



PRESS RELEASE:

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**AZTECS HIRE ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL COACH**  
**Richard Sanchez, SDSU Football's New Defensive Backs Coach**

SAN DIEGO--Richard Sanchez, head varsity football coach at St. Augustine High School, this week, accepted a new post as the Defensive Backs Coach at San Diego State University," said Michael Stephenson, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at the North Park boys Catholic high school.

"We will miss him. He will be hard to replace, but we wish Coach Sanchez all the success in the world. State is getting a great Saintsman" said Stephenson. "His nine-year win/loss record (83-29) is the best in the school's 95-year history."

Sanchez, who reports immediately to SDSU, will be reunited with Tariq Thompson, an All-American Freshman safety, who started every game with the Aztecs this past season. Thompson was a stellar multi-sport talent at St. Augustine and was coached by Sanchez. Many (35) Saintsman coached by Sanchez have gone on to play college football.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of working with Head Coach Rocky Long," said Sanchez, "I appreciate SDSU and the opportunity to be a part of a winning football tradition."

"SDSU is getting a great coach, but an even better person," said Ed Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School, "Coach Sanchez is a superb leader of young men, and a good Catholic family man."

Under Sanchez, Saints Varsity Football has won two CIF football championships. His teams have appeared in five CIF final games, including capturing four Western League championships.

Prior to arriving at Saints, Sanchez was a member of the Sacramento State University football staff, working at various times the Hornets' running backs, tight ends, and offensive line in addition to his duties as Special Teams Coordinator.

Other college coaching stops include one year at Valparaiso University in Indiana as Special Teams Coordinator and defensive backs coach, and two years at the University of San Diego as Special Teams Coordinator and running backs coach.

Sanchez began his college coaching career at San Diego State University as a Graduate Assistant, where he earned his Master's Degree in Exercise and Nutrition. Before entering the college coaching ranks, Sanchez spent time as head coach at Montclair High School in

Montclair, CA, before returning to his hometown of San Diego to serve as the head coach and Athletic Director at San Diego High School.

Coach Sanchez played college football at New Mexico State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He is a native of San Diego, graduating from Sweetwater High School, where he played on some of the extraordinary teams that still hold the counties' longest winning streak of 37 consecutive victories. He lives in Bonita with his wife, Maria, and their two children, Kristiana and Ricky.



Saints Athletic Director Mike Stephenson and Coach Richard Sanchez

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