



AZTEC FOOTBALL

2020 EARLY-NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

2020 Football Class

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019

Dallas Branch

Defensive Back

5-11, 175

**Redondo Beach, Calif. (Salesian High/
Long Beach City College)**

Spent one season at Long Beach City College and will have three years left at San Diego State ... Was first-team all-league selection in his lone season in 2019, leading the Vikings to a 7-3 record and 20-16 win over Southwestern in the 2019 Southern California Bowl ... Had 50 tackles (34 solo), 5.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, six interceptions, nine pass breakups, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery ... His six interceptions were tied for the fourth most in the Southern California Football Association and the sixth most in California Community College Athletic Association ... Finished his high school career at Salesian High School, the same school as current Aztec and two-time all-MW first-team selection Kyahva Tezino ... Prepped at Redondo Union High School prior to Salesian HS ... Is a two-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Received a scout grade of 79 by 247sports ... Chose San Diego State over Arkansas State, Brigham Young, Hawai'i, UNLV and UTEP.

Aidan Finney

Offensive Line

6-6, 280

Chico, Calif. (Pleasant Valley High)

Earned three letters at Pleasant Valley High School in Chico, Calif. ... The best season for the Vikings while Finney was there was 2018, when they were 10-3 and won a state championship ... The 2019 team, meanwhile, were the section champions ... Was an all-league selection ... Also plays baseball and basketball at PVHS ... A consensus three-star recruit by Rivals, 247sports and ESPN ... Received a grade of 84 by 247sports and 74 by ESPN ... Picked San Diego State over offers from Arizona State, Oregon State, Washington State, Fresno State, Nevada, UNLV and Utah State.

Kobah Fuamatu

Linebacker

6-1, 200

Santa Ana, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

Earned three letters at powerhouse Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif. ... Helped the Monarchs to two state titles and No. 1 national rankings (2017-18) in his three seasons at MDHS (team was No. 2 in the other season in 2019) ... Over his three years, Mater Dei HS went 40-3 and 16-1 in league play ... Made the Cal-Hi Sports all-state team ... According to MaxPreps, totaled 165 tackles over



AZTEC FOOTBALL

2020 EARLY-NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

the last three seasons, including 21 tackles for loss, 14.5 sacks, 39 quarterback hurries, three fumble recoveries, two forced fumbles and five pass breakups ... A three-star recruit by Rivals, 247sports and ESPN ... Received a scout grade of 85 by 247sports and 74 by ESPN ... Picked the Aztecs over offers from Arizona State, Fresno State, Hawai'i, New Mexico, San Jose State, UNLV, Utah State and UTEP.

John Harrison

Offensive Line

6-5, 290

Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad High)

Comes from local powerhouse Carlsbad High School, where current regular starters Troy Cassidy, Cameron Thomas and Zachary Thomas attended, along with SDSU's all-time winningest quarterback Christian Chapman ... Was named KUSI's "Iron Hog," making him the third San Diego State commit to every win the award (also Nico Siragusa and current Aztec Dominic Gudino) ... Helped the Lancers to a 10-2 record in 2019 and an appearance in the CIF San Diego Section championship game ... Carlsbad HS also captured the league title with a 6-0 record.

Brody Hughes

Defensive Back

6-1, 190

Temecula, Calif. (Temecula Valley High)

Earned three letters at Temecula Valley High School in

Temecula, Calif. ... Led the Golden Bears to an impressive turnaround from 0-10 in 2017 to 12-3 and a state championship berth in 2019 ... Over his career (according to MaxPreps), totaled 229 tackles, nine tackles for loss, four interceptions, 15 pass breakups, two forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and four blocked field goals ... Also excelled on offense, rushing 303 times for 2,050 yards (6.8 avg.) and 30 touchdowns, while adding 34 catches for 458 yards (13.5 avg.) and four scores ... Best season was 2019 as a senior when he had 100 tackles, two interceptions, eight pass breakups, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and three blocked field goals on defense, and 1,694 rushing yards and 27 touchdowns on 248 carries (6.8 avg.) on offense ... Received three stars from 247sports with a scout grade of 82 ... Picked San Diego State over offers from Air Force, Colorado State, Fresno State, Hawai'i, San Jose State, UNLV, Utah State, Wyoming, Montana State and Yale.

Vai Kaho

Linebacker

6-1, 205

Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

Was a three-year letter winner at Bishop Manogue High School in Reno, Nev. ... Played with incoming recruit Joey Wright ... Led the Miners to a pair of regional championships and a state runner-up finish in 2018 with an 11-4 record ... Bishop Manogue HS was 20-8 over the last two seasons ... Was a second-team all-state selection ... Was a first-team all-section and all-league pick ... An athlete who played linebacker, running back, wide receiver, tight end, quarterback and punter at BMHS ... According to MaxPreps, totaled 134 tackles the last two years, including 29 tackles for loss, six sacks, three fumble recoveries, two



AZTEC FOOTBALL

2020 EARLY-NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

forced fumbles, two interceptions and two pass breakups ... Also ran for 204 yards on just 21 carries (9.7 avg.) with three touchdowns and caught 15 passes for 186 yards (12.4 avg.) and three touchdowns ... Also plays basketball and lacrosse ... Brother, Ale, plays linebacker at Alabama ... A consensus three-star recruit by Rivals, 247sports and ESPN ... Received a scout grade of 85 by 247sports and is listed as the sixth-best recruit in the state of Nevada ... Also listed with a scout grade of 75 by ESPN and the seventh-best recruit in Nevada ... Picked San Diego State over offers from Colorado, Tennessee, Brigham Young, Nevada, New Mexico, UNLV, Utah State and Sacramento State.

Dezjhon Malone

Defensive Back

6-0, 190

Fresno, Calif. (Edison High)

Was a three-year letter winner at Edison High School in Fresno, Calif. ... Was a two-time first-team all-league selection ... Also a captain and team MVP ... A three-star recruit by both 247sports and ESPN, and a two-star recruit by Rivals ... Received a scout grade of 82 by 247sports and 73 by ESPN ... Picked the Aztecs over offers from Oregon State, Brigham Young, Fresno State and UNLV.

Jay Rudolph

Tight End

6-4, 215

Scottsdale, Ariz. (Horizon High)

Prepped at Horizon High School in Scottsdale, Ariz. ... Made the all-state second team as a senior, when he captained the Huskies to a 9-2 record, a league title at 6-0 and an appearance in the state championship game ... Also made all-region and all-league ... According to MaxPreps, totaled 88 catches for 1,453 yards (16.5 avg.) with 15 touchdowns over the past two years, including 57 receptions for 903 yards and seven touchdowns in 2019 ... Is a three-star recruit by 247sports and ESPN, and a two-star recruit by Rivals ... Received a scout grade of 82 by 247sports and 72 by ESPN ... Picked San Diego State over offers from Oregon State, Air Force, Army West Point, Abilene Christian, Colgate, Georgetown, Lehigh, Montana State, Northern Arizona and Northern Colorado.

Cassius Savage

Athlete

6-1, 175

Buena Park, Calif. (Western High)

Earned three letters at Western High School in Anaheim, Calif. ... Led the Pioneers to a 21-5 record over the past two seasons, including a 12-3 mark and state championship appearance in 2018 ... Is a three-time first-team all-league selection ... According to MaxPreps, finished his three-year career with 121 catches for 2,066 yards (17.1 avg.) and 31 receiving touchdowns ... On the defensive side of the ball racked up 181 tackles (149 solo), eight



AZTEC FOOTBALL

2020 EARLY-NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

interceptions, 39 pass breakups and three fumble recoveries ... Finished with 34 overall touchdowns, while racking up 2,621 all-purpose yards ... Had 51 catches for 790 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2019 ... In 2018 had 59 receptions for 1,041 yards and 15 scores, while adding 112 tackles (81 solo), four interceptions and 31 PBUs ... Also a track and field star with personal bests of 10.89 seconds in the 100 meters and 21.54 in the 200 ... Is a three-star recruit by 247sports and ESPN, and a two-star recruit by Rivals ... Received a scout grade of 82 by 247sports and 72 by ESPN ... Twin brother, Caine, also played at Western HS and is expected to play Division I football for another school ... Picked SDSU over other offers from New Mexico and San Jose State.

Jack Sears

Quarterback

6-3, 205

San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente High/USC)

Spent two seasons at USC, but can play right away after graduating early while taking an aggressive course load ... Started and appeared in one game as a redshirt freshman in 2018, going 20-for-28 (71.4 pct.) for 235 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions in a close 38-35 loss against Arizona State ... Enrolled at USC in the spring of 2017 and redshirted the 2017 fall campaign ... Earned three letters at San Clemente High School from 2014-16, helping the Tritons to a 36-8 record, including a 13-3 mark in 2016 en route to winning a CIF State 1-A championship and CIF Southern Section Division 2 title ... According to MaxPreps, was 434-for-642 (67.6 pct.) for 5,514 yards and 74 touchdowns with just eight interceptions ... Also rushed for 2,286 yards on just 309 carries (7.4 avg.) with seven 100-yard rushing games and 21 touchdowns, while

chipping in with 13 catches for 213 yards and four touchdowns ... As a senior in 2016, threw for 2,602 yards and 37 touchdowns against six interceptions, while adding 1,135 rushing yards and nine scores ... Racked up numerous awards as a senior, making the Prep Star All-American Dream Team, Tacoma News Tribune Western 100, Orange County Register Fab 15 second team, Cal-Hi Sports all-state first team, USA Today all-California second team and Orange County Register all-OC first team, while being named the all-CIF Division 2 and all-South Coast League Offensive Player of the Year ... In 2015 as a junior, threw for 2,697 yards and 37 touchdowns with just two interceptions, while rushing for 862 yards and nine touchdowns on 112 attempts (7.7 avg.) en route to being named to the Cal-Hi Sports all-state junior second team, all-CIF Southwest Division first team and the all-Sea View League offensive most valuable player ... Backed up Sam Darnold as a sophomore in 2014, throwing for 215 yards, while rushing for 289 yards and three touchdowns on 26 carries and catching 12 passes for 178 yards and three additional scores ... Was a consensus four-star recruit prior to heading to USC by Rivals, 247sports and ESPN ... Ranked as the fourth-best pro-style quarterback by 247sports and fifth by ESPN, while coming in as the sixth-best dual-threat quarterback by 247sports ... Was originally offered in high school by San Diego State, but picked USC over the Aztecs and other offers from Arizona, Arizona State, Boston College, California, Colorado, Duke, Florida State, Kansas State, North Carolina, Northwestern, Ole Miss, Oregon State, Tennessee, Texas A&M, UCLA, Utah, Vanderbilt, Washington, Washington State, Colorado State, Hawai'i and UCF.



AZTEC FOOTBALL

2020 EARLY-NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Jelani Whitmore

Defensive Back

6-0, 170

Rialto, Calif. (Carter High)

Played on both sides of the ball at Carter High School in Rialto, Calif., the past two seasons ... According to MaxPreps, on defense had 63 tackles (60 solo), nine interceptions, 18 pass breakups and a forced fumble ... On offense, meanwhile, caught 72 passes for 1,233 yards (17.1 avg.) and nine touchdowns ... Also returned kicks in 2019 as a senior, returning 16 for 566 yards (35.4 avg.) with two touchdowns ... Also a track and field star, who won a league title in the 400 as a junior in 2019 ... A three-star recruit by 247sports, where he received a scout grade of 81.

Joey Wright

Offensive Line

6-5, 300

Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

Earned three letters at Bishop Manogue High School in Reno, Nev., with fellow incoming recruit Vai Kaho ... Helped the Miners to a pair of regional championships and a state runner-up finish in 2018 with an 11-4 record ... Bishop Manogue HS was 20-8 over the last two seasons ... Was a first-team all-state pick ... Led an offensive line that had its running backs rush for 3,188 yards and 39 touchdowns, averaging 245.2 yards per game and 7.2 yards per carry ... A consensus three-star recruit by Rivals, 247sports and ESPN ... Rated as the fourth-best recruit in the state of Nevada by Rivals, and the fifth-best recruit by Rivals and

247sports ... Received a scout grade of 85 by 247sports and a 77 by Rivals ... Picked SDSU over offers from Arizona, Arizona State, Nebraska, USC, Washington State, Eastern Michigan, Fresno State, Nevada and Utah State.