

Aztec Schedule Notes

- The Aztecs play 15 home games, two fewer than last season when San Diego State compiled a 12-5 home record. The Aztecs enjoyed their third highest average attendance ever and their best home average since the 1981-82 season. Last season, San Diego State averaged 4,528 fans per contest, an increase of 73.3 percent over the 1999-2000 campaign. The average increase was the seventh largest at the Division I level last season, and the percentage increase was the second largest among Division I schools averaging at least 3,000 fans per game.
- San Diego State and Steve Fisher, who coached Michigan to the national title in 1989, will play at least two and possibly three coaches during the non-conference portion of its schedule who won NCAA national championships. Fisher's Aztecs will meet Mike Krzyzewski, who led Duke to titles in 1991, 1992 and 2001, Jerry Tarkanian, who guided UNLV to the national championship in 1990 and possibly Bobby Knight, who claimed the national championship at Indiana in 1976, 1981 and 1987.
- San Diego State will open on the road for the first time in the Steve Fisher era, the first time since the 1990-91 season and just the 16th time in the Division I era (beginning in 1969-70). The last time the Aztecs opened on the road, San Diego State fell to fifth-ranked North Carolina 99-63 on Nov. 24, 1990, in Chapel Hill, N.C. The Aztecs are 3-6 when opening away from home, with their last season-opening victory away from San Diego occurring at UC Irvine (86-77) on Nov. 29, 1984.
- The Aztecs have won consecutive season openers under Steve Fisher. Including his time at Michigan, Fisher is 9-1 in season openers and has won nine straight lid-lifters since an 82-75 loss to Arizona in the 1989 Tip-Off Classic.
- San Diego State opens play in the Red Raider Classic, marking the Aztecs' first in-season tournament appearance since playing host to the Texaco Star Classic on Dec. 18-19, 1992 (SDSU went 1-1; W- North Florida 90-79, L-Washington State 51-73). The last time the Aztecs played in an in-season tournament they did not host was the Texas Longhorn Classic on Dec. 6-7, 1991 (SDSU went 1-1; W- Texas Southern 79-64, L- Texas 58-85). This is the first time San Diego State has opened the season in a tournament since the 1989-90 campaign when the Aztecs played in the Maui Classic (SDSU went 1-2; L- Villanova 58-66, L- James Madison 53-56, W- Chaminade 63-49). The last time San Diego State went undefeated in an in-season tourney was the 1987-88 season when the Aztecs defeated Bucknell (87-70) and Texas Tech (72-63) in the Holiday Bowl Classic in San Diego.
- San Diego State and Texas Tech could meet in either the championship or consolation game of the Red Raider Classic, reuniting former Big 10 coaches Steve Fisher and Bobby Knight. Fisher's squad won four of the last seven meetings against the Hoosiers.
- San Diego State will open the home portion of its schedule against Norfolk State. San Diego State is 2-0 in home openers and 4-0 in November home games under Steve Fisher. Including his time at Michigan, Fisher has amassed a 9-0 record in November home games.
- On Dec. 8, the Aztecs will play host to Fresno State. The Western Athletic Conference regular-season champions that finished the 2000-01 campaign with a 26-7 record, the Bulldogs return the nucleus of the team that lost to Final Four-bound Michigan State in the second round of the NCAA tournament last season. Fresno State will likely be ranked in the top 25 when it visits Cox Arena, marking the first visit by a nationally-ranked team since Utah was ranked 24th in the ESPN/USA *Today* poll on Jan. 10, 2000. The Utes won that game 70-55. The last time the Aztecs hosted a non-conference nationally ranked team was Dec. 16, 1997, when ninth-ranked Stanford defeated San Diego State 63-42.
- The Aztecs' matchup with Duke on Dec. 29 will mark the first time San Diego State has met the defending national champions since playing UCLA on Dec. 15, 1975. The fifth-ranked Bruins, who won the title in 1974-75, defeated San Diego State 101-86 at Pauley Pavilion. San Diego State has not played a game against the top-ranked team since playing host to No. 1 DePaul in the finals of the Cabrillo Classic on Dec. 30, 1980. The Blue Demons won that contest, 85-69.
- Aztec coach Steve Fisher has won his last two games versus Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, including a victory in Cameron Indoor Stadium. Fisher led Michigan to a 62-61 victory in Durham on Dec. 8, 1996. The previous season, Fisher's squad was on the winning side again as the Wolverines defeated the Blue Devils 88-84 in Ann Arbor. Fisher and Krzyzewski teams met once in the postseason, with Duke claiming a 71-51 victory in the 1992 NCAA Championship Game in Minneapolis, Minn.
- The Aztec-Blue Devil matchup will also feature two of the three active leaders in NCAA tournament winning percentage. Krzyzewski, (56-14, 80.0 percent) and Fisher (20-6, 76.9 percent) are second and third behind Michigan State's Tom Izzo (16-3, 84.2 percent) among active coaches with at least 10 NCAA tournament games.
- San Diego State will play at Hawaii, marking the Aztecs' first visit to the islands and first game in the Hawaii time zone since Jan. 23, 1999. The Aztecs also will make appearances in both the Central, Eastern and Mountain time zones, giving San Diego State games in five different time zones this season. The Aztecs play in the Red Raider Classic in Lubbock, Texas, marking the first time San Diego State has played in the Central time zone since playing Oklahoma State on Dec. 12, 1999. Later, San Diego State returns to the Eastern time zone for the first time since Dec. 23, 1996, when the Aztecs battled Ohio State.