



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

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

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Postgame Football Notes – Colorado State at San Diego State

Dec. 5, 2020

Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif.

Records: San Diego State (4-3, 4-2 Mountain West); Colorado State (1-3, 1-3 Mountain West)

Big Notes

- San Diego State finished Mountain West play at 4-2, its best conference mark since 2017 when it posted a 6-2 record.
- The Aztecs ended the home campaign with a 3-1 record, their best home mark since going 5-1 in 2016.
- SDSU scored two non-offensive touchdowns - a 93-yard kick return by Jordan Byrd and a 90-yard punt return by BJ Busbee - the eighth time with two non-offensive touchdowns in the same game since 2015.
- San Diego State became the first FBS team with a kickoff return TD and a punt return TD in the same quarter since Tennessee on Oct. 31, 2015 (third quarter at Kentucky).
- The Aztecs now have returned a kickoff and punt for a touchdown three times in the last 24 seasons (since 1996).
- SDSU now has 12 kickoff return touchdowns since 2015, the most in FBS over that span.
- San Diego State's 267 kickoff/punt return yards today were the most in a FBS game this season and the most by an Aztec team since at least 1996.
- San Diego State defeated Colorado State for the second straight time in the series and seventh time in the last eight meetings (7-1).
- The Aztecs improved to 6-1 in their last seven games immediately following a loss.

Series History

- The Aztecs improved to 22-14 all-time against Colorado State.
- SDSU improved to 11-8 vs. the Rams at home.
- San Diego State has now won seven of the last eight meetings with CSU.

Team Notes

- SDSU has won 14 of its last 20 games (14-6), 32 of its last 47 (32-15), 39 of its last 56 (39-17), 52 of its last 70 (52-18) and 53 of its last 74 since the 2015 season (53-21).
- The Aztecs improved to 42-6 in their Division I history (since 1969) when holding their opponent to a pass efficiency rating under 102.8 (27-8 at home). Colorado State posted a 75.3 efficiency rating tonight.
- Since the start of the 2019 season, the Rams have been held to 265 or less total offense only three times and twice were games against the Aztecs (265 today and 235 in 2019).
- CSU had two turnovers in its previous three games and had two against the Aztecs today.
- San Diego State scored an offensive touchdown in the first quarter, snapping a streak of six straight quarters without scoring an offensive touchdown (since the second quarter of the Nevada game on Nov. 21).

- SDSU is outscoring the opposition, 45-13, in the first quarter this season.
- San Diego State has held its opponent scoreless in five of the seven first quarters this season and six of eight dating back to last year. The Aztecs have allowed a total of 12 points over the last eight first quarters.
- SDSU now has 54 points over its last four second quarters.

Trends

- San Diego did not start with the ball for just the 18th time over the last 117 games.
- The Aztecs held their opponent scoreless on their opening possession for the sixth time in seven games this season and for the 55th time since 2015 (74 games).
- SDSU has scored in the first quarter in seven of the last eight games.
- San Diego State improved to 4-1 on the season when scoring first and 11-4 in the Brady Hoke era.
- The Aztecs improved to 4-2 on the season when leading after the first quarter and 11-7 in the Brady Hoke era.
- SDSU scored in the second quarter for the 16th straight game.
- SDSU now has 54 points over its last four second quarters and 84 on the season in the second quarter (seven games)
- San Diego State improved to 4-2 on the year when leading at the half and 16-5 in the Brady Hoke era.
- The Aztecs won their 13th straight game when leading after three quarters and sixth straight under Brady Hoke. SDSU is now 4-0 on the year when leading after three quarters and 15-3 in the Brady Hoke era.

Player Notes

*** Jordan Byrd, Jr., RB/KR (2 KR, 148 yds., 1 TD | 10 att., 33 yds.)**

- Returned two kickoffs for a career-high 148 yards (74.0 avg.) and a touchdown, while rushing 10 times for 33 yards.
- Returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown, the first of his career and first by an Aztec since Kaegun Williams on Oct. 19, 2019 at San Jose State.
- The 74.0 kick return average was the highest by an Aztec since at least 1996 (min. 2 returns) and the second highest in a FBS game this season.
- The 148 kick return yards were the most by an Aztec since Davion Mauldin totaled 151 yards on Nov. 7, 2009 vs. TCU and the ninth most in program history.
- It was his third overall touchdown this season and seventh of his career.

*** BJ Busbee, Jr., WR/PR/KR (3 PR, 87 yds., 1 TD | 1 KR, 18 yds.)**

- Returned his first three punts of his career for 87 yards (29.0 avg.) with a touchdown, while returning one kickoff for 18 yards.
- Returned a punt 90 yards for a touchdown, the first by an Aztec on a non-blocked return since Rashaad Penny on Nov. 18, 2017.
- The 90-yard punt return was the longest by an Aztec since Damon Gourdine's school-record 98-yard return on Oct. 24, 1998 vs. Utah. It was the second longest punt return in FBS play this season (heading into the weekend) and tied for the third longest in program history.
- The 29.0 punt return average was the second-highest average by an Aztec since at least 1996 (min. 3 PR) and the seventh most in a FBS game this season (min 3 PR).

*** Jordan Brookshire, Jr., QB (14-for-24, 130 yds., 1 TD, 0 INT | 23 att., 38 yds.)**

- Completed 14 of 24 pass attempts for 130 yards and a touchdown without throwing an interception.
- Also rushed 23 times for 38 yards.
- Ended up setting career highs in completions (14), pass attempts (24), passing yards (130), pass efficiency rating (117.58) and rushing attempts (23).

- Became the fifth quarterback to win his starting debut over the last six chances (SDSU quarterbacks were 1-13 in the previous 14 debuts prior to this stretch).
 - The touchdown pass was the first of his career.
 - The 23 rushing attempts matched Kevin O'Connell (vs. San Jose State on Sept. 24, 2005) for the most by an Aztec quarterback since at least 1996.
- * **Jesse Matthews, So., WR (2 rec., 9 yds., 1 TD)**
- Had a pair of catches for nine yards, including a 9-yard touchdown.
 - The touchdown was his first of the season and third of his career.
- * **Matt Araiza, So., K (3-for-3 FG, 40 long)**
- Was 3-for-3 on field goal attempts with a long of 40 yards.
 - Tied his career high with three field goals (also at UCLA on Sept. 7, 2019).
 - Missed a PAT after SDSU's third touchdown, snapping a streak of 49 PATs without a miss to start his career.
- * **Trenton Thompson, Sr., S (7 tackles (4 solo), 1.5 TFL)**
- Had seven tackles (four solo) with 1.5 tackles for loss.
 - Tied for the team lead in tackle (7).
- * **Jonah Tavai, Jr. DT (7 tackles (4 solo), 1.0 sack, 1.0 TFL)**
- Had a career-high seven tackles (four solo) with a 9-yard sack (and TFL).
 - Tied for the team lead in tackles, the first time of his career he has led the team in stops.
 - Now has four sacks this season and 5.5 for his career.
- * **Cameron Thomas, So., DE (7 tackles (3 solo), 2.0 TFL)**
- Had seven tackles (three solo), including two tackles for loss.
 - Led the team (tied) for the second straight game and now has led the team in stops twice for his career.
 - Over the last two games, has: 21 tackles (14 solo), five tackles for loss and a sack.
- * **Darren Hall, Jr., CB (6 tackles (6 solo), 1 INT)**
- Had six tackles (all solo) and an interception returned for 15 yards.
 - Had an interception for the third straight game, and now has three this season and six for his career.

Other Notes

- WAR Tariq Thompson started for the 46th consecutive game, the longest streak on the team (offense/defense).
- WAR Tariq Thompson and LS Turner Bernard each played in their 46th straight games, the longest streaks on the team.
- LS Turner Bernard played in his 50th career game, the most on the team.
- TE Nolan Givan had his first career catch as an Aztec (he had 51 over his career at Ball State from 2017-19).
- WR Dominic Benson had his first career catches.
- Today's temperature was 67 degrees.

-SDSU-