

To the editors of the San Diego Union-Tribune, I am outraged that you would believe that our university would protect potential sexual assault perpetrators rather than prioritize the care and need for justice for someone harmed by sexual assault.

As I have shared with all student-athletes and every member of my team, sexual assault and sexual violence will not be excused, tolerated or ignored. This is something we reinforce with our student-athletes across all teams, including football, from the moment they join our community. In no way do we tolerate, let alone condone, this type of behavior – there will be no exceptions. We have both complied with and supported the San Diego Police Department’s active criminal investigation because we want to see ultimate justice for anyone involved. When we received anonymous reports from people who shared knowledge of the incident, we proactively relayed those details to SDPD, and without pause. Each time SDPD has requested additional information from us, we have provided those details without question.

We want justice and, given the allegations, the criminal justice system is the best process available to bring the type of justice needed here. As we respect due process and SDPD’s active investigation, we have focused on two priorities: making sure our community knows how to report incidents, and helping our student-athletes to be well informed in preventing sexual assault. In addition to mandatory trainings, we have offered workshops and discussions about appropriate behavior to help prevent the harm of others. We also teach and rehearse what it means to be an upstander. This year, we added additional education around consent, how to intervene during incidents and how to report problems, all while complying with San Diego Police Department’s request that we not interfere with its criminal investigation. To suggest that SDSU is not taking this seriously, or that the university is not taking action, is entirely false and terribly misleading.

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