



Rocky Long

Head Coach

- Three-Time Mountain West Coach of the Year
- All-time winningest coach in Mountain West history
- SDSU finished 25th in both national polls last year
- Defense ranked 11th last year and 17th in scoring defense
- 15 players selected in the NFL Draft in his six seasons as head coach



Danny Gonzales

DC/Safeties Coach

- Named defensive coordinator in March 2017
- In his seventh season at SDSU coaching safeties
- SDSU's 57 interceptions from 2015-17 are most in FBS
- Aztecs led nation with 26 interceptions last year
- Has spent 15 years working/playing with Coach Long

DEFENSIVE END

95 Noble Hall

/nobel/

6-3 • 265 • Jr.-2L CGP: 31; CGS: 23
Las Vegas, Nev. (Valley High)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Athletic, mobile d-lineman ... Played 1st 2 seasons at DT ... Has 22 tackles, 6.5 TFL, 2.5 sacks, 2 FF & 2 QBH this year ... **MW Def. PoTW** at ASU (5 OHR) ... 2015: 20 tackles in 11 GP (3 GS), inc. 6.0 TFL, 0.5 sacks, a FF & a PBU ... **2014 SDSU Def. Scout Team PoTW**, while redshirting ... **Career:** 68 tackles, 18.5 TFL, 6.0 sacks, 3 FF ... Received 3 stars from ESPN & 24 sports out of HS ... A 3-time captain at Valley HS in Las Vegas ... Previously known as Eric Burral, but legally changed his name to honor his father, who was shot and killed before he was born.

OR

41 Dakota Turner

6-3 • 250 • Jr.-1L CGP: 34; CGS: 3
Mililani, Hawaii (Mililani High)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Notes: Tough, relentless defensive end who is great in pursuit ... Returned to play Sept. 30 vs. NIU after partially tearing an ACL on Aug. 19 in an SDSU scrimmage ... Has 4 tackles & a sack ... Started first three games last year at fullback, but played final 11 at defensive end, totaling 40 tackles, 5 TFL, 2 sacks, 2 PBU & a FR ... 2015: 15 tackles (4 TFL) before tearing an ACL at Hawaii ... 2014: 18 tackles, 2.5 TFL & 2 sacks in 12 games ... 2013: Redshirted ... **Career:** 75 TFL, 11.5 TFL, 4 SCK & 1 FF in 33 career games (inc. 3 off. GP) ... 1st-team all-state at Mililani HS ... Social science major.

ALSO: No. 55 Chibba Onyekwura (6-4, 255, Jr.-3L) ... GP: 4; CGS: 0

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

65 Sergio Phillips

6-2 • 285 • Sr.-3L CGP: 35; CGS: 6
DeSoto, Texas (DeSoto HS)

TOP NOTE: Has the most career tackles (70) among current SDSU defensive linemen, despite only starting six games (all this year).

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Has switched back & forth from the offensive line (2013 recruit, spring 2015) & defensive end (spring/fall 2014, fall 2015-current) ... Has 23 tackles, 1.0 TFL & two QBH in first six career starts this year ... Had 42 tackles (20 solo), 3.5 tackles for loss, three sacks, a forced fumble, a pass breakup and three quarterback hurries last year off the bench ... **Career:** high 10 stops, 1 sack in 2016 MW Championship game ... Played in eight games in 2015 (six on OL, two on DL), including being the only defensive substitute at the MW Championship game ... Had five tackles, 2.0 TFL & a sack in 2014 ... Was a three-star recruit out of DeSoto HS in Texas ... Was an all-state selection as a senior ... Led DeSoto to a 14-1 record & 7-0 mark in league play as a senior ... Majoring in social science.

LEAGUE UP

61 Damon Moore

6-4 • 250 • Jr.-SQ CGP: 7; CGS: 0
Novato, Calif. (San Marin High)

Notes: Walk-on, who played in 1 game in 2016 after missing 2015 & the 2016 spring w/ a knee injury ... 5 tackles, 1 FR in 6 GP this year ... Had 2 tackles vs. Hawaii in 2016 ... Missed 2015 w/ injury ... RS in 2014 ... Earned 2 letters at San Marin HS ... A business administration major.

DEFENSIVE END

68 Myles Cheatum

6-2 • 255 • So.-SQ CGP: 11; CGS: 6
Cedar Park, Texas (Cedar Park HS)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Athletic, relentless d-lineman who continues to improve his technique ... Was promoted to a starter when incumbent Dakota Turner injured his knee in the Aztec Fan Fest on Aug. 19 ... Had 1st career start (in just his 6th game) in opener vs. UCD ... Has 14 tackles, 3.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks & team-high 4 OHR ... 2016: 4 tackles in 5 GP ... 2015: RS ... Recorded 10 TFL as a senior at Cedar Park HS in 2014 as the team went 12-4 overall record ... Also added 10 offensive TD (8 rushing, 2 receiving) ... Was born in Athens, Greece ... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

OR

41 Dakota Turner

6-3 • 250 • Jr.-1L CGP: 34; CGS: 3
Mililani, Hawaii (Mililani High)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Notes: Tough, relentless defensive end who is great in pursuit ... Returned to play Sept. 30 vs. NIU after partially tearing an ACL on Aug. 19 in an SDSU scrimmage ... Has 4 tackles & a sack ... Started first three games last year at fullback, but played final 11 at defensive end, totaling 40 tackles, 5 TFL, 2 sacks, 2 PBU & a FR ... 2015: 15 tackles (4 TFL) before tearing an ACL at Hawaii ... 2014: 18 tackles, 2.5 TFL & 2 sacks in 12 games ... 2013: Redshirted ... **Career:** 75 TFL, 11.5 TFL, 4 SCK & 1 FF in 33 career games (inc. 3 off. GP) ... 1st-team all-state at Mililani HS ... Social science major.

ALSO: No. 45 Anthony Luke (6-4, 260, Jr.-2L) ... GP: 4; CGS: 0

LINEBACKER

39 Ronley/ron-lee/Lakalaka/lock-oh-lock-oh

6-0 • 225 • Jr.-2L CGP: 31; CGS: 19
Kalihi, Hawaii (Punahou HS)

TOP NOTE: His 73 tackles last year were the third most by an Aztec underclassman in the Rocky Long defensive coordinator era (since 2009).

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Physical non-stopping linebacker who has become one of the leaders on defense ... Moved into the two-deep for the South Alabama game as a true freshman in 2015 with Jake Fey injured & stayed there for the rest of the season, before starting 13 of 14 games last year ... Has 33 tackles, 3.5 TFL & 2 sacks this year ... Had 73 tackles (2nd on team) last year with 3.0 TFL, an 8-yd sack, 2 INT's & 2 TD's & a TD, a PBU & 5 QBH ... Was 1 of 2 true freshmen on the depth chart in either side of the ball in 2015 (also safety Parker Baldwin), making 11 tackles ... Full name is Ronley Saomnifadese Lodalakalaka ... Was 2-time all-state 1st-team selection at Punahou HS ... Older brother, Steven, played RB at Hawaii, while younger brother, Seydick, is a true freshman LB at SDSU ... Is majoring in social science.

BACKUP

44 Kyahva/Key-AH-va/Tezino /tah-ZEENO/

6-0 • 230 • So.-1L CGP: 16; CGS: 0
Los Angeles, Calif. (Salesian HS)

Notes: Explosive athlete, who will be counted on for more snaps in 2017 ... 2016: 5 tackles (1.5 sacks) in 11 GP ... 2015: RS, where he was named the team's defensive scout PoTW ... Rushed for 1,704 yards & 13 TD on offense & made 243 tackles at Salesian HS ... A 4-star recruit.

LINEBACKER

46 Jay Henderson

6-2 • 230 • Sr.-3L CGP: 35; CGS: 9
Phelan, Calif. (Serrano HS)

TOP NOTE: First 25 games of his career (0 GS): 7 TCK, 0.0 TFL, 0.0 SCK, 0 QBH; Last 10 games (9 GS): 27 TCK, 9.0 TFL, 6.5 SCK, 9 QBH

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Talented athlete, who moved back to linebacker late last season after moving to defensive end in the spring of 2016 ... Has 13 tackles, 6.5 TFL, 4 sacks, 2 QBH & a PBU ... Monster game vs. NIU with 6 tackles (5 solo), 3 sacks, 4 TFL & QBH ... PBU vs. UCD in opener led to firing Thompson pick ... Had 15 tackles (10 solo), 2.5 sacks for 18 yards, 3 TFL, a forced fumble, a PBU & 7 QBH last year ... Had career-high 4 tackles, along with his 1st career sack, 1st TFL, 1st 4 QBH & 1st PBU in 1st career start at Wyoming (11/19/16) ... Had 3 tackles in 9 games in 2015 ... Made 3 stops as a true freshman in 2014 ... A consensus 3-star recruit out of Phelan High School ... A 2-time all-league pick, including the league defensive MVP as a senior ... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

BACKUP

38 Andrew Aleki

6-3 • 220 • Fr.-HS CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Honolulu, Hawaii (Kamehameha HS)

Notes: Athletic LB who impressed coaching staff w/ a solid fall camp ... Logged 13 snaps as a true fresh vs. UC Davis ... 2 stops in 3 separate games ... FR vs. NIU ... Played his prep ball at Kamehameha HS in Honolulu ... 247 sports had him as the 6th-best recruit in Hawaii ... Full name is Andrew Kai'o Aleki.

LINEBACKER

42 Troy Cassidy

6-3 • 215 • So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 6
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

TOP NOTE: Entered fall camp third on the depth chart, but started first six games this season; From same high school as Christian Chapman.

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
Notes: Smart, athletic player who played in 11 games as a true freshman last year ... Joins fellow starters Ronley Lakalaka (Lk) & Jay Henderson (Sj) as linebackers who never redshirted a season (true freshman Andrew Aleki is also on the two-deep) ... Has 17 tackles (nine solo) with 1.5 TFL, 0.5 sacks and a PBU ... Played the final 11 games, mostly on special teams, making 10 tackles (four solo) with a 1-yard sack (and TFL) ... Made a career-high three stops (all solo) vs. San Jose State, while also recording his first sack (and TFL), going for 1-yard ... Recorded 178 tackles (119 solo) with 10 sacks over his three-year career at Carlsbad HS (some school as starting CB Christian Chapman) ... Also played tight end for the 2015 Backyard West League champ ... Is undecided on a major.

BACKUP

57 Ryan Dunn 52 Tyler Morris

6-3 • 230 • Sr.-2L CGP: 33; CGS: 20
6-3 • 225 • Sr.-1L CGP: 23; CGS: 0

Notes: Has the most starts (20) of any returning Aztec linebacker ... 24 with NIU ... 2015: 3 TCK in 14 GP (13 GS) ... 24 tackles in 2016 ... 40 stops in 2015 ... 1 GP, missed rest with NIU ... 2013: RS ... DNP in 2014 ... RS at Ariz. in 2013. Working on master's in homeland security.

CORNERBACK

17 Ron Smith

6-0 • 170 • So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 11
Oakland, Calif. (St. Mary's HS)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
TOP NOTE: Tied a SDSU single-season record with two interceptions returned for a touchdown last year.

Good technique with a knack for coming up with the big play ... Started the final 6 games last year, recording 45 tackles, 0.5 TFL, 3 INT (2 for a TD), 1 PBU & 5 OHR over that span ... INT vs. UCD & Stanford & has 5 picks in last 12 GP ... 29 stops (22 solo), 2 INT, 7 PBU & a TFL ... Had 57 tackles, 3 INT for 77 yards & 2 TD, 3 PBU, a FF & 0.5 TFL on the season ... Was named to the 2016-17 Associated Press & Athlon Sports all-bowl teams for his play in the Las Vegas Bowl (10 tackles, INT for a TD) ... Redshirted in 2015 as a true fresh ... A 3-star recruit by Rivals, Scout, ESPN & 247 sports ... Majoring in psychology.

BACKUP

27 Kyree Woods

6-0 • 175 • So.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 0
Mesquite, Calif. (Chandler HS)

Athletic, young cornerback who should increase workload this year ... 7 stops this year ... Had 1 tackle in 7 games as a true fresh last year, which went down as a 10-yard sack on Hawaii's quarterback Drew Brown on 4th & 5, keeping SDSU's 55-0 shutout intact ... Led Chandler HS to a 24-4 record over his 2 years, including a state title in 2014 ... A 3-star recruit by ESPN ... A business admin. major.

WARRIOR

14 Tariq Thompson

6-0 • 190 • Fr.-HS CGP: 6; CGS: 6
San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine HS)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
TOP NOTE: Was the first Aztec true freshman to start on defense since Leon McFadden in 2009.

Athletic safety, who impressed the coaching staff in fall camp ... Shows great maturity for his age (turned 18 on Aug. 9) ... Became 1st Aztec true fresh to start on defense since CB Leon McFadden started at CSU on Oct. 24, 2009 & the 1st to start a season opener on defense since McFadden on Sept. 5, 2009, at UCLA (Coach Rocky Long's 1st game as SDSU's DO) ... Ended up with 5 tackles, a TFL on an INT & a FF ... Added a FR at ASU ... CH 6 stops, 2 INT (1 for 83-yd TD) vs. NIU ... Has 22 tackles (16 solo), 2 TFL, 3 INT, a FF & a FR ... Played both sides of the ball at local St. Augustine HS, where team was 20-6 over his final 2 seasons (2015-16) ... Was a 2-time all-CIF pick.

BACKUP

48 Israel Cabrera

5-10 • 180 • So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 0
Canyon Country, Calif. (Canyon HS)

Speedy DB with good technique ... Also excels on special teams ... Has 5 tackles in 6 games on special teams ... Leads SDSU with 5 KOR tackles ... Played 11 games on special teams last year with 1 assisted tackle ... Redshirted in 2015 ... Foothill League Defensive PoTW at Canyon HS in 2014 ... Had 188 stops, 8.5 TFL, 14 INT, 14 PBU, 3 FF & 3 FR for HS career ... Twin brother, Liam, also on SDSU at WR.

HE: No. 18 Trenton Thompson (6-2, 190, So.-1L) ... GP: 5; CGS: 0

AZTEC

33 Parker Baldwin

6-2 • 215 • Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 13
Siloam Springs, Ark. (Siloam Springs HS)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
TOP NOTE: Ranked third on the team in tackles last year (66), despite coming off the bench the first 5 games.

Big time player, who will make his 16th straight start this weekend at the signature Aztec spot in Rocky Long's 3-5 defense ... Has team-high 40 tackles & a PBU ... Has 24 tackles over the last 2 games, including CH 13 at AFA ... Had 66 tackles (37 solo), 3 TFL, 2 INT, a FF, FR & PBU last year ... Was 2nd on the team in special teams tackles (10) as a true fresh in 2015 ... Had 14 tackles, an INT & a FF, being named team's Freshman of the Year ... Earned all-state accolades as a senior ... Scored 8 TD & had 758 rec. yds, 135 rush yds & 134 tackles in his final HS season ... Was the 200m state champ ... A communication major.

BACKUP

37 Dwayne Johnson, Jr.

6-2 • 190 • Fr.-RS CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta HS)

Hard-hitting safety, who is still learning the defense ... Logged five tackles and a TFL in his first career games this year ... Redshirted the 2016 campaign ... Led Vista Murrieta High School to a 35-7 (833) record and 15-0 in league play over those three seasons ... Had 207 tackles and eight interceptions over his final two years ... No relation to Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

WARRIOR

3 Trey Lomax

5-11 • 195 • Sr.-3L CGP: 37; CGS: 31
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa HS)

Notes: '17; **Career:** **Personal**
TOP NOTE: Has the most starts (31) among any active Aztec on either the offensive or defensive side of the ball.

Reads plays exceptionally well ... Has the most tackles (140) among any current Aztec ... 2nd on team w/ 35 stops ... 2016: 33 tackles, 1.5 TFL, 1 INT & 5 PBU in 14 GP (13 GS) ... 2015: Badly injured to finish w/ 9 tackles, 1.0 TFL & 1 FR in 5 GP (2 GS) ... 2014: Had most tackles (63) by an Aztec fresh in the Rocky Long DC era (since 2009) ... Named the team's most out touch (from 2014) w/ 2 FR as well ... **Career:** 140 tackles, 6.5 TFL, 1 sack, 2 INT, 9 PBU, 3 FR ... 2013: RS ... Also was recruited to play baseball at SDSU ... Off. conference MVP at Mira Mesa HS ... Also hit .341 & was a 2-time 1st-team all-league baseball pick ... Earned bachelor's in criminal justice & working on a master's in homeland security.

BACKUP

23 Darren Hall

6-0 • 170 • Fr.-HS CGP: 2; CGS: 0
Pasadena, Calif. (Rancho Cucamonga HS)

Ball hawk, who saw action in the opener vs. UC Davis, making two tackles ... One of three true freshmen on the defensive side of the depth chart (also Andrew Aleki and WAR Tariq Thompson) ... Led Rancho Cucamonga HS to a 12-1 record last year, earning first-team all-league honors ... Was a consensus three-star recruit ... Prepped with fellow true freshman Tayari Venable ... Majoring in communication.

Defensive Tidbits

• Danny Gonzales is serving as the team's defensive coordinator for first time at SDSU, but head coach Rocky Long will still call the game. Since Long took over as the defensive coordinator in 2009, San Diego State's defense ranks 14th nationally in yards per rush allowed (3.6), 20th in yards per touch (6.3) and yards allowed per game (349.4), and 28th in points allowed per game (23.5).

• The Aztecs have had three of the best defensive seasons and have continued their momentum this year. Below are comparisons and total ranks of the last three seasons:

	Scoring	Total	Pass	Rush
2014	15th	16th	19th	48th
2015	7th	5th	10th	7th
2016	17th	11th	42nd	7th
2017	30th	19th	22nd	35th
2014-17	6th	5th	9th	10th

• SDSU is allowing just 310.7 yards per game and 19.3 points per game this season. In their other games this season, the Aztecs' opponents are averaging 455.1 yards per game and 33.8 points per game.

• San Diego State held three straight opponents to single digits in scoring last year for the first time since a four-game stretch from Oct. 15-Nov. 5, 1977. The Aztecs have held an opponent to single digits 10 times since the beginning of the 2010 season (34 games).

• Over SDSU's last 24 Mountain West contests (does not include MW Championships), opponents have scored just 15.7 points per game vs. San Diego State and only 27.3 yards per game.

• The Aztecs have forced three or more turnovers in 15 of their last 27 contests.

• SDSU has held six opponents to less than 200 yards of total offense since the beginning of 2015 (34 games), including twice last year.

• Since the beginning of 2015 (34 games), San Diego State's defense ranks first in interceptions (57, second is 49) and tied for second in interception TDs (10).

• Since the beginning of the 2015 campaign, the Aztec defense ranks third nationally in rushing yards allowed per game (110.5) and fourth in rushing yards per attempt (3.2).

• SDSU has held its opponent to seven or less points in the first half in 17 of the last 30 games.

• In 17 of its last 36 games, San Diego State has held its opponent to a passer rating of less than 100.00, including two games this year.