



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

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SDSU Football Press Conference Quotes April 11, 2018

Athletic Director John David Wicker

On having Rocky Long committed to the program:

"I think it speaks volumes about what we've done at San Diego State. We support our football team and our program is doing great things with our student-athletes. Athletically, we've seen what we can do. Academically, we just had 337 students get named scholar athletes. We support the football team. We've made it very clear we want to build a stadium in Mission Valley and that's the next key step for our program. I think Rocky has seen that he can be the head coach at San Diego State and he's going to be supported and have great opportunities. You look at what they've done to build a program like they have with great young men, eight straight bowl games, a lot of continuity in the staff. I think Rocky sees all that and sees the community is going to support the Aztecs so what better place to be."

On recruits knowing they are going to have Rocky Long around when they come to SDSU:

"I think it's hugely important. Continuity is very important, kids know who their coaches are going to be and the type of offense or defense they are going to run. It gives them a foundation knowing this is what it's going to be and I think that's a reason we've been successful across a number of our sports."

Head Coach Rocky Long

On John David Wicker coming to him wanting to keep him around for another four years:

"That's nice that they care and they want to do that. To be honest with you, when we were talking about it a contract came down and I just signed it. I had no idea I was being extended a year because I'm at the point of my life where security isn't the number one issue with me. But it's nice that they care and it's nice for a lot of coaches on our staff I'm sure because we have a lot of young coaches that have new families and all that so it's very nice for them."

On the importance of creating a high character program:

"We try to do that, obviously with young people of this age there are mistakes made all the time, but we try really hard in our recruiting to get the right guys in our program and most of the time we're correct. The best part of our program is the players in our program come from good families and have been taught correctly before they get here so we don't have to do much other than continue on."

On the biggest value of being under contract for the foreseeable future:

"The biggest value is we can recruit and if they're coming here because of the way we run the program, it's going to be run the same way, that's the number one advantage. The other advantage is what I already mentioned, the younger coaches have stability and know where they are going to be for the next four to five years or they can get a better job with more money. Either way they've won, and I think that's important too."

On the best part of being the head coach of the SDSU Football team:

"The best part is I get to work with quality young men and I get to work with a quality staff."

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