

2001-02 San Diego State Women's Basketball

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
 AZTEC MEDIA RELATIONS
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Aztec Hoops

2001-02 Schedule/Times

N. 7	TEAM CONCEPT (Ex.)	L, 61-78
N. 10	NWBL USA Elite (Ex.)	7:30 p.m.
N. 16	CAL POLY (SLO)	7:30 p.m.
N. 18	at California	2:00 p.m.
N. 23	UC SAN DIEGO	7:30 p.m.
N. 25	NAVY	2:00 p.m.
D. 1	Prairie View A&M#	6:00 p.m.
D. 2	at TCU	1:00 p.m.
D. 6	SAN JOSE STATE	7:30 p.m.
D. 16	SACRAMENTO STATE	7:00 p.m.
D. 20	at Missouri-Kansas City	7:00 p.m.
D. 22	at Creighton	2:00 p.m.
D. 28	RADFORD	7:30 p.m.
D. 30	DETROIT	2:00 p.m.
J. 5	PORTLAND STATE	7:30 p.m.
J. 12	at Unlv	7:35 p.m.
J. 17	at Colorado State	7:00 p.m.
J. 19	at Wyoming	2:00 p.m.
J. 23	NEW MEXICO	7:30 p.m.
J. 26	AIR FORCE	5:00 p.m.
J. 31	at BYU	7:00 p.m.
F. 2	at Utah	3:00 p.m.
F. 9	UNLV	5:30 p.m.
F. 14	WYOMING	7:30 p.m.
F. 16	COLORADO STATE	7:30 p.m.
F. 21	at Air Force	7:00 p.m.
F. 23	at New Mexico	1:00 p.m.
F. 28	UTAH	5:30 p.m.
M. 2	BYU	8:30 p.m.
M. 6-9	Mountain West Championship	TBA

All Times Pacific
 Home Games in CAPS
 # at Texas Christian, Fort Worth, Texas

Aztecs' Agenda

November 11 • Sunday

Off day

November 12 • Monday

Practice 3:30-6:30 Cox

November 13 • Tuesday

Practice 3:30-6:30 Cox

November 14 • Wednesday

Practice 3:30-6:30 Cox

November 15 • Thursday

Practice 3:30-6:30 Cox

November 16 • Friday

Cal Poly at San Diego State, 7:30 p.m.

November 17 • Saturday

Practice in Berkeley

November 18 • Sunday

San Diego State at California, 2:00 p.m.

Aztecs Wrap Up Exhibition Slate With Game Against NWBL USA Elite Saturday at Cox

- ▶ The San Diego State women's basketball team hosts the National Women's Basketball League (NWBL) USA Elite in its second of two preseason exhibitions Saturday at Cox Arena. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ The Aztecs are coming off a 78-61 loss to Team Concept in their preseason opener last Wednesday.
- ▶ San Diego State opens its 2001-02 season on Nov. 16, when the Aztecs host Cal Poly at Cox Arena for a 7:30 tip.

A Quick Look At The Aztecs

- ▶ San Diego State returns eight letterwinners, including four starters and its top four scorers from the 2000-01 campaign. Heading the list is second-team all-Mountain West Conference selection junior guard Jamey Cox. The Aztecs' leading scorer for the past two seasons, Cox has a real shot at becoming SDSU's first 1,000-point scorer since Jodi Nowlin-Tres in 1997. She enters 2001-02 with 658 points.
- ▶ Other returning starters include senior guard Claire Swinbank, and senior forwards Atim Otii and Tanisha Knight. Swinbank and Otii were the only Aztecs to start all 28 games a year ago, while Knight, who made 17 starts, scored in double figures 12 times and finished the season second on the team in scoring.
- ▶ Three other players who also saw significant playing time also return. Forward/center Nicolette McCartney, a 13-game starter as a true freshman a year ago, returns for her sophomore campaign, while guard/forward Missy Schomaker and center Morgan Vargas are also back.

Noting the Newcomers

- ▶ San Diego State inked four newcomers during 2000-01's two signing periods. Maggie Sauls (Borger, Texas) and Heather Wolf (Stayton, Ore.), a pair of high school guards, signed during the early period, while junior college forwards Valencia Howard (Richmond, Calif.) and Ashonda Williams (Crockett, Calif.) committed during the spring.

Exhibition

2

NWBL USA Elite at San Diego State

November 10, 2001
 Cox Arena at Aztec Bowl (12,414)
 San Diego, Calif.

Tip-Off: 7:30 p.m.

Webcast: none

The Records: The San Diego State women's basketball team opened its preseason schedule with a 78-61 loss to Team Concept and will be out to level its exhibition record against the NWBL USA Elite Saturday at Cox Arena.

In The RPI: San Diego State ended the 2000-01 campaign as one of the nation's most improved teams according to the RPI rankings. SDSU closed out 2000-01 ranked No. 134 in the RPI, an improvement of 95 spots over its ranking of 229 in 1999-00.

SDSU Coach Barb Smith: Smith (Ohio State '86) is in her fifth season at San Diego State. She owns an overall record of 39-68 (.364) with the Aztecs.

NWBL Coach Ronnie Spates: NWBL USA Elite is coached by Ronnie Spates.

Series History: This is the third straight year that the Aztecs have squared off with a NWBL squad during the preseason. San Diego State has won the two previous meetings.

The Officials: Rob Bryson, Marianne Karp, Jennifer Tentor.

2001-02 San Diego State Women's Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)	PPG	RPG	Individual Player Note
00	Tynisha King	F	5-10	Jr.	Moreno Valley (UNC Asheville)	n/a	n/a	▶ All-rookie team at UNC-A
10	Ashonda Williams ▲	F	6-0	Jr.	Crockett (Contra Costa CC)	n/a	n/a	▶ Led Cal JCs in 3-pt. shooting
12	Claire Swinbank ▲	G	5-8	Sr.	Georgetown, TX (Georgetown HS)	8.4	3.0	▶ 28-game starter in 2000-01
14	Heather Wolf	G	5-6	Fr.	Stayton, Ore. (Regis HS)	n/a	n/a	▶ All-state pt. guard from Ore.
20	Jamey Cox ▲	G	5-7	Jr.	Waterloo, Iowa (West HS)	11.1	3.8a	▶ 2nd team all-MWC selection
24	Nicolette McCartney	F/C	6-2	So.	Chicago, Ill. (Hersey HS)	5.9	3.5	▶ SDSU's FG% leader at .520
25	Missy Schomaker	F/G	6-1	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Hutchinson CC)	5.8	2.7	▶ Made nine starts as a junior
33	Maggie Sauls	G	5-9	Fr.	Borger, Texas (Borger HS)	n/a	n/a	▶ TABC all-state selection
34	Valencia Howard	F	6-1	Jr.	Richmond (Contra Costa CC)	n/a	n/a	▶ Avg. double-double in '00-01
40	Tanisha Knight	F	6-0	Sr.	Long Beach (Central Arizona JC)	9.3	4.6	▶ Double-figs. in first 11 games
50	Morgan Vargas ▲	C	6-4	Sr.	Riverside (New Mexico JC)	2.0	1.1	▶ Saw action in 21 games
52	Andrea Kiesling	C/F	6-3	Jr.	Helena, Mont. (Helena HS)	0.4	1.0	▶ Team's hardest worker
55	Atim Otii ▲	C/F	6-0	Sr.	Denver, Colo. (East HS)	8.1	4.8	▶ 3rd team all-MWC choice
Head Coach: Barb Smith (Ohio State '86), fifth season					▲ Probable Starter	*Stats are 2000-01 averages		
Assistant Coaches: Steve Huber (Illinois State '82), Trisha Sears (Montana State '94), Dana McGraw (Loyola-N.O. '97)								



2001-02 Preseason Media Poll

Rk.	School (First Place Votes)	Points
1.	Colorado State (9)	105
2.	Utah (5)	96
3.	BYU	81
4.	UNLV	68
5.	New Mexico	62
6.	Wyoming	40
7.	San Diego State	35
8.	Air Force	14

Preseason ALL-MWC

Linda Fröhlich, Sr., F, UNLV
 Lauren Beckman, Sr., F/C, Utah
 Erin Thorn, Jr., G, BYU
 Ashley Augspurger, Jr., F, Colorado State
 Jordan Adams, Jr., C, New Mexico

Top Returning Player

Linda Fröhlich

Top Newcomer

Chassie Wiersma, Jr., G, Wyoming

Ashonda Williams Honored By Womenscolleghoops.com

Recent Contra Costa College graduate and spring 2001 National Letter of Intent signee Ashonda Williams was named one of 10 "Just Missed" Top 21 Impact Players by womenscolleghoops.com, the web site announced.

Williams, who scored over 1,200 points during her two-year junior college career and led the state in three-point shooting as a sophomore is one of just two players among the 31 listed by the web site headed for a Mountain West Conference school. Utah's Shona Thorburn also received "Just Missed" accolades.

A two-time all-Bay Valley Conference choice, Williams averaged 16.8 point as a sophomore and scored over 20 points 11 times. She also led her team to the 2001 state title game, scoring a season-high 36 points in the final versus Ventura College.

Pronunciation Guide

VALENCIA Howard	vuh-LEN-see-uh
Andrea KIESLING	KEE-sling
TYNISHA King	ty-NEESH-uh
TANISHA Knight	tuh-NEESH-uh
ATIM OTII	UH-teem O-TEE
Missy SCHOMAKER	SHOW-maker
ASHONDA Williams	uh-SHON-duh



NWBL USA Elite

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	College
11	Kourtney Walton	C	6-2	Rutgers
12	Kameelah Morgan	G	5-6	Indiana
14	Muneerah Maalik	G	5-3	Illinois-Weslyan
15	Siobhan Dantzer	F	6-0	Chicago State
21	Jenny Schmidt	G	5-9	Illinois State
22	Angela Blakely	F	6-2	Iowa
23	Vivian Johnson	F	5-10	UNLV
24	Tenille Adams	C	6-2	Arkansas
25	Christina Pagano	G	5-9	Washington
31	Ericka Bradford	G	6-2	Colorado

Head Coach: Ronnie Spates

► What is the NWBL and who is on the USA Elite Travel Team? The National Women's Basketball League (NWBL), made up primarily of former college stars, was founded in June 1997 to provide women's basketball players the opportunity to compete on a viable national level across America. Today the NWBL is America's largest women's basketball semi-pro league, boasting over 600 players on 45 teams. The League office is located right her in San Diego.

- Sauls, a scorer who was a member of numerous all-conference, region and district teams in the Texas panhandle, stands 5-9 and projects as two guard. Wolf, a two-time conference player of the year as well as a 2A all-state selection, is 5-6 and will most likely run at the point.
- Howard and Williams played together at Contra Costa Junior College in Richmond, Calif. Both are forwards, however their styles are completely different. Howard is more of an inside force and will battle for playing time at the four spot. Williams, a small forward, is perhaps the best offensive signing of the Barb Smith era as the junior to be scored over 1,200 points during her JC career and led the state in three-pointers made as a sophomore.

Aztecs Picked Seventh BY MWC Media

- Returning eight letewinners, including four starters, and bringing four highly-prized recruits didn't seem to resonate with Mountain West Conference media members as the San Diego State women's basketball team was tabbed to finish seventh in the league's pre-season poll.
- For the first time in the conference's brief history, a team other than Utah was selected to win the league by the preseason prognosticators. Colorado State, which advanced to the second round of last year's NCAA Tournament, captured nine first-place votes to take the top spot. Utah was second in the poll with five votes.

It's A Fact — Staff Returns Intact

- For the first time in the last five seasons, the San Diego State women's basketball staff returns completely intact. Assistant coach Steve Huber is back for his third season with the Aztecs, while assistants Trisha Sears and Dana McGraw, as well as director of basketball operations Anthony Turner, return for their second.

One Step At A Time

- The San Diego State women's basketball team heads into 2001-02 looking to build on its most successful season in over four years. Despite playing the majority of their games on the road, the Aztecs came within an eyelash of their first winning campaign since 1997. SDSU, which closed out 2001 with 13-15 mark, was just six seconds from finishing 15-13 as the Aztecs fell in the final seconds versus both UNLV, 68-67, and Colorado State, 55-54.
- Nevertheless, San Diego State's improvement over the past two seasons has been quite dramatic as the 2000-01 Aztecs won nearly twice as many games as they did in '98-99 and four more than in '99-00.

Recapping The Opener vs. Team Concept

- Playing without Nicolette McCartney (ankle) and with a severely limited Jamey Cox (ankle), the San Diego State women's basketball team dropped its 2001-02 debut, falling to Team Concept, 78-61 in an exhibition game at Cox Arena, Wednesday night.
- Senior Claire Swinbank poured in a game-high 19 points, including 15 in the second half, and classmate Morgan Vargas added 11 more for San Diego State, but it wasn't enough to offset a 13-rebound Team Concept edge on the glass, as the Portland-based AAU squad held off a gutsy second half Aztec comeback bid.
- Six Team Concept players finished in double figures, including former Aztec Mary Apiafi, who was one of four players to end the night with 12 points. Apiafi also grabbed eight boards to go along with a game-high nine by former Notre Dame star Katryna Gaither, as Team Concept finished the night was a 47-34 edge on the glass.
- San Diego State shot just 21 percent and was out-rebounded by 14 during the opening period, resulting in a 39-18 deficit at the break. But the Aztecs rallied right out of the locker room after intermission, using a 13-2 run to pull within 10 points at 41-31 just over five minutes into the second half.
- SDSU, however, could never trim Team Concept's lead to single digits, despite shooting nearly 50 percent for the period and grabbing the advantage on the boards. The Aztecs pulled within 10 points on three separate occasions only to see Team Concept push its advantage out again.
- Newcomers Ashonda Williams, Valencia Howard and Heather Wolf all saw action, with Wolf starting at the point guard spot in front of Jamey Cox, who is nursing an ankle injury and was limited to just 14 minutes of action by the coaching staff.
- Williams led the Aztecs on the boards with a team-best eight rebounds, while Howard finished with six points. Wolf, who added six points on a pair of 3-pointers, was solid running the Aztec attack and had just one turnover in 26 minutes of work.

Head Coach Barb Smith

- Rebounding is one of the keys to victory in basketball. It's also a key to succeeding in life. And San Diego State head coach Barb Smith went hard to the glass during the 2000-01 season, her fourth with the Aztecs. After getting out to a tough start during her first three years at SDSU, Smith got the Aztecs pointed back in the right direction last season, posting a number of milestones of her tenure, including number of overall victories (13), number of conference victories (5), number non-conference victories (8), number of road victories (5) and longest winning streak (6). She enters her fifth season on The Mesa with a career record of 39-68 (.364).

One Step At A Time

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Improvement By The Numbers

- ▶ If there is one word to characterize San Diego State's 2000-01 season it would be improved as the Aztecs reached a number of milestones in the Barb Smith era. Below are just a couple of those single-season milestones.

- 13 - Most victories in a season
- 8 - Most non-conference wins in a season
- 6 - Longest winning streak
- 5 - Most conference wins in a season
- 5 - Most non-home wins in a season
- 4 - Longest home winning streak

Aztecs Also MWC's Most Improved Team

- ▶ San Diego State's improvement during 2000-01 may have been best reflected in the national ratings percentage index (RPI) as the Aztecs made one of the nation's biggest jumps and the largest move up in the entire Mountain West Conference. SDSU closed out 2000-01 ranked No. 134 in the RPI, improvement of 95 spots over its ranking of 229 in 1999-00. The MWC's next most improved team was Wyoming, which jumped 79 spots from No. 228 in 2000 to No. 149 in '01.

A Veteran Crew

- ▶ San Diego State's fortunes should also be bolstered by experience as the Aztecs return the most experience team of the Barb Smith era. Of the 13 players listed on SDSU's preseason roster, 10 are either seniors or juniors, while just three are freshmen or sophomores. Of the 10 upperclassmen, eight have played at the Division I level. Two players are junior college transfers.

Moving On

- ▶ San Diego State will be without the services of five players who were listed on the Aztec roster a year ago. Heading the list are a trio of four-year letterwinners in Anita Bundage, Shannon Lee and Sophia Sledge. Bundage leaves San Diego State as one of the Aztecs' all-time leading rebounders. The Conroe, Texas, native grabbed 566 caroms during her career, including a high of 184 as a junior. Lee dished out 302 assists during her time on Montezuma Mesa to rank No. 6 all time. Sledge also etched her name in the SDSU archives and leaves as the school's No. 3 three-point shooter with 78 for her career.
- ▶ Also among those not returning are Australian Nicole Bem-Morrison and walk-on Carmen Gonzalez.

Aztecs On The All Teams

- ▶ San Diego State placed two players on the Mountain West's all-conference team and three on the league's all-academic squad.

- ▶ Jamey Cox and Atim Oti were named to the 2001 Mountain West Conference all-league team by the conference's coaches. Cox, a 2000 all-newcomer selection, was a second-team choice, while Oti was a third-team selection.
- ▶ Sophia Sledge, Claire Swinbank and Morgan Vargas were all named to the Mountain West Conference 2001 all-academic team. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have completed at least one academic term, maintained a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better and have been a starter or significant contributor.

What's On Tap: The 2001-02 Schedule

- ▶ After hosting just five non-conference games in Cox Arena a year ago and playing eight on the road, San Diego State's women's basketball schedule will do a literal 180-degree turn in 2001-02, as the Aztecs will enjoy eight pre-conference home dates.
- ▶ A match-up with NCAA Tournament participant Texas Christian, Dec. 2, and a tough contest at Creighton Dec. 22 highlight the road portion of the slate. The Aztecs also travel north to the Bay Area to face Pacific-10 Conference foe California.
- ▶ The Aztecs open Mountain West Conference action with three straight road contests, including the league opener at UNLV on Jan. 12th. The conference tournament is March 6-9 in Las Vegas, Nev.

SAN DIEGO STATE BREAKDOWN

Returning Letterwinners (8)

Jamey Cox, G, 10.7 p, 2.3 r, 3.9 a
Andrea Kiesling, C, 0.4 p, 1.0 r
Tanisha Knight, F, 8.9 p, 4.9 r
Nicolette McCartney, F/C, 5.8 p, 3.6 r
Atim Oti, F, 8.6 p, 4.9 r
Missy Schomaker, F, 5.8p, 2.7 r
Claire Swinbank, G, 8.1 p, 3.0 r, 2.8 a
Morgan Vargas, C, 2.0 p, 1.2 r

Letterwinners Lost (2)

Anita Bundage, F, 6.0 p, 4.2 r
Sophia Sledge, G, 5.9 p, 2.4 r, 1.8 a

Other Players Lost (3)

Nicole Bem-Morrison, G, 1.5 p, 0.5 r
Shannon Lee, G, 4.1 p, 2.1 r, 3.4 a
Carmen Gonzalez, G, 0.7 p, 0.3 r

Returning Starters (4)

Jamey Cox, G, 10.7 p, 2.3 r, 3.9 a
Tanisha Knight, F, 8.9 p, 4.9 r
Atim Oti, F, 8.6 p, 4.9 r
Claire Swinbank, G, 8.1 p, 3.0 r, 2.8 a

Starters Lost (1)

Anita Bundage, F, 6.0 p, 4.2 r

Newcomers (5)

Tynisha King[^], F, 5-10, Jr.
Valencia Howard, F, 6-1, Jr.
Maggie Sauls, G/F, 5-9, Fr.
Ashonda Williams, F, 6-0, Jr.
Heather Wolf, G, 5-6, Fr.

[^] Sat out 2000-01 under NCAA transfer guidelines.

Class Breakdown

Seniors (5): Knight, Oti, Schomaker, Swinbank, Vargas
Juniors (5): Cox, King, Kiesling, Howard, Williams
Sophomores (1): McCartney
Freshman (2): Sauls, Wolf

Position Breakdown

Forwards (6): Howard, King, Knight, Oti, Schomaker, Williams
Centers (3): Kiesling, McCartney, Vargas
Guards (4): Cox, Sauls, Swinbank, Wolf

Aztecs By Height

6-4	Morgan Vargas
6-3	Andrea Kiesling
6-2	Nicolette McCartney
6-1	Valencia Howard
	Missy Schomaker
6-0	Tanisha Knight
	Atim Oti
	Ashonda Williams
5-10	Tynisha King
5-9	Maggie Sauls
5-8	Claire Swinbank
5-7	Jamey Cox
5-6	Heather Wolf

