Carlwell (10 points), one of six Aztecs to score in double digits. "Tough loss. Very tough. I'm proud of the young guys especially. Coming here and performing the way they did, I'm proud of the whole team. No one gave up. We clawed back and had the lead. I'm just proud of everybody."

It looked like the Lobos would take a two-point halftime lead into the locker room. But with 1.4 seconds left, Hobson took an inbounds pass and launched a 55-foot shot from beyond half court, giving New Mexico a 42-37 lead at the break.

In a game where every point was critical, that three ended up being more than just something for the highlight reel. SDSU, meanwhile, provided few highlights from the free-throw line, where they shot just 51.9 percent (14-of-27).

"It's very frustrating," Carlwell said. "The crazy thing is we work on them. We knock them down in practice. I'm not going to say it was nerves or it wasn't clutch. They just aren't falling in the game. I don't have an answer for that."

Fisher said he was terribly disappointed for his players, but "10 times as proud with how we competed and fought."

"That was two teams that had a whale of a basketball game," he said. "If you couldn't appreciate that, you shouldn't be coming to these buildings."

## 123

**Aztecs lose to New Mexico in overtime**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 7, 2010

This time overtime wasn't enough to provide a second-chance win for San Diego State. The Aztecs, who had won nine straight overtime games, fell to New Mexico 88-86 at The Pit.

And this time New Mexico's status as the 15th-ranked team in the country when the Lobos faced San Diego State didn't end in an upset. Only a month ago, SDSU upset then-15th-ranked New Mexico 74-64 on the Aztecs' floor at Viejas Arena.

"I told our team in the locker room, Give me your eyes for 45 seconds. I'm so bitterly disappointed for you -- not for me. But I'm 10 times as proud of you. I am." SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "We had grit and determination. We found a way to will ourselves back into the game. We had a chance to win in regulation and with the last shot of the game.

The Lobos (21-3, 7-2), who had regained their No. 15 ranking with a winning streak that is now at seven, climbed into a three-way tie for first place in the MWC.

Earlier in the day, unranked UNLV (19-4, 7-2) forced the gridlock for the conference lead by beating 12th-ranked Brigham Young (22-3, 7-2) on the Rebels' home floor, 88-74.

There was a time when BYU looked like it was going to open a big lead in the race, but one reason was the Cougars remained unbeaten in league play is they benefited from the schedule. Now they have lost two of their last four since having to hit the road against two of the top teams with a loss Jan. 27 at New Mexico before traveling to UNLV.

SDSU, which hit only 14-of-27 free throws, dropped to 16-7 and 5-4. The Aztecs are only two games back of a tie for first place, but one of their remaining games is at BYU.

Darrington Hobson, New Mexico's leading scorer and rebounder at 15.0 points and 8.3 rebounds, led the Lobos with 29 points and 12 rebounds. The Aztecs held him in check the first time around when he finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

"He was very good," Fisher said. "He added to his juices when he threw that three-quarter shot in at halftime. They did a lot of isolation stuff for him, and he knows how to play. He's a hard guard."

Junior point guard D.J. Gay led the Aztecs as he hit 6-of-9 3-pointers for 25 points and five assists.

"The charge was spearheaded by D.J. Gay," Fisher said. "He made play after play to give s a chance."

Kawhi Leonard had another double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds, but he hit only 4-of-13 shots.

The game opened with SDSU, down by six points early at 14-8, withstanding the noise of The Pit to take its first lead of the game at 21-19 on a basket by Chase Tapley.

Both teams held leads throughout the rest of the first half until New Mexico pulled away for a 42-37 halftime lead that included a 3-point basket from beyond half court by Darrington Hobson at the first-half buzzer. That shot turned out to be bigger than anyone knew when the game went into overtime.

New Mexico followed Hobson's long 3-pointer with another 3-point basket to open the second half for a sudden eight-point lead, 45-37.

New Mexico steadily built a lead the remainder of the half. A 6-0 run led to a 10-point lead at 53-43 with 14:42 left in the game on a basket by Hobson.

SDSU kept the game close, though, closing to within 57-54 with 7:33 left in the game on two free throws by Kawhi Leonard and a basket by Brian Carlwell.

Gay hit a 3-point field goal to trim the deficit to 77-76 with seven seconds remaining. After Gary made only 1-of-2 free throws for a 78-76 lead, Gay was fouled on a shot with one second to play. Gay made two of three free throws to force the overtime.

## 124

**UW will get a good look at the Aztecs' Billy White Wednesday**

By Robert Gagliardi | Wyoming Tribune-Eagle  
February 9, 2010

In one of its best wins of the season, the University of Wyoming men's basketball team didn't have to contend with any of the Mountain West Conference's best players.

San Diego State (16-7 overall, 5-4 MWC) junior forward Billy White didn't play in the Cowboys' 85-83 from-behind victory Jan. 9 in Laramie because of a high ankle sprain.

White also has dealt with a hand injury, but he still leads the MWC in field goal percentage at 56 percent. In 21 games, the 6-foot-8 White has made 84 of 150 shots and is expected to play against UW (9-14, 2-7) in Wednesday night's game in San Diego.

However, White hasn't been as effective in conference play at 41.9 percent (18 of 43).

As an inside player, most of White's shots come at or around the basket. But there is more to White's success than just that.

"He's struggled with a lot of injuries that nobody cares to hear about, but he's very athletic and long," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said Monday during the MWC coaches teleconference.

"He's as good an athlete as there is the league. He's able to get to balls that other people can't just because of will and athleticism. He creates problems on the opposing teams when they're on offense because he's long and athletic. He can guard any position on the floor."

White was the Freshman of the Year in the MWC two years ago, and in two games last season, he tore the Cowboys apart.

He was a combined 20 of 24 from the field, including 12 of 12 in the Aztecs' 71-60 win in San Diego.

White also pulled down eight rebounds in each of the two contests.

"He's just very talented and very good at getting angles to the basket," UW coach Heath Schroyer said. "Billy rebounds the ball very well. You shoot a high percentage when you rebound, especially your own shot."

White led the MWC in field goal percentage last season (66.3 percent) and also was tops in conference games at 77.1 percent.

## 125

### Aztecs trying to remain in the MWC race

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 10, 2010

The 2009-10 Mountain West Conference basketball race is looking a lot like the 2008-09 edition. And that's not good for San Diego State.

A year ago, SDSU was left on the outside looking in at a three-way tie for conference title between Brigham Young, New Mexico and Utah. The Aztecs, with five conference losses, finished one game out of a share of the title.

This year there is another three-way tie, with UNLV replacing Utah from last year's picture. BYU, New Mexico and UNLV -- who all enjoy a national ranking -- share the conference lead with two losses. SDSU, at 16-7 and 5-4, is two games back.

The tie was forced Saturday when No. 23 UNLV (19-4, 7-2) beat No. 17 BYU (22-3, 7-2) and No. 15 New Mexico (21-3, 7-2) kept pace by defeating SDSU. With eight conference games remaining, SDSU can still hold out hope of gaining a share of the lead before the Aztecs' focus must shift to winning the MWC tournament March 10-13 to claim the conference's automatic NCAA tournament bid.

SDSU still has games remaining against two of the tri-leaders, playing UNLV at home on Saturday and traveling Feb. 24 to BYU. But before looking ahead to UNLV, SDSU needs to avenge a loss at Wyoming when the Cowboys (9-14, 2-7) play Wednesday at Viejas Arena.

"We're going to have to get lucky," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said of claiming a share of the conference title. "That (New Mexico) was a pivotal game for us. It puts us with four losses the other three with two losses. We not only have to help ourselves, we need additional help from other people.

"Our goal is to see how close we can stay to the leader board. That's easier said than done. We've got two games against teams that handed us two of our losses. Our goal is to hold serve at home. There is still a lot of basketball to be played. We've all seen how things can change in any sport. Our focus is try to do what we need to do to help ourselves. If you do that things work out."

Wyoming isn't the same the team now that it was when the Cowboys rallied in the last five minutes for a comeback win. Afam Muojeke, the team's leading scorer with 16.8 points game, is lost for the season with an injury.

SDSU needs a win over Wyoming to set up a chance to beat a ranked team three nights later against UNLV. Although SDSU is on the outside looking in, the chance to beat a ranked opponent is an opportunity that can attract attention.

"The exposure for the league is great," UNLV Coach Lon Kruger said of three teams being ranked. "Any time there's that national attention, it's really good for

everyone. The crowds across the league have been improved and more into it, and perhaps that is because of the rankings."

BYU coach Dave Rose also commented on the crowds around the MWC, including surviving a win playing at Viejas two weeks ago.

"We had an unbelievable environment at the San Diego State game," Rose said.

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### White on Wyoming: 'We owe them one'

By Edward Lewis | Daily Aztec  
February 10, 2010

The last time the San Diego State men's basketball team played Wyoming, junior forward Billy White sat out with a high ankle sprain and SDSU fell 85-83.

This time around, White will play against the Cowboys. But the pain from the ankle injury that shelved him on Jan. 9 still lingers.

"It's still kind of sore," White said. "It bothers me a little bit. But it's getting better. I'm doing treatment every day and stuff like that. So I'm just trying to get 100 percent but still keep trying to play on it."

White first rolled his ankle when the Aztecs played New Mexico on Jan. 5. He went up for a rebound, landed on a Lobo's foot and awkwardly turned his ankle. The immediate diagnosis was a high ankle sprain, which still limits him more than a month later.

"It gives out on me sometimes when I'm out there," White said. "When I first got back I felt like I was a little bit slow, like 'I'm taking a step back' kind of; but after playing a couple games with it, I'm getting used to it."

White said the ankle still swells up and he's forced to ice it before and after practice and games. In all, White only missed one game because of the injury, but head coach Steve Fisher has noticed the toll the ankle injury has taken on his junior forward this season. "He will tell you he's doing OK, but his ankle, he can't move as well as he did when he was 100 percent," Fisher said. "You need to be able to run and cut if you want to be 100 percent. And Billy's game is being able to do that and it affects him. But he's not complaining."

With or without the ankle injury, SDSU will need White tonight when it takes on Wyoming at 7:30 p.m. at Viejas Arena. Playing without one of their best leaders back in January, the Aztecs coughed up a 14-point lead with less than five minutes remaining. White didn't make the trip to Laramie, Wyo., but more than four weeks later, he still wishes he had.

"I should have made the trip," White said. "Obviously coach and them didn't want me to go because of my ankle injury and they didn't want me on and off the plane crutching everywhere. But I wish I could have just been on the trip just to talk to the guys and tell them, 'Look, you guys need to make one more play.' We had that game."

The loss to the Cowboys is arguably SDSU's only "bad" loss this year. Because of that, White called tonight's matchup a "vengeance game."

"A lot of people on our team know that we shouldn't have lost that game," White said. "We owe them one here."

## 127

### No ugly letdown: Aztecs wallop Wyoming

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 11, 2010

Last night, there was no comeback. The San Diego State Aztecs built a double-digit lead in the second half and did not — would not — let the Wyoming Cowboys come back and steal a victory like they did last month to shock SDSU in Laramie, Wyo.

This time the Aztecs pounded the Cowboys into an 88-57 submission in front of an announced crowd of 6,606 at Viejas Arena. The 31-point differential ties the largest margin of victory for SDSU in a Mountain West Conference game — matching last year's 31-point win over Air Force.

"It was a nice win and a nice win in the fashion that we got it," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "... That was a good team victory. After the first seven

or eight minutes I thought we settled in and made it hard for them to get easy looks."

Kawhi Leonard scored a career-high 26 points to lead an Aztecs attack that started slowly, but picked up momentum by creating turnovers on defense and secondchance opportunities on offense.

Chase Tapley scored 14, Kelvin Davis and Tyrone Shelley pitched in 12 points each and Billy White added 10 for SDSU (17-7, 6-4). It's the second-straight game at least five Aztecs have scored in double digits.

"I just came out hard and aggressive," said Leonard, who was 10-of-14 from the field and added eight rebounds. "My teammates found me when I was open. They found me a lot, and I made the open looks."

If only Leonard could play the Cowboys every night. His previous career high of 25 came on Jan. 9 in Wyoming's 85-83 win. In that game the Aztecs led by 14 points with less than five minutes to play, only to squander it.

"We lost a game at Wyoming that we felt we should have won," Fisher said. "Easy for us to say. Wyoming came back and won and they beat us up down the stretch."

SDSU had more than enough motivation to have a big outing. In a league that had three teams ranked in the Top 25 to start the week — the first time the MWC had three ranked teams in the same week — another loss to the Cowboys (9-15, 2-8) would have been devastating.

"We're not in a place we want to be at," said Davis. "Right now every game is a revenge game for us."

Wyoming got an early burst from Desmar Jackson, who led the Cowboys with 11 first-half points. But the Aztecs' defense tightened, forcing 10 turnovers and holding Wyoming scoreless in the final 3:46 for a 39-31 halftime lead.

The second half started much like the first ended, with SDSU forcing more turnovers and eventually building a 37-point lead. Of SDSU's 88 points, 30 came off turnovers. The Aztecs held the Cowboys to 29 percent shooting in the second half and 39 for the game while SDSU shot 52 percent from the field.

"We played the second half as if it were a tie score the whole way, and I like that," Fisher said.

Said Tapley, who added a game-high six assists: "We got the lead and capitalized on the lead. We didn't let up and relax. We kept on pushing and put them away."

Hoover High graduate JayDee Luster, who hit the game-winning shot last month against the Aztecs, had a quiet night before fouling out with 9:20 left in the game. He scored just three points.

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### San Diego State routs Wyoming

By Dan Hayes | North County Times  
February 11, 2010

Technically, the San Diego State men's basketball team is alive in the Mountain West Conference title hunt. But with four losses in their pockets and an upcoming road game at 17th-ranked Brigham Young, the Aztecs might consider focusing on polishing their postseason resume.

The Aztecs began that process Wednesday as they bounced back from Saturday's heartbreaking loss at No. 15 New Mexico with an 88-57 drubbing of the Wyoming Cowboys in front of 6,606 at Viejas Arena. Freshman Kawhi Leonard scored a career-high 26 points as SDSU improved to 6-4 in conference play --- two games behind the conference-leading Lobos.

"We're not where we want to be right now," said senior Kelvin Davis, who scored 12 points. "Anything can happen in conference play. It's how you finish. We can steal some wins and we just want to put ourselves in a good position for the NCAA tournament. ... We definitely have to take care of business."

If San Diego State ---- which shot 52 percent from the field and had five players score in double figures ---- conducts its business over the final month as it did Wednesday, seven straight wins to close the regular season remains a possibility, albeit a slight one.

During the rout ---- which tied the team's biggest margin of victory in MWC history ---- the Aztecs closed the first half on a 12-2 run as their defense took over and led to easy baskets in transition. They didn't let up in the second half, either, opening on a 10-2 run that removed all doubt of the Cowboys (9-15, 2-8) making another stunning comeback like they did in the teams' earlier meeting at Laramie, Wyo. on Jan. 9, when SDSU blew a 14-point lead in the final five minutes.

After making 48 percent of its shots in the first half, Wyoming was limited to a 29 percent second-half showing by SDSU's pressure defense.

"We played the second half as if it were a tied score the whole way," coach Steve Fisher said. "We defended better and we didn't give them the easy stuff."

If San Diego State (17-7) still hopes to make an impact on the MWC race, they'll have to be even better down the stretch. First is a home test against No. 23 UNLV, which plays at Viejas Arena at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Then the Aztecs must win at the Marriott Center ---- where they are 3-27 all-time ---- against BYU on Feb. 24.

A strong finish would give the Aztecs a glimmer of hope of receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament considering the MWC's elevated status this season. When national rankings were released Monday, it was the first time in conference history that three teams were ranked in the top 25 nationally.

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### Aztecs pull away in second half to beat Wyoming

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 11, 2010

No slipups this time. San Diego State couldn't afford another upset loss to Wyoming, and this time the Aztecs pulled away with a strong second half to rout the Cowboys Wednesday 88-57 at Viejas Arena.

A month ago, SDSU led the whole way until allowing a Wyoming comeback in the final five minutes to suffer an upset loss. That loss remains the difference between the Aztecs being two games out of first place in the Mountain West Conference instead of just one.

SDSU, which outscored Wyoming 49-26 in the second half, improved to 17-7 and 6-4 in the MWC for a tie with Colorado State (15-9, 6-4) for fourth place. SDSU's 31-point win tied its largest MWC victory.

"We played the second half as if we were tied, and I liked that," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "We defended better in the second half than we did in the first half. We didn't give them easy points. We kept them off the free throw line and made them shoot contested shots. One of the best things was when we knew we were going to win, we shared the basketball. We had 23 assists on 33 baskets."

Brigham Young and New Mexico remained tied for first place (in the loss column), while UNLV dropped a game back after Wednesday's games. BYU, UNLV and New Mexico were all tied for first place until No. 15-ranked New Mexico (22-3, 8-2) beat No. 23 UNLV (19-5, 7-3), while No. 17 BYU (22-3, 7-2) had a bye. UNLV visits Viejas Arena on Saturday.

Kawhi Leonard led five Aztecs in double figures with a career-high 26 points and pulled down eight rebounds. Chase Tapley added 14 points with six assists. Tyrone Shelley scored 12, Kelvin Davis 12 and Billy White 10.

"Kawhi is a talented athlete that works very hard," Fisher said.

The Cowboys, up by as much as six points, led most of the first half until the Aztecs pulled even at 29-29 and took their first lead on a 3-point shot by Leonard for a 32-29 advantage with 3:55 left in the first half.

Another basket Davis and a free throw by D.J. Gay was part of an 8-0 run for a 35-29 lead with 2:48 left.

Leonard, the team's leading scorer with averages of nearly a double-double at 11.8 points and 9.6 rebounds, finished the first half with 17 points and seven rebounds.

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**Aztecs roll past Wyoming, set sights on UNLV**By Jeff Creps | SDNN.com  
February 11, 2010

San Diego State went into Wednesday night's matchup with Wyoming looking to avenge a stunning early-season loss on the road at the Cowboys' Arena-Auditorium.

They got what they were looking for in the form of an 88-57 beat-down behind a monster game from Kawhi Leonard.

The freshman standout scored a career-high 26 points to go with 8 rebounds as the Aztecs (17-7, 6-4 MWC) recovered from a slow start to control the game.

"I went out today, coming out hard and aggressive, my team found me," Leonard said after the game. "[My team] gave me open looks and that was it."

Wyoming (9-15, 2-8 MWC) opened the game playing active defense and pushing the ball off of early Aztec turnovers. Hot Cowboys shooting and pressure on the ball set the early tone. SDSU trailed 25-19 before its athletic prowess took over.

But the Aztecs tied the game at 27 on a fast break that started with a Billy White (10 points, 3 rebounds) block and ended with a White dunk. They never looked back, taking an eight-point lead to the half.

"After the first seven or eight minutes I thought we were quite good at both ends of the floor," Coach Steve Fisher said after the game. "We ended the first half strong and seized all the momentum in our favor."

The Aztecs were unaffected by the halftime break. They came out and put the game away before the 10-minute mark of the second half behind the continued stellar play from Leonard, who had 17 points at the half.

Leonard, a four-star high school recruit, committed to SDSU from Riverside and is currently averaging just under a double-double, with 11.8 points and 9.6 rebounds per game.

"He's so big and physical," Wyoming Head Coach Heath Schroyer said. "He can make jump shots, he's really hard to beat."

But big time play is nothing new to Leonard. In his senior season at Martin Luther King High School, he was named Mr. Basketball for California and took home multiple player of the year honors.

The Aztecs will next look to take down Mountain West Conference foe UNLV at home on Saturday (1 p.m. PT).

SDSU fell to the Rebels in an early-season contest, and will be looking to win a game that will be crucial to their NCAA Tournament chances.

"It will be a big one," said Fisher. "Those teams (UNLV, BYU, New Mexico) ahead of us are all very good. As a conference we've never had three teams ranked in the Top 25. We wish we were one of them. Right now we need to come out and play well against UNLV."

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**SDSU says don't count it out for MWC crown**By Lya Wodraska | Salt Lake Tribune  
February 11, 2010

With BYU, New Mexico and UNLV as the front-runners in the MWC race, it seems there is little room now for any of the other teams to make a run at the conference crown.

However, San Diego State coach Steve Fisher remains optimistic his team is in a position to make a run.

Three of the Aztecs' losses have been by two points and one of those was in overtime, the 88-86 loss at New Mexico. The other loss was a 76-66 defeat in Las Vegas.

Losing those three games by such a close margin has the Aztecs doing a lot of thinking about what they should have and could have done to win. But it also has them thinking that maybe, just maybe, they still have a chance.

"We are going to have to get very lucky," Fisher said. "That game [at New Mexico] was pivotal for both teams and for us to make a run we not only are going to have to help ourselves but we need additional help from other people. Our goal is to see how close we can stay to the leader board. Sometimes that is easier said than done, and we need to hold serve at home."

The schedule makes such luck possible since the Aztecs' toughest remaining games are a home game against UNLV and a road game at BYU.

"There is a lot of basketball yet to be played," Fisher said. "We've all seen how things can change on a dime in any sport."

Also helping the team attitude is a belief that the Aztecs are playing some of their best ball. Kawhi Leonard (11.8), D.J. Gay (10.8), Malcom Thomas (10.7) and Billy White (10.4) are all averaging in double figures.

"We have a good group of people who play hard and compete hard," Fisher said. "We are disappointed we have three conference losses by two points, but I respect and admire their competitive spirit and willingness to work."

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**Aztecs roll Cowboys**By Eric Schmoltdt | Casper Star-Tribune  
February 11, 2010

Desmar Jackson had the Cowboys thinking upset through much of the first half.

Kawhi Leonard quickly erased that mindset.

In a battle of two of the Mountain West Conference's best freshmen, Leonard stole the show, scoring a careerhigh 26 points as the San Diego State Aztecs handed the Wyoming Cowboys their fourth straight loss, 88-57 on Wednesday night at Viejas Arena.

"They kind of made a run and we just never answered it," UW coach Heath Schroyer said. "We just weren't able to counter that run."

Jackson helped the Cowboys lead for nearly the entire first half.

He scored 11 of his 14 points and snared three steals before the break and the Aztecs didn't lead until the final four minutes.

"We were in it," UW junior forward Djibril Thiam. "I was thinking 'Let's do this.'" But Leonard put an end to any thoughts UW had of sweeping the Aztecs over the final five-plus minutes of the first half and the first two-plus minutes of the second.

The Aztecs forward -- who posted his previous career high with 25 points in Laramie earlier this year -- scored 13 points over that spurt, taking the Aztecs from a two-point deficit to a 13-point lead and it only got worse from there for UW.

"[Leonard is] so big and so physical," Schroyer said. "When he can make jump shots, he's really hard to beat."

After leading for almost all of the first 15 minutes, the Cowboys were outscored 59-28 from that point on as the turnovers and fouls piled up.

They coughed the ball up 20 times -- 10 in each half -- and San Diego State turned those blunders into 30 points, many of them coming from Leonard, who nearly put together a double-double before halftime.

"I don't know how he does it," Thiam said. "He's always on the glass. He finds a way to get a hand on the ball.

"He's a good player and we've just got to learn from our mistakes and move on." Leonard didn't get to his 11th double-double in 16 games, settling for eight rebounds as he sat out most of the final 13 minutes.

And if the Cowboys had any chance to mount a comeback over that span, it faded almost instantly when Jackson and JayDee Luster each fouled out with more than nine minutes remaining -- rendering the Pokes without a point guard down the stretch.

"It just reminds me of last year at UCLA when everything was going wrong and we lost by 50," Thiam said.

## 133-135

"It's just one of those days.

"It just seems like everything is going against us right now."

Five Aztecs finished with at least 10 points and D.J. Gay added nine.

Thiam was the only other UW player in double figures, scoring a team-high 15 points on 7-of-8 shooting.

But it was Leonard who made the difference and gave the Aztecs their most lopsided win ever against an MWC opponent.

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**Aztecs face better odds vs. Vegas**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 13, 2010

The San Diego State men's basketball team isn't exactly overflowing with elder statesmen. But the message this week from the Aztecs' lone senior and two returning regulars from last year was this: The Aztecs are all grown up.

"Teams don't stay the same," said Kelvin Davis, the team's only senior. "Either you get better or you get worse. I think we're getting better. Our young guys aren't freshmen anymore. They don't act like they are freshmen. They don't play like freshmen. They play like sophomores and juniors. That's what we need right now."

The dynamics of the Aztecs have indeed changed since last month's 76-66 loss to then-unranked UNLV in Las Vegas. SDSU hosts the No. 23 Rebels this afternoon at Viejas Arena in what coach Steve Fisher called a "haveto-win" game for both teams. The Aztecs need it to draw even with UNLV in the Mountain West Conference standings, while the Rebels need the road win to stay in the hunt for the league title.

In the teams' meeting last month, SDSU led by six points at halftime, but injuries, 11 second-half turnovers (20 for the game) and a 17-point second half by UNLV standout Tre'Von Willis stomped out any chance the Aztecs had of pulling off the road win.

So what has changed?

- No Tim Shelton. The vocal leader is done for the year after playing 17 minutes in the first game. Las Vegas was actually his last appearance this year, and he was only at about 60-70 percent with his bad knee.

- Billy White is healthy. He wasn't exactly Willis Reed the first time against the Rebels — but he played a gutty 16 minutes one week after a significant high ankle sprain. He called the ankle "100 percent" at practice this week.

- The kids aren't kids anymore. Kawhi Leonard has been a mainstay since Day 1, starting in all but one game. But since the UNLV game, Chase Tapley has seen his minutes jump from 21.8 per game to 27.7. And after starting in just two of the first 13 games, he's started 11 straight.

"Our young kids are all better served having been here, been there," Fisher said. "... Chase Tapley is sometimes the forgotten freshman. He has played very, very well and has had moments of spectacular plays himself.

"And then all of our newcomers, first-year players for us, which is everybody with the exception of D.J. Gay, Kelvin Davis and Billy White. They have all gained from playing with one another, having gone to some of these places and gone through some stressful situations, some good, some not so good."

The good? Rebounding is where the Aztecs and their +7.8 margin are on pace to set the school record in the Division I era. The bad? Free throw shooting (59.7 percent), where they are on pace to be the worst free throw shooting team in school history.

"You can't hide who you are," Fisher said. "That's who we are right now. Hopefully we'll get a little bit better in one and stay strong in the other ... It's an extreme both ways so I guess it's good news, bad news."

**Injury update**

Shelton underwent exploratory surgery last week on his knee, and it was determined there was no additional damage. Fisher said it "was as good as we could have hoped" for Shelton, but added he would remain sidelined for the season.

"There was a little thinness where there could be more cartilage, but it looks pretty good," Fisher said. "Let's just take some time and see what we can do to strengthen the leg and see what we can do to lose some weight. It's the best-case scenario for him."

Tyrone Shelley (foot) and Brian Carlwell (knee) missed some practice this week, but both are expected to play today.

**Tickets**

Due to the early start time, today's game is not expected to be sold out. Tickets, which start at \$10, can be purchased at goaztecs.com or at the Viejas Arena box office, which opens at 9 a.m.

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**Aztecs find way to overcome their injuries**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 13, 2010

The season started with preseason practice plagued by injuries such as a wrist injury to Billy White, a foot injury to Tyrone Shelley and a knee injury that kept Tim Shelton sidelined until after the season started.

As the season progressed, White has been hampered by a high ankle sprain, Shelley's foot injury is one that will bother him all year and Shelton is lost for the season after undergoing his fourth knee operation.

The latest injury to Brian Carlwell's knee forced him to miss practice time. All those interruptions to continuity would usually slow a team's progress. Instead of improving, it regresses.

But San Diego State keeps improving. The Aztecs will need to play better Saturday against No. 23-ranked UNLV at Viejas Arena than they did a month ago when the Rebels won 76-66 at the Thomas and Mack Arena.

In fact, SDSU's team work was on display when the Aztecs beat Wyoming Wednesday as they passed the ball around for 23 assists out of 33 baskets in the 88-57 win. The margin 31-point margin tied SDSU's biggest win in Mountain West Conference history.

"I've respected and admired our competitive spirit," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "They have had the willingness to work and move on to the next page regardless of a win or loss. They come prepared to practice and that gives us a chance to get better and have us prepared. I like our team."

SDSU (17-7, 6-4) is tied for fourth in the MWC with Colorado State (15-9, 6-4), but the Aztecs are only one game back of third-place UNLV (19-5, 7-3). No. 15-ranked New Mexico (22-3, 8-2) and No. 17 Brigham Young (22-3, 7-2) share the lead in the loss column.

"We not only have to help our ourselves, we need additional help from other people," Fisher said. "Our goal is to see how close we can stay to the leader. That's easier said than done. Our goal to hold serve at home. There is still a lot of basketball to be played. We've all seen how things can change in any sport. Our focus is try to do what we need to do to help ourselves, and if you do that, things will work out."

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**UNLV must rebound - literally and figuratively - at SDSU**

By Ryan Greene | Las Vegas Sun  
February 13, 2010

Moments after UNLV's 76-66 home loss Wednesday to No. 15 New Mexico, a look at the stat sheet only aided in giving Rebels forward Matt Shaw the worst feeling a ballplayer can have.

"I was embarrassed," said Shaw, whose team was out-rebounded, 45-23, by the Lobos, resulting in 16 second-chance points for the visitors. "For them to have doubled our rebounds just shows that the effort wasn't there, it wasn't where it needed to be and it's unacceptable.

"We can't allow that to happen again."

The No. 23 Rebels (19-5 overall, 7-3 Mountain West) don't get the luxury of a soft landing after getting whipped, battered and served inside Wednesday, though.



Awaiting UNLV's arrival for Saturday's 1 p.m. tip is San Diego State (17-7, 6-4), which is quite possibly not only the league's most athletic team from top to bottom, but also, by the numbers, the MWC's most adept rebounding squad.

The Aztecs won the battle of the boards against UNLV, 44-35, in a 76-66 Rebels victory Jan. 13 at the Thomas & Mack Center. They produced 16 second-chance points off 15 offensive boards.

The Lobos coupled their dominance in the paint Wednesday by hitting 11 of their 21 3-point attempts. SDSU, however, was just 2-of-16 from deep and committed 20 turnovers in its earlier game against UNLV.

San Diego State has seen improved guard play while going 5-2 since the loss to UNLV, with those two defeats coming by just two points each, Jan. 23 at BYU and in overtime Saturday at New Mexico. Leading the way has been freshman Chase Tapley, who has scored in double figures in four of the Aztecs' last five games.

But without stepping up against San Diego State's powerful and explosive front line, it might not matter how either team shoots.

Small forward Kawhi Leonard is practically a lock to be named the Mountain West's Freshman of the Year. At 6-foot-6 with an NBA body, he crashed the offensive glass better than anyone on the floor against UNLV the first time around, finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds, six on the offensive end. He's averaging 12.4 points and 9.5 rebounds a game, and scored a career-high 26 points in Wednesday's 88-57 rout of Wyoming.

"If you rotate onto him, you've got to box him out," forward Chace Stanback said. "Just like Billy White and (Malcolm) Thomas. You've got to get those two off the boards, too."

Thomas has been just as much of a consistent dual threat as Leonard.

The junior, who transferred in this season from San Diego City College, is averaging 10.5 points and 8.2 boards, and White — a Green Valley High grad — is averaging 10.4 and 4.7, respectively, while still getting back into the groove following a high ankle sprain suffered just a week before playing UNLV.

"We know it's going to take a lot more than what we've done," Shaw said. "We're going to have to play a lot harder, everyone's going to have to be prepared for that. Hopefully we're prepared for the fight and do a good job blocking out and rebounding."

One way UNLV will try to combat this will be by giving über-athletic freshman guard Anthony Marshall some more time on the floor.

Coach Lon Kruger wouldn't give it a clear-cut confirmation, but hinted that Marshall could get his second career start on Saturday, replacing junior Kendall Wallace in an effort to match San Diego State's athletic explosiveness.

"I think Anthony's done a really good job defensively, rebounding, attacking offensively — He's giving us some good minutes," he said. "I think he's getting more comfortable in every way. Even the shooting. I think he's shooting the ball with more confidence."

UNLV suffered a big loss in the rebounding department when junior guard Derrick Jasper went down Jan. 26 in a home victory over Air Force. He suffered a partially torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee, and is still roughly three weeks away from returning to game action.

At the time he was hurt, Jasper was the Rebels' second-leading rebounder at 4.9 boards per game, and at 6-foot-6 with incredible leaping ability, he'd shown a knack for swooping in from the perimeter to make his presence felt on the defensive glass.

Wednesday was the first time in three games played without Jasper that his absence was truly felt.

Marshall had five defensive rebounds in 23 minutes against San Diego State in the first meeting, and was again effective Wednesday with four points, two rebounds, two assists and a steal in 16 minutes.

With his above-average vertical leap and wingspan of more than seven feet, Marshall's the closest thing the Rebels have to another Derrick Jasper, which could prove important against the Aztecs.

"They're very athletic ball club, I'm one of the more athletic players on the team,

so I've got to go in and contribute right away as opposed to coming in off the bench and giving that little energy," he said. "I'm pretty calm at this point. It's been a long season. I've got all the nervousness and that out of my system. Now I'm ready to play ball, help my team and contribute any way I can."

Matching athleticism is one thing, but matching intensity is another.

Shaw added that a big part of the Rebels looking flustered early and often Wednesday wasn't the cushion New Mexico quickly created by hitting its first five 3-point attempts.

"I just don't think we knew the significance of that game," he said. "That was a game for first place in the conference. We have to realize that in games like that, things aren't just going to happen. We have to get out there and make them happen."

Efforts such as the one given Wednesday will not only likely transfer into struggles on the floor, but also can do nothing to help the team's chances of playing its way into a sure-fire bid to the NCAA tournament. On the other hand, San Diego State is scurrying to both pad its résumé and potentially catch up with the likes of UNLV, New Mexico and BYU in the league's regular season race.

In other words: Focus now, worry less later.

"We knew (Wednesday) was a big game, but I didn't think we came out as a team and played together with all five guys on the same page — myself included," Stanback said. "This one is definitely the one we've got to get."

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### SDSU runs Rebels out of town

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 14, 2010

Aztecs 68, No. 23 unlv 58

This was the kind of game Billy White was supposed to have when San Diego State played UNLV on Jan. 13. But a severe high ankle sprain eight days earlier limited the forward to just five points in 16 minutes as SDSU fell to the Rebels 76-66.

But yesterday afternoon, a healthy White — who hails from Las Vegas — played with a confidence and aggressiveness not seen since the injury. He juiced Rebels with his dribble drive. He was steady from the free-throw line. He defended with vigor, dunked with panache and was a pivotal reason the Aztecs dispatched No.23 UNLV 68-58 in front of an announced crowd of 9,224 at Viejas Arena.

"Billy White had the best game he's played since New Mexico," said coach Steve Fisher. "Part of it was he had a great week of practice. He was quick and active, and going by people, doing things that you win with, which gives you a great stat line like he had tonight."

White scored a game-high 19 points on 5-of-10 shooting with five rebounds and two blocks while converting 9-of-11 free-throw attempts.

"We owed them one," White said. "We put our foot down and said, 'This is our home court and we're going to defend it.'"

"It means a lot to me personally. Every time I play them, I try to go 100 percent. The first time I played them, I was just coming back from injury and I really couldn't move. So I've been working on it since. I've worked extra hard just for this game."

The win moves SDSU (18-7, 7-4) into a tie with UNLV (19-6, 7-4) for Third Place in the Mountain West Conference behind New Mexico and BYU. The Aztecs have won three of their past five against AP Top 25 opponents.

In their first meeting, UNLV's Tre'Von Willis and Chace Stanback combined for 41 points. Yesterday, Willis (5-for-15) had a quiet 17 and Stanback (0-for-7) had four points — all free throws.

SDSU held the Rebels to 35.2 percent shooting and 17.6 percent from outside the arc. Malcolm Thomas led the defensive effort with four blocks and four steals, while the team combined for nine of each.

"Stanback is a deadly shooter from 15 to 18 feet, but we did a pretty good job of not letting him get a decent look," Fisher said. "Everybody focuses on Tre'Von

Willis. He's the leading scorer in the league (in conference games). ... In the first half, he was 1-for-7, so I think we kind of set the tone in the first half."

Kawhi Leonard recorded his 12th double-double of the year with 13 points and 14 rebounds, while guards D.J. Gay and Chase Tapley pitched in with 11 each. SDSU enjoyed a 39-30 rebounding advantage.

Though UNLV outscored the Aztecs 32-24 in the paint, SDSU was the more aggressive team, drawing 23 fouls and converting a season-high 23 free throws on 31 attempts (74.2 percent).

"I know in the beginning of the year it was a big struggle for us," Tapley said. "Every day in practice we just work on it, because when the game is on the line people are going to start fouling us because they think that's a weakness. But it's not a weakness because we are all making our free throws, and it makes the game easier toward the end."

The Aztecs took a 6-5 lead at the 16:32 mark of the first half and never trailed again, stretching the margin to 10 before taking a 33-25 lead into the locker room.

UNLV cut the deficit to three early in the second half, but the Aztecs eventually built the lead to 14 on 47.6 percent shooting in the second half. UNLV's 58 points were its second-lowest total of the season.

"They got a little margin in the first half," said UNLV coach Lon Kruger. "We got a little bit of a start in the second, but couldn't quite get back into the lead. They played well and had a lot of firepower, but we didn't do what we needed to do to pull out a win."

### 137 Aztecs finally finish breakthrough win

By Scott Bair | North County Times  
February 14, 2010

The San Diego State men's basketball team has given away games it would like to have back. Leads have been blown and upsets have been squashed. Resume-inflating wins have gone by the wayside, including a pair of two-point losses to nationally ranked teams.

While the Aztecs are on pace for a fifth consecutive 20-win season and a school-record tying 26 victories, they needed to make an impact against the tough teams left on their schedule.

San Diego State certainly did so with a 68-58 victory over No. 23 Nevada-Las Vegas on Saturday afternoon at Viejas Arena.

The Aztecs moved into a tie for third in the Mountain West Conference by shutting down the Rebels' high powered offense, holding UNLV 17 points below its season average. They pulled away early in the second half and closed out the victory with solid free-throw shooting and a defensive intensity highlighted by nine blocked shot.

"It was a really nice win for us, everybody contributed," Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said. "This was a very good win against a very good team."

The victory gave the Aztecs (18-7, 7-4) six wins in their last eight games, and the two losses came against New Mexico and Brigham Young, two nationally ranked teams that each beat San Diego State by two points.

On Saturday, the Aztecs made sure the game wasn't that close.

They secured victory with a season-best 23-for-31 performance at the free-throw line, an area that was once a glaring weakness.

"Towards the end we started making our free throws," guard Chase Tapley said.

"I know in the beginning of the year it was a big struggle for us; every day in practice we just work on it, because when the game is on the line people are going to start fouling us because they think that's a weakness. But it's not a weakness any more, because we are all making our free throws, and it makes the game easier towards the end."

Free throws and the aggressiveness of San Diego State's most athletic players kept the Rebels (18-7, 7-4) at arm's length. Freshman Kawhi Leonard recorded his 12th double-double with 13 points and 14 rebounds, and junior Billy White

had his best game since suffering an ankle sprain in a Jan. 5 win over then No. 15 New Mexico.

White scored a game-high 19 points, including a 9-of-11 performance at the line and three jaw-dropping dunks to the delight of the crowd of 9,224.

"Billy White had the best game he's played since New Mexico," Fisher said. "Part of it was he had a great week of practice. He was quick and active and going by people, doing things that you win with, which gives you a great stat line like he had tonight. The great stat line helps make us successful."

The final score certainly bolsters San Diego State's argument for inclusion in the NCAA tournament. But the Aztecs freely acknowledge they have more work to do to impress the selection committee.

"I think they are still kind of doubting us," said White, a Las Vegas native.

"They might say it's luck, but I know our staff here, our school, and our whole community know that we belong with everybody else. It's not a fluke that we are beating these teams here, ranked teams. It's not a surprise to us, because we know we can hang with anybody in the country."

### 138 They can be maddening, but Aztecs sure are fun

By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 14, 2010

Say what you want about these Aztecs. Say they're an unpredictable high-wire act that too often shoots like Barney Fife, that they're great one trip down the court and crazy the next. It's all part of their cockeyed charm. It's who they are. Take them or leave them, but taking them is more fun.

And they're so much fun, they're dangerous. Theirs is a carry show, the best entertainment in town. They should pitch a tent and have the world's strongest man bend rebar with his teeth at halftime.

It's terribly difficult to even imagine where this San Diego State men's basketball team will be when the March Madness epidemic hits the United States — although madness seems to fit them — but playing the Aztecs has to be like diving into a barrel of jellyfish.

You might get out without being stung. Chances are you won't. You might beat them, but you're not leaving the building without welts. They're all quick hands and long arms. They're still defending you, swarming you, bothering you and rebounding over you when you're trying to get your bag on the bus.

As the 9,224 vocal folks who showed for a one o'clock start yesterday afternoon in Viejas Arena can attest, the Aztecs, when they're right enough during a 40-minute stretch, can beat just about anyone — especially at home.

Yesterday, it was 23rd-ranked UNLV's turn to fall, 68-58 in an important Mountain West Conference taffy pull, and it wouldn't have been that close had the hosts not been guilty of some things that would drive lesser men than coach Steve Fisher to Sigmund Freud's couch.

Twice there were end line violations as they tried to get the ball inbounds. You're lucky if you see one of those a year. Just so many unforced errors, 18 turnovers in all, and shots that never should have been taken that they aren't good enough to make.

But they're so incredibly athletic they can overcome their inconsistencies because they can out-athlete (the starting front line of juniors Billy White and Malcolm Thomas and true freshman Kawhi Leonard, wow) everyone they play — including a good team like Vegas, which is very athletic in itself.

State shot just 42.6 percent from the field, but the Aztecs, horrible at the line, were much better there yesterday (23-of-31), and, once again, they were terrors on the boards, outrebounding the Rebels 39-30.

This game was won on the boards and with defense. The Aztecs blocked nine shots. The visitors shot 35.2 percent from the floor, and while the line will show Vegas star guard Tre'Von Willis scored 17 points, some of that came in meaningless garbage time near the end. Hounded by Leonard, Willis scored just four over the first 26:30.

"We made it hard for them to get good, easy looks," Fisher would say. "If you

guard hard, you've got a chance."

With five MWC games remaining, it's beyond doubtful State (7-4 in the league, 18-7 overall) can catch BYU or New Mexico and win the in-season conference title. But, if they can just shoot free throws as well as they did yesterday — at least something better than the miserable 54 percent they were making at the line before Vegas — they can win the conference tournament.

Absolutely can. The Mountain West is very good. Going into yesterday's play, three schools — New Mexico, BYU and Vegas — were ranked in the Top 25. But if any team in it is better than State, it isn't by much, certainly not enough to say the Aztecs haven't a chance.

If they hadn't blown a 14-point lead with less than 5 minutes to play at Wyoming and made slightly better than 51 percent of their free throws the other night in a gritty performance at 15th-ranked New Mexico, they'd be right at the top of their league.

"Those losses were killers," Fisher said, "and you can't get them back. But this was a good résumé win."

Fisher knows he has something here, and his players are not frightened turtles. They know they can play.

Leonard (13 points, 14 rebounds) has frightening potential. He's already one of the best rebounders in the country. White, whose high-ankle sprain prevented him from doing much in the loss in Vegas on Jan. 13 — "I couldn't move," he said — led all scorers with 19 points. That great first step has returned. Thomas had four blocks.

"It just shows that we can hang with people who are ranked; we can compete with anyone in the country," White said. "I think they still kind of doubt us, but our school and community know we belong with everybody else; we can hang with anyone."

Unless they can shoot free throws the way they did yesterday — good enough — they'll have more trouble hanging come tournament time, when free throws win so many games.

But, if you're going to play them, bring oxygen, insect repellent and be prepared to pay the cover charge, Carnies aren't free.

### 139

#### Aztecs upset No. 23-ranked UNLV

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 14, 2010

San Diego State talked about the urgency of building its NCAA tournament resume before facing UNLV Saturday afternoon, and then the Aztecs went out and did more than talk with a 68-58 upset of the No. 23-ranked Rebels.

"This proves to everybody we can hang with people that are ranked," said junior forward Billy White, who led the Aztecs with 19 points in a game played before near sellout crowd at Viejas Arena.

"People doubted we can beat people that are ranked. We tried to prove to everybody and to ourselves that we can compete with anybody in the country. That was added motivation for us."

SDSU, which split with UNLV for the season, has now managed splits with two ranks programs. The Aztecs earlier split with 15th-ranked New Mexico, winning at home and losing on the road in overtime to the Lobos.

The Aztecs (18-7, 7-4) forced a tie for third place in the Mountain West Conference with the Rebels (19-6, 7-4). New Mexico (23-3, 9-2) beat Utah and 17th-ranked Brigham Young (23-3, 8-2) defeated Air Force to remain tied for first place in the loss column.

Other than the opening couple of minutes, SDSU controlled the game throughout for the most part.

San Diego State managed an eight-point halftime lead, 33-25. The Aztecs were leading 18-17 when they went on an 8-0 run with freshmen Chase Tapley and Kawhi Leonard both hitting 3-point field goals after a pair of free throws by Malcolm Thomas.

"I'm very proud of how we competed," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "I thought, especially the first half, we gave them a minimum number of easy opportunities and that led to only 25 points for them at halftime. We made it hard for them to get good clean looks."

Leonard backed up White with his 12th double-double in 25 games this season, finishing with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

"He's never effected by time and score by how he plays," Fisher said. "He makes plays. He made a couple of huge baskets for us to keep the lead going. He has the strength about him that he can get into cracks, get bumped and still finish the play."

SDSU, plagued by poor free-throw shooting this year in three MWC two-point losses, also helped itself by hitting 9-of-12 free throws (75 percent) in the first half.

UNLV opened the second half with the first five points to trim the Aztecs' lead to 33-30. But SDSU quickly responded to bump the lead back to the six-to-eight point range until finally pushing their advantage to double figures.

White gave SDSU its first double-digit lead at 54-43 on a basket, and the Aztecs were never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

### 140

#### Green Valley product White keys Aztecs' win

By Matt Youmans | Las Vegas Review-Journal  
February 14, 2010

Each time Billy White dunked, he was putting exclamation points on a victory over an opponent he relishes beating.

White dunked three times and scored 19 points as San Diego State dominated UNLV 68-58 before a crowd of 9,224 at Viejas Arena.

It was not just another game to White, a Green Valley High School graduate. The 6-foot-8-inch junior forward turned down an opportunity to play for the Rebels three years ago, and he reminded everyone of that Saturday.

"A lot of people ask me why I didn't go to UNLV. I chose to go here," White said. "It does mean a lot to me personally every time I play them. It gives me a lot more fight."

"We just wanted this game real, real bad."

The Rebels (19-6, 7-4) failed to show a similar sense of urgency and dropped into a tie for third with the Aztecs (18-7, 7-4) in the Mountain West Conference.

UNLV traveled to San Diego on a bus, and coach Lon Kruger refused to throw any of his players under it after the defeat. He said the effort and energy he saw was sufficient.

Sophomore guard Oscar Bellfield was more critical.

"We're just not knocking down shots, and really not coming out there with a lot of enthusiasm and energy. It's something we really need to work on," Bellfield said. "It's a matter of focus, and coming out and focusing hard. We really didn't take care of business from the start."

Sophomore forward Chace Stanback, who missed all seven of his field-goal attempts, said UNLV's intensity was lacking.

"I feel like we just weren't prepared for the fight," he said. "We weren't all on the same page, just like the New Mexico game."

The Rebels, who moved into The Associated Press poll at No. 23 last week, will drop from the rankings after suffering their second 10-point loss in four days.

In a 76-66 home defeat to 15th-ranked New Mexico on Wednesday, UNLV was haunted by Darrington Hobson, the Lobos' leader and a native of Las Vegas. White said Hobson called him after that game and challenged White to also knock off their hometown team.

White dunked in transition to put the Aztecs ahead 18-13 midway through the first half. They stretched their lead to 26-17 on Kawhi Leonard's 3-pointer.

## 141-142

The Rebels cut a 33-25 halftime deficit to 35-32 before Bellfield missed a 3-pointer. White made two free throws, and San Diego State began slowly building the lead to double digits.

Kruger lamented UNLV's inability to get "over the hump" and said, "They were attacking us and driving the ball at us early. We needed guys to step up and win battles."

White dunked over Stanback to put the Aztecs up 56-44 with 5:48 left. After a Stanback turnover and a missed jumper by Tre'Von Willis, White dunked again to put the game away with three minutes left.

Willis scored 17 points, 15 in the second half. Willis and Stanback, the Rebels' top scorers, combined to shoot 5-for-22, including 1-for-8 on 3-pointers.

"Stanback is not quite a 3-point shooter, but he's a deadly shooter from 15 to 18 feet. We didn't let him get clean looks," said Aztecs coach Steve Fisher, who credited Leonard's defense for helping to put the clamps on Willis.

Leonard, a freshman, had 13 points and 14 rebounds, and guards D.J. Gay and Chase Tapley each supplied 11 points for San Diego State.

"I think people are doubting us," said White, who was held to five points in a 76-66 loss at UNLV on Jan. 13. "But it's not a fluke that we're beating ranked teams. We think we can hang with any team in the country.

"They tried to go with a stronger lineup, and I noticed they put a freshman into the lineup. But we used our size to our advantage."

Kruger started freshman guard Anthony Marshall to try to combat the Aztecs' superior athleticism. The move helped to some extent, as Marshall produced 12 points in his second career start.

"Every loss is disappointing. We can't accept losing," Marshall said. "We've got a long bus ride home, and everybody will be thinking about it. But we can't get our heads held down."

## 141

**Aztecs pick up critical win against UNLV**

By Jeff Creps | SDNN.com  
February 14, 2010

For a second straight game, a dominant defensive effort led San Diego State to a crucial victory as the Aztecs topped No. 23 UNLV, 68-58 on Saturday.

Malcolm Thomas, Billy White, and Kawhi Leonard set the early tone with blocks and active defense down low that led to big shots at the offensive end of the floor.

"I thought we defended in a fashion that gives you a chance to win," said SDSU Head Coach Steve Fischer after the game. "And we made it hard for them to get good easy looks."

SDSU (17-7; 7-4 MWC) needed a good showing against UNLV to solidify their case for the NCAA Tournament, and they answered the call.

The first half of the game was marked with physical play and tough defense. The Rebels committed early fouls that put the Aztecs in the bonus, but both teams tightened up as the game went on.

Thomas, who was charged with protecting the paint from the dynamic UNLV guards, led the Aztec defense. He stepped up to the challenge, blocking four shots and disrupting several others. Those plays helped open up the Aztec offensive attack that had 12 points off turnovers and seven second-chance points for the game.

"Our team just wants to win," said Billy White after the victory. "We told ourselves and our coaches that we weren't going to lose anymore, especially not at home."

White helped the team live up to its new goal better than anyone else on the floor. After being limited by an ankle injury in their early season loss to the Rebels (76-66), White made his presence known with 19 points, including a crowd-raising dunk, and a career-best nine for 11 from the free throw line.

"[White is] a guy who can do a lot of things. He's long defensively and can block

shots," said UNLV Head Coach Lon Kruger after the game. "He's good offensively and attacks the rim."

Leonard finished the game with 13 points and 14 rebounds, extending his own freshman record for double-doubles with 12 on the season.

The Rebels (19-6; 7-4 MWC) came into Viejas Arena after a tough home loss to No. 19 New Mexico Wednesday night.

UNLV leading scorer Tre'Von Willis was frustrated by the physical active defense of the Aztecs throughout the game. He finished the game with 17 points, but it came off of five-of-15 shooting, with most of the points coming when the game was well in hand. As a team, UNLV shot 35 percent from the field and was forced into 14 turnovers.

Early on, it seemed that the Rebels had a solid formula for beating the Aztecs — deny Leonard the ball in the paint. But as the flow of the game became smoother, it was evident that the length and physicality of the Aztecs was too much for UNLV to handle.

SDSU will have one more shot at a ranked opponent this season when it meets No. 17 BYU on February 24th. But before that, they will have to keep their winning ways going Tuesday against TCU, a team they have already beaten this season.

**Game Notes**

After an appearance by SDSU Alum Marshal Faulk on Wednesday, former Aztecs La'Roi Glover and Kevin O'Connell were in attendance. Also, with Padres Fan Fest in full force at Petco, Manager Bud Black managed to make it across town to catch the game.

## 142

**Aztecs prove they can hang with the ranked**

By Edward Lewis | Daily Aztec  
February 14, 2010

Billy White grew up in Las Vegas, so he usually plays UNLV harder than most teams anyway. But after hearing the pundits doubt the San Diego State men's basketball team this past week, White wanted to make an even bigger statement against the No. 23 Rebels on Saturday afternoon.

"We just wanted this game real, real bad," the junior forward said. "Just prove to everybody that we can hang with people that are ranked. A lot of people doubt us, saying we can't beat people that are ranked. So we just try to prove to ourselves and to everybody else that we can compete with anybody in the country."

In front of 9,224 people at Viejas Arena, SDSU sent out the message loud and clear: The Aztecs can hang with ranked teams. SDSU completely dominated a nationally ranked UNLV squad, 68-58, in a game that was never really close.

"Our team just wants to win," White said. "We told ourselves and our coaches that we are not going to lose anymore, especially not at home. Our goal was to not lose at home, period, but of course we got that one loss, so we are going to try to keep going and just build up our résumé."

The Aztecs have now taken down two ranked teams in a season for the first time since 2006-07. In January, SDSU beat then-No. 14 New Mexico, 74-64. Ironically, White left that game early in the first half with a high ankle sprain and did not return.

"Billy White had, by far, his best game (on Saturday) since getting hurt in our first game against New Mexico," head coach Steve Fisher said. "(Saturday) was a really nice win for us, everybody contributed."

White finished the game against the Rebels with 19 points, five rebounds, two blocks and a steal and even made nine of his 11 free throw attempts. As a team, the Aztecs had four players score 11 or more points and combined for a free throw percentage of 74.2.

On the defensive end, SDSU limited UNLV's two best players, guard Tre'Von Willis and forward Chace Stanback, to just 21 points. In their first meeting on Jan. 13, Willis and Stanback combined to score 41.

"I thought we defended in a fashion that gives you a chance to win," Fisher said. "They had 25 first half points. We did not allow them to get to the rim at will on

straight line drives. We knew who their 3-point shooters were and we contested the 3-point shots. We made it hard for them to get good, easy looks."

After being written off by most of the country, the Aztecs (18-7, 7-4 in Mountain West Conference play) are suddenly right back in the thick of the MWC race with just five games to go. SDSU is two games behind New Mexico for first place and is now currently tied with the Rebels for third place.

"It's not a fluke that we are beating these teams here, ranked teams," White said. "It's not a surprise to us, because we know we can hang with anybody in the country."

### 143

#### Fisher & Son is a hit with Aztecs

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 16, 2010

#### Mark Fisher

**Position:** Assistant coach, third year

#### Past positions

2008-current: Assistant coach

2002-2007: Director of Operations

2001: AAU coach in Ann Arbor, Mich.

1998-2001: Varsity assistant and head freshman coach at Lincoln High in Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Education:** 2001 B.A. degree from Michigan

Perhaps the best thing ever to happen to Mark Fisher was his father being dismissed as head basketball coach from the University of Michigan.

Fresh out of high school, the young Fisher was set to be a walk-on player at his father's Michigan program.

"I figured I'd be a practice player," he said. "You know, wave towels on the bench, give guys water during the game. That sort of thing."

But when Steve Fisher was fired after eight full seasons (and one postseason) — a run that included a national championship, three title-game appearances, seven trips to the NCAA Tournament and 184-82 record — Mark Fisher's career as a water boy/cheerleader was officially put on hold.

"I wasn't going to be there if my dad wasn't there," said Mark, who is in his third season as an assistant coach to his father. "I needed something to fill the basketball void."

So Fisher, then 18, returned to his old high school and started coaching — helping out as a varsity assistant and running the frosh team — planting the seed for SDSU's future father-son coaching duo. It was a major life change for both that, in the end, has worked out well.

"The cool thing is they are not alike," said SDSU assistant coach Brian Dutcher, who has been with Steve Fisher since the early Michigan days and seen Mark grow up. "They are their own people. You wouldn't say when you see Mark he's just like Coach. Mark has his own personality and his own strengths. It's neat to see they are different from each other."

Perhaps the greatest difference is their philosophical approach to the game. Steve Fisher is a defense-first coach. Mark's interests land on the offensive side. Mark said the merging of the Fisher minds helped bring a new perspective to the coaching staff when he joined eight years ago as director of operations.

"All I wanted to think about was offensive concepts, ball screens, spacing, ways to get guys the ball," Mark Fisher said. "He's defense first, second and third. We're a defensive staff by nature. But I had more of an offensive thought process when I looked at basketball."

Steve Fisher said the strength of his coaching staff, with Dutcher, Justin Hutson and his son as top lieutenants, is that no one is afraid to play devil's advocate or disagree with the head coach.

"He's not afraid, even at a younger age, to force his opinion and say what he thinks," Steve Fisher said. "I like that. I like that about everybody on the staff. But I know at the end of the day he's got my back and he's going to do what's in the best interest of me and the program. But that's what you want in your whole staff. It's been neat for him and neat for me."

And neat for the players.

"Coach Fisher is old school, but little 'Fish' is new school," said junior point guard D.J. Gay. "They are the same, but completely different. Little Fish is like one of the guys because he's a little younger (31). I think we relate to him a little better. They are both easy to talk to, but the subject matters are different. We can joke a little more with little Fish."

From Day 1, Mark made it a point to keep family life and professional life separate. In the office, Coach is Coach. At home, he's Dad.

"What happens in our business is you get so busy working with everybody else's son that when you get a chance to work with your own, it's very gratifying," Steve Fisher said. "This has been a wonderful experience for both of us."

Fisher's other son, Jay, is a USC film school graduate who, according to Mark, never had much interest in basketball. But they are a tight-knit group. Mark recalls when SDSU hosted Arizona in 2006. That day, he and his father drove to USC to watch a seven-minute zombie film Jay had produced for school. They drove up, watched the movie, and drove back in time for tip-off — though they missed the pregame shootaround.

"It was important to him and important to us," Mark said. "It's a small price to pay to miss pregame, but it meant a lot to him that we be there. It was his Arizona game. That's just how it is in this family."

Mark said he has hopes of one day being a head coach and running his own program. But he's in no hurry. For now, he's relishing the opportunity to learn from his father and the other coaches in the program.

"I think anybody that's in this business would eventually say I'd like to be a head coach," Steve Fisher said. "But don't get in a hurry. Love where you are, what you're doing and who you are doing it with. ... Don't be looking for your next job. Be the very best with the job you have and treat it like the best job in the world because it's your job."

### 144

#### Focused Aztecs take down the Frogs

By Rick Herrin | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 17, 2010

There was nothing nonchalant or lacking focus in San Diego State's effort Tuesday night at TCU.

The Aztecs flip-flopped their previous lackluster victory against the Frogs with a dismantling road performance before 3,615 at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. San Diego State shot a season-high 61 percent, scored at will inside and strolled out of Fort Worth with a 68-51 Mountain West Conference victory.

SDSU (19-7) moved into third place in the conference at 8-4, a half-game ahead of idle UNLV, and showed it had learned a lesson from an uninspired win against TCU on Jan. 16 in San Diego. The Aztecs, who have won five of their past six and three straight, set the tone early and built off a 29-19 halftime lead. This rematch also lacked any lasting fireworks from the previous meeting when tempers flared on both sides.

"Coach wanted us to come out with high energy," said SDSU freshman forward Kawhi Leonard, who had a game-high 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting. "Because when they came to our town, we just came out nonchalant and not focused. We just came out here focused and had energy and ready to stop them and we stopped them."

After TCU took a 6-4 lead with 15:19 left in the first half, the Aztecs started their climb executing in all phases. SDSU raced to 13-0 run and smothered the Frogs, holding them without a point for nearly eight minutes. TCU's 19 first-half points were a season low.

"We did that by being rock solid with our defense," said SDSU coach Steve Fisher, whose team is one victory shy of a fifth consecutive 20-win season. "We won the game with our defense."

And with plenty of Leonard cutting free inside and forward Billy White posting up. The 6-foot-8 White overwhelmed the Frogs backing down defenders for easy baskets inside and finished with 17 points to nicely compliment Leonard's night. White, who leads the MWC in field-goal percentage, was 8-for-13 from the field, added nine rebounds and guided an offense that had 48 points in the paint.

## 145-146

SDSU also rode the wave of success coming off Saturday's 10-point victory against No.23-ranked UNLV.

The Aztecs' offense added a jolt off the bench from center Brian Carlwell's nine points and Tyrone Shelley also chipped in six. TCU (12-15, 4-8) did show hope late pulling within eight points at 47-39 on Zvonko Buljan's three-pointer with 9:56 remaining. But the Aztecs quickly answered with stifling defense, near-perfect freethrow shooting and easy baskets inside off their offensive sets.

"We got a little bit concerned," Leonard said. "Teams have come back on us with double-digit leads we've had. We just wanted to keep feeding the post, slow down our offense and get some defensive stops."

## 145

**Practice pays off for Aztec Leonard**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 20, 2010

Kawhi Leonard is in the conversation as the best all-around freshman to ever play for San Diego State. A look at how his numbers compare to past SDSU freshmen in the Division I era:

**Points**

1. Tony Ross, 455, 1987
2. Brandon Heath, 413, 2004
3. Eddy Gordon, 345, 1980
4. Presnell Gilbert, 338, 1977
5. **Kawhi Leonard, 329, 2010**

**Rebounds**

1. Michael Cage, 355, 1981
2. **Kawhi Leonard, 245, 2010**

**Rebound Average**

1. Michael Cage, 13.1, 1981
2. **Kawhi Leonard, 9.4, 2010**

How Leonard compares nationally to other freshmen:

**Rebounding**

1. Chris Gaston, Fordham, 11.0 avg.
2. DeMarcus Cousins, Kentucky, 10.3 avg.
3. **Kawhi Leonard, SDSU, 9.4 avg.**

**Double-doubles**

1. DeMarcus Cousins, Kentucky, 16
2. Chris Gaston, Fordham, 15
3. **Kawhi Leonard, SDSU, 12**

When Viejas Arena is deserted and all the coaches and players have left practice for the night, a single bouncing ball resonates throughout the quiet arena. And something frightening is happening.

One San Diego State player remains, shooting jumper after jumper. It's Kawhi Leonard — and he's getting better.

The true freshman already has shown himself to be a relentless rebounder. But what many don't see is that his work ethic mirrors his leaping ability. After every practice, there's Leonard, working on his three-point shot. He won't leave until he knocks down 25. Or he's shooting from the elbow, faking the first step to drive then pulling back and shooting. Again and again and again.

"The thing he's done is he's bought into the fact that he's not as good as everybody is telling him he is," said coach Steve Fisher. "He wants to get better. He wants to really be good."

"He's working harder than ever in practice. And I like that about him. I like the way he's approaching his growth and development as a basketball player. You put that on top a really talented young player, and you've got something special."

The 6-foot-7, 225-pound forward came to Montezuma Mesa with as much — if not more — hype than any recruit in school history. He was Cal-Hi Sports' Mr. Basketball out of Riverside King High. To date, he's proven to be as advertised — and better.

Fisher likes to say that you can't hide who you are in basketball because statistics

betray your identity. And the statistics reveal that Leonard is a worker.

Through the first 16 games, Leonard shot 43 percent from the field. In his past 10, he's shooting 53 percent — empirical proof that his extra time is paying off. He's agile enough to run the point and athletic enough to take on the most difficult of defensive chores.

And then there's the rebounding, where he ranks third in the nation among all freshmen and 28th overall. He's already set the San Diego State record for most double-doubles in a season with 12. Michael Cage only had 10 as a freshman. Leonard leads the Aztecs in scoring (12.7) — no easy task when four of five starters average double-digit points per game.

He also leads the team and conference in rebounding (9.4). He's on pace to become the first SDSU freshman to lead both categories since Eddy Gordon in 1979-1980.

"It blows me away when I hear about stuff like that," Leonard said. "I'm not really looking that stuff up. I just keep doing what I do and keep getting more. Don't settle for less, that's my goal. Just keep doing as much as I can because if I do, I won't regret anything."

Early in the season, Leonard was still learning his place on a team that was a melting pot of freshmen, transfers and a trio of returners. He had to learn to be part of the team, rather than just a superstar carrying one.

"He understood the program already had a solid foundation and he didn't want to be the one to disrupt that," junior center Brian Carlwell said. "I think it shows a lot of maturity that he actually took a step back, let things develop, and then learned how to go full steam ahead."

Said Leonard: "When you're the guy, you are comfortable with the ball in your hands. You know where you can shoot from. When I came here, other players were the guy. It was harder to find when my shot would come and knowing when I could shoot. But that's gotten better the more we play together."

There was preseason chatter that Leonard would be a one-and-done player at SDSU. But Aztecs fans can rest easy. While it's likely his chiseled frame will one day fill out an NBA uniform, it won't be next year.

"I'll definitely be back next year," he said. "I'm not ready to put myself out there as a pro prospect. Right now I'm focusing on this year, getting better and helping to build up the program."

That's why when Viejas is empty, the lone ball will still be bouncing. And Kawhi Leonard will be shooting, again and again and again.

## 146

**Thomas a hit for Aztecs**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 21, 2010

The game plan for attacking Utah didn't change much from last month to last night. Feed the ball to Malcolm Thomas. Repeat as desired.

The San Diego State forward turned in a career-high 28 points on 10-of-15 shooting en route to the Aztecs' 68-61 victory over Utah at Viejas Arena in front of an announced crowd of 10,695. SDSU has won six of its past seven and improved to 13-1 at home this season.

Last month in SDSU's 70-68 win in Salt Lake City, Thomas set a career high with 23 points, doing pretty much the same thing — using his quick feet and athletic ability to outmaneuver Utah's bigger, yet slower, defenders.

"They did some things different (against Thomas)," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "They pushed us further off the block, attempted to front in the post ... Malcolm is a good player. He was able to fight it off, get the ball and make some plays."

It's just the second time in school history the Aztecs (20-7, 9-4) have swept Utah (12-14, 5-7) in a season and their first time winning both games since 1982. It's also the fifth straight season San Diego State has won at least 20 games — a school record.

Kawhi Leonard's record for most double-doubles by a freshman continues to grow. He scored 14 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for his 13th double-double

of the season.

Thomas helped the Aztecs jump out to a quick 14-4 lead. With 15:25 left in the first half, he already had 10 points. He finished the first half with 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting. However, the Utes went on a 12-2 run and eventually tied the game at 25-25 with 6:06 to play, but they didn't get a field goal for the rest of the half as SDSU took a 36-26 advantage at the break.

SDSU forced 15 turnovers and held the Utes to 33 percent shooting in the first half and 39 percent for the game. It's the fourth straight game the Aztecs have held their opponent to less than 40 percent shooting from the field.

"We jumped out of the gate really, really effectively and put them on their heels by attacking inside with Malcolm," Fisher said. "But we knew they were going to have a run on us and they can shoot the ball."

Those shooters finally woke up midway through the second half, led by Marshall Henderson, who hit a trio of three-pointers in a five-minute span. He finished with 12 points, all on 4-of-8 shooting from beyond the arc. Carlon Brown led Utah with 13 points.

The Utes chipped away and took their only lead with 4:35 to play. But the Aztecs made some key stops and came up with big offensive rebounds when the free-throw shooting floundered down the stretch.

"What we did is what good teams do," Fisher said. "We had resiliency. We got the ball to Kawhi with the thought of attack. He got fouled and made two free throws. Then we got another basket. We went from down one to up three and never gave back the lead. That's the sign of a good team."

SDSU also committed just five turnovers, a school best in a Mountain West Conference game.

## 147

### Winning is all that counts for Aztecs

By Scott Bair | North County Times  
February 21, 2010

The San Diego State men's basketball team simply had to beat Utah on Saturday night.

Each conference power notched a victory before the Mountain West Conference nightcap, so the Aztecs desperately needed to keep up.

They couldn't fall further behind in the conference race and they couldn't lose to another sub-.500 team, especially at home, and keep hopes of an at-large bid into the NCAA tournament alive.

While they were tested and faltered in certain areas, the Aztecs did what they had to in a 68-61 victory in front of 10,695 at Viejas Arena. They stayed with the Mountain West's best heading into Wednesday's pivotal showdown at Brigham Young and remain on pace to set a school record for regular-season wins.

"We really don't pay attention to it, but the coaches tell us what's going on in conference," Aztecs forward Malcolm Thomas said. "We're just focused on getting better and continuing this winning streak."

San Diego State (20-7, 9-4) claimed its fourth straight win with solid defense down the stretch. Utah (12-14, 5-7) took its first lead of the game on a layup from Carlon Brown with 4 minutes, 35 seconds remaining, officially killing a 10-point halftime lead built with interior offense led by Thomas.

After that, however, the defense clamped down. The Utes scored just two points over the next 4:29 and had trouble getting shots off. That's a stark contrast to the Jan. 19 contest at Utah, where the Utes nearly pulled off a dramatic comeback. This time, the Aztecs held strong.

"We saw their frustration, which fueled us to get more and more stops," said freshman forward Kawhi Leonard, who recorded his 13th double-double with 14 points and 15 rebounds. "We've let up on defense late before and allowed teams to come back on us, so we couldn't let them do what they do on offense. We had to close the door and we did that."

They did so in spite of their free-throw shooting. Strong most of the night from the stripe, San Diego State lost its composure when Utah was forcing them to make free throws. The Aztecs were at their worst during a 3-for-10 stretch that

would've spelled doom had Utah been able to find the basket.

Thomas particularly struggled going 3-for-8 and missing his last four, after dominating the first half and finishing with a career-high 28 points.

"We were shooting pretty well from the free throw line until that final stretch," Fisher said. "We missed too many in a row and once Malcolm started missing he started thinking too much and that lends itself to more misses."

"But I was proud that we attacked the glass even when we missed and got some second chances and we stayed strong on defense. But we know we have to shoot free throws better. That's it."

The Aztecs did several things well. They committed just five turnovers, the best performance in a Mountain West game.

They shot extremely well in the first half and played stout defense en route to their fifth straight 20-win season.

Most importantly, they found a way to win games they may have lost earlier in the season.

"Everybody's working a lot harder than we were at the beginning of the season," Thomas said. "... Coach Fisher has been on us every day about executing on defense and making smart plays in transition. Everybody takes that seriously, and it's helped us out a lot lately."

## 148

### Aztecs defeat Utah for sweep of Utes

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 21, 2010

There may not be enough time left on the Mountain West Conference regular-season schedule for San Diego State to earn a share of the title, but the Aztecs can enter the MWC tournament with the momentum of a first-place team.

SDSU completed a sweep of Utah for the first time since 1982 with a 68-61 win Saturday night before 10,695 fans at Viejas Arena. For the Aztecs, who gained a vote in the Associated Press last week, it was their fourth straight win and sixth in their last seven.

"I'm indebted to our fans," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "They've turned Viejas Arena into as intimidating a place as there is in the country."

The Aztecs remain alone in third place at 20-7 overall and 9-4 in the MWC with three conference games to play. They trail by two games a first-place tie in the loss column between 12th-ranked New Mexico (25-3, 11-2) and No. 16 Brigham Young (25-3, 10-2).

New Mexico got by Air Force 59-56 and BYU defeated Wyoming 85-63. The Aztecs play Wednesday at BYU.

The win marks the fifth straight year the Aztecs have won 20 games in what is Fisher's 11th season of elevating the program.

"We're very proud of what we've done and continued to do," Fisher said. "We've got a good program. Our kids expect to win. Were now 13-1 at home. Were a difficult out in this building."

Junior Malcolm Thomas, who scored a then-season-high 23 points against Utah in the first game, topped that performance with 28 points to go with 5 rebounds. It's the most points scored by an Aztec in a game this year.

"He utilized quickness to get to the rim," Fisher said. "He played with relentlessness that wins for you. We've seen him do this before. He's a terrific young guy that tries to do anything you ask him to do."

Freshman Kawhi Leonard recorded his 13th double-double of the season with 14 points and 15 rebounds. He hit a pair of free throws for a 57-56 lead with 4:18 remaining in the game. Leonard was only 4-of-15 from the field, but he hit 6-of-6 free throws.

SDSU was up 45-35 before the Utes went on a 8-0 run to trim the deficit to 45-43 with 11:41 left in the game. Utah took a 56-55 lead on a Carlon Brown bucket with 4:35 left in the game.

**149-151**

The evening opened with San Diego State starting quickly, taking a 16-6 lead with 14:11 remaining. Utah closed the gap, but an 8-0 run near the end of the first half staked the Aztecs to a 36-26 halftime lead.

**149****Aztecs escape Utah to keep NCAA hopes alive**

By Jeff Creps | SDNN.com  
February 21, 2010

Utah always seems to bring a well-balanced game against SDSU. Saturday night was no exception.

After narrowly escaping a late charge in a 70-68 January win over Utah, the Aztecs were again forced to provide late game heroics in Saturday's 68-61 victory.

The Aztecs (20-7; 9-4 MWC) led 14-4 early on, but gave up a 14-4 Utah run that tied the game at 18. But SDSU answered with to take a 36-26 lead into halftime on a run highlighted by a Kawhi Leonard dunk.

"We jumped out of the gate really, really effectively and put them on their heels with attacking from Malcolm [Thomas] primarily," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said after the win.

The first half belonged to third-year forward Malcolm Thomas. Thomas, whose previous career high of 23 points came against Utah, finished the first half with 19 points and 5 rebounds on 8-of-9 shooting.

"Yeah I was feeling really good in the first half," Thomas said with a smile after the game. "I hit a jump shot, and I hit a three pointer, so I was feeling really good."

Thomas showed more of the same in the second half, finishing with a career-high 28 points.

Leonard had another superb offensive game in what's wrapping up to be a standout freshmen season. He finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds and was again a consistent force for the Aztecs in the post.

Marshall Henderson's hot shooting kept the Utes (12-14; 5-7 MWC) in the game. He finished the game 4-of-8 from behind the arc to tally 12 points. His three second half threes held Utah within striking distance.

"They got away from us a little bit on three point shots," Fisher said. "Henderson hit three in a row, and you look up and with 3:40 to go we're down one."

The Viejas crowd had a noticeable buzz Saturday night. At several points during the game all of the 10,695 in attendance were on their feet cheering on a team that many believe can be special come tournament time.

"The crowd, we love them," Leonard said after the win. "They always come show their support when we have big games like this. They have been coming in like we've been going hard lately, just coming in screaming and they just give us the wins."

"I am very much indebted to our fans," Fisher added. "They've turned Viejas Arena in to an intimidating spot as there is in the country."

With a win Wednesday against No. 14 BYU, the Aztecs will make a strong case for an NCAA Tournament. BYU is the only team to have beaten the Aztecs at home this season. SDSU has not made the NCAA Tournament since 2006 when they were eliminated in the first round by Indiana.

**Game Notes**

With their win, the Aztecs set a school record with their fifth straight 20-win season.

"We have a proud program, a good program. Our kids know that," Fisher said after hearing about the record. "This is a tough building to come in and win. That's what all good programs have — a fanbase that will get behind you."

The Aztecs committed only five turnovers in the win, which is the lowest total ever in a Mountain West Conference game for the team.

**150****Thomas gets best of Utes**

By Lya Wodraska | Salt Lake Tribune  
February 21, 2010

The Utes knew what kind of damage Aztec forward Malcom Thomas could do after he finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds against the Utes the last time the teams played.

They knew, they just couldn't do much about it Saturday as Thomas had a career best 28 points on 10-of-15 shooting in the Aztecs' 68-61 win over Utah.

Thomas made his first four shots, two free throws and had three rebounds to help the Aztecs jump out to a 14-4 lead.

"He made some plays," Utah coach Jim Boylen said. "He made a three and made some plays. He is a good player."

Utah center David Foster, sub Jason Washburn and others simply couldn't counter the 6-foot-9 junior's quickness around the basket.

His production was similar to his previous performance against the Utes, when he shot 10-of-17 for his then-season high.

Thomas averages just 10.2 points on the season, making him his team's fourth-leading scorer, but obviously there is something about playing the Utes that fits his style.

"We just let him get to his moves, his go-to moves," forward Jay Watkins said. "We didn't cut those out and you have to get to those early and he kept going."

Malcom scored 19 points in the first half and had more trouble in the second when the Utes' defense picked up.

But he still made some key free throws down the stretch.

"Utah didn't double team," Thomas said. "We practice a lot on that, on just going to the basket and trying to get it in to the big guys. I took advantage of that."

**151****Thomas tears up Utes again for Aztecs**

By Mike Sorensen | Deseret News  
February 21, 2010

If Malcolm Thomas could play against Utah every night, he'd be an All-American.

Thomas, San Diego State's 6-foot-9 junior forward who had his best game of the season last month in a win at Utah, had an even better one Saturday night, scoring a career-high 28 points to lead the Aztecs to a 68-61 victory over the Utes before 10,695 at Viejas Arena.

With the win, the Aztecs swept the season series against Utah for the first time in 28 years and improved to 20-7 overall and 9-4 in Mountain West Conference play.

Thomas's 28 points broke his career high of 23, set in the earlier win over the Utes, when he also had 13 rebounds. Since that game, he never scored more than 10 points and has averaged just 6.3 points per game.

But once Utah showed up, he went wild again, scoring 10 of the Aztecs' first 14 points, and he had 19 by halftime. The Utes tried David Foster, Jason Washburn and Kim Tillie on Thomas, but no one had an answer for the Aztecs' forward.

As well as Thomas played, Utah coach Jim Boylen wasn't about to gush about his performance against the Utes.

"Yeah, he made some plays ... he made a 3 ... he's a good player," was all Boylen said about Thomas.

Later, when a San Diego writer asked what makes Thomas hard to guard, Boylen simply said, "He's a good player."

The Ute coach was in no mood to compliment an opposing player after seeing his team fail again down the stretch as it has so many times this season.

The Utes had fallen far behind early, clawed their way back to even in the first



half, then fell behind by 12 in the second half, only to fight back and take the lead, their first of the night.

That came with 4:37 left on a drive by Carlon Brown, who led the Utes with 13 points. The Utes seemed to have all the momentum, but their offense suddenly went dry as they could only manage a single basket by Tillie the rest of the way until a 3-pointer by Brown in the final seconds.

"We just couldn't make another play to get over the hump," said Boylen. "I thought we had open looks, open shots, opportunities and just couldn't make a play. We couldn't get a payoff."

After Brown's basket gave the Utes their only lead of the game, Thomas hit a pair of free throws and a left-handed shot in the lane. Tillie's basket cut the deficit to 59-58 with 2:42 left, but the Utes missed their next seven shots and turned the ball over once as the Aztecs kept going to the foul line.

Like they did in their Salt Lake City win, the Aztecs missed several free throws in the final minute, as Thomas missed four straight himself. But Utah couldn't take advantage.

Watkins missed two shots in the lane and Marshall Henderson, who had led the comeback with three 3-pointers, missed his final five shots of the game.

The Aztecs committed their sixth foul of the half with 5:34 left, but the Utes couldn't draw another foul the rest of the game, while the Aztecs went to the line 10 more times and shot 19 free throws. Boylen said the Utes were trying to go to the hoop to draw fouls, but none were called down the stretch.

"I thought we were trying to," he said. "I thought there were a lot of plays in there, maybe Jay Watkins got fouled, maybe Marshall got fouled, maybe Carlon got fouled. I thought we drove the ball, I thought we drove the corner. I thought we tried."

When asked if he perhaps got fouled on a pair of drives to the basket with less than two minutes left, Watkins said, "No, they were good no-calls. You've just got to make a shot."

Henderson had 12 points, while Watkins had 11 points and a team-high seven rebounds. Boylen was happy his team outrebounded the Aztecs 38-35. However, the Utes had 15 turnovers, compared to just five for the Aztecs.

Besides Thomas' 28 points, freshman forward Kawhi Leonard had 14 points and 15 rebounds.

SDSU coach Steve Fisher had plenty of good things to say about Thomas.

"He utilized his quickness to get to the rim and around David Foster several times," he said. "He just played with a relentlessness that wins for you."

The Utes play another road game Wednesday at Air Force before returning home to play Wyoming on Saturday.

## 152

### Aztecs hope to roll right into Vegas

By Jay Paris | North County Times  
February 22, 2010

How does riding a hot streak when hitting Las Vegas sound? Pretty spiffy -- just like the San Diego State men's basketball team.

The Aztecs shed their latest victim, getting past Utah, 68-61, Saturday night at Viejas Arena.

Their venue even mimics Vegas, no? That's where SDSU (20-7, 9-4 in Mountain West Conference) is headed next month and it just might be carting an impressive winning steak.

Is there a better number to haul to Sin City than seven? If the Aztecs win out -- which is possible -- they would enter the MWC tournament just off The Strip on a seven-game roll.

The Aztecs notched No. 4 before 10,695 fans on Montezuma Mesa. To reach seven, they must beat ranked BYU on the road Wednesday. Then they'll be favored over visiting Colorado State and at Air Force.

Flying high now? That would be coach Steve Fisher's gang.

The truth is prevailing this week at Provo, Utah, is a tall order; they lost by two to the Cougars earlier this season at SDSU. But the rebound-mad, defensive-minded Aztecs can do it.

Saturday night those attributes, and much more, were on display in a game in which the Aztecs led comfortably, let the Utes back in, survived a white-knuckle or two, then won when the sour-shooting Utes (39 percent) got careless down the stretch.

Conversely, the Aztecs had but five turnovers, their lowest total ever in a conference game.

A few SDSU bugaboos did raise their head -- in particular the Aztecs' shaky free-throw shots in the closing minutes.

When the player you're hollering for hits the bottom of the net, that's usually a good thing. But when SDSU's Malcolm Thomas did it -- he had a sensational night with a career-high 28 points -- it wasn't.

Yep with 51 seconds left and the Aztecs clinging to a 63-58 advantage, the second of Thomas' two missed free throws just tickled the net -- and nothing else for almost an air ball.

But the air didn't dissipate from the rowdy crowd or the rambunctious Aztecs.

They hitched up their pants and battled the Utes tough on two defensive efforts before accepting a crucial turnover.

If you're doubting Thomas, or the Aztecs, don't go there on both accounts.

If you think there isn't a solid foundation being poured at SDSU, don't think it.

The win was No. 20 on the season. It marks the first time the Aztecs have spit out five straight, 20-win seasons and it puts them ahead of last year's pace when they scored a school-record 26 triumphs.

And while this was the first victory in the current run which wasn't of the double-digit variety, the Aztecs won't throw it back.

"It was a good solid win for us," said Fisher, with the Aztecs going to 13-1 on campus. "They are a very good team."

Very good might be a stretch as the Utes fall to 12-14 and 5-7. But they are good enough that no trap was set for Aztecs, what with the ranked Cougars on-deck.

"We got no trap games," Fisher said after the Aztecs swept the season series for the first time since 1982. "We escaped by the skin of our teeth at Salt Lake City."

Although one hopes the team's charity stripe woes won't derail what could be a special season. Clank free throws like the Aztecs did (20-of-33) in the tournament -- any tournament -- and it means collecting your swag and heading home.

Still, when Thomas drained two free throws with 2:22 to go for a 61-58 cushion, many thought it was pillow time for the Utes.

Then Thomas missed 1-of-2. Then White missed 1-of-2. Then Thomas missed four straight -- ough.

"We were shooting it pretty darn good until the end," Fisher said. "Then once Malcolm missed one he started thinking a little bit about it and that lent itself to a couple more misses."

But the more you think about the surging Aztecs, the more excited you become. See you in Vegas.

## 153

### Aztecs eyeing revenge, not a date to Big Dance

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 24, 2010

From the outside looking in, the story line of tonight's San Diego State game against nationally ranked BYU seems obvious.

And it is.

## 154-155

No. 13 BYU has securely punched its ticket to the NCAA Tournament and is trying to win the Mountain West Conference championship while improving its NCAA seeding. The Aztecs are determined to convince anyone who will listen that they deserve a shot at the madness.

But that's not the talk in the SDSU locker room. The theme isn't March Madness, NCAA tournaments or even the looming conference tournament. It's vengeance — pure, single-minded revenge for the only team to deal the Aztecs a home loss this season.

"All that other stuff is going to work itself out. I'm more worried about payback," center Brian Carlwell said. "I don't like losing games. I think we owe them one. They took one from us that we definitely think we should have had. That's what's on my mind: payback."

Added forward Billy White: "We don't like to lose to people two times in one season. We want to snap their win streak, too, just like they did ours."

BYU owns a 20-game winning streak at the Marriott Center. It was the Cougars who beat SDSU 71-69 last month at Viejas Arena, snapping SDSU's 14-game home winning streak.

But the postseason implications of this game can't be ignored. College basketball analysts and Web sites have the full range of predictions for SDSU: The Aztecs are either in, out or bubble bouncing anywhere between San Jose and Spokane, Wash. A first-round home game for the NIT seems like a lock if they don't get into the NCAA Tournament.

A victory today gives the Aztecs a compelling argument for NCAA admission and firmly positions them as one of the top three teams in a conference that had three programs ranked in the Top 25. A loss confirms some national suspicions: good team at home, can't get it done against elite teams on the road.

"It wouldn't hurt us (to win), would it?" coach Steve Fisher asked rhetorically. "If you play a team in the top 15 in the country and beat them on their floor, it accents who you are. So we know the value that can be added to a win at BYU. We are well aware of it."

This is a much different team than the one that lost to BYU the first time around. For starters, White is healthy. Last month he was still extremely limited by a high ankle sprain. But in his past five games he's averaging 12.8 points and shooting 64.9 percent from the field.

Since an emotional overtime loss at New Mexico this month, the Aztecs have been on a tear. In their last four games they're shooting nearly 50 percent from the field and have outscored their opponents by an average of more than 16 points.

"They are playing with one purpose," BYU coach Dave Rose said. "Defensively they are all trying to guard the ball and protect the basket. Offensively they are trying to get the best shot on offense. They are really sharing the ball well."

The obvious challenge for the Aztecs is shutting down Jimmer Fredette, who scorched the Aztecs for 33 points in their first meeting. Expect a trio of D.J. Gay, Chase Tapley and Kawhi Leonard to try slowing him down.

With three conference games left before the MWC Tournament in Las Vegas, this is the Aztecs' last chance to make any sort of impression before playing on a neutral court, unless they face UNLV in the tournament. Wins against Colorado State or Air Force won't do much for SDSU's résumé.

"So many things that go into (the selection process) we don't even know about, so you can go crazy thinking about it all the time," Gay said. "All we can do is go out and win."

## 154

**Aztecs, Leonard look ill vs. Cougars**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
February 25, 2010

There are plenty of reasons for the San Diego State Aztecs to be frustrated after last night's 82-68 loss to BYU.

- Their NCAA Tournament chances took a major hit.
- It was their worst loss in Mountain West Conference play this season.

- Kawhi Leonard was far from 100 percent with flulike symptoms.

But perhaps the most frustrating element was that the Cougars did exactly what SDSU coach Steve Fisher said they would all week long: run, run and then run some more.

No. 13 BYU (26-3, 11-2) scored 20 fast-break points and Jimmer Fredette, the presumptive favorite for Mountain West Conference Player of the Year, scored 26 to lead the Cougars to their 21st consecutive win at home in front of a sellout crowd of 22,700.

"When we missed they just attacked and got away with too many conversions," Fisher said. "Easy opportunities."

D.J. Gay led the Aztecs (20-8, 9-5) with 15 points while Malcolm Thomas and Chase Tapley added 13 in SDSU's most lopsided defeat since its 80-58 loss to Saint Mary's on Nov. 16.

Leonard, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, woke up yesterday feeling sick and Fisher said it got progressively worse throughout the day. He managed 24 minutes, but scored just three points on 1-of-5 shooting, and had five rebounds.

"He probably should not have played, but he said he wanted to try," Fisher said. "No excuses from him or from me. We got beat. But Kawhi was not Kawhi."

The loss leaves the Aztecs in bubble limbo, meaning they'll have to make a big impact at next month's conference tournament — if not win the whole thing — to gain entry to the NCAA Tournament.

The teams went toe-to-toe for the first 16 minutes in a first half that featured seven ties and 11 lead changes. Both teams pushed the tempo and bodies flew as some hard fouls were called — and others weren't.

The Cougars started to distance themselves in the final four minutes, going on an 11-3 run and taking a 36-28 advantage at halftime.

The Aztecs shot just 35.5 percent from the field in the first half, but raised it to 50 percent in the second half — finishing at 42.9 percent.

"If you're going to beat a zone, you eventually have to make some perimeter shots," Fisher said. "I thought we had some really good looks. And we got the ball inside. Obviously we didn't do well enough because we got beat by 14."

SDSU opened the second half on a 16-8 run to tie the score at 44-44. But the Aztecs could not take a lead as the Cougars kept pushing the tempo while forcing 16 turnovers, leading to 23 BYU points.

"I think everybody is on edge and eager to get back in the gym," said Gay, who dished out five assists but committed three turnovers. "We hope to see them in the (MWC) tournament. This loss was embarrassing. No excuses. They are a great team. They executed. We didn't."

Fredette, meanwhile, did little to damage his candidacy for league MVP. When it looked like SDSU might regain some momentum, he'd come up with a big shot. He converted 8-of-17 from the field and 4-of-8 from beyond the arc. Ironically, he struggled at the free-throw line, hitting just 6-of-11, well below his conference-leading .899 percent.

"He's as good a guard as I've seen in this league, period," Fisher said.

BYU also edged SDSU in rebounding — the Aztecs' bread-and-butter — enjoying a 38-37 advantage.

"Rebounding was the most important thing we did tonight because once we got the ball out in transition we were able to score because we had the advantage," said BYU coach Dave Rose.

## 155

**San Diego State loses at Brigham Young**

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
February 25, 2010

Three Mountain West Conference teams have enjoyed national rankings in the Associated Press Top 25 this year and San Diego State owns a regular-season split with two of them, New Mexico and UNLV.

But if SDSU wants to manage a win over the third nationally ranked club from the conference, Brigham Young, the Aztecs will have to pull off the upset in the Mountain West Conference tournament.

No. 16-ranked BYU, winning for the 21st straight time at home, completed a regular-season sweep of SDSU with an 82-68 win Wednesday night before a full house of 22,700-plus fans at the Marriott Center in Provo, Utah.

If the Aztecs had managed a split with BYU to go with the New Mexico and UNLV splits, it would have enhanced their NCAA tournament resume for an at-large berth.

BYU (26-3, 11-2) needed to win to remain tied for first place in the loss column after 12th-ranked New Mexico (26-3, 12-2) beat Colorado State 72-66 on Tuesday night at CSU.

"We tried, but they just ran us and ran and when we missed shots they beat us down the floor too many times," SDSU head coach Steve Fisher said. "I thought when we started the second half, I was pleased with the energy. But then they had a 10-0 run and we were never able to get back in it after that."

SDSU (20-8, 9-5) remained in third place as the Aztecs' four-game winning streak came to an end. SDSU is off this weekend before finishing the regular season Wednesday at home against Colorado State and Saturday on the road at Air Force.

BYU point guard Jimmer Fredette, who scored 33 points when BYU won the first meeting 71-69 last month, finished with 26 this time.

Junior point guard D.J. Gay led the Aztecs with 15 points and five assists. SDSU freshman Kawhi Leonard was ill and had a sub-par game with three points. Fisher said he had considered not playing Leonard because of the illness.

San Diego State overcame a 36-28 halftime deficit to tie the game at 44-44 with 15:29 to play on a basket by Kelvin Davis. But BYU quickly responded with a 5-0 run for a 49-44 advantage capped by a 3-pointer by Jackson Emery that forced an SDSU timeout.

From there, the Cougars extended their lead to 10 points at 56-46 with 11:53 left in the game on a basket by Charles Abouo.

BYU's multiple runs throughout the night were the difference in the game. In the first half, the game was tied 25-25 when Fredette hit a 3-pointer to start an 11-0 run for a 36-25 lead. It would have remained an 11-point lead at intermission, but Chase Tapley hit a 3-point basket with four seconds remaining in the half to trim the deficit to 36-28.

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## 156

### Aztecs' Shelley will miss two games

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 2, 2010

San Diego State guard Tyrone Shelley will miss the remaining two regular-season games with a broken thumb in his shooting hand.

The right-handed Shelley injured his thumb Feb. 20 against Utah, then reinjured it last week against BYU. He had a pin inserted Friday and is expected to miss seven to 10 days.

The Aztecs face Colorado State tomorrow night in their home finale, then travel to Air Force on Saturday for the regular-season finale before starting next week's Mountain West Conference Tournament. Coach Steve Fisher said he expects the sophomore will be ready to play in the tournament.

Shelley averages 6.7 points and four rebounds in 19.8 minutes per game as one of the first players off the bench — though the Aztecs' numbers are dwindling and they'll dress only eight players for the final two games.

In other injury news, junior forward Billy White re-aggravated his ankle last week against BYU, but is expected to play tomorrow night. Freshman Kawhi Leonard, who was slowed against BYU with flu-like symptoms, has recovered, Fisher said.

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## 157

### Savoring his senior season

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 3, 2010

After tonight, Kelvin Davis never wants to play another basketball game at Viejas Arena.

Of course, the San Diego State senior has fond memories of his time in that venue — which comes to a close tonight against Colorado State in SDSU's home finale.

But another home game for the Aztecs would mean they failed to reach the NCAA Tournament and are hosting a first-round game in the NIT. And as much as he loves home, it's not where he wants to end his college basketball career.

"I just want to win," Davis said. "Everybody has hopes of that big final game at home and that would be nice. But I just want to have a fun game with my teammates and get a win. Just enjoy the moment."

Davis has savored every moment this season. After being diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in the spring of 2008, the fact that he's even on the basketball court is a tribute to his determination, SDSU coach Steve Fisher said.

"(He) has met a fate that none of us want any of our family to be associated with and that is cancer," said Fisher, a cancer survivor himself. "(He) dealt with it with the dignity and toughness that you hope you could. It will be a proud moment for us as he goes out again this year, this for the last time as a sixth-year senior."

Davis was actually honored on senior night last year while still waiting to hear from the NCAA if he'd be granted a sixth year of eligibility. Fisher jokingly called that a mulligan.

Averaging a little more than 18 minutes per game, Davis is usually the first off the bench and is averaging 6.7 points. But it's his experience/experiences that makes him a valuable member of the Aztecs.

"It was hard at times," said junior D.J. Gay, referring to watching Davis undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatment. "It shows his strength as a person, physically and mentally, the way that he bounced back from everything that did happen to him. He is a great teammate, great friend, we're all going to miss him and hopefully he can go out with a bang."

A bang would be just what the Aztecs need as they keep their hopes for an NCAA Tournament berth alive. Following tonight's game, the Aztecs play at Air Force in the regular-season finale before heading to Las Vegas for next week's Mountain West Conference Tournament. It's the opinion of some national bracketologists that getting to the MWC Tournament final would be enough to get SDSU an at-large bid into the tournament. If they win the MWC Tournament, they get an automatic berth.

"I know that if we don't win, we won't be in," said Fisher. "... I know we need to win (today) and we need to win on Saturday. This is not a lot different than where we were last year at this time and we made the NIT. We just have to play and if we win that will take care of itself. If we don't, we'll be nervous like we were last year."

With a lot of new faces on the Aztecs this year, most weren't familiar with Davis and his story. He doesn't go out of his way to impart wisdom. But as the team's only senior, he's not afraid to share with the younger players the importance of enjoying their time on the court.

"Everybody has their own stories and everyone has gone through their own issues or problems so I don't put my experience above everybody," Davis said. "I tell them it goes by fast. My experience is to let them know that nothing is promised. You might not play next year. Just enjoy every moment while you can."

Also tonight, guard Jason Deutchman will be honored as a graduating senior. Though he's listed as a junior athletically, he is a senior academically. He appeared in just three games this year — his last appearance coming Nov. 28 against Northern Arizona. He has been out with injuries since December.

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### Nearly perfect finish for SDSU

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 4, 2010

The popular belief is that the San Diego State Aztecs could only hurt their cause

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for an NCAA Tournament berth this week with their final two Mountain West Conference games.

An at-large or automatic berth can still be had — but a strong performance at next week's Mountain West Conference Tournament in Las Vegas is required. That, plus avoiding any other unforeseen snafus.

The Aztecs successfully dodged the first of two potential pitfalls last night with a 68-55 win over Colorado State in their home finale at Viejas Arena. In front of an announced crowd of 8,043, the Aztecs (21-8, 10-5) took the lead on their first possession and never gave it up, dealing the Rams (15-14, 6-9) their fifth consecutive loss this season and fifth straight loss to the Aztecs.

San Diego State has won five of its past six and finishes its home schedule with a 14-1 mark. The Aztecs close out the regular season Saturday at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

It was a par-for-the-course performance last night from SDSU. The Aztecs were sloppy at times with 15 turnovers, but their athleticism and sharper-than-usual outside shooting and free-throw shooting more than made up for it.

D.J. Gay led a first-half charge as the Aztecs jumped ahead early, forcing 11 turnovers before halftime and turning them into 18 points. Gay scored 11 in the first half, including a pair of three-pointers in the final 2:15 to help the Aztecs close out the first half on an 8-2 run.

Gay finished the night with a team-leading 16 points on 4-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc.

San Diego State coach Steve Fisher praised Gay's performance on defense. Gay drew CSU point guard Dorian Green, who ranked eighth in the conference with an average 12.4 points per game. Gay shut him down completely, holding Green to zero points and 0-for-4 shooting.

"I thought we really defended well in the first half," Fisher said.

Kawhi Leonard (14 points, 15 rebounds) turned in his 14th double-double of the season and Malcolm Thomas contributed 10 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

The Aztecs never relinquished the double-digit lead, forcing 14 turnovers and holding the Rams to 40 percent shooting. The Aztecs shot 47.9 percent from the field.

Kelvin Davis, who was honored before the game on senior night, scored eight points in his final regular-season game at Viejas Arena.

SDSU eventually stretched its lead to 19 in the second half. The fans who remained in the closing minutes cheered wildly when SDSU student manager Ben Kneller, who was also honored as a graduating senior, made his season debut. With 1:09 remaining, he subbed in and was fouled 18 seconds later when Gay got the ball to him knowing a foul was coming. He air-balled his first free-throw, but swished his second, bringing the remaining fans to their feet for a standing ovation.

"I was proud of how DJ told Ben 'I'm going to find you the ball so you can make a free throw,'" Fisher said.

### 159 Aztecs honor seniors with victory

By Scott Bair | North County Times  
March 4, 2010

The game was over early.

The San Diego State men's basketball team dominated Colorado State on Wednesday night at Viejas Arena in a contest that was never really close. The Aztecs were supposed to win this one big, which they did, rarely playing down to their less-athletic competition in a 68-55 victory.

Once the lead was secure, they worked on correcting the flaws they displayed in last week's lopsided loss at No. 14 Brigham Young.

They certainly made progress.

"The goal was to focus on us," said point guard D.J. Gay, who scored a team-high

16 points and held his counterpart, Colorado State's Dorian Green, scoreless on defense.

"We were working on execution and playing smart, because (when) we do that, we shouldn't get beat too often."

While there were a few problems ---- too many turnovers and too many offensive rebounds by Colorado State ---- the Aztecs (21-8, 10-5 Mountain West) shot well and played strong defense in producing a convincing victory.

Freshman Kawhi Leonard, showing no lingering effects from an illness that sidelined him for much of the BYU loss, collected 14 points and 15 rebounds for his 14th double-double of the season. Leonard had four points and six rebounds in the game's first 3 1/2 minutes.

And the Aztecs were proficient from 3-point range, a rarity this season. San Diego State shot 8-for-21 from behind the arc, including 5-for-12 in the first half. They didn't hurt themselves with free-throw shooting either, converting 14-of-18 attempts.

The game also served to highlight some lesser-known Aztecs.

Kelvin Davis, San Diego State's lone impact senior, played well in scoring eight points on a night when he received a standing ovation during a pregame ceremony.

"It wasn't my first (senior night)," said Davis, a fan favorite who overcame a bout with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was granted a sixth year of eligibility because of it.

"Last year's senior night was an emotional night, as was this one. We had a good time out there, but the most important thing was securing the win."

Well, that and getting Ben Kneller on the court. The NCAA cleared San Diego State's team manager to play, and the Aztecs surprised him Wednesday afternoon with a uniform and a spot on the bench. Coach Steve Fisher inserted the 6-foot-6 senior into the game with roughly a minute remaining, and Kneller got to the foul line shortly thereafter.

His first free-throw landed way short, but he put the second one through, sending the crowd of 8,043 into hysterics.

"It was a really nice moment," Fisher said. "The players were really excited when I told them the news at shootaround, and D.J. did a great job of helping (Kneller) get to the line. At that point, I was pleased he didn't go 0-for-2."

It was one of the few highlights of a game that was never in doubt.

The Aztecs took a 33-19 halftime lead thanks to an 11-2 flurry to end the first half.

Gay was largely responsible, pouring in eight unanswered points to close out the half. They never let go of the lead and cruised to their seventh win in nine games.

The Aztecs have one regular season game remaining ---- Saturday at Air Force ---- before the conference tournament begins next week. The Aztecs can only hurt their NCAA tournament resume against the hapless Falcons.

If they don't reach the NCAA tournament, a spot in the National Invitational Tournament is virtually guaranteed.

Fisher said improvement must still be made before the brackets are compiled.

"We have high expectations, so they're going to hear about it when they do little things wrong," Fisher said. "You have to be precise and execute consistently to get where we want to go."

### 160 San Diego State team manager gets ultimate surprise on Senior Night

By Tim Gardner | USA Today  
March 5, 2010

For most college basketball players, it was just two free throws in the waning moments of a blowout win.

But for Ben Kneller, it was much more.

You see, Kneller is a senior manager for the San Diego State basketball team. But on Wednesday, he got a big surprise when coach Steve Fisher handed him a uniform and told him the NCAA had cleared him to play on Senior Night.

And so Kneller took his spot on the bench and enjoyed the game from a different perspective. But the Aztecs took control of the game vs. Colorado State, building a sizeable lead in the game's final minutes. That's when Fisher called Kneller's number.

The 6-6 senior entered the game with 1:09 remaining. Just moments later, Kneller was on the free throw line after getting fouled by Colorado State's Greg Smith.

The first free throw landed well short, according to the North County (Calif.) Times. Kneller made the second shot, sending the Aztec faithful into a frenzy.

"It was a really nice moment," Fisher said. "The players were really excited when I told them the news at shootaround, and D.J. (Gay) did a great job of helping (Kneller) get to the line. At that point, I was pleased he didn't go 0-for-2."

So was Kneller.

### 161 Team manager becomes player for a night

By Bob Buttitta | Ventura County Star  
March 5, 2010

Former Notre Dame walk-on football player Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger was immortalized by Hollywood even though he played just two plays for the Fighting Irish. Ben Kneller doesn't figure to become the cult hero Ruettiger has, but on Wednesday night the Westlake High graduate had his own "Rudy" moment.

It happened during the final minute of the Mountain West Conference game between San Diego State and Colorado State, which also happened to be senior night.

For the last four years, Kneller has been the manager for the Aztecs men's basketball team, helping any way he could.

He knew he would be honored along with the other seniors, but had no idea what head coach Steve Fisher had cooked up for him.

Fisher said his assistant coaches came to him several weeks ago and asked what they could do to give Kneller a special thank you.

Their thanks came in the form of giving Kneller a chance to be a Division I basketball player for a night.

Working with the NCAA Clearinghouse, the Aztecs coaches, along with Kneller's mom, Leslie and fiancée Emily, battled through the red tape so he could be added to the roster.

Kneller was cleared by the NCAA at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday. At 2 p.m., Fisher summoned him to the basketball office and gave him the good news.

"He told me I had been an asset to the program, and he said how much they appreciated all the hard work I had done. Then he told me they wanted to do this for me," Kneller said via telephone. "It was a dream come true."

He became the second manager in Fisher's tenure to be so honored, joining David Velasquez.

Kneller is no stranger to the court, having played for coach Tom Donahue's Westlake squad for two seasons. The last few summers, he has also helped Donahue with offseason practices.

Kneller went through pregame warmups with his Aztecs teammates, admitting afterward what a surreal feeling it was.

When Fisher informed Kneller he would dress, he told him he would try to get him in the game, but to be prepared for it not to happen.

With just more than a minute left and San Diego State holding a solid lead, the crowd started chanting "Put Ben in, put Ben in."

Shortly after, Fisher told "33" to check in.

Thirty-three was Kneller's number at Westlake, chosen in honor of his favorite player, Patrick Ewing. By chance, he was issued the same number for his one-game stint with the Aztecs.

The crowd and his teammates on the bench roared with delight as Kneller entered the game. D.J. Gay, the team's point guard told him to inbound the ball to him, and then Gay quickly passed it back, forcing Colorado State to foul Kneller.

As the crowd went wild, Kneller stepped to the free-throw line and proceeded to shoot an air ball.

"I thought I'd have all kinds of things going through my head, but I didn't think of anything," Kneller said. "I forgot to bend my knees, I just grabbed the ball and got it out of my hands as fast as I could."

After his first attempt, Kneller stepped back, took a deep breath and fired, sinking the shot, causing the crowd and the Aztecs bench to erupt.

"It was so cool," Kneller said of the experience. "The last four years have been awesome. I have learned so much from Coach Fisher and the other coaches.

"It's amazing. I woke up Wednesday morning as a team manager and went to sleep as a Division I basketball player."

### 162 Student manager fulfills Division I dreams as player for a night

By Jeff Eisenberg | Yahoo.com  
March 5, 2010

Hours after he'd picked up his freshly pressed suit from the dry cleaner for Wednesday's senior night festivities at San Diego State, fourth-year student manager Ben Kneller learned he wouldn't need his fancy duds.

Aztecs coach Steve Fisher wanted him in uniform instead.

As a reward for four years of service to San Diego State's basketball program, Fisher called Kneller into his office Wednesday afternoon, handed him a No. 33 jersey and told him to prepare to play that night against Colorado State. Kneller not only got to check into the game when the Aztecs' lead ballooned to double figures in the final two minutes, he also scored a point on a free throw with 53 seconds remaining.

"The smile hasn't left my face ever since," Kneller said by phone Thursday night. "I woke up Wednesday morning as a manager and I fell asleep as a Division I basketball player. It was pretty cool."

Although Kneller played intramural basketball at San Diego State and started for his high school team years earlier, the Westlake Village, Calif. native never even considered trying to make San Diego State's team. Kneller believes his future lies in coaching, which is why he relished even the not-so-glamorous aspects of being a student manager like setting up practice, rebounding for players and handing out water bottles during games.

The process of getting Kneller in uniform on Wednesday began with a phone call from Fisher to the student manager's fiancée last week. Without Kneller's knowledge, his fiancée and his mother then obtained a copy of his high school transcripts and submitted his SAT scores so the NCAA clearinghouse would make him eligible to play.

Since Kneller's teammates knew he would only get in the game if they got ahead by a safe amount of points, the chance to see him on the court became a goal for them to strive toward. Sure enough, with 1:09 to go in the second half, the Aztecs comfortably ahead 66-51 and the crowd chanting "We want Ben," Fisher walked down to Kneller and told him to check in for junior Brian Carlwell.

"As soon as he said that, I hopped out of my chair as quick as I could, took my warmup jacket off and ran to the scorer's table," Kneller said. "I wanted to make sure he couldn't change his mind."

Knowing that Colorado State would foul to stop the clock, San Diego State's D.J. Gay passed the ball back to Kneller as soon as he inbounded it and the Rams sent the student manager to the free throw line. Kneller rushed his first one and came up a few inches shy of the rim. He redeemed himself by rattling home the second one with the crowd roaring and his teammates pumping their fists on the

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bench.

"I don't think there was any pressure because I told myself, 'It can't get worse than the first one,'" Kneller chuckled. "As long as I hit the rim, it was going to be better than the first."

Kneller's cell phone has hardly stopped buzzing since Wednesday night as friends who he hasn't spoken to in years call or text to offer congratulations.

The whole experience has been so memorable that Kneller hopes to one day do the same for a student manager if he ever fulfills his dreams of becoming a college head coach.

"I know how special it is," Kneller said. "If I'm in that position, I'd definitely look out for whoever the manager is."

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**White finds it difficult living up to the hype**

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 6, 2010

Sometimes, all Billy White needs to do is relax and take a deep breath. Other times, it's elevating above an opponent and dunking in their face — followed by a primal scream.

As the San Diego State forward continues to grow into his role as a team leader, he's learning more about himself this season than any other. He's growing up, learning how to handle some adversity and finding ways to play through frustration.

"That's what we talk about all the time — he needs to be more consistent," said SDSU assistant coach Justin Hutson. "And he's getting better."

The hype surrounding White started before he even recorded a single minute of playing time. Tabbed as a preseason first-team All-Mountain West Conference selection, there were high expectations on the 6-foot-8 junior to carry a team that had lost five key players — Kyle Spain, Lorenzo Wade, Ryan Amoroso, Richie Williams and Matt Thomas.

"It was really hard and I thought about it all summer," White said. "Those guys had always been there. But Lorenzo told me 'This is your team now. You, D.J. (Gay) and K.D. (Kelvin Davis) are the leaders.' It took some time to adjust."

But time hasn't always been on his side this year. A preseason wrist injury and a nagging high ankle sprain have tempered some of those expectations and limited him in some games. His numbers are nothing to scoff at: 10.7 points per game, 4.6 rebounds per game and a conference-best 57 percent shooting from the field.

"It's been really up and down for me this year," White said. "Some games I don't do much. Others I play terrific. I won't use the injuries as an excuse. I don't like sitting out. If I had a broken foot, I'd still want to play."

That fact that he hasn't always been 100 percent has led to mounting frustration. There are games where he doesn't get as many looks or can't cut the hoop as quickly as he'd like. It becomes a ripple effect. That's where the deep breath comes in.

"That's still something that we constantly talk about and remind him of," said coach Steve Fisher. "When he's able to take a deep breath and exhale, he's successful. If he remains tight and frustrated, it shows and he's not near what he's capable of doing."

There's no doubt the Aztecs need a healthy and focused White as they face Air Force tonight in Colorado Springs, Colo. in the regular-season finale — and if they hope to make a dent next week in the conference tournament. They are 20-5 when he's in the starting lineup and 11-4 this season when he reaches double digits in scoring. SDSU is 31-12 for White's career when he scores in double figures.

"He's gotten a lot of criticism this year," said fellow big man Malcolm Thomas. "But he's such a hard worker. All I can say is I'm glad he's on my side."

When he's hot, he's sensational. That was never more evident than in last month's win over UNLV, when he dropped 19 points on the Rebels. When healthy, he's SDSU's most complete player on both ends of the court. Still ham-

pered by the ankle sprain, which he aggravated last week against BYU, White said he's doing everything he can to get healthy and get his team to the NCAA Tournament.

"We know what it's like to be in the NIT," White said. "But that's something the older guys told me when they left. They said it's time for you guys take this team to the next level. That's what I'm trying to do."

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**Air Force gets wings clipped by the Aztecs**

By Theresa Smith | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 7, 2010

Conventional wisdom deemed that a loss last night would have severely hurt San Diego State's chances of making the NCAA Tournament.

On the flip side, a victory is no harbinger of a berth, coach Steve Fisher admitted after his squad claimed a 61-42 dismantling of Air Force at Clune Arena.

Fisher believes SDSU (22-8, 11-5) still needs a few more victories in next week's Mountain West Conference Tournament at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The fourth-seeded Aztecs open against Colorado State (16-14, 7-9) on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

"Hopefully, we'll go to Vegas and win three games and take all the doubt out," Fisher said. "This is a really, really good league with, in my opinion, four NCAA-deserving teams. Whether that'll happen, it has never happened before, but we've never had three teams at one time ranked in the Top 25, and we have that now."

If the tournament committee is seeking teams that fans can wrap their hearts around, it need look no further than the injury-riddled Aztecs and their versatile manager, Ben Kneller.

In his 98-second, late-in-the-game appearance, Kneller missed a shot after a baseline spin move and pulled down a rebound, but missed the contested follow shot. When time expired and his teammates went through the handshake line with the Falcons, Kneller hurriedly gathered towels and sweat pants and loaded equipment to haul to the locker room.

"We all believe Ben deserves the chance to be out there," said teammate Malcolm Thomas, who helped SDSU shoot 57.9 percent from the field with a 7-for-8 mark for a game-high 18 points, primarily on jump hooks.

Freshman Kawhi Leonard was also a deadeye, hitting a pair of three-pointers, a few midrange jumpers and a runaway dunk for a 7-for-11 mark and 16 points.

With seven rebounds, Leonard increased his season total to 287, becoming the first freshman to lead the MWC in rebounding since Utah's Andrew Bogut in 2004.

Point guard D.J. Gay played all 40 minutes, patiently dissecting the Falcons' pesky zone while scoring 10 points with five assists and no turnovers.

From the outset, the Aztecs' unyielding, man-to-man defense, which finished with seven blocks and seven steals, often forced the Falcons into poor shots, limiting them to 25 percent first-half shooting.

SDSU's 27-14 halftime lead was the lowest-scoring total allowed by the Aztecs in a half this season and the fewest Air Force had scored in a half.

The home team drew within nine in the second half, but a Leonard three-pointer and a press that produced two turnovers and fast-break scores restored order.

In Fisher's mind, that order will lead to an NCAA berth if his players simply follow his mantra: "Just win the next one, and eventually, all of a sudden, you'll wake up and you're in."

Freshman guard Chase Tapley did not play because of a broken bone in his shooting (right) hand suffered Thursday against Colorado State. Sophomore guard Tyrone Shelley was sidelined by a broken left hand, but could have played in an emergency situation.

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**SDSU finds the bubble perilously precarious**

By Tim Sullivan | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 8, 2010

What Steve Fisher needs is a bigger bubble.

The one he's perched on is precarious, delicate, dicey. Fairly begging to burst.

If Fisher's San Diego State Aztecs are to advance to the NCAA Tournament, they are going to need more margin than they can currently claim. They will need to make some joyful noise at the Mountain West Tournament next weekend. They likely need at least two more wins to secure a berth in the NCAA bracket.

Otherwise, they're looking at a fourth straight trip to college basketball's consolation prize: the NIT.

"San Diego State seems to be in that permanent situation the last couple years where they're right there," Joe Lunardi said last week. "A lot of people thought they were the first one out last year. They could be in a similar situation Sunday afternoon ...

"I think they have to get to the (MWC) final."

Lunardi is the high priest of Bracketology, the St. Joseph's University vice president who doubles as ESPN's resident expert on tournament worthiness. Two years ago, his final analysis correctly forecast all 65 teams in the NCAA field. Last year, he hit on 63 out of 65.

Friday, Lunardi's analysis identified the Aztecs as the Last Team In and, conversely, the first team that would be bumped in the event of a conference tournament upset. Saturday and Sunday, he made them one spot more secure — the second most vulnerable team in his bracket. Sunday afternoon, the updated bracket of CBSsports.com's Jerry Palm showed SDSU as the Last Team In.

Hardly an enviable position, that. Life on the NCAA bubble is like a game of musical chairs in which new contestants arrive unannounced and chairs are prone to disappear ahead of schedule. It's one of those peculiar places where you can lose ground while standing still.

"The bubble," Lunardi says, ominously, "is going to shrink."

This is a lousy way to live if you're a 22-win team like the Aztecs, still uncertain of their payoff after months of distinguished perspiration.

"I've told our team not to pay attention to it," Fisher said last week. "But it's impossible if you're a sports fan not to pay some attention to it. You turn on the TV and it's always there in front of you.

"I'd say the nice thing about it is they're talking about us. Three weeks ago, we were not being talked about. And I think we're being talked about in a positive vein."

With 10 victories in their past 13 games, four losses by three points or less, and a Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) of 33, the Aztecs are plainly entitled to some praise.

Yet because the NCAA Selection Committee awards only 34 at-large bids for the 65-team tournament, several praiseworthy squads stand to get squeezed out.

"We're making a big run at the right time," Aztecs guard D.J. Gay said yesterday.

"We're playing some of our best basketball of the season. (But) I don't know what we have to do. There are so many politics that go into it. If we win (the MWC Tournament), we're going to be in. If we don't, it's a coin flip."

Some deserving team gets snubbed every spring. That's just the way it is. It may not, however, be the way things work in the future.

In its ceaseless search for additional revenue, the NCAA is exploring an expansion of March Madness that could eliminate a lot of anxiety in Bubbledom and beyond. Though the size of future brackets could fluctuate, potential rightsholders have been asked to make proposals based on projected fields of 68 and 96 teams. The NCAA has until July 31 to opt out of its current \$6 billion deal with CBS.

To some, this is a welcome effort to extract more milk from the NCAA's cash cow. To others, it risks messing with a mighty good thing. To me, it is further proof of the NCAA's cynicism and distorted values — another unilateral and unnecessary

encroachment on the classroom education of the unpaid quasi-students who play bigtime basketball.

To Steve Fisher, it is something of a mixed bag, but mostly a bonanza.

"The three weeks in March is the greatest sports spectacular, period," Fisher said. "So from that standpoint, I'd say I'd hate to see it change. From a selfish, personal standpoint, I'd say let's expand it so we have a better chance to get in — without damaging the value of the game.

"If I had a vote, I'd say let's expand. But I love the way it is right now."

Fisher's self-interest is both obvious and acknowledged. In leading SDSU hoops to the highest level in its history, including an unprecedented fifth straight 20-win season, Fisher has simultaneously elevated expectations. There's a noisy segment of Aztecs fans who view repeated trips to the NIT as proof that the program has stopped progressing. Though Fisher's job is no more at risk than is Nebraska of a naval bombardment, he could quiet a lot of carping with another NCAA appearance.

While a 96-team field could not improve the caliber of the tournament's competition, it would change the composition of the bubble teams from the nearly deserving to the virtually irredeemable and alleviate a lot of pressure on coaches.

That's not the purpose behind the expansion plans — this initiative is about revenue, not tenure — but it is a good way to get votes.

"There's no good basketball reason to do it, to expand, at least to expand dramatically," Lunardi said. "This year's No. 66 is not going to be good enough to play for the national championship, so I would be hard-pressed to make a case for No. 96. I don't think the world would be any worse off if we don't have 13 Big East teams in the tournament."

Would the world be better off with four Mountain West teams in the tournament instead of three? Depends on how much value you attach to Steve Fisher's sleep.

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### Aztecs' Leonard named conference's top frosh

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 9, 2010

San Diego State freshman basketball player Kawhi Leonard now has the hardware to go with the hype. Yesterday, he became the first freshman in Mountain West Conference history to be selected to the all-league first team.

And, as expected, he was crowned the MWC Freshman of the Year — a notable preseason honor that became a postseason reality thanks to 14 doubledoubles and an average of 14.4 points, 9.6 rebounds and 48 percent shooting from the field.

"Very excited," Leonard said. "I feel lucky. There were a lot of freshmen in the conference that were pretty much doing a lot of work for their teams so I'm excited and surprised about the award."

Point guard D.J. Gay, however, wouldn't let his teammate off that easily.

"I think Kawhi's being humble," Gay said. "Nobody is surprised. He's played a big role for our team this year. Rebounding, scoring. He's been a go-to guy for us this year ... It's a blessing to have him on our team. I'm glad he's on our team and I'm not playing against him."

Joining Leonard with postseason honors were forward Malcolm Thomas, who was named to the second team, while forward Billy White and Gay received honorable mention.

"I'm happy," Thomas said. "I feel like there were other players doing more than me (like Gay and White) but I'm excited and happy."

Coach Steve Fisher — who prefers to shine the spotlight on his team as a whole rather than individuals — broke that trend by starting his news conference yesterday afternoon with an assertive statement about Gay and his importance to the team.

"Our most important player is D.J. Gay. I've said that before," Fisher said. "His 2-to-1 assist-to-turnovers. He guards the opponent's best perimeter player. He's

been asked to play 40 minutes a game the last few games. He plays with great intelligence and he's our most important player. I almost wish they wouldn't give these individual awards ... D.J. is invaluable to us. The rest of the team knows that, but I wanted to make sure I made that statement."

#### More honors for Kawhi

It was a good day for Leonard. He was named to the second-team Sporting News All-Freshman squad. Leonard was one of 10 freshmen to be honored by the national publication. To go with his postseason awards, he was also named — for the third time this season — the conference Player of the Week. In wins over Colorado State and Air Force, he averaged a team-best 16 points, 11 rebounds, and 2.5 steals, while shooting 52 percent (13-of-25) from the field. That award marked the first time in MWC history a freshman was named Player of the Week three times.

#### Familiar foe

The No. 4 Aztecs will face No.5 Colorado State in the opening round of the MWC Tournament Thursday, a little more than a week after beating the Rams at home 68-55. But there's no real advantage/disadvantage to facing a team just eight days later, Fisher said.

"It's the same for both teams," he said. "It won't take much remembering to think about last Wednesday ... and what happened and the game plan and the prep. Same thing for them. It's probably easier to prepare for that game, but it's likewise the same thing for Colorado State."

#### Injury updates

Tyrone Shelley had stitches removed from his injured right thumb and Fisher said he expects him to be ready for Colorado State. He dressed for Saturday's win against Air Force, but did not play.

"He thinks he'll be ready and I do too," Fisher said.

He seemed less encouraged about freshman Chase Tapley, who did not dress against Air Force because of a broken bone in his left hand.

"There's a big question mark on Chase," Fisher said.

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##### Life on the bubble

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 9, 2010

A daily look at San Diego State's constantly shifting chances of reaching the NCAA men's basketball tournament. The 65-team field will be named Sunday afternoon.

**The experts:** They remained largely split. ESPN's Joe Lunardi and CBS' Jerry Palm have SDSU among the last teams getting in; USA Today's Tim Gardner and "Dance Card" have the Aztecs as the first team out.

**Yesterday:** Old Dominion nearly blew a double-digit lead before hanging on to win the Colonial championship against William and Mary, a huge relief for SDSU fans because a loss by ODU (26-8) might have pushed the Aztecs lower in the at-large pecking order. Saint Mary's is no longer on the bubble after blasting Gonzaga in the West Coast Conference final, meaning the WCC will get two teams in the tournament. But most folks figured both were in regardless.

**Today:** Keep an eye on the Horizon Conference final between Wright State and host Butler at 6 p.m. A Wright State win would bump another at-large team because Butler (27-4) is getting in no matter what. The finals of the Summit and Sun Belt are today as well, but the results shouldn't impact the bubble teams.

**Bottom line:** Not much has changed for the Aztecs, which is both good and bad. They remain in the thick of the conversation for an at-large berth but still precariously close to having their bubble burst.

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##### Life on the bubble

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 10, 2010

A daily look at San Diego State's constantly shifting chances of reaching the NCAA men's basketball tournament. The 65-team field will be named Sunday afternoon.

**The experts:** Different sources, different answers. ESPN's Joe Lunardi, considered the master, says SDSU and Illinois are in but Washington and Mississippi are out. "Dance Card," a computer formula which claims an impressive 93-percent success rate over the past 15 years, has Washington and Ole Miss in but SDSU and Illinois out.

**Yesterday:** Butler blew out Wright State in the Horizon final, which was good news for the Aztecs since Butler would have claimed an at-large berth had it lost. UConn lost in the Big East Tournament, effectively ending the Huskies' hopes, but fellow bubble teams Seton Hall and South Florida remained alive.

**Today:** Notre Dame plays Seton Hall in the quarterfinals of the Big East, and the loser could be out. The same might go for Rhode Island-St. Louis in the Atlantic 10. Conference tournaments in the Big 12, Big West, Conference USA and Pac-10 all open today.

**Bottom line:** A reasonably good day for the Aztecs, considering UConn is probably out of the picture and Butler didn't screw up.

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##### San Diego State in familiar place — on the bubble

By Jeff Call | Deseret News  
March 10, 2010

San Diego State enters this week's Mountain West Conference Tournament balancing precariously on the bubble.

Just like last year.

The Aztecs (22-8), the No. 4 seed, take on No. 5 Colorado State on Thursday afternoon at the Thomas & Mack Center. One week ago, San Diego State defeated CSU at home, 68-55. If they get past the Rams again, they could face No. 1 seed New Mexico in the semifinals.

Several NCAA Tournament prognosticators consider SDSU either one of the last teams in the Big Dance, or one of the last teams out.

Coach Steve Fisher has addressed this matter with his team.

"We told them a month ago not to pay attention to anything other than what we tell you about the next game," he said. "But it's almost impossible to do that if you're a sports fan and turn on the TV. You see what they're saying. I guess it's good to be mentioned.

"We're sitting in a similar position as last year. We were talked about as one of the teams maybe in, maybe out. Which is exciting, a little unnerving. But you can't do anything other than go play. If you win, you take away the anxiety."

A year ago, the Aztecs knocked off UNLV in quarterfinals of the tournament, then upset No. 1 BYU in the semis. They fell in the championship game to Utah and failed to get into the NCAAs.

"We want to make the NCAA Tournament," said Fisher. "We're smart enough to know we need to win a game or two in order to do that. Or maybe win the whole thing. Who knows? Colorado State is going in with the same kind of pressure. They want to be postseason-bound. They need to win, too. ... Like everyone else, we have a lot to play for. We feel there are a lot of teams in this conference that can go into Vegas and win this conference tournament. We're hoping to survive and advance. That's our goal."

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##### Aztecs in must-win situation

By Kevin Gemmell | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 11, 2010

It's been a pretty good year for the Mountain West Conference. Five football teams went to bowl games — including a BCS game — and four of them won. Two men's basketball teams are ranked in the Top 20 and three were ranked in the Top 25 in the same week.

The conference has outgrown its midmajor moniker and is typically the first league referenced outside the "power" conferences. Its national reputation has never been better. That's important for San Diego State as it opens the MWC Tournament at 2:30 this afternoon at the Thomas & Mack Center against Colorado State, with the hopes of obtaining an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.



The fact the conference continues to get national chatter — and the Aztecs beat two of those ranked teams — can only help SDSU's cause.

"Our league, not unlike football, has grown in how the people in the state of Florida, the state of New York, the state of Washington view our league," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher. "... It's good for the league. I think our league has been talked about as 'Hey, this is doggone good basketball.'"

At the forefront is No.8 New Mexico, winner of 14 straight and No.14 BYU, led by sharpshooting guard Jimmer Fredette. Along with UNLV, which spent some time in the Top 25, the league's national perception is skyrocketing.

"We are right there a notch below," Fisher said.

While most other conferences claim one or two superior teams, four squads from the MWC can make a strong case for why they could win the MWC Tournament and get an automatic invitation to the NCAA Tournament — including San Diego State.

"I know this league is really, really competitive," said BYU coach Dave Rose. "Since the day it was born and I've been associated with the league, I've seen it grow and the coaching and the players that are in this league are as good as any ... There are four teams that deserve to be in the tournament."

Is SDSU one of those teams?

"Absolutely," Rose said.

But reputation alone won't send the Aztecs to the dance. If they fail to beat Colorado State in their opening game, they will probably be relegated to the National Invitation Tournament for the fourth straight year.

"We know what it's like to be in the NIT," said SDSU forward Billy White. "We want to start taking it to the next level."

Depending on which pundit you read, the Aztecs:

- Need only beat Colorado State today to secure an at-large bid in the NCAA Tournament.
- Must win two games, which likely would mean beating New Mexico in the semifinals.
- Must win the tournament, which probably means beating New Mexico and BYU (or UNLV on its home floor).

Point guard D.J. Gay would rather take the guesswork out of the process.

"We just have to win," he said. "If we lose, odds are going to be against us. We are watching every game to see who's winning and who's losing. If you want to get into the tournament we have to go into Vegas and just win. That's how I look at it. We win the tournament and we are in. If we don't, it could go either way. It's a coin toss."

Added Fisher: "It helps because there are two teams ranked in the league right now and that enhances everybody's perception and all these things they talk about that they put in, RPI, etc. ... We've never gotten four (teams) in, though. Can we buck that trend? That's the question. I think there are four deserving teams."

The bracket certainly plays out in SDSU's favor. Colorado State beat Utah on Saturday, earning the Rams the right to play SDSU instead of Utah. While SDSU swept both teams this year, the Aztecs match up better with the Rams.

Also, SDSU is bracketed to play in the semifinals against New Mexico, a team it beat at Viejas Arena and lost to in overtime in Albuquerque. As the No.4 seed, the Aztecs won't have to face either BYU (which swept SDSU) or UNLV (which beat the Aztecs in Las Vegas) until the finals.

"Colorado State is a good team and we can't underestimate them," Gay said. "BYU tends to give us a little more trouble (than New Mexico). I'd like to play them again, but I'd rather see them in the championship than the semifinals. The road we are taking is a good road to get us where we are going."

#### Handicapping the MWC

The Mountain West Conference men's basketball tournament is widely regarded as a four-team race. A closer look at those four and their chances in Las Vegas:

#### No. 8 New Mexico (28-3, 14-2)

No.1 seed (conference champion)

**Why the Lobos will win:** They have the most complete team with the inside power of MWC Player of the Year Darington Hobson, the outside shooting of Roman Martinez and the guard play of Dairese Gary.

**Why the Lobos won't win:** Believe it or not, it's because of the Aztecs. SDSU has given New Mexico fits twice this year, beating the Lobos once in San Diego and barely losing in overtime in Albuquerque. SDSU matches up better with New Mexico than any team in the league, setting up what should be a sensational semifinal.

#### No. 14 BYU (28-4, 13-3)

No.2 seed (second in MWC)

**Why the Cougars will win:** One of the sharpest-shooting teams in the country, they have the best guard play in the MWC. Jimmer Fredette is one of the most dangerous three-point shooters around and BYU's transition offense can create 12-0 runs.

**Why the Cougars won't win:** BYU lacks the inside game that New Mexico and San Diego State possess. If opponents can slow down the Cougars' transition and turn the contest into a half-court, inside power game, they'll negate BYU's strength.

#### UNLV (23-7, 11-5)

No.3 seed (tied for third in MWC)

**Why the Runnin' Rebels will win:** Aside from the glaring home-court advantage, Tre'Von Willis. He might be the most dynamic scorer in the league and Vegas is a completely different team at home. UNLV is relentless on defense, which will be energized by a large home crowd.

**Why the Runnin' Rebels won't win:** For as great as Willis is, his supporting cast has been less than supportive at times. He's good, but not good enough to carry an entire team for 40 minutes. If the likes of Chace Stanback and Oscar Bellfield can't pitch in, Vegas could struggle.

#### SDSU (22-8, 11-5)

No.4 seed (tied for third in MWC)

**Why they Aztecs will win:** The bracket favors the Aztecs. They match up better with Colorado State and New Mexico — rather than if they had to face Utah and BYU in their first two games. If they see BYU or Vegas, it won't be until the finals. D.J. Gay has blossomed into his role at point guard and Kawhi Leonard and Malcolm Thomas are playing some of their best ball right now.

**Why the Aztecs won't win:** Chase Tapley (hand) is expected to play but won't be 100 percent, and he is one of the Aztecs' more reliable outside shooters. Teams have had success zoning SDSU and forcing its game outside, where the Aztecs have struggled. Plus, the Aztecs probably have to face BYU if they make the finals, a team they don't match up well against.

#### The Rest of the Field

**No.5 Colorado State (16-14, 7-9):** Steadily improving, but far from ready to make a serious run.

**No.6 Utah (14-16, 7-9):** In November, no one knew what to make of them. Four months later, we still don't.

**No.7 TCU (13-18, 5-11):** Guard Ronnie Moss can only do so much on his own.

**No.8 Wyoming (10-21, 3-13):** Eliminated yesterday by Air Force.

**No.9 Air Force (10-20, 1-15):** Win over Wyoming was nice, but New Mexico will roll.

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#### Feelin' fresh: Aztec's skills well beyond his age

By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 11, 2010

It was the late, great Al McGuire who once said: "The best thing about a freshman is that he becomes a sophomore." They're not going to make a Xerox machine that can duplicate Al McGuire.

Thing is, although what Al said was dead-on at the time, it now holds about as much weight as my left arm. Many freshman basketball players are so good now, they don't get a chance to be sophomores. And they're better prepared,

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more athletic, more worldly coming out of high school than they were when kids went to the malt shop every afternoon.

Such is the case with Kawhi Leonard, San Diego State's 6-foot-7, 225-pound rookie, all of 19, with hands the size of elephant ears, already creating a national buzz. He just became the first freshman to be named All-Mountain West Conference first team. Of course, he was MWC Freshman of the Year.

So, he's good, and in that the Aztecs have played 30 games as they head into their conference tournament opener here today against Colorado State, he's a freshman in academic year only.

Leonard is one of the nation's best rebounders (9.6 a game) and he leads the team in scoring with a 12.6 average. He's had 14 double-doubles, a school record. Naturally, his style has drawn comparisons with the most accomplished freshman in SDSU history, Michael Cage, who came in as a rebounding terror in 1981 and ended up playing 15 years in the NBA.

Cage still holds State's freshman rebounding record with 355 in 1981, pulling down a remarkable 26 that year against LaSalle. Leonard has 287, with a high of 18 against Cal State Fullerton on Dec. 9, but by all accounts he's a more complete player at this stage — a better passer, ballhandler and defender — than was Cage.

Plus, he has much more talent in the front line around him — Billy White, Malcolm Thomas — than Cage did when he broke in.

"He does things I've done that he's doing better and he does things I haven't done," says Cage, a college basketball analyst for Fox Sports and The Mtn. who's seen Leonard play a few times.

"Wow. I really like him. He certainly hasn't reached his peak, and a lot of times kids come into good programs already having played their best basketball. He has a great game already. Just wait. I watched him play against Colorado State (March 3) and I thought he'd be Defensive Player of the Year in the conference. I know that's a big statement, but he's that good. I think he's a great post defender and can be a great perimeter defender."

There's more than what goes into being a great rebounder than being tall and strong, with long arms. It's a knack, but the great ones think every missed shot belongs to them. Leonard has that attitude. Cage had that attitude.

"The biggest difference is location, location, location," says Aztecs coach Steve Fisher, who may know more about freshmen than any coach, having started five famous ones — the Fab Five — at Michigan. "He works so hard. You watch film after a game, and for every rebound he gets, he's making the same effort for another five.

"No matter where he is on the court, he goes after every ball — every one. He has a feel a lot of players don't have; he's always around the ball."

That's how Cage was, and listening to him, you'd swear he was stealing Fisher's notes.

"Rebounding is anticipation, it's special," Cage says. "You can teach guys how to rebound, but not how to anticipate rebounds. It's hard work, man. A lot of times you come up with nothing, but you stay in the hunt, you stay persistent.

"Kawhi's willing to sacrifice his body; he's expelling a lot of energy. A lot of times he's knifing in there, dissecting opponents. You can't teach that stuff. He has God-given skills — athleticism, jumping ability, reach — and he doesn't get dumb fouls. He's smart. I like that, playing smart. He doesn't get a lot of dumb fouls a freshman might get."

I asked Leonard when he stopped being a freshman.

"Probably around when conference started," he says. "I just knew I had to step it up and help find ways for the team to win. I just want the ball. I try to go get it. I know it's not that simple, but I have to find a way to the ball."

All Leonard needs is a jumper, and he works at it, sticking around after practice shooting endlessly. It's getting better. Leonard promises he will return next year, and that doesn't make Fisher unhappy.

"He got here and decided he could play with anybody," says Fisher when asked to compare him with the freshmen at Michigan. "Kawhi didn't have the ballyhoo coming in. The moment those kids signed at Michigan, the pressure was there

and built exponentially. He hasn't had to deal with that.

"But he's very confident in his own skin. He knows how good he is, but he'll let somebody else say it for him. He isn't willing to say, 'I've arrived.'"

Oh, but he has.

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## Life on the bubble

By Mark Zeigler | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 11, 2010

A daily look at San Diego State's constantly shifting chances of reaching the NCAA men's basketball tournament. The 65-team field will be named Sunday afternoon.

**The experts:** When the so-called experts can't come to a consensus whether you're in or out, that might be the definition of the ultimate bubble team. One source of optimism is Fox Sports' "Bracketology 101," which forecasts SDSU as a No.12 seed and reasons: "The Aztecs sneak in as bubble teams around them stumble."

**Yesterday:** Two promising results out of the Big East. South Florida slipped several notches, no doubt, after being blown out by Georgetown in the second round. The same goes for Seton Hall, which lost by double digits to Notre Dame.

**Today:** Tournaments in the ACC, Big Ten and SEC open, meaning the six power conferences all are in play now. Maybe the biggest game today for Aztecs' fortunes is Illinois vs. Wisconsin in the Big Ten, with an Illinois loss likely bursting its bubble. Also monitor the progress of bubble teams Memphis and Alabama-Birmingham in Conference USA, and Arizona State and Washington in the Pac-10. Other teams SDSU fans want to lose early are Georgia Tech in the ACC and Florida in the SEC.

**Bottom line:** The elements out of the Aztecs' control have gone as well as can be expected. Now starts the part within their control: the Mountain West Conference Tournament, which they begin this afternoon against Colorado State. A win doesn't really help their cause, but a loss devastates it.

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## SDSU men roll into Vegas looking for winning hand

By Jay Paris | North County Times  
March 11, 2010

He's been to nine NCAA tournaments, three Final Fours and won it all once. So who better than Steve Fisher, the savvy San Diego State men's basketball coach, to answer the 65-team question: What must the Aztecs do to make this his 10th NCAA tournament appearance?

"I have no idea," Fisher said.

Got it -- and let's hope SDSU does as well, starting today in a 2:30 p.m. Mountain West Conference tournament game against Colorado State.

If the Aztecs can cash three winning tickets at the Thomas and Mack Center this week, they are smack dab in the middle of March Madness. What's crazy is that might be their only way.

The Aztecs could sneak in with an at-large selection, especially if advancing to Saturday's final.

But the sting of never receiving last year's RSVP for the NCAA should motivate them to go 3-for-3. SDSU advanced to the 2009 final before falling to Utah, then were left at the curb when the NCAA parade went by.

Maybe that memory will push them in the desert.

"If we had the same team back it might have some significance, but we have D.J. (Gay) and Billy (White) who are the only two to play last year that are playing this year who went through that and thought they were in and thought they were out, then in and then we are out," Fisher said. "We just need to go play and if we win, it will take care of itself."

It is a new team with a new vibe, no longer leaning on Kyle Spain, Lorenzo Wade and Richie Williams. These new faces, which include Kawhi Leonard and Malcolm

Thomas, could take the Aztecs new places.

That's why, for all purposes, the Aztecs' dip in the NCAA tournament starts today.

Beat the Rams, and SDSU's dream of having its ticket punched stays alive.

Stub a toe and lose, and the defeat is spelled N-I-T.

A win Thursday likely plops the Aztecs (22-8) into a matchup with No. 8-ranked New Mexico (28-3). Beat the Lobos and then there's likely another ranked team waiting in BYU.

Win that and it's a lock-solid NCAA guarantee as the tournament champion.

Stumble somewhere along the way and your guess is as good as mine.

New Mexico and BYU are stamped regardless of their MWV showing; UNLV and SDSU are banking on good runs to go from the bubble to the big bracket.

Some crystal balls have SDSU advancing, thanks to its school-record, fifth-straight 20-win season, which includes a thumping of New Mexico.

Other Ouija boards show the Aztecs being bumped by the thinnest of margins, with their losses to Wyoming and the University of Pacific blinking like neon along the strip.

While there isn't a signature nonconference win -- does the University of Arizona really count? -- the Aztecs' 33 RPI and winning 6-of-7 down the stretch are worthy.

It'll be 7-of-8 after crowning Colorado State, a team it swept in this season's two-game series.

Then again ...

"As you know," Fisher said, "crazy things happen at tournament time."

It's nuts speculating where the Aztecs would be -- or not be headed -- without Leonard. He takes the court as the MWC freshman player of the year and with 13 double-doubles in his last 21 games. The MWC tournament could be Leonard's coming-out party, after leading the Aztecs in scoring (14.4 points) and rebounding (9.6).

"Nobody is surprised on what happened," Gay said of Leonard being honored. "He has played a big role for our team this year. Rebounding and scoring, he has been a go-to guy for us this year. I am glad he's on our team and I am not playing against him."

Leonard, last year's Los Angeles Times player of the year out of Riverside King High, is as advertised.

Once Leonard got comfortable on a squad going through a stunning transformation, the forward blossomed.

"I came in at the beginning of the season not scoring as much so I thought that's how the remainder of the season was going to go for me and that I would just progress a little bit," Leonard said. "I knew that this conference was very talented, but I didn't know how it was going to play out."

You play the cards you're dealt, especially in this town.

While SDSU might be a year away, there's a way it can reach the NCAA tournament: take three straight.

"We just have to win," Gay said. "If we lose, odds are going to be against us. If you want to get into the tournament we have to go into Vegas and just win. That's how I look at it. We win the tournament and we are in. If we don't, it could go either way. It's a coin toss."

The Aztecs' most precious currency is victories -- and they need three more.

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### Aztecs can take a punch

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 12, 2010

Malcolm Thomas and Brian Carlwell took one on the chin. But their team's chances of reaching the NCAA Tournament didn't.

The San Diego State Aztecs survived a hard-fought, hard-hitting Mountain West Conference opener with a 72-71 win over Colorado State yesterday afternoon at the Thomas and Mack Center.

Thomas, Billy White and Chase Tapley all scored 15 points and Kawhi Leonard pitched in 12 as the No. 4 Aztecs (23-8) advanced to tonight's semifinal against top-seeded New Mexico. A loss to fifth-seeded CSU would have all but eliminated SDSU from an NCAA appearance. With the win, the Aztecs can still earn an atlarge bid or qualify automatically by winning the conference tournament.

With the Aztecs trailing 71-70 in the final minute, D.J. Gay hit two free throws with 23 seconds left to provide the winning margin for the Aztecs. It was the ninth and final lead change in a back-and-forth contest that was locked in eight ties.

Thomas and Carlwell were both victims of first-half technical fouls — a punch to the face for Thomas and an elbow to Carlwell's face by CSU standout Andy Ogide that resulted in his ejection with 6:27 remaining in the first half.

Neither SDSU coach Steve Fisher nor CSU coach Tim Miles said they saw the foul, but officials reviewed the play that sent Carlwell to his back and Ogide was ejected following the conference.

"The fact that (Ogide) threw an elbow is out of character," Miles said. "At the same time, those things are unfortunate ... I apologized to Steve, too. I felt bad about both of those situations."

Tempers were already escalating when Mame Bocar Ba was given a technical for slipping in a quick punch to Thomas' face. Thomas had to be restrained by teammates as he barked at Bocar Ba and the officials.

"I didn't see what happened," Fisher said. "I just saw the connoption Malcolm went into. We were worried he was going to get a technical. I called him over and asked him what happened. He said he got punched."

Miles completed the technical trifecta in the closing minute of the first half for being too chatty with officials, though in his postgame news conference he said he never used "the magic word."

The first half ended with a 41-33 San Diego State advantage, but the Rams went on a 14-1 run early in the second half behind Adam Nigon, who led all players with 18 points. He converted 4-of-7 three pointers while CSU shot 53.3 percent from beyond the arc and 49 percent from the field. They also out-rebounded the Aztecs 30-27, something that had only happened five times before last night.

Trailing 53-51 with 12:34 remaining SDSU answered the run by going to its big men.

White, Thomas and Leonard combined for SDSU's next 16 points. They outscored the Rams 36-24 in the paint.

"We all felt like our intensity wasn't there in the beginning, the beginning of the second half," said Thomas, who led SDSU with seven rebounds. "As a team, we talked about it. I got the ball and I felt like I could go to the basket and help my team. So that's what I did."

SDSU also got a nice boost from Tapley, who missed the regular season finale against Air Force with a broken bone in his left hand.

"It's throbbing right now," said Tapley, who converted 6-of-7 field goals. "But I'll get some treatment. It's going to be better by tomorrow. I just want to help my team win."

Despite the physical nature of the game, Fisher said he isn't concerned heading into tonight's highly-anticipated game against New Mexico.

"Our kids are 18, 19, 20 years old. They'll be ready to play," Fisher said. "They could go out and play New Mexico right now and probably play pretty effectively."

SDSU split its two games with No. 8 New Mexico, winning in San Diego and losing in overtime in Albuquerque.

"This is a game that we've been asking for, been looking forward to," Gay said.

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**Dame Lady Luck winks at SDSU**By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 12, 2010

It's a rare day on the road — even more uncommon in this city that spits in the eye of goodfortune hunters — when a San Diego State's men's basketball team can exercise the escape clause in its bad contract with Lady Luck. The Aztecs and Miss Chance haven't exactly had a loving relationship.

In fact, over the years, it's been more like one terrible blind date gone terribly wrong, over and over.

But yesterday, with the dice in their hands and the most difficult point to make, they rolled a four. And they got away with all that had gone wrong, fighting off and eventually knocking out physical Colorado State, 72-71.

Thus, they remain upright, advancing to tonight's semifinal game of the Mountain West Conference Tournament vs. eighth-ranked New Mexico, which yesterday struggled to get past lowly Air Force. In the balance could be an NCAA Tournament bid, a ticket that could be difficult for State to punch if it loses. Unless their run of luck continues.

That the Aztecs, now 23-8, were superior athletically, never really was in question, but they were riddled with bullets of happenstance and odd occurrences, the strangest of which saw their opponent get better when its best player got thrown out with 6:27 remaining in the first half.

"I told (CSU coach) Tim Miles after the game: 'We got lucky. Your team deserved to win the game. Our team did not deserve to lose, but your team played with a fervor that I know you liked to see,'" coach Steve Fisher said.

"I've been in this game long enough to know that things happen."

The Aztecs do a few things exceptionally well. They can defend and rebound.

Going in, teams were shooting 40 percent from the floor against them. Yesterday, the Rams shot 49.1 percent, making 8-of-15 threes, and were over 50 percent up to the end. They were outrebounded just five times all year. And CSU outboarded them 30-27.

But they're still having problems with free throws (17-of-28). Dangerous.

There was bad luck. Freshman forward Kawhi Leonard got his second foul with six minutes gone in the game and eventually fouled out with 1:27 left in regulation with 12 points and six rebounds in 26 minutes. Fisher had to scramble.

He doesn't have a long bench, but fortune came to him again when freshman guard Chase Tapley, playing with a broken finger on his left hand, found a match and scored 15 points.

The first half was brutal. The officials went to the replay and found Rams center Mame Bocar Ba punched SDSU forward Malcolm Thomas in the face. Technical. Then CSU forward Andy Ogide, the Rams' best player, was given a flagrant foul and tossed from the game for elbowing Aztecs center Brian Carlwell on the chin.

Now that should have been good luck for Fisher. Instead, Ogide's ejection almost backfired. Miles was forced to go small and State had difficulty handling it, allowing CSU a 14-1 run to come back and take a lead they finally relinquished when point guard D.J. Gay made two free throws with 23 seconds left.

"They had a surge of energy," Fisher said. "They were smaller and better equipped to handle us off the bounce. When we had Malcolm and Billy (White) in there, especially when Carlwell came in with one of those two, we were at a distinct disadvantage guarding on the perimeter and they took advantage of that. They did a nice job of saying, 'OK, this is what we can do.'"

The win keeps the Aztecs squarely on the NCAA bubble, a position they've grown used to over the years. Did this win get them in? Doubtful. Even if they beat New Mexico, there can be no certainty.

But Fisher doesn't talk NAAs with his players, and that's a real good idea.

"What we want to bring up is that we want to win this tournament," Fisher said. "This is our tournament, the only one we can be in."

Colorado State was hard, taxing. With a short bench, it's going to take some ef-

fort from Fisher's kids to win three games here in three days. Gay played all 40 minutes. Now there's a gamer.

"Our kids are 18, 19, 20 years old," he said. "They'll be ready to play. They could go out and play New Mexico right now and probably be ready to play. We want to be playing Saturday. To do that, you've got to win tomorrow."

Maybe his guys can play well enough and not have to worry about Lady Luck?

Said Fisher: "I told our kids after the game that, when I was at Michigan, we had a No. 1 seed in a region, before the shot clock, and we played a Farleigh Dickinson team in the first round and barely beat 'em. But we beat 'em.

"Today, it looked like everything that could happen, happened. You've got to get lucky now and then."

To be honest, Ms. Luck, they're due for more of it.

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**Aztecs' win is too close for comfort**By Jay Paris | North County Times  
March 12, 2010

All those wearing red and black, are you ready? One, two, three, exhale!

"I'm too old for this," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said.

Winning never gets dated. But it was that kind of a tussle Thursday, with the Aztecs men's basketball team eliminating Colorado State 72-71 in the Mountain West Conference tournament's opening round.

SDSU absolutely, positively had to prevail to keep its NCAA tournament chances alive. But after the Aztecs had seemingly put the game away countless times, guard D.J. Gay toed the free throw line facing a one-point deficit with 23 seconds remaining.

Not far from Gay, a fan was giddy to prick the Aztecs' skin, chanting "NIT, NIT, NIT." But Gay sank both attempts and then watched the Rams' Dorian Green throw away a pass to ice SDSU's win — sort of. Chase Tapley missed a free throw with five seconds left, but Colorado State(16-15) was unable to launch a shot before the horn sounded for the Aztecs (23-8).

A peek at SDSU's players revealed expressions of relief, not joy. One saw signs of escaping instead of enjoying the verdict -- of knowing that they sneaked away with a triumph and now, be careful what you wish for.

Everyone wants their name on a Las Vegas marquee, and the Thomas & Mack Center's shows SDSU vs. New Mexico at 6 on Friday night. Yep, those Lobos, the nation's No. 8 team and the class of the Mountain West, which sports a school-record 29 victories against three defeats.

"This is a game that we've been asking for, been looking forward to," Gay said. "We're excited."

But the rubber game of the SDSU-New Mexico series was nearly derailed by the upstart Rams. Not only did Colorado State give the Aztecs all they wanted, it did so for the most part without its top player, Andy Ogide. The Rams' leading scorer and rebounder was banished to the locker room, ejected for throwing an elbow at Brian Carlwell with six minutes left in the first half.

With Ogide, a second-team All-MWC selection, gone and the Aztecs claiming a 10-point edge a minute into the second half, what could go wrong? Plenty.

The Rams' triangle-and-two and 2-2-1 zone defense slowed down SDSU's thoroughbreds. And instead of being demoralized by losing Ogide, the fifth-seeded Rams were energized. They took advantage of the Aztecs looking ahead to New Mexico by nearly slipping past the No. 4 seed.

"We all felt like our intensity wasn't there in the beginning of the second half," said Malcolm Thomas, who shared team-high scoring honors at 15 with Tapley. "As a team, we talked about it."

Thomas put his sneakers where his mouth was. Penetrating the lane and forcing the defense to collapse, Thomas had 11 points, an assist, two blocks and four rebounds over the final 20 minutes.

"I felt like I could go to the basket and help my team," Thomas said. "So that's what I did."

While Thomas carried the Aztecs in the second half, it was Tapley's show early. He scored all of his points in the first half, before his broken left hand started to bark.

But despite Tapley's pain and fantastic freshman Kawhi Leonard (12 points, six rebounds) having a so-so game, the Aztecs were poised to shift the transmission into neutral and cruise to a win. Instead, in a city where good fortune is sought at every corner and casino, it arrived for SDSU.

Fisher knew it and relayed as much to Rams coach Tim Miles in their postgame chat.

"I told him, 'We got lucky; your team deserved to win,' " Fisher said. "I've been in this game long enough to know that things happen."

What happened is that mere days before folks scurry for four-leaf clovers, the Aztecs were blessed to advance. Now they'll either ride an upset Friday toward a certain NCAA tournament berth or face the prospect of settling for the NIT.

"We didn't come out here for one day," Gay said.

Some day, the Aztecs will breeze in the desert. Thursday wasn't that day.

Not with the Rams flipping a 10-point deficit into a four-point cushion in a seven-minute, second-half spurt. But the Aztecs rode Thomas from there, and the result is a showdown with the Lobos. Might SDSU be gassed after putting the pedal to the metal against the plucky Rams?

"Our kids are 18, 19, 20 years old," Fisher said. "They'll be ready to play. They could go out and play New Mexico right now and probably play effectively. I'm not worried at all about that."

Instead, Fisher frets over Tapley's throbbing hand, Leonard looking mediocre in his MWC tournament debut, and his team's 53 percent free-throw showing in the second half.

Oh yeah, the Lobos as well — even if the Aztecs have administered one-third of their losses.

"We want to be playing on Saturday," Fisher said. "To do that, we got to win (today). We know we're playing a great team in New Mexico."

The Aztecs were far from great Thursday. They need to be better than good on Friday.

Or what's really getting old — not making the NCAA tournament — will be new again.

## 177

### San Diego State men's team is the boys on the bubble

By John Maffei | North County Times  
March 12, 2010

This year, it's a little different.

This year, the San Diego State men's basketball team is getting some love on national TV because they actually have a chance to make the NCAA tournament.

By surviving an upset bid by Colorado State on Thursday in the Mountain West Conference tournament in Las Vegas, the Aztecs advanced to a Friday semifinal against No. 8-ranked New Mexico that could determine if they're one of 65 teams in the NCAA tournament field.

A win over the Lobos, said ESPN analyst Doug Gottlieb, would assure the Aztecs a spot in the tournament. A win over New Mexico and a championship-game win over No. 14 Brigham Young or Nevada-Las Vegas would assure them a higher seed.

The Aztecs and New Mexico tip off at 6 p.m. Friday on CBS College Sports, with BYU-UNLV to follow at about 8 p.m. The Mountain West championship game is set for a little after 3 p.m. Saturday on Versus.

Win or lose against New Mexico, the Aztecs have made Sunday's NCAA selection

show at 3 p.m. on CBS must-see viewing.

Do Gottlieb and "bracketologists" like Joe Lunardi and Jerry Palm really know what they're talking about? Will Lunardi's 96.8 percent accuracy rate at predicting the tournament field over the last 10 years hold up? Will the Mountain West really place a conference-record four teams in the tournament: BYU, New Mexico, UNLV and San Diego State? Will the Pac-10 really only get one team in? Will Seton Hall, Mississippi and Rhode Island -- teams that Gottlieb said the Aztecs are battling for spots in the tournament -- earn berths?

Even if San Diego State doesn't make the tournament, it's good to hear ESPN anchors talk about the Aztecs in a positive light. It's good for the university to get some positive PR.

Now, though, it's up to the team to win a couple more games in a row and really make some national noise.

## 178

### Aztecs advance with win over Colorado State

By Tom Shanahan | Aztec Sports Report  
March 12, 2010

San Diego State escaped with a 72-71 win over Colorado State Thursday in the Mountain West Conference in Las Vegas and may have all but clinched an at-large berth in the NCAA Tournament in the process.

SDSU, which tied for third in the MWC regular season, is projected by ESPN's Joe Lunardi as an at-large entry, but an upset loss in the quarterfinal round against the Rams would have put that projection in jeopardy.

SDSU junior point guard D.J. Gay hit two free throw for a 72-71 lead with 23 seconds to play in the game. CSU called timeout to set up a game-winning shot, but the Rams turned the ball over with nine seconds remaining.

After CSU fouled Chase Tapley and he missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw, the game ended on a missed CSU desperation shot from 30 feet at the buzzer.

SDSU (23-8), which needed a third straight win over CSU to advance, faces New Mexico (29-3) in the semifinals at 6 p.m. Friday. SDSU and New Mexico split their regular season games, with SDSU win 74-64 at home and losing 88-86 in overtime in Albuquerque.

An upset of New Mexico would certainly clinch an at-large entry, but just advancing to the semifinals might have been enough to earn a berth.

New Mexico, the regular-season champion ranked No. 8 in the nation, won its MWC tournament quarterfinal with a 75-69 win over Air Force that was played before a large turnout by Lobos fans at the Thomas and Mack Center.

SDSU had three players sharing scoring honors with 15 points each: Billy White, Malcolm Thomas and Chase Tapley.

"Coach told us the beginning of the game that they were going to come out and fight," White said. "They gave us a lot of problems out here. They were shooting well and it was a physical game."

Colorado State opened the game hot with the first seven points, but SDSU managed a 40-point first half despite the slow start en route to a 40-33 lead at intermission.

SDSU took its first lead of the game at 18-16 with 9:32 left in the first half on a basket by White. CSU's Andy Ogide was kicked out of the game 6:27 left in the first half for an intentional foul. Brian Carlwell hit one of two free throws for a 26-22 lead.

The Aztecs got a big first half out of Tapley, who returned to the lineup after missing two games with a broken bone in a finger on his left hand (non-shooting). With the left hand wrapped, Tapley hit his first five shots, including a 3-pointer, over CSU's 2-1-2 zone for all 15 of his points in the first half.

179

**Aztecs men shock New Mexico to reach MWC finals**By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 13, 2010

All of a sudden, the résumé looks a lot more impressive.

The San Diego State Aztecs stunned No. 8 New Mexico 72-69 Friday night at the Thomas & Mack Center in the Mountain West Conference Tournament semifinals, propelling them to Saturday's championship game against third-seeded UNLV at 4 p.m.

The Rebels beat No. 14 BYU 70-66 in the other conference semifinal late Friday night.

The Aztecs' victory snaps New Mexico's 15-game win streak and gives the fourth-seeded Aztecs (24-8) a compelling argument for inclusion in the NCAA Tournament. A win Saturday gives them an automatic berth. If they lose, the general consensus is that Friday night's win was enough to earn them an at-large bid — though that was also the belief last year and they did not make the tournament.

"We've lost four games, two of them have been to San Diego State," said New Mexico coach Steve Alford, whose top-seeded Lobos fell to 29-4. "So there's no doubt in my mind that they're one of the teams that should be in."

Billy White, who hails from Las Vegas, scored 28 points and Kawhi Leonard recorded his 15th double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds. Malcolm Thomas added three blocks to go with seven points and five rebounds.

"I feel great," White said. "You know, just to come home, relax, be in my own backyard, play my game. This game meant a lot to me. It meant a lot to my team to get this victory."

With the Aztecs leading 70-69 with 7.4 seconds to play, New Mexico's Dairese Gary took an inbounds pass and drove coast-to-coast, but missed the layup, securing the win for SDSU.

"In the end, we tried to get the ball out of (Gary's) hands," said D.J. Gay. "... He made a good run. He got a shot off and had an opportunity to win the game for them. My hat goes off to him for his competitiveness. He's a great player."

The Aztecs shocked the Lobos by opening the game with an 11-0 run. Fueled by back-to-back three-pointers by Leonard and 5-of-6 shooting to start, SDSU looked more like the nationally ranked team early on.

"The offense was sensational early," SDSU coach Steve Fisher said. "But we really talked about winning with your defense, winning with your rebounding. I do think that's why we won the game."

The Lobos spent the entire first half playing catch-up until finally doing so in the closing seconds. Gary hit a floating layup going across the middle with eight seconds left to give New Mexico a 39-38 advantage at the break — its first lead of the game.

Gay, who played the full 40 minutes for the fourth time in five games, ran the offense with precision, tallying seven assists with no turnovers. He also had five points, three rebounds and a block.

When asked in the postgame news conference if he ever gets tired, Gay, who limped to the podium with ice bags on both knees, replied: "Can't allow myself. That's the mental part of basketball."

SDSU shot 51.9 percent from the field and a season-high 62.5 percent from beyond the arc (10-of-16). Leonard and Chase Tapley each converted 3-of-4 three-pointers.

In a back-and-forth second half that included seven lead changes, it was Gay's three-pointer with 1:09 to play that turned out to be the difference, putting SDSU ahead 70-66. Gary answered with a three, and the Aztecs ran the clock down to 11 seconds before Gary missed a three, setting up Gary's unsuccessful charge in the final seconds.

A late foul sent Leonard to the line with .7 second left, and he made both free throws.

"I'm elated," Fisher said. "And I'm not a guy that goes overboard with emotions. I learned a long time ago if you don't enjoy the good ones, this profession will eat

you up. This was very, very exciting."

New Mexico is the highest ranked team SDSU has beaten since an 82-80 overtime victory against No. 7 BYU in 1988. It's also the first time in school history the Aztecs have beaten three ranked teams in one season: New Mexico twice and UNLV.

With just a combined 15 turnovers in the game, both teams also made the most of their possessions. SDSU had nine turnovers and New Mexico six.

180

**Aztecs achieve peak performance**By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 13, 2010

By its very definition, a hump isn't very high, so it should be fairly easy to get over. But for San Diego State's men's basketball program, humps often have looked like Everests. The Aztecs have needed ice axes and carabiners and rope and Sherpas and Sir Edmund Hillary.

They just haven't been able to find the magic moment, the one when they finally managed to hold their own in the rarefied air of excellence. The search for the seminal victory against a superior team has eluded them like the lost ark.

But they found it here last night, getting over that hump in this dead-flat City of Sin. They played the game of their lives, quite possibly the best game in the university's history. If not — go ahead and pick another one — it leans at the tape.

For drama, certainly their sensational 72-69 victory over eighth-ranked New Mexico in the semifinals of the Mountain West Conference Tournament in front a decidedly Lobo-friendly crowd in the Thomas & Mack Center ranks with anything they've put on film lately. It was positively Hitchcockian in pace, a thriller that left nothing unanswered.

Man, it was a great college basketball game. It was so hard. New Mexico is really good, and the Lobos proved it every minute, shrugging off State's 11-0 start as though it didn't mean a thing.

The Aztecs simply haven't won many games of such importance. State, now 24-8, was thought to be an NCAA Tournament bubble team going into this thing, one of the last teams in. But if State doesn't make it now, it will be the biggest crime around here since Frank and the Rat Pack robbed the casinos in the original "Ocean's 11."

If the Tournament's Selection Committee watched any of this, even before the finish they had to say to themselves: "This is the eighth-ranked team, maybe a 2 or 3 seed, and that's a bubble team?" It's going to be real hard to justify State's exclusion, no matter what happens here this afternoon in the conference finale against UNLV, the winner over BYU in the other semifinal last night.

The Aztecs beat the Lobos by 10 at home, lost to them in overtime after a missed free throw would have won it in regulation, and now this on a neutral floor.

Aztecs coach Steve Fisher no doubt has grown tired of answering the same questions every March. It happened last year, when they won 23 games and ended up going to the NIT, reaching the semifinals. But, really, Steve, can you make a case for your team to be in?

"That's not for me to do," he said. "Our goal is to cut down the nets tomorrow (today). But we've added to the résumé with this win, no question about it?"

No question. And they added to it with defense and the great help of forwards Billy White (28 points) and Kawhi Leonard (15 points, 12 rebounds). But, most of all, it was point guard D.J. Gay, who really isn't supposed to be a pure point at all, but continues to play like one.

Win or lose today, Gay is the MVP of this tournament. He played 40 minutes in the quarterfinal win over Colorado State and 40 again last night. He scored just five points, but his three with 1:07 to play put the Aztecs up for good, and he dished out seven assists. He defended like a madman against Dairese Gary, the Lobos' splendid point, and Gay didn't turn the ball over. Not once.

He never tires.

"Umm, can't allow myself," said Gay, a junior. "That's the mental part of basketball. You know, coach asked me to play a large amount of numbers. He asked me

to do that in the summertime. I prepared myself early and it's paying off now."

At the end, Gay went down at midcourt and had to be helped to the bench after Gary missed a least-second shot that would have won it for UNM.

"The adrenaline, all at once," he said. "I kind of collapsed because I got hit on that last screen and it kind of took my back out."

New Mexico shot 44.1 percent from the floor, State 51.9, taking two fewer shots. But the Lobos were 14-of-17 from the free-throw line. The Aztecs, a poor free throw-shooting team all year, tried just nine charities (Leonard hit two free throws with 0.7 remaining on the clock), but made eight.

It was exhausting. It was clean. Fifteen total turnovers in the game.

"I thought it was a terrific basketball game," Fisher said. "If I'm a fan in the stands, if I'm not a Lobo fan or an Aztec fan and I'm there watching, if I know anything about basketball, I would have to say this is darn good basketball. Two teams playing really hard and efficient basketball."

"So this is just basketball. You love it when you're on our side, and you despise it when you're in New Mexico's shoes."

Hump? As Igor said in "Young Frankenstein," "What hump?"

## 181

### Aztecs upset No. 8 Lobos, reach MWC title contest

By Arnie Stapleton | North County Times  
March 13, 2010

Only one team on New Mexico's schedule has given the eighth-ranked Lobos matchup problems.

It's the one that kept them from getting a chance to cut down the nets again at the Mountain West Conference tournament.

The San Diego State men's basketball team escaped with a 72-69 upset of the top-seeded Lobos in the semifinals Friday night when Dairese Gary missed a runner in the final second, then the fourth-ranked Aztecs added two free throws to ice their return trip to the conference championship.

"We were just trying to stop him from going to the basket," said Malcolm Thomas, one of San Diego State's two big men who gave the Lobos fits all three times they played -- two of them wins by the Aztecs.

"We knew Gary would get the ball. I saw the ball and I actually tipped it, but he got it back and got the shot off, but we were lucky that he missed it," Thomas said. "My nerves were just all over the place."

The Lobos (29-4), who split their series with the Aztecs during conference play, saw their 15-game winning streak snapped but they're counting on still getting a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament when the pairings are announced Sunday.

The Aztecs (24-8) in all likelihood secured their own trip to the NCAA tournament, although they'd prefer to get in via the league's automatic bid if they can win the championship Saturday against UNLV, which upset No. 14 BYU 70-66.

"I think we've added to the resume with this win today," was all Aztecs coach Steve Fisher would say about that.

New Mexico coach Steve Alford didn't mind making the case for the Aztecs after they handed his team its first loss since Jan. 9.

"We're 29-4. Our RPI going into this game was 6. We've won 10 road games. We won 15 in a row. We've been in the top 10 now for the better part of three weeks, the top 10 in the country. We've lost four games -- two of them have been to San Diego State," Alford said. "So there's no doubt in my mind that they're one of the teams that should be in this tournament."

That spirited appeal can also serve as the Lobos' case for not slipping in the eyes of the selection committee.

This was a great game that came down to the final half-second.

"It would have been criminal if we had lost on that last drive," Fisher said.

The Lobos don't have any big men, and yet they set a school record for wins in a season and will likely get the highest seed in the NCAA tournament than any team in the 11-year history of the MWC.

"There's only one game that we've been able to play those two bigs together, and it's against San Diego State," Alford said of A.J. Hardeman and Will Brown, his tallest players at 6-foot-8.

"You know, hopefully in the NCAA tournament, we'll get a favorable matchup to where we're not playing against a huge team, because we're deficient there," Alford said. "We're very vulnerable there with the lack of size that we have on this year's team. We knew that going into the year.

"That's what's so amazing about this team. To play 33 games and win 29 with nobody over 6-8 is amazing. So this is a tough matchup for us. Yet we've had three really good games against them. We've come on the short end of two of them."

Trailing 70-69, the Lobos had the ball under their basket with 7.4 seconds left. Gary grabbed the inbounds pass and sped upcourt but stumbled at the top of the key and couldn't get off a clean shot.

"The ball got loose," Gary said. "I don't know how much time it was, so I grabbed it and tried to put it in, and it didn't go in."

Kawhi Leonard grabbed the rebound for the Aztecs and was fouled by Hardeman with seven-tenths of a second left. He sank both shots and Gary was way short on a desperation heave that would've sent it into overtime.

The Lobos had been 24-0 this season when taking a lead into the locker room, as they did Friday night, and 12-0 in games decided by six points or less.

Billy White, a native of Las Vegas, led the Aztecs with 28 points and Leonard added 15 points and 13 rebounds as San Diego State advanced to the title game for the second straight year. Last time, they lost by two points to Utah.

Gary's 17 points led the Lobos, who took a 39-38 lead at the break.

D.J. Gay's 3-pointer with just over a minute remaining gave San Diego State a 70-66 lead, but Gary's 3-pointer made it a one-point game. Gary had the ball in his hands with a chance to win it after Gay's errant 3 with 11 seconds left.

"I'm looking and I'm saying, fast-forward that clock so it runs out," Fisher said. "We hung on some way, somehow."

Alford had no qualms about the Lobos' play.

"As I told our guys, we haven't had this feeling in two months, 61, 62 days, so it's been a long time. We've been on a great run," Alford said. "We just ran out of time at the end."

## 182

### White, Aztecs coming up aces in Vegas

By Jay Paris | North County Times  
March 13, 2010

In Sin City, Billy White was a savior.

The San Diego State forward strapped the scrappy Aztecs on his back, and look who is front and center in Saturday's Mountain West Conference men's basketball final: SDSU vs. Nevada-Las Vegas for an automatic NCAA tournament bid.

The Red and Black should be in anyway after this White out. The Las Vegas native scored a career-high 28 points Friday to lift the Aztecs past New Mexico, 72-69.

It marked the second time SDSU beat the No. 8-ranked Lobos, and what do you have to say about that all you bracketologists? I can't crunch numbers with those guys, but my math says the fourth-seeded Aztecs are in -- win or lose on Saturday.

"That is not for me to do," coach Steve Fisher said, when asked about SDSU's chances. "Our goal is to win, cut down the nets (on Saturday), and we'll see what happens.

"I think we added to the resume with this win, no question about it."

They have the blessing of Steve Alford, the coach of the top-seeded Lobos.

"We've lost four games, and two of them have been to San Diego State," he said. "So there's no doubt in my mind that they're one of the teams that should be in the tournament."

But life on the bubble is just that, and SDSU wants to guarantee that theirs doesn't pop with a pooper in the final.

Finally, though, the Aztecs are breathing easier after the thrilling victory, the 10th in their last 12 games and a school-record third one against a ranked team this season.

They did it despite seemingly every man, woman and child from New Mexico at the Thomas & Mack Center, cheering their Lobos. There were some Aztecs boosters, including someone close to White.

"When we went out before the game, I grabbed him and said, 'Make your mom proud,'" Fisher told White. "Afterward I said, 'You made everybody proud.'" "

This game developed as many thought — close and hard-fought, although the Aztecs (24-8) raced to a 14-2 lead four minutes in, with Kawhi Leonard (15 points, 12 rebounds) raining in 3-pointers. But, of course, the Lobos (29-4) rallied and, of course, the outcome hinged on the final possession with the Aztecs clinging to a one-point lead.

New Mexico inbounded at the opposite end with 7.4 seconds remaining. Dairese Gary, the Lobos' best penetrator and top scorer with 17 points, weaved down court and reached the lane before launching an awkward shot.

Two minutes earlier, it appeared that the shot clock had expired when A.J. Hardeman scored on a layup for a 64-62 edge. But White tied it with a post move and then Leonard hit White on a long pass that Philip Rivers would have loved. White was fouled by Gary and sank a free throw to give the Aztecs an edge they wouldn't relinquish in snapping the Lobos' 15-game winning streak.

Just like White wouldn't give up the fight along the baseline.

"This game meant a lot to me," White said. "We battled for two days and we got to battle again (Saturday)."

They're moving on because Gay (seven assists, no turnovers) moves them. The team's point guard and leader wouldn't let the Aztecs' title bid fade into a desert mirage. He played all 40 minutes and walked liked it following the game.

But he'll play on Saturday. He has to.

"Can't allow myself," Gay said about getting tired. "That's the mental part of basketball."

The Lobos were left scratching their heads, wondering why they couldn't contain White. He consistently collected points near the hoop, most coming off nifty moves and a want-to attitude.

"There were times, I think, when we had size and height on the defender, and he utilized that," Fisher said. "There were other times when a bigger, stronger guy was on him and he used quickness and ball skills. He got the ball in the low post and made play after play after play."

Which means the Aztecs will play it again, man. Thanks in part to White, who converted 11-of-14 field goals and all five free throws.

"My teammates came to me and said, 'You're hot and we're going to keep giving you the ball,'" White said. "I knew if I could get close to the basket, I could keep making every shot."

He did miss three, but little else in one of the Aztecs' most satisfying victories. It marked the highest-ranked squad they ever conquered away from San Diego.

"If I'm a fan in the stands, if I'm not a Lobo fan or an Aztec fan and I'm there watching, if I know anything about basketball, I would say this is darn good basketball," Fisher said. "Two teams really playing hard and efficient basketball."

Only one will play on Saturday, and that's the Aztecs. Regardless of the outcome, they deserve to keep playing in the NCAA tournament.

It would be a sin if they didn't.

## 183

### Leonard leads Aztecs to MWC title, NCAA berth

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 14, 2010

This time, there will be no guessing, hoping or excessive sweating. Perhaps more important, there will be no snubbing.

Save the tea leaves and tarot cards. The Aztecs are in.

The San Diego State Aztecs defeated UNLV 55-45 at the Thomas & Mack Center Saturday night in the Mountain West Conference Tournament championship, earning an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament and putting an end to all bubble-based questions.

"Had we not been successful (Saturday) and not been picked (Sunday), we'd have gotten on a plane and gone someplace and say 'we're going to play somebody because we deserved to be in (after beating New Mexico in the semis),' " Aztecs coach Steve Fisher said. "Now we know we're in ... we're where we belong. I thought we were going to get in (after New Mexico). But now I know we're in."

The Aztecs (25-8) will learn their postseason destination Sunday afternoon.

"I can finally take a deep breath," D.J. Gay said. "This is something I've been waiting for the last two years, something growing up as a little kid I always wanted to play (in), and now have the opportunity to do so. So it feels great."

Locked in a low-scoring (and low shooting percentage) battle on the Rebels' home court, the Aztecs went on a 16-5 run in the final 7:46 and Kawhi Leonard made eight straight free throws down the stretch to secure the Aztecs' third MWC Tournament championship. It's SDSU's fifth victory over UNLV (25-8) in its past six meetings.

Leonard, who was named the tournament MVP, ripped down a career-high 21 rebounds to go with a game-high 16 points.

"Every ball that comes off the board is his and he goes and gets it," Fisher said of Leonard. "(He) plays unafraid and was sensational from the moment he walked on campus. That's what he expected and that's what we expected."

Following a pair of emotional semifinals victories — SDSU over New Mexico and UNLV over BYU — neither team looked particularly crisp throughout the title game. The Aztecs missed their first seven shots while the Rebels missed their first five from the field.

The fourth-seeded Aztecs eventually got on track, building a 25-22 lead at the break. Malcolm Thomas scored seven first-half points to lead the Aztecs, who shot 35.7 percent from the field in the first 20 minutes.

That was almost 4 percent better than third-seeded UNLV (32 percent) which had its own offensive struggles. UNLV standout Tre'Von Willis didn't score until a free throw with 2:37 left in the first half. He finished with 11 points.

"Both teams were fighting," said Billy White, who along with Leonard was named to the all-tournament team. "We couldn't buy a basket, they couldn't buy a basket. We were just fighting. It was a fight all through the game. Finally we started making shots and they started making shots. It came down to who wanted it more. Our team just stepped up. We just wanted to win."

SDSU finished shooting 39.1 percent from the field while UNLV shot just 32.7 percent. And what UNLV missed, Leonard was there to get, snagging 14 defensive rebounds and seven on offense. His 21 boards were a Mountain West Conference Tournament record (originally held by Marcus Slaughter, who had 19 against Colorado State in 2006). It was also more than the rest of the Aztecs team combined (16).

"You just got to be fearless and just have heart and just crash, just crash every board that goes up, try to hit a body," Leonard said.

Added White: "He's a warrior down there. Really no way you can keep him off the boards. That's what he likes to do. He helps us a lot ... sometimes I think it's impossible to make a rebound. He's just there."

SDSU's guaranteed spot in the NCAA Tournament comes with a bit of redemption. Last year, the Aztecs thought they were in after reaching the MWC Tournament finals, but instead were "the first team out" and ended up advancing to the



NIT's Final Four.

"Last year, you know, everything that could happen on the negative side did with the upsets and this and that," Fisher said. "This year, as it was coming down, good things happened for us as we were looking at ourselves as a bubble team."

## 184

### Aztecs' men's, women's titles two for the ages

By Nick Canepa | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 14, 2010

The Vatican hasn't returned our call for confirmation — they're kind of busy on weekends — but we're fairly sure this kind of event takes place about as often as a holy man turns water into wine. The last time something such as this happened may have come shortly after a giant meteor struck Earth, killed all the dinosaurs and left nothing but neophyte basketball players running around.

San Diego State's men's basketball team yesterday defeated UNLV 55-45 to win the Mountain West Conference Basketball Tournament. San Diego State's women's basketball team yesterday defeated Utah 70-60 to win the Mountain West Conference Basketball Tournament.

Certainly, to find a better day to be an Aztec, you'd have to go back to their care-free pre-Hernando Cortez existence.

So, turn off your bubble machines, bracketologists. No bubbles, no concerns. The Aztecs are going to the NCAA Basketball Tournament. The men are going. The women are going. Try swallowing all that without a decanter of vino.

Going into the finals, the men, now 25-8, were considered by many members of the bracketology cult to be a lock after their thrilling semifinal win over eighth-ranked New Mexico. But those locks have been known to be picked by the NCAA Selection Committee, which has difficulty seeing over and around the BCS conferences. Coach Steve Fisher knows locksmiths are plentiful.

The women, on the other hand, didn't even have a breath of assurance. Coach Beth Burns flatly stated they weren't going on unless they got the automatic bid that comes with winning the conference tournament.

No worries now. They're going somewhere this week; it's a matter of where and against whom.

"We're so happy for Beth and her team," Fisher said. "We got here, there was about three minutes to go, and we were in the locker room. I'm getting ready to do the normal routine. We have a TV in there. And I said, 'Anybody want to go out and watch the finish of this game?' It had just gone to overtime. So they all ran out to be a part of it.

"I think that says something about the feeling we have for one another, and the pride we have in one another. Nobody deserves it better than Beth Burns and her team. And we are proud to be there with them."

If nothing else, yesterday's men's game was a Yugo compared to the New Mexico Ferrari. SDSU missed its first seven shots, the Rebels their first five. The first score didn't come until State's Kelvin Davis dunked on a breakaway with 15:50 remaining in the first half.

"At the 16-minute mark, I looked at the scoreboard, saw it was zero-zero and told (assistant coach) Mark Fisher, my son, 'First team that scores wins,'" Fisher said. "Mark said, 'Don't say that; they have the ball.'"

It was not lovely basketball. The Aztecs turned it over 18 times against the frantic, scrambling UNLV defense. The Rebels played as if they knew they didn't match up worth a damn with State, and it proved out at the end, when the Aztecs awakened and sensational freshman forward Kawhi Leonard (21 rebounds) hit six straight free throws down the stretch to ice it.

"I thought they dictated, really, throughout — especially late," UNLV coach Lon Kruger would say. "The guys fought. San Diego State did things better than we did.

"Leonard has an air about him that you're looking for in a young athlete. Very confident. Finishes. Makes big plays. Went to the line today, made all his free throws. You know, he just delivers."

Guess so. Leonard, the tournament's MVP — the first freshman so honored —

isn't normal. Nor is point guard D.J. Gay, who played 40 minutes in each of State's first two tournament wins and all but 1:17 of yesterday's 40. It was a shock when Fisher gave him a rest.

"I was actually surprised," Gay said. "But, you know, it was something that was well-needed. Since the game started, my body could feel the energy loss that I had the first couple of games."

Meanwhile, the road for the women was much bumpier. Picked to win the conference outright prior to the season, Burns' kids just didn't seem to have the proper chemistry for a long time. But they're 21-10 now, winners of six straight, and going somewhere, a fitting conclusion to the careers of senior guards Queneze Davis (22 points, six assists, tournament MVP) and Jené Morris (21 points, six assists).

"We've had a lot of growth," Burns said. "We had great senior leadership that really helped us raise the whole team to understand the sense of urgency and focus that's needed when we all do something together."

Together. State's men and women. Champions of the Mountain West. Ticket punched to the NAAs on the same day. Go figure.

"You know, well, you think it's going to happen every year," Fisher said. "I told our freshmen, I hope your parents don't think it's automatic, that it's going to happen all the time."

At San Diego State? When's the next War of the Roses?

## 185

### SDSU men draw Tennessee in NCAA opener

By Kevin Gemmill | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 15, 2010

The initial reaction was pure elation. That eventually gave way to the realization that the San Diego State Aztecs, while thrilled to be in the NCAA Tournament, have a long, long — really, really long — road ahead of them.

Still, that couldn't dampen the festive mood on the San Diego State campus Sunday as the Aztecs learned they would be the 11th seed in the Midwest Region and will face sixth-seeded Tennessee at about 6:45 p.m. PDT Thursday in Providence, R.I., in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

The players were treated to a standing ovation by approximately 150 onlookers as they filed into the Aztec Athletics Center to watch the selection show. They didn't have to wait long. The crowd erupted about 15 minutes in when the Aztecs appeared on the bracket for the Midwest Region.

"We have a team that can compete with anybody," point guard D.J. Gay said following the festivities. "With the athleticism we have, and we're playing the best basketball we have all season, there is no reason why we can't win."

Selection Sunday is a day of hope for 65 teams that believe they can win the national championship. It's no different for the Aztecs, who gained an automatic berth by winning the Mountain West Conference Tournament on Saturday in Las Vegas.

"We went to Vegas believing we were going to win three games," said freshman Kawhi Leonard, who was named MVP of the conference tournament. "Now we're in another tournament. Why can't we do it again?"

Aztecs coach Steve Fisher has some experience making runs in the NCAA Tournament. At Michigan, his teams reached the NCAA Tournament seven times, the title game three times and he won a national championship in 1989. The winner of the SDSU-Tennessee game will play Saturday against the winner of Thursday's game between third-seeded Georgetown and 14th-seeded Ohio.

"If we play good basketball it can happen," said Fisher, who owns a 20-8 record in NCAA Tournament games. "But we're going to have to play good basketball. Tennessee is a terrific team. But we think we're pretty good also. We're excited. We'll be ready when we play. I know a little about them now, but I know Bruce Pearl and their style of play. We will be prepared when we leave the office tonight; we'll know a lot about them."

Tennessee (25-8) enters the tournament ranked 15th in the country with an impressive résumé that includes a 76-68 win over No. 1 Kansas. The Vols finished third in the SEC West behind Kentucky and Vanderbilt.

UNLV (eighth seed, Midwest Region) was the first Mountain West Conference team announced and SDSU followed minutes later. As the rest of the bracket was revealed and fellow MWC teams New Mexico (third seed, East Region) and BYU (seventh seed, West Region) found out their destinations, questions started to swirl about SDSU landing the No. 11 spot despite its terrific tournament run in Las Vegas.

Based on the seeding, it's clear the selection committee didn't lend much weight to the Aztecs' win Friday over New Mexico or their victory over UNLV on Saturday in the title game. Based on the seeding, they were viewed as the fourth-best team in the conference and clearly would have been in danger of being left out had they lost Saturday. Fisher said that's of little concern to him.

"I had no idea what we would be," he said. "I knew we would be in. I had no clue. We were talked about going into the Mountain West Conference Tournament as the bubble team. Obviously you don't jump from what we were then — maybe even 11 or 12 — to a third seed, what New Mexico is. That's wasted energy. We need to make sure we're ready for who we are playing. That's what we'll do. An 11 seed has won quite often in this tournament so we need to be one of those that does it."

Since 1985, the No. 11 seed is 31-69 in the opening round and 48-100 overall. Only two 11 seeds have ever advanced to the Final Four: George Mason in 2006 and LSU in 1986.

SDSU also has a trek of more than 2,500 miles to Rhode Island, though the players don't seem too concerned.

"I'll play in Alaska. I don't care," Malcolm Thomas said with an ear-to-ear smile. "We're a really good team. I think we're ready now to make a run. That is the mentality. Every team in this tournament deserves to be there and they are going to play their hearts out. We just have to do the same."

The location isn't exactly optimal for traveling fans. That's the frustrating part according to assistant coach Brian Dutcher.

"They couldn't have sent us any farther," Dutcher said. "It will be 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles' by the time we get there. ... I feel bad for our fans that maybe could have gotten to different locations. It will be hard on anybody to get to Providence. I don't worry as much about the seeding. I wish the location was better so our fans could enjoy this, too."

None of that seemed to matter to the players, who were soaking in the atmosphere.

"It's overwhelming," freshman Chase Tapley said. "We're in the tournament. What an unbelievable feeling."

## 186

### Aztecs draw Tennessee in first round of NCAA tournament

By Tim Sullivan | San Diego Union-Tribune  
March 15, 2010

Steve Fisher was somewhere between the news and the names. He knew his San Diego State Aztecs had been assigned/exiled to Rhode Island to begin the NCAA Basketball Tournament, and that their first-round foe would be Tennessee.

But in his first blush of post-bracket euphoria, Fisher volunteered yesterday afternoon that he did not know much about the Volunteers on an individual basis.

He knew their system, though. He knew their style. He knew UT coach Bruce Pearl to be a leading practitioner of a suffocating, full-court 1-2-1-1 "diamond" press.

He knew, instinctively, that tempo will be telling.

"They run a high-paced game," Fisher said. "They're going to press us, try to get us out of control. We're not bad running, but we've got to selectively run. We can't have a 100-98 (score), which is what they want."

Because it is not always obvious from the stat sheet, pace is one of the more underappreciated elements of a college basketball game. Because Thursday's late game in Providence will take place on the 20th anniversary of the day Fisher experienced sudden acceleration without benefit of a Toyota, it figures to be an element of special emphasis this week.

On March 18, 1990, Fisher's defending champion Michigan Wolverines were stunningly and thoroughly trampled by a motivated Loyola Marymount team mourning the death of its star, Hank Gathers. The final score was 149-115 — no other team has exceeded 131 points in any NCAA Tournament game — and the lasting lesson is that when the other guy gets a run going, you had better know how to apply the brakes.

"It's a good question, an important question and maybe the most important question," Fisher said, standing in the lobby of the Aztec Athletics Center. "I have to do better than I did in 1990. I have to do better than that."

On the surface, at least, Tennessee would seem incapable of picking up the pace to blowout proportions. Though the Vols have defeated both top-ranked Kansas and No. 2 Kentucky this season, they are fresh from scoring a season-low 45 points in Saturday's Southeastern Conference Tournament semifinals and have not mustered more than 81 points in any game since star swingman Tyler Smith was dismissed from the team following misdemeanor gun and drug charges 20 games ago.

If you have to travel cross-country as a No. 11 seed to do battle with second-tier teams from top-tier conferences (first Tennessee; then, presumably, Georgetown), you could easily end up with a more daunting draw.

"I know they're athletic," Aztecs forward Billy White said of the Volunteers. "I know they like to run. (But) I think that's what we like to do, too."

Players, invariably, prefer to play as if they were being chased by cheetahs. They much prefer the spontaneity of the fast break to the precise choreography of half-court offense. They find transition basketball more appealing both aesthetically and statistically — the faster the pace, the more points you can score — and they tend to associate more patterned play with unwelcome supervision (i.e. coaches).

"I prefer to play up and down, being aggressive," said Kawhi Leonard, the Aztecs' precocious freshman. "Playing in the backyard, you don't have set plays. You just run, try to score."

That said, not every team is ideally suited to Showtime, and not every player hits his stride at top speed. Short on depth and substandard in three-point shooting, the Aztecs must manage their possessions more carefully than some of their up-tempo rivals. This is not a team built to play "bombs-away," but to work the ball inside for high-percentage shots and high-frequency offensive rebounds.

"We can't win walking the ball up the floor," Fisher said. "And we can't win playing racehorse basketball every single possession and shoot it as fast as we can. We have to blend the two: know when to run, how to run, and know why we're running. That will be the challenge for us."

Tennessee can be expected to ramp up the challenge by contesting inbounds passes and through extensive backcourt trapping. Pearl coaches his players to count to five out loud on inbounds plays, a practice that potentially influences officials and probably panics passers. This high-pressure defense has produced 553 turnovers in 33 games, more than 17 per game. By comparison, the Aztecs have caused 442 turnovers in 33 games.

Given the modest length of Fisher's bench, Tennessee can be expected to turn up the heat that much higher. Accordingly, the Aztecs will likely need another heroic effort by point guard D.J. Gay, who has been charged with just five turnovers in his past four games.

"We just have to know our time management," Gay said yesterday. "If they're on a run and they're pushing the ball, we can't force the issue of trying to run with them. If they're on a run, we've got to slow it down, take a deep breath and regroup as a team. We have to know what's working and what's not working."

Some of this is intuitive. Some of it is coaching. Some of SDSU's coaching employs the Socratic method — asking questions that lead to the right answers.

"I'll say, 'OK, we've had five straight trips where we haven't scored,' and see what they do," Fisher said. "And if they don't throw the ball inside, I'm going to say, 'Why are you shooting the three-pointer when I've just told you we've had five straight trips where we haven't scored?' That sometimes resonates rather than saying, 'OK you've got to throw the ball inside.'"

Attentive players will take the hint. Prepared players can take the heat.

187

## Aztecs draw Tennessee in first round of NCAA tournament

By Brian Hiro | North County Times  
March 15, 2010

It was a viewing party that was bound to be a celebration.

Unlike its gathering at the same time last year, when the San Diego State men's basketball team was on pins and needles hoping for an NCAA tournament berth - and ended up feeling the crushing disappointment of being one of the last teams out -- this season's Aztecs could watch the televised unveiling of the brackets Sunday afternoon with a sense of relaxed accomplishment.

That was the reward for winning the Mountain West Conference tournament last week in Las Vegas, and earning the automatic NCAA spot that accompanies it.

The Aztecs knew their name would be called on the CBS broadcast, which was displayed on a giant screen in an auditorium at the Aztec Athletic Center, in front of dozens of boosters and school officials. What they didn't know was where and against whom they would play.

They found out only minutes into the selection show: 11th-seeded San Diego State is going all the way to Providence, R.I., for a Midwest bracket matchup against No. 6 seed Tennessee on Thursday at about 6:45 p.m. Should the Aztecs win the first NCAA tournament game in program history, they would advance to a probable matchup against No. 3 seed Georgetown on Saturday.

"Right now it's all about making history," junior point guard D.J. Gay said.

"This is the first time I've played in the NCAAs after being in the NIT the last two years, and I don't want to stop here. I don't want to settle for just winning the conference tournament. I want to win a game or two in the NCAAs or even more."

San Diego State is one of the record four Mountain West teams picked for the tournament; the others are New Mexico (No. 3 seed in the East), Brigham Young (No. 7 seed in the West) and Nevada-Las Vegas (No. 8 seed in the Midwest).

There was some grumbling in the room Sunday at the seeding of the Aztecs, especially relative to UNLV. The Aztecs and Runnin' Rebels share the same overall (25-8) and conference (11-5) record, but the Aztecs won two of three head-to-head meetings -- including 55-45 in the MWC tournament final on Saturday -- and boast an RPI ranking of 18, far superior to UNLV's 46.

"An 11 seed is a surprise," Gay admitted. "I thought we would be higher, but you just have to take what comes to you and move on from it."

San Diego State coach Steve Fisher sidestepped talk of his team being short-changed -- either by its seed or its distant game location, which should ensure that few Aztecs fans are in attendance Thursday.

"That's wasted energy," Fisher said. "We have to make sure we're getting ready for playing, and that's what we'll do. An 11 seed has won quite often in this tournament, and we need to be one of those (teams)."

The Aztecs will face Tennessee for only the third time ever, with the last meeting coming in 1988. A mediocre program for most of the modern era, the Volunteers have been transformed under fifth-year coach Bruce Pearl, who has guided them to the NCAA tournament for the fifth consecutive season.

Some observers believe that Tennessee, like San Diego State, deserved a higher seed this year on the strength of going 25-8 (11-5 in the Southeastern Conference), upsetting two No. 1 seeds in Kentucky and Kansas, and being ranked 14th in the RPI.

"We weren't in the neighborhood where we thought we'd be," Pearl told reporters Sunday. "I guess they think we're one of the top-24 teams in the country and not the top 16 or 20."

The two teams played one common opponent. The Vols defeated Wyoming 77-58 at home on Dec. 15. The Aztecs split with the Cowboys, losing 85-83 to them at Laramie on Jan. 9 and routing them 88-57 at Viejas Arena on Feb. 10.

Fisher said he didn't know much about Tennessee, but that he planned to begin scouting the opponent as soon as the viewing party broke up. San Diego State will fly to Providence on Tuesday.

"We're going (out there) to win. We're going to win a few games," Fisher said.

"If we play good basketball, it can happen. But we're going to have to play good basketball. Tennessee is a terrific team, but we think we're pretty good also. So we are excited, and we will be ready when we play on Thursday."

### Aztecs note

Fisher said freshman G Chase Tapley, the team's fifth-leading scorer who injured his left hand against Colorado State on Thursday, is questionable to play in the first round of the NCAA tournament. "Chase was struggling (against UNLV on Saturday)," Fisher said. "His hand was really bothering him, so he's my big worry. Hopefully he'll be ready to play. Everybody else should go."

# SDSU Broadcast Roster



**# 0**  
**ALEC WILLIAMS**

Forward  
6-6, 268, Freshman-HS  
San Juan Capistrano, Calif.  
JSerra High

PPG: 1.9 RPG: 1.2 APG: 0.3  
FG%: 44.4 3FG: 40.0 FT%: 83.3



**# 3**  
**TYRONE SHELLEY**

Guard  
6-6, 225, Sophomore-TR  
San Diego, Calif.  
Pepperdine

PPG: 6.3 RPG: 3.6 APG: 0.8  
FG%: 44.4 3FG: 26.2 FT%: 52.5



**# 4**  
**MALCOLM THOMAS**

Forward  
6-9, 215, Junior-JC  
San Diego, Calif.  
San Diego City College

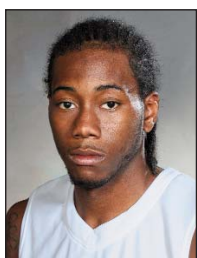
PPG: 11.0 RPG: 7.8 APG: 2.2  
FG%: 54.8 3FG: 40.0 FT%: 52.2



**# 5**  
**BRIAN CARLWELL**

Center  
6-11, 297, Junior-TR  
Maywood, Ill.  
Illinois

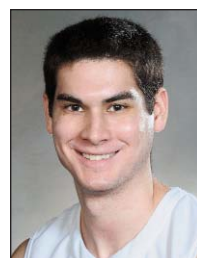
PPG: 4.8 RPG: 2.7 APG: 0.5  
FG%: 62.4 3FG: 100.0 FT%: 55.6



**# 15**  
**KAWHI LEONARD**

Forward  
6-7, 225, Freshman-HS  
Riverside, Calif.  
King High

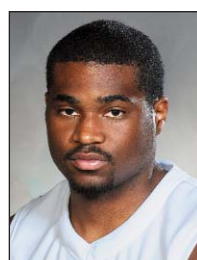
PPG: 12.8 RPG: 9.9 APG: 1.9  
FG%: 46.0 3FG: 21.6 FT%: 72.2



**# 20**  
**JASON DEUTCHMAN**

Guard  
6-6, 220, Junior-1L  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee

PPG: 1.7 RPG: 0.7 APG: 0.0  
FG%: 50.0 3FG: 00.0 FT%: 75.0



**# 22**  
**CHASE TAPLEY**

Guard  
6-2, 205, Freshman-HS  
Sacramento, Calif.  
Sacramento High

PPG: 7.8 RPG: 2.3 APG: 2.2  
FG%: 50.5 3FG: 38.9 FT%: 71.4



**# 23**  
**D.J. GAY**

Guard  
6-0, 167, Junior-2L  
Sun Valley, Calif.  
Poly High

PPG: 10.3 RPG: 2.2 APG: 3.2  
FG%: 36.6 3FG: 38.3 FT%: 70.2



**# 24**  
**TIM SHELTON**

Forward  
6-7, 248, Sophomore-1L  
Fresno, Calif.  
Clovis West High

PPG: 3.3 RPG: 2.0 APG: 1.4  
FG%: 34.6 3FG: 44.4 FT%: 44.4



**# 32**  
**BILLY WHITE**

Forward  
6-8, 235, Junior-2L  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
Green Valley High

PPG: 11.2 RPG: 4.4 APG: 1.4  
FG%: 58.8 3FG: 28.6 FT%: 63.5



**# 33**  
**BEN KNELLER**

Forward  
6-6, 200, Senior-HS  
Westlake Village, Calif.  
Westlake High

PPG: 0.5 RPG: 0.5 APG: 0.0  
FG%: 00.0 3FG: 00.0 FT%: 50.0



**# 40**  
**KELVIN DAVIS**

Guard  
6-3, 220, Senior-1L  
Waterbury, Conn.  
College of Southern Idaho

PPG: 6.5 RPG: 1.3 APG: 1.1  
FG%: 39.0 3FG: 28.0 FT%: 66.0



**Head Coach**  
**STEVE FISHER**

- - 19th full season as head coach • 382-230
- - 11th year at San Diego State • 198-148
- - 1989 NCAA champion
- - 3 NCAA Championship game appearances
- - 10 NCAA Tournament appearances
- - 16 postseason appearances

**San Diego State Coaches and Staff**

- Brian Dutcher, assistant head coach
- Justin Hutson, assistant coach
- Mark Fisher, assistant coach
- Matt Soria, director of basketball operations
- David Velasquez, dir. of player development
- Mark Haines, athletic trainer

# San Diego State

2009-10 Record: 25-8; 11-5 MWC  
 2009 NIT Semifinal Participants

- The Aztecs have won at least 20 games in a school-record five straight seasons. That is tied for the 18th longest streak nationally.
- San Diego State has advanced to postseason play each of the last five seasons (2006 and 2010 NCAA, 2007-08-09 NIT).

**Trend:**  
 • - SDSU has won 40 of the last 44 dating back to the 2006-07 season when scoring at least 71 points.

**NCAA Rankings (through 3/11):** 13th in reb. margin, 20th in FG pct., 41st in scoring defense, 41st in scoring margin, 55th in FG pct. defense.

		PPG	RPG	APG	FG	3FG	FT	
<b>0</b>	<b>Alec Williams</b> Forward, 6-6, 268, Fr.-HS San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (JSerra High)	09-10 1.9 MWC 1.0	1.2 0.8	0.3 0.0	44.4 2/6	2/5 1/2	83.3 0/0	Played in 12 games this season, including 12 minutes last at Air Force (3-6-10)... Scored a career-high 11 points against Pomona-Pitzer, making all three of his FGAs... Made his first career 3FGA in that game... Has three turnover in 87 minutes of action this season... In season opener vs. UCSD, came off the bench and contributed 6 pts., 7 rebs.
<b>3</b>	<b>Tyrone Shelley</b> Guard, 6-6, 225, So.-TR San Diego, Calif. (Pepperdine)	09-10 6.3 MWC 4.6	3.6 3.9	0.6 0.8	44.4 44.6	26.2 22.7	52.5 42.9	Had right thumb surgery on Feb. 27, missed 2 games before returning to play in the MWC tourney... Playing through plantar fasciitis this season... 2nd on team in steals (37)... Had 10+ in a career-high six straight games (broken vs. CSUF)... Scored a season-high 17 points 3 times (at FSU, NAU, at UCSB)... Earned freshman All-America honors in 2008 while at Pepperdine.
<b>4</b>	<b>Malcolm Thomas</b> Forward, 6-9, 215, Jr.-JC San Diego, Calif. (San Diego City College)	09-10 11.0 MWC 11.9	7.8 8.6	2.2 2.6	54.8 57.6	2/5 1/2	52.2 51.7	<b>MWC Rank:</b> 2nd in blocks, 2nd in FG pct, 4th in reb., 9th in min. played, 17th in scoring, 11.8 ppg in last 20 gms... 2.5 app in last 24 games... 17 double-digit scoring games (four 20+) this season... Shot 50 percent or better 19 times this year... 10 career double-doubles... 23 pts., 13 rebs. at Utah (1-19-09)... Made 36 of last 58 FGA (62.1 pct.) and 90 of last 157 FGA (57.3 pct.).
<b>5</b>	<b>Brian Carlwell</b> Center, 6-11, 297, Jr.-TR Maywood, Ill. (Illinois)	09-10 4.8 MWC 5.2	2.7 2.6	0.5 0.9	62.4 62.7	1/1 1/1	55.6 56.3	Played in 62 career gms... Had scored in career-high 11 straight gms. (broken vs. Wyo.), streak is now at 18 of last 21... Shot 50 percent or better from the field in 14 of last 16 gms in which he has a FGA... Made 9 of his last 12 FTA (75.0 pct.)... 13.2 ppg and 7.5 rpg per 40 mins... Eligible after sitting out 08-09 following his transfer from Illinois.
<b>15</b>	<b>Kawhi Leonard</b> Forward, 6-7, 225, Fr.-HS Riverside, Calif. (King High)	09-10 12.8 MWC 14.4	9.9 9.6	1.9 1.8	46.0 48.4	21.6 24.2	72.2 71.0	<b>NCAA Rank (3/11):</b> 25th in double-doubles (4th among Fr.), 30th in reb. (3rd among Fr.), <b>MWC Rank:</b> 1st in reb., 5th in steals, 6th in scoring, 7th in FG pct. 16 double-doubles (broke M. Cage Fr. school record)... 1 of 4 freshmen in country to lead team in pts. & reb... Has 10 or more rebs. in 16 of last 25 gms (10.5 ppg)... 10+ pts. in 14 of last 15 gms. (14.7 ppg)... Made 5 of last 9 3FGs, 21 of last 24 FTs.
<b>20</b>	<b>Jason Deutchman</b> Guard, 6-6, 220, Jr.-1L Los Angeles, Calif. (Wisconsin-Milwaukee)	09-10 1.7 MWC --	0.7 --	0.0 --	50.0 --	00.0 --	75.0 --	Battled through countless knee injuries... Is one of the team's top catch-and-shoot players... Typically is the first player in the gym... Never leaves the gym without making 100 jump shots... Played in three games this year (UC San Diego, Santa Clara, NAU)... Career-high 4 pts. in 3 min. vs. UC San Diego... 1 pt. vs. NAU.
<b>22</b>	<b>Chase Tapley</b> Guard, 6-2, 205, Fr.-HS Sacramento, Calif. (Sacramento High)	09-10 7.8 MWC 9.0	2.3 2.5	2.2 2.5	50.5 49.5	38.9 40.8	71.4 68.4	Missed AFA game (broken left hand), but returned to play in three tournament gms... MWC Tourney: 24 pts., 9-12 FGs, 4-7 3FGs... Scored in double figures in 7 of last 13 gms... Made a 3FG in a 12 of last 17 gms. (24-53, 45.3 pct)... 28 stl. last 19 gms... 49 ast. in last 18 gms. (2.7 apg)... 13 double-digit scoring gms... 10 TO-free gms... Made 34 of last 62 FGA (54.8 pct.).
<b>23</b>	<b>D.J. Gay</b> Guard, 6-0, 167, Jr.-2L Sun Valley, Calif. (Poly High)	09-10 10.3 MWC 10.7	2.2 2.3	3.2 3.5	36.6 36.4	38.3 41.9	70.2 67.6	<b>MWC Rank:</b> 2nd in minutes, 4th ATO ratio, 8th 3FG pct, 8th in assists. Played in all 102 games since stepping foot on campus... Started 82 career games... 144 career treys, 4th in school history... Made 54 of last 129 (41.9 pct) 3FGA (last 27 gms)... Made a trey in 24 of his last 27 gms... Has 29 assists in his last 7 gms. (4.1 apg)... Scored 64 points in his last 6 gms. (10.7 ppg).
<b>24</b>	<b>Tim Shelton</b> Forward, 6-7, 248, So.-1L Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West High)	09-10 3.3 MWC 6.3	2.0 2.7	1.4 2.3	34.6 33.3	44.4 60.0	44.4 33.3	Played in only 9 games this season due to off-season knee surgery... Is expected to be out for the rest of the season after having knee surgery on Feb. 3... Made three three-point field goals in his last three games played (3-for-5, 60.0 pct)... Season-high 8 pts., 4 reb., 3 ast. in 26 mins. vs. New Mexico... A leader on and off the court... Entered season as a career 50.8 percent FG shooter.
<b>32</b>	<b>Billy White</b> Forward, 6-8, 235, Jr.-2L Las Vegas, Nev. (Green Valley High)	09-10 11.2 MWC 8.9	4.4 3.6	1.4 1.8	58.8 52.7	28.6 1/8	63.5 66.7	<b>MWC Rank:</b> 1st in FG pct., 10th in blocked shots, 16th in scoring, 19th in reb., 10+ pts. in 7 of last 11 games (12.6 ppg)... Made 61.8 pct. of his 2FGA this season... 17 double-figure scoring games this year, 44 career double-figure games... Game-high 20 pts.; first 2 3FG vs. UOP... 918 career points (20th in SDSU DI history), 456 career rebounds (16th in SDSU DI history)... Career 61.9 FG pct.
<b>33</b>	<b>Ben Kneller</b> Forward, 6-6, 200, Sr.-HS Westlake Village, Calif. (Westlake High)	09-10 0.5 MWC 0.5	0.0 0.0	0.5 0.5	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	1/2 1/2	Last name is pronounced kuh-NELL-er... A four-year manager at SDSU... Becomes the second-ever manager in the Steve Fisher era to suit up for a game (David Velasquez - 2007)... A two-sport star (basketball, tennis) at Westlake HS in Westlake Village, Calif... Varsity basketball captain senior year at Westlake HS... Learned he would dress for the CSU (3-3-10) game at 2 p.m. the day of the game.
<b>40</b>	<b>Kelvin Davis</b> Guard, 6-3, 220, Sr.-1L Waterbury, Conn. (College of Southern Idaho)	09-10 6.5 MWC 6.6	1.3 1.4	1.1 1.1	39.0 36.7	28.0 23.1	66.0 76.0	Granted a 6th year from NCAA... Treated for Hodgkin's lymphoma last season, which limited him to 8 games... 2010 finalist for V Foundation Comeback Award... USBWA's 2009 Most Courageous Award recipient... 72 points in last 12 gms. (6.0 ppg) and 105 points in the last 16 gms. (6.6 ppg)... 8 gms. this season w/10+ pts (SDSU 8-0 in those gms)... 36-of-57 (63.2 pct) 2FGs this season.

red indicates projected starter, black indicates reserve; gold indicates will not play.