

San Diego State Aztecs

2023 Record: 3-5, 1-3 Mountain West
 12 Bowl Game Appearances in last 13 Seasons (Bowl Eligible all 13)
 MW Champions: 2016, 2015, 2012 | 21-Time Conference Champions



Ryan Lindley Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

- First season as offensive coordinator (second season as QB coach)
- Is SDSU's all-time leader in six categories, inc. yards (12,690) & TDs (90)
- Lettered at SDSU from 2008-11, including 2009-10 under Brady Hoke
- Came to SDSU as QB coach in Oct. 2022 from Miss. St. (def. analyst)
- Also coached 2 yrs for the Cleveland Browns (2018 RBs & 2019 QBs)

O-LINE NOTES

- Only two returning starters started opener vs. Ohio
- The current starting five has 76 career starts
- Thirty-two (32) of the 76 starts on the projected starting offensive line are by Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson (6 this year)
- San Diego State is 55-2 the last 57 times the Aztecs have rushed for at least 200 yards (1-0 this year).

LEFT TACKLE

61 Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson
 6-6 • 310 • Sr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 32
 Inglewood, Calif. (Narbonne High)

TOP NOTE: Played his prep ball at Narbonne High with fellow 2019 signee Brionne Penny.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
 Most veteran lineman... Made 2023 debut vs. UCLA... Started 12 of 13 last year at LT... Started all 14 at RT in 2021... Has allowed just 5 sacks for his career in 993 passing chances... 1 sack allowed in 403 chances in 2021 at RT... Earned snaps in road win at USU in 2020 & was on travel squad... In 2019, named off. scout player of the year... A 3-star prospect out of Narbonne High.

BACKUP

70 Christian Jones
 6-9 • 315 • So.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 6
 San Luis Obispo, Calif. (San Luis Obispo HS)

Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 35 pounds since coming to SDSU... Played all 13 games last year with just 4 offensive snaps (Sept. 10 vs. ISU)... RS in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

LEFT GUARD

60 Cade Bennett
 6-3 • 305 • Jr.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 20
 Scottsdale, AZ (Notre Dame Prep/Okla. St.)

TOP NOTE: Earned second-team all-Mountain West honors in his first year with the Aztecs in 2022.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Outland Trophy Watch List... Pre. all-MW... Has allowed just 14 QB pressures (1 sack) in 610 passing opportunities (7 in 250 this year)... His 83.5 pass block rating was No. 2 in MW in 2022 (min. 300 chances)... Played games at OSU in 2021 (Kansas on Oct. 30 & Notre Dame on Jan. 1 in Fiesta Bowl)... RS in 2020... Led Notre Dame Prep to 7-4 record in 3 yrs... A consensus 3-star recruit.

BACKUP

68 Thomas Mirabella
 6-4 • 300 • Jr.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 5
 Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mission Viejo HS)

Versatile lineman (G or C)... Started final 4 games at RG in 2022 & 5 overall... Played 335 snaps... 2 GP in 2021... RS in 2020... 2-time MW All-Acad. Team (2021-22) & 2021 MW Scholar-Athlete... A business major (finance).

CENTER

63 Ross Ulugalu-Maseuli
 6-4 • 315 • So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 14
 San Diego, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

TOP NOTE: Has already started at three different spots on the offensive line (5 at RG, 1 at LG & 8 at C this year).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Polynesian College FB PotY Watch List... 1st starts at C this year, taking over for 3-yr starter Alama Uluave... 6 starts in 2022 (5 at RG & 1 at LG)... Played last 2 gms of 2021 (10 off. snaps vs. USU in the MW title game & ST in Frisco Bowl)... Prepped at power Mater Dei in spring 2021... Also went to JSerra Catholic & Cathedral Catholic... Had offers from Alabama, Michigan, USC & Oregon (& others).

BACKUP

68 Thomas Mirabella
 6-4 • 300 • Jr.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 5
 Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mission Viejo HS)

Versatile lineman (G or C)... Started final 4 games at RG in 2022 & 5 overall... Played 335 snaps... 2 GP in 2021... RS in 2020... 2-time MW All-Acad. Team (2021-22) & 2021 MW Scholar-Athlete... A business major (finance).

RIGHT GUARD

76 Dean Abdullah
 6-4 • 290 • Jr.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 8
 Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

TOP NOTE: Has five starts this year, and played 161 of 181 offensive snaps in the last 3 games.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
 Joined SDSU for 2022 fall camp... Has 5 starts at RG this season... Started first two games at RG, came off the bench for next 3 games, and returned to starting line at Air Force... Started 3 games at RG in 2022 with Ulugalu-Maseuli inj... Played 6 games total... DNP over the final 7 in 2022... Transferred from American River College... Prepped at Antelope HS.

BACKUP

53 Myles Murao
 6-3 • 320 • Jr.-TR CGP: 8; CGS: 5
 Torrance, CA (Mater Dei HS/Washington)

Athletic, versatile lineman... Has 2 starts at RT and 3 at RG... Came to SDSU in the summer after spending 3 yrs at UW (2020-22)... Played 4 games at UW in 2022... Prepped at powerhouse Mater Dei HS... 4-star recruit.

RIGHT TACKLE

74 Drew Azzopardi
 6-7 • 315 • Fr.-RS CGP: 11; CGS: 2
 Pacifica, Calif. (Junipero Serra HS)

TOP NOTE: Made his first career start at Hawai'i, after having just three career offensive snaps (all this season).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
 Big, mobile body... First season on the two-deep... Impressed coaching staff in his first career start at Hawai'i... Played every offensive snap as a starter... Also plays on special teams/PAT unit... Was on the travel squad for all 13 games in 2022... Played final three games on the PAT/FG unit as a true freshman, saving redshirt... Prepped at Junipero Serra HS (team was 16-2 last 2 yrs)... Named first team all-West Catholic League as a senior.

BACKUP

70 Christian Jones
 6-9 • 315 • So.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 6
 San Luis Obispo, Calif. (San Luis Obispo HS)

Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 35 pounds since coming to SDSU... Played all 13 games last year with just 4 offensive snaps (Sept. 10 vs. ISU)... RS in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

TE

• Since 2010, eight SDSU TEs have appeared on the John Mackey Award Watch List.

RB

• SDSU has had three running backs finish in the top 10 of Heisman Trophy balloting (Marshall Faulk in 1991 (9th), 1992 (2nd) and 1993 (4th); Donnel Pumphrey in 2016 (10th) and Rashaad Penny in 2017 (5th).

QB

• Prior to Mayden, the last SDSU QB to earn all-MW honors was Ryan Lindley (2nd team, '10).

TIGHT END (Y)

81 Mark Redman
 6-6 • 255 • Sr.-1L CGP: 37; CGS: 21
 Newport Beach, CA (Corona del Mar HS/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Vs. Ohio became the 3rd Aztec TE since at least 1996 w/ 2 TD catches (Gavin Escobar, 3 times from 2011-12; Kahale Warring at Nevada in '18).

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
8	8	22	242	11.0	29	2

Mackey Award Watch List (outstanding TE)... Preseason All-MW... 1st Aztec TE w/ 2 TDs in a season opener vs. Ohio... 2nd-team TE in 1st year at SDSU in 2022 (21 rec., 233 yds., 2 TD)... 2020-21: 16 GP, 1 GS at Washington (5-yl catch)... Had 149 catches for 1,832 yds & 25 TDs at Corona del Mar HS... Was a 4-star recruit by 247sports & Rivals.

BACKUP

86 Cameron Harpole
 6-4 • 250 • So.-1L CGP: 16; CGS: 3
 Prosper, Texas (Prosper High)

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	3	3	18	6.0	8	0

 Young, athletic tight end... Made first career start against Boise State... Career: 3 rec., 18 yds... 2022: Played 9 games, mostly on special teams... 2021: Redshirted... An all-district selection in 2018 at Prosper HS... Ranked 39th-best tight end of 2021 class by ESPN... Likes to fish.

ALSO: No. 89 Logan Tanner (6-3, 235, Fr.-RS) ...CGP: 6; CGS: 1.

RB (T)

23 Kenan Christon
 5-10 • 190 • Sr.-1L CGP: 34; CGS: 11
 San Diego, Calif. (Madison High/USC)

TOP NOTE: Has two career 100-yard rushing games and one 100-yard receiving game.

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
8	8	69	257	3.7	22	0

 Was chosen as a captain by teammates... Has incredible speed... Great pass catcher... Also has 23.5 KR avg... 2022: 71 att., 261 yds., 1 TD & 9 rec., 207 yds., 2 TD in ...10 att., 102 yds., 1 TD at UNM... 2 rec., 111 yds., 1 TD vs MTSU... Career: 218 att., 961 yds., 3 TD; 38 rec., 436 yds., 5 TD... 443 rush yds & 2 TD at USC (2019-21)... 3,042 yds & 36 TDs at Madison HS.

BACKUP

2 Jaylon Armstead
 5-11 • 215 • Jr.-2L CGP: 27; CGS: 2
 Los Angeles, Calif. (Serra High)

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
8	0	60	257	4.3	48	5

 Big, bruising running back... Recorded first multi-TD game with 2 rushing TDs vs. Boise State... Ran for 313 yards with two touchdowns on 52 carries in 2022 (6.0 avg. (5th in MW))... 2021: 24 att., 75 yds... 2020: 1 att., 5 yds... Career: 137 att., 650 yds. (4.7 avg.), 7 TD... Prepped at Serra HS.

RB (F)

29 Cam Davis
 5-8 • 180 • So.-1L CGP: 23; CGS: 0
 Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff High)

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
8	0	30	107	3.6	25	0

 Has a quick first step and can find the holes... This season, 30 carries, 107 yds., 10 rec., 44 yds... Career-game at UH w/ 10 att., 53 yds., 2 rec., 17 yds... 2022: 46 att., 151 yds. & a TD... Played two games on special teams in 2021... Ran for 2,932 yds and 35 TDs at South Oak Cliff HS in Dallas.

BACKUP

13 Martin Blake
 5-6 • 205 • So.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 2
 Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs High)

Former walk-on, who earned a scholarship on 5/28/23... Versatile back w/ good hands... 133 AP yds., 1st TD vs. ISU... 2022: 9 att., 33 yds., in 12 GP (2 GS)... Prepped at the same HS (Canyon Springs HS) as former Aztec/all-time leading rusher Donnel Pumphrey.

BACKUP

7 Lucky Sutton
 6-1 • 215 • Fr.-RS CGP: 5; CGS: 0
 San Diego, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic High)

Highly recruited, local product... Scored first career TD on third career rush in 2 TD game at Hawai'i... 2022: Redshirted, made collegiate debut at UNM... Ran for 3,581 yds and 44 TDs at Cathedral Catholic HS.

QUARTERBACK

18 Jalen Mayden
 6-3 • 220 • ^Sr.-1L CGP: 25; CGS: 16
 Garland, Texas (Sachse High/Mississippi State)

TOP NOTE: Ran for 132 yards and two touchdowns vs. Idaho State, the most rushing yards by an Aztec quarterback in program history.

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Cmp.	Att.	Pct.	Int.	TD	Yds.	Rtg.
8	8	123	200	61.5	6	6	1,332	121.34

Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Watch List (off. Texas ties)... HM all-MW in 2022... Team's Off. PotY... Switched back to QB from S on 0/3/22... Since moving to QB, is 1st in MW in yds per comp. (12.79) & 3rd in yds (3,364 yds)... Career: 3,421 yds., 19 TD, 16 INT, 60.6 comp. %; 699 rush yds., 6 TD... Moved to S in the spring 2022... Was 5-for-6 for 50 yds & TD vs. USU late in 2021 MW title game (also 36 rush yds on 4 att... In 3 gms at MSU from 2018-19, was 1 of 2 for 9 yds & 32 rush yds on 7 att... Totaled 9,472 yds & 114 TD at Sachse HS in Texas... Was a 4-star recruit.

BACKUP

10 Tobin O'Dell
 6-2 • 205 • Fr.-RS CGP: 2; CGS: 0
 La Puente, Calif. (Bishop Amat High)

Is on the depth chart for the first time of career (was 5th after spring camp)... Threw an interception on a Hail Mary to end first half vs. Idaho St... 1-for-1, 0 yds. vs. UCLA... RS in 2022... Was Mission League Off. PotY at Bishop Amat HS... Nephew of former NFL head coach Norv Turner.

WR

• San Diego State's wide receivers have combined for just 23 starts with Brionne Penny, Josh Nicholson and true freshman Baylin Brooks each making their first career starts this season. Brooks (117) and Shaw (126) have both recorded 100+ receiving yard games this season.

WR (Z)

11 Brionne Penny
 6-3 • 200 • Sr.-1L CGP: 25; CGS: 3
 Norwalk, Calif. (Narbonne High)

TOP NOTE: Older brother, Rashaad, ran for an Aztec-record 2,248 yds & 2,974 all-purpose yds in 2017, finishing 5th in the Heisman Trophy voting.

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
8	3	20	233	11.6	36	0

 Started last 2 gms... Had 5 rec., 97 yds. vs. Boise State... Career: 37 rec., 460 yds., 0 TD... 2022: 12 rec., 166 yds... 2021: 5 rec., 61 yds... 2020: DNP... 2019: RS... Oldest brother, Elijah, played in NFL (AZ & NYG).

BACKUP

14 Phillipe Wesley
 6-0 • 190 • So.-RS CGP: 8; CGS: 2
 Grandview, Mo. (St. Bernard High)

Made a big leap in fall, but has battled injuries... 4 rec., 47 yds. this season... Career: 5 rec., 56 yds... 2022: 1 rec., 9 yds... Redshirted in 2021... Prepped at St. Bernard High... Graduated early, joined SDSU spring 2021.

WR (F)

83 Mekhi Shaw
 5-10 • 190 • Jr.-2L CGP: 31; CGS: 11
 San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

TOP NOTE: Recorded 2nd 100+ rec. yd game at Hawai'i w/ career-high 7 rec., career-high 126 yds, 1 TD in 1st game back from injury on Oct. 14.

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
6	5	17	249	14.6	69	2

 Most veteran wideout on the team... Earned scholarship on N/21/22... 2022: 29 rec., 349 yds, 3 TD in 13 GP (5 GS) as SDSU's 3rd WR... 2021: 4 rec., 42 yds. in 12 Gs... RS in 2020... Prepped at nearby Scripps Ranch

BACKUP

40 Mikey Welsh
 5-10 • 170 • Fr.-RS CGP: 2; CGS: 0
 Servite, Calif. (Servite High)

Good route runner w/ dependable hands... In the 2-deep for the 1st time this season... Played 1st snaps on special teams vs. Idaho State... RS in 2022... Played at powerhouse Servite HS... 1st-tm all-league as a senior.

WR (X)

80 Baylin Brooks
 6-2 • 195 • Fr.-HS CGP: 8; CGS: 4
 Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena High)

TOP NOTE: Became first Aztec true freshman with 100+ rec. yards in a game since 1994 (fourth overall: Az Hakim, Darnay Scott, Marshall Faulk).

2023 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
8	4	13	227	17.5	37	1

 Against Ohio, became 1st Aztec true freshman WR to start since 2018... 6 rec., 117 yds, first career TD vs. Boise State... First 100-yard receiver since Mekhi Shaw on Nov. 18, 2022... Prepped at Pasadena High School.

BACKUP

85 Joshua Nicholson
 6-0 • 175 • So.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 3
 Grand Prairie, Texas (South Grand Prairie High)

Speedster, who is coming off an injury in fall camp... Caught first TD of season at Air Force, season-long 21 yd catch... 2022: 4 rec., 44 yds., 1 TD in 6 games... RS in 2021... Also ran track at South Grand Prairie HS (TX).

SPECIALISTS



PUNTER (P)

GP	GS
13	34
49	7

PLACEKICKER (PK)

GP	GS
13	34
46	2

KICKOFFS (KO)

GP	GS
13	34
46	2

HOLDER (H)

GP	GS
49	8
83	30

LONG SNAPPER (LS)

GP	GS
50	35
64	0

SHORT SNAPPER (SS)

GP	GS
50	35
64	0

KICKOFF RETURNS (KOR)

GP	GS
23	33
29	22
20	2

PUNT RETURNS (PR)

GP	GS
83	31
4	30

Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list



Brady Hoke

Head Coach

- ♦ 2011 Maxwell Football Club Collegiate Coach of the Year
- ♦ 2008 AFCA FBS Region 3 Coach of the Year
- ♦ Four-time conference Coach of the Year (MW - 2010 & 2021, Big Ten - 2011, MAC - 2008)
- ♦ Led 2010 Aztecs to first winning season since 1998



Kurt Mattix

DC/Linebackers Coach

- ♦ Named defensive coordinator in January 2020
- ♦ Now in his 11th year working with Brady Hoke
- ♦ Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coord.
- ♦ Has twice been a Broyles Award nominee (2020-21) for the top assistant coach

DEFENSIVE END

90 Daniel Okpoko

/oh-poke-oh/

6-5 ♦ 275 ♦ Sr.-2L CGP: 33; CGS: 8
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (St. Joseph's HS)

TOP NOTE: In his third consecutive (and career) start vs. UCLA, recorded his first two tackles for loss this season, including a sack.

Stuck around for a sixth season, utilizing his COVID year after backing up a 2022 defensive line where all three players were in NFL camps this fall... Lanky, defensive end who can move... Is up to his biggest playing weight of his career (275 pounds)... Has started all eight games this season (the first of his career) and recorded 15 tackles (six solo) along with five quarterback hurries, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack... **Career:** 27 tackles, 5.0 TFL, 3.0 sacks, 4 PBUs... Had nine tackles, 1.5 TFL and a sack in 12 games last year in 120 snaps... Registered three assisted tackles in 33 snaps in 2021... Played only one game each in 2020 and 2019... Redshirted in 2018... A member of the Football Canada U18 National Team... Also on basketball and track & field teams.

BACKUP

96 Ryan Henderson

6-3 ♦ 255 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Las Vegas, Nev. (Goodyear High)

Is on the 2-deep for the 1st time of his career... Came up with 3 big tackles at Hawai'i, including a sack & then a FF (and FR) in his most playing time (19 snaps) of the year... Has 40 snaps overall... Redshirted in 2022 (DNP)... Was an all-state selection at Canyon Springs High in Las Vegas.

ALSO: No. 30 Dominic Oliver (6-3, 250, So.-1L) ... CGP: 19; GS: 0.

LINEBACKER (SAM)

55 Cooper McDonald

6-3 ♦ 245 ♦ Sr.-1L CGP: 35; CGS: 24
Haslet, Texas (Northwest High/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Older brother, Caden, was a three-time first-team all-Mountain West selection from 2020-22.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

An excellent pash rusher... Transferred from Washington in the spring 2022 along with his roommate and tight end Mark Redman... Has 26 tackles (14 solo), 1.5 sacks, 2.0 tackles for loss and nine quarterback hurries in eight starts this season... Is tied for fifth in the MW in QB pressures (25 per PFF)... **Career:** 96 tackles (58 solo), 12.5 TFL, 5.0 sacks, 2 FR, 6 PBU... Had 41 tackles (26 solo) in six starts and 12 games played last year with two sacks, five tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries (T-3rd in MW)... Had 28 tackles (1.5 sacks) at UW (2020-21), playing 15 of 16 games (10 starts)... Won the discus throw at the 5A state championships in 2019... Oldest brother, Colton, played at North Texas, older brother, Caden, played at SDSU (2018-22) & dad, Mike, played at Arkansas State.

BACKUP

47 Trey White

6-1 ♦ 240 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 11; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Eastlake High)

Is on the depth chart for the first season... Has an interception and a fumble recovery... Played in three games in 2022, being named SDSU's special teams scout team player of the year... Was a three-time first-team all-league selection at nearby Eastlake High.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

99 Tupu Alualu

/too-poo/ /ah-loo-ah-loo/

6-1 ♦ 275 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 8; CGS: 8
Honolulu, Hawaii (Moanalua HS/Mt. SAC)

TOP NOTE: Has started each of his first seven Division I games after coming from Mt. SAC.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Joined the Aztecs in the spring from Mt. SAC... Has 18 total tacks (seven solo), including two sacks for eight yards... Has also logged four QBH... Had three tackles, including 1.5 sacks, vs. Idaho State (Sept. 2)... Made four tackles (one solo) in 42 snaps against UCLA on Sept. 9... Played at Mt. SAC in 2021, totaling 46 tackles and 5.5 sacks... Also played a season at New Mexico Military Institute in 2019, logging 27 tackles with a fumble recovery in eight games... Prepped at Moanalua High School in Honolulu for current Aztec tight end coach Savai'i Eselu... Also played two seasons at powerhouse St. Louis High School.

BACKUP

45 Wyatt Draeger

6-4 ♦ 270 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 39; CGS: 0
Reno, Nev. (Reno High)

Has 11 total tackles, a PBU and a QBH this season... Had 2 tackles in 12 games in 2022 (57 snaps)... Had three tackles in 2021, mostly playing on special teams... Played in 5 of 8 games in 2020... RS in 2019... All-state honorable mention at Reno High.

ALSO: No. 94 Samuelu Tuihalamaka (6-1, 290, Sr.-TR) ... CGP: 38; GS: 3.

LINEBACKER (MIKE)

6 Zyrus Fiaseu

/fee-uh-say-oo/

6-0 ♦ 220 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 23; CGS: 14
Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty High)

TOP NOTE: Had a Pro Football Focus grade of 90.5 vs. UCLA (Sept. 9), highest in the country among linebackers and third highest overall.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Hard-hitting linebacker... High energy guy... Leads the team in tackles (48), TFL (8.0), SCK (2.5), FF (3) & FR (2)... Had a monster game against UCLA w/ 12 tackles, 2 FF (14th time in program history), 1 FR, 1 sack & 1 PBU... Another FF & FR at Hawai'i... Had 24 tackles (1.5 TFL, 0.5 sacks) in 2022 in 244 defensive snaps... Came up with four tackles at No. 14/15 Utah in just six snaps... First start came against Hawai'i on Oct. 8... Played in two games in 2021 on special teams without recording a stat... Prepped at Liberty High School in Las Vegas... Was an all-state selection and three-time all-league pick... Picked SDSU over numerous offers, including Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska and Boise State... Brother, Austin, played linebacker at UNLV... Is majoring in kinesiology.

BACKUP

42 Brady Anderson

6-2 ♦ 230 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 0
Bakersfield, Calif. (Liberty High)

Young, strong linebacker... Has 10 tackles (four solo)... Redshirted his second season in 2022... Had one tackle in 12 games on special teams in 2021... Helped Liberty High to a pair of league titles, going 22-4 overall over his final two years... Also was team's baseball MVP at second base.

DEFENSIVE END

39 Garret Fountain

6-4 ♦ 260 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 44; CGS: 8
Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

TOP NOTE: Earned the most votes for team captain as voted on by the team.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Most veteran player on an inexperienced defensive line... Has great intensity and a high motor... Always seems to be around the ball... Moved to defensive end from linebacker in the spring 2022... Earned his first career start in the opener vs. Ohio in his 37th career game played... Has 28 tackles (16 solo), including 2.5 TFL and 0.5 sacks... **Career:** 90 tackles (55 solo), 14.5 TFL, 6.5 sacks, 1 FF, 2 FR, 4 PBUs... Had 41 tackles, 6.0 TFL and 3.0 sacks in just 369 snaps (of 874, 42.2 pct.) in 2022... Had 19 tackles in 2021, with 5.0 TFL, 3.0 SCK, 1 FR and 1 PBU... Had a forced fumble late vs. UNLV in 2020... Played 1st 4 gms of 2019 on ST... 2019 ST Scout Tm PotY... Led Turlock HS to undefeated league title in 2018... Also played baseball... Has thrown the football over 70 yards in practice.

BACKUP

93 Brady Nassar

6-4 ♦ 240 ♦ Fr.-HS CGP: 6; CGS: 0
Pleasanton, Calif. (Amador Valley High)

Has recently moved up into the two-deep as a true freshman... Has two solo tackles and a quarterback hurry in six games... Has played 74 snaps... Prepped at Amador Valley High... Picked SDSU over offers Pac-12 schools Washington, OSU, WSU, Colorado, ASU and Cal.

ALSO: No. 91 Keion Mitchell (6-4, 260, So.-SQ) ... CGP: 8; GS: 0.

LINEBACKER (WILL)

58 Cody Moon

6-3 ♦ 210 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 32; CGS: 12
Albuquerque, N.M. (Volcano Vista HS/New Mexico)

TOP NOTE: Transferred to SDSU from New Mexico, where he spent three years (2020-22), earning honorable all-MW honors in 2022.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

On the Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List (best defensive player)... Preseason all-MW... Earned MW Defensive Player of the Week honors in week one with a team-high 12 tackles (seven solo), a PBU and a QBH... Logged eight tackles at Air Force and vs. Nevada... Has 41 tackles (18 solo) this year... **Career:** 190 tackles, 11.5 TFL, 5.0 sacks, 6 PBU, 1 FF and 1 INT... Honorable-mention all-Mountain West at New Mexico in 2022 w/ 105 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss & 4.5 sacks... Had 44 tackles in 2021... Redshirted in 2020... Former walk-on, who earned a scholarship in the spring 2022... Lettered in football & baseball at Volcano Vista HS in Albuquerque, N.M.

BACKUP

36 New Zealand Williams

6-2 ♦ 205 ♦ So.-SQ CGP: 6; CGS: 1
Carson, Calif. (St. Bernard High)

Notes: Is on the two-deep for the first time of his career... Has played in five games this year, starting vs. UCLA on Sept. 9... Has seven tackles and an interception (vs. Ohio)... Played on game in 2022... Redshirted in 2021... Picked SDSU over numerous offers out of St. Bernard HS.

ALSO: No. 44 Vai Kaho (6-1, 230, Sr.-3L) ... CGP: 38; GS: 3.

CORNERBACK

10 Noah Tumblin

6-2 ♦ 185 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 42; CGS: 20
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

TOP NOTE: Has played in 42 consecutive games, the longest active streak on the team.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Athletic CB, who was a dual-sport star at nearby Mira Mesa HS... FBS ranks: T-3rd in passes defended (INT + PBU) (11), T-11th in PBUs (9) & T-62nd in INT (2)... PFF Ranks: 12th in pass cov. by a CB (81.9, min. 225 passes) & 13th in def. grade by a CB (80.7, min. 400 snaps)... Has 22 tackles (19 solo), 9 PBUs & 2 INT... **Career:** 67 tackles (59 solo), 3 INT, 18 PBU... 2022: 11 TCK, 1 INT, 2 PBU in 13 GP (5 GS)... 2021: 32 TCK & 7 PBUs in 14 GP (8 GS)... 8 TCK, 3 PBU vs. NMSU... 2020: 7 GP, mostly on special teams (2 TCK)... RS in 2019... Threw for 4,589 yds & 40 TDs at nearby Mira Mesa HS, & ran for 1,891 yds & 23 TDs as a dual-threat QB... Also was a star PG on hoops team.

BACKUP

21 Chris Johnson

6-0 ♦ 180 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 0
Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS)

Young CB who has impressed the coaching staff... Coming off a great fall camp... Has 14 tackles in last five games (9 over his 1st career 15 games)... Was named SDSU's outstanding freshman award (defense) in 2022... Had 6 tackles in 12 games, playing 72 defensive snaps overall... Was 1st-team all-league at Eleanor Roosevelt HS as a Sr. excelling as a CB, WR, KR, PR and P.

FIELD WARRIOR

17 Deshawn McCuin

6-0 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-TR CGP: 29; CGS: 3
Jacksonville, Texas (TCU)

TOP NOTE: Returned an interception 70 yards for a touchdown in last game played at Hawai'i (Oct. 14).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Pronounced muh-cue-en... Has started his last two games played, including Sept. 9 vs. UCLA & Oct. 14 vs. Hawai'i... Has missed four games around those two starts... Has 7 tackles, 1.0 TFL & 1 INT (70 yds for a TD)... Had 18 tackles in his three-plus year career at TCU... Played 25 games (one start) with the Horned Frogs, including an appearance against Georgia in the 2022 CFP National Championship game... In his lone start at TCU, recorded the first interception of his career... Rated as the No. 86 safety in the nation & No. 131 overall player in Texas coming out of HS... Was listed as a 3-star recruit by 247Sports.

BACKUP

24 Josh Hunter

5-9 ♦ 180 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 9; CGS: 1
Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

Is coming off first career start vs. Nevada on Oct. 21 (4 tackles)... Has 10 tackles in 98 snaps... An excellent tackler... Played in 1st 3 games of 2022 on special teams but ended up redshirting... Helped Mater Dei HS to 2 CIF open championships, 2 state titles & 3 league championships, where it was a combined 43-2 (.956)... Father, Brian, spent nine years in Major League Baseball.

ALSO: No. 31 Dav Vaughn Celestine (6-0, 190, Sr.-2L) ... CGP: 32; GS: 14.

AZTEC

33 JD Coffey III

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 19; CGS: 0
Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS/Texas)

TOP NOTE: Is expected to make his first career start Saturday against Utah State.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Transfer from Texas who joined the Aztecs for spring ball... Is coming off his most extensive play of the season, logging two tackles and adding a pass breakup in 22 snaps after entering the game with 30 snaps total on the season... Has five tackles and a pass breakup overall in 52 snaps... Played two seasons at Texas, totaling 11 tackles in 12 appearances... Played in six games in 2022 (six tackles) and six in 2021 (five tackles) as a true freshman... Picked Texas out of high school out of numerous offers, including Michigan, Penn State, LSU, Notre Dame, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Florida.

BACKUP

32 Marcus Ratcliffe

6-2 ♦ 210 ♦ Fr.-HS CGP: 8; CGS: 8
Chula Vista, CA (Cathedral Catholic HS)

Joined SDSU for the spring season... Started 1st 8 games, logging 34 tackles (25 solo)... Became 1st Aztec true freshman to start at the signature Aztec position since the 3-3-5 defense started here in 2009... Only 5th true freshman overall to start in the defense... Prepped at nearby power Cathedral Catholic HS... Was a three-time first-team all-league pick on defense and once on offense.

BOUNDARY WARRIOR

3 Cedarius Barfield

5-11 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-4L CGP: 46; CGS: 28
El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

TOP NOTE: The most veteran player on defense with 28 starts & 46 games played.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... Is tied for 17th in FBS with 3 interceptions... **Career:** 131 tackles, 9.5 TFL, 4 INT, 9 PBU, 2 FF, 1 FR... Made 49 tackles last year in 12 GP (7 GS) with 4 TFL, 1 INT, 2 PBU, 2 FF, 1 FR & 1 blocked kick... Had 38 tackles (24 solo) & 3 PBU in 1st 10 games in 2021 (9 GS) before injury... Had 13 tackles (9 solo) in 2020, including 2 TFL & a PBU in 7 GP (4 GS)... 9 GP in 2019 (mostly ST) w/ a PBU late in NM Bowl... RS in 2018... Played on 4 district championship teams at El Dorado HS, seeing time at QB, WR, CB, KR, PR & P... Threw for 5,670 yds & 59 TD, & ran for 3,760 yds & 58 TD.

BACKUP

34 Eric Butler

6-1 ♦ 185 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 0
Corona, Calif. (Centennial High)

Has 20 tackles, 2.5 TFL & a sack... Had a breakout game vs. BS on Sept. 22 (8 TCK, 2.5 TFL, 1.0 SCK)... Mainly played on special teams in 2022 with 7 tackles (three solo) as a true freshman... Logged 30 defensive snaps overall... Played in the final 12 games... Prepped at Centennial High School in Corona, Calif... Led the Huskies to the state semi... Centennial HS ranked 3rd in the state.

CORNERBACK

4 Dez Malone

6-2 ♦ 200 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 31; CGS: 19
Fresno, Calif. (Edison High)

TOP NOTE: Was a honorable-mention all-Mountain West selection last year in his first season as a starter.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Started his career out at safety but as thrived at cornerback... Has 30 tackles (22 solo), 2 TFL, 1 INT & 6 PBU... MW ranks: T-7th in pass breakups (6) & T-8th in passes defended (PBU + INT) (7)... Longest active start streak (19 games) on the team... Earned HM all-MW accolades in 2022 with 43 tackles (34 solo), 3interceptions & 5 PBUs... Saw action in 8 games in 2021 on special teams... Moved from safety to cornerback in 2021 fall camp... Played 2 games on special teams in 2020 before redshirting... A three-star recruit out of Edison HS in Fresno... Was a two-time first-team all-league pick and a team captain.

BACKUP

35 Jelani Whitmore

6-0 ♦ 175 ♦ Jr.-SQ CGP: 9; CGS: 0
Rialto, Calif. (Carter High)

Is on the two-deep for the first time of his career... Moved back to cornerback in fall camp after spending the last year trying out wide receiver... Has played in eight games, all on special teams... Played in the 2022 Hawai'i Bowl vs. Middle Tennessee State for first collegiate appearance... DNP in 2021... RS in 2020... Earned both sides at Carter High... Also ran track & field.

Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list