San Diego State Aztecs

2023 Record: 3-7, 1-5 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)



• San Diego State's wide receivers have combined for just 25 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.





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CGP: 10; CGS: 3

6-3 * 200 * Sr.-1L CGP: 27; CGS: 4 Norwalk, Calif. (Norbonne High)

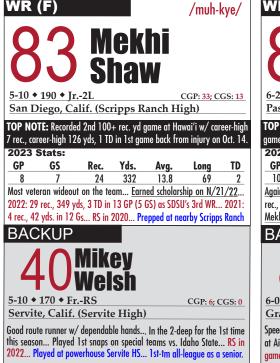
TOP NOTE: Older brother, Rashaad, ran for an Aztec-record 2,248 yds & 2,974 all-purpose yds in 2017, finishing 5th in the Heisman Trophy voting. 2023 Stats GS Yds. GP TD Rec. Avg. Long 10 4 24 290 12.1 36 1 First career TD against Utah State., a 27-yd catch... <u>Career</u>: 41 rec., 517 yds., 1 TD... 2022: 12 rec., 166 yds... 2021: 5 rec., 61 yds... 2020: DNP... 2019: RS... Oldest brother, Elijhaa, played in NFL (AZ & NYG).



6-0 + 190 + So.-RS

Grandview, Mo. (St. Bernard High)

Made a big leap in fall, but has battled injuries... 6 rec., 62 yds. this season... Career: 7 rec., 73 yds... 2022: 1 rec., 9 yrds... Redshirted in 2021 Prepped at St. Bernard High... Graduated early, joined SDSU spring 2021





LACE	KICKER (PK)			
13		35	22	
<u>46</u>	· · · · · ·	<u>3</u>	<u>l</u>	
ICKO	FFS (KO)			
	Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	36	20	
<u>46</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	
OLD	ER (H)			
49	<u>Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, FrRS</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	
83	Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.**	30	0	
ONG	SNAPPER (LS)	GP	GS	
50	Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.**	37	37	
<u>64</u>	Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, FrRS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
HOR	T SNAPPER (SS)	GP	GS	
50	Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.**	37	23	
<u>64</u>	Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, FrRS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
	FF RETURNS (KOR)			
23	Kenan Christon, 5-10, 190, Sr.*	34	7	
29	Cam Davis, 5-18, 180, So.*	22	0	
20	Sheldon Canley II, 5-10, 175, Fr.	3	3	
UNT	RETURNS (PR)			
83	Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.**	33	8	
4	Dez Malone, 6-2, 200, Jr.**	30	2	

13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.*

Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS

49

36 23

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Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list



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• 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) Head Coach • Led 2010 Aztecs to first winning season since 1998

DEFENSIVE END Daniel Okpoko/oh-poke-oh/

6-5 * 275 * ^Sr.-2L CGP: 35; CGS: 10 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 10 games this season (the first of his career) and recorded 22 tackles (nine solo) along with five augrterback hurries, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack... Career: 34 tackles. 5.0 TFL, 2.0 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 Ryan Henderson

6-3 + 255 + Fr.-RS CGP: 7; 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 19 defensive snaps... Has seven tackles in 95 snaps overall... Redshirted in 2022 (DNP)... Was an all-state selection at Canyon Springs High in Las Vegi ALSO: No. 30 Dominic Oliver (6-3, 250, So.-1L).... (GP. 21; 65. 0.

LINEBACKER (SAM) 5 Cooper McDonald

6-3 ***** 245 ***** Sr.-1L CGP: 37; CGS: 26 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 36 tackles (17 solo), 1.5 sacks, 3.0 tackles for loss and eight quarterback hurries in 10 starts this season... Is tied for sixth in the MW in QB pressures (29 per PFF)... Career: 106 tackles (60 solo), 13.5 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... <u>Oldest brother, Colton, played at North Texas, older brother,</u> <u>Caden, played at SDSU (2018-22) & dad, Mike, played at Arkansas State.</u>



CGP: 13; CGS: 0 San Diego, Calif. (Eastlake High) Is on the depth chart for the first season... Has 10 tackles, a interception, a pass breakup, and a fumble recovery... Played in three games in 2022, being named SDSU's special teams scout team player of the year... Was hree-time first-team all-league selection at nearby Eastlake High





6-1 * 275 * Jr.-TR CGP: 10; CGS: 10 Honolulu, Hawaii (Moanalua HS/Mt. SAC)

TOP NOTE: Has started each of his first 10 Divison I games after coming from Mt. SAC.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

/too-poo/

Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Joined the Aztecs in the spring from Mt. SAC... Has 26 total tacks (10 solo), including three sacks for 10 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... Recorded career-high two TFLs against Utah State... 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 Moana High School in Honolulu for current Aztec tight end coach Savai'i Eselu... Also played two seasons at powerhouse St. Louis High School.



6-4 + 270 + Sr.-3L CGP: 41; CGS: 0 Reno, Nev. (Reno High) Has 13 total tackles, a TFL, 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 Samuela Tuihalamaka (6-1, 290, Sr.-TR) ... (GP: 41; 65: 3.

LINEBACKER (MIKE)



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 (62), TFL (10.5), SCK (5.5), FF (3) & FR (3)... 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 of-fers, including Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska and Boise State... Brother, Austin, playsed linebacker at UNLY... Is majoring in kinesiology.



CGP: 39; CGS: 5 Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High) Hard-hitting linebacker who has bided his time working behind veterans..

Excellent against the run... Has 21 tackles & 4 QBH in 9 GP (4 GS)... 2022: 10 TCK in 11 GP... 2021: 4 TCK in 3 GP... 2020: 7 GP on special teams..



6-4 + 260 + Sr.-3I

BACKUP

6-4 + 240 + Fr.-HS

team

DEFENSIVE END

Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

Kurt Mattix

Garret

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

Most veteran player on an inexperienced defensive line... Has great in-

tensity and a high motor... Always seems to be around the ball... Moved

to defensive end from linebacker in the spring 2022... Earned his first ca-

reer start in the opener vs. Ohio in his 37th career game played... Has 36

tackles (20 solo), including 5.0 TFL and a sack... Career: 99 tackles (57

solo), 17.0 TFL, 7.0 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... <u>Has thrown the football over 70 yards in practice</u>.

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

CAPTAIN

C

CGP: 46; CGS: 10

CGP: 9; CGS: 0

Notes: Current: Career: Personal

Defensive Tidbits

• Kurt Mattix is serving as the defensive coor-dinator in his fourth season at San Diego State and is the first person to call the Aztec defense not named Rocky Long since 2008. Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coordinator.

 SDSU defensive ranks under defensive coordinator Kurt Mattix (since 2020): 9th in rushing (112.3), 17th in total (337.4), and 18th in scoring (21.4) and pass efficiency rating (121.8).

 Since 2014, SDSU ranks second in the country in interceptions (153), fifth in turnovers forced (222), seventh in total defense (321.0), and ninth in scoring defense (19.6).

 San Diego State has held its opponent to single digits 21 times time since 2015 (112 games) and to 10 or less points 31 times over that span.

• The Aztecs have allowed just 1,052 points over the last 210 quarters (5.01 points per quarter) (does not include overtime periods).

• Last year opponents had 163 drives where they tried to score on SDSU and the Aztecs forced three-and-outs (or less) in 67 of those drives (41.1 pct.). San Diego State averaged 5.15 three-and-outs per game. This year SDSU is averaging 3.30 three-and-outs per game.

 San Diego State has forced 16 turnovers (10 interceptions, six fumble recoveries) on the season, tied for the 40th most in the country.

• SDSU opponents are 7-for-22 against the Aztecs on third down in the red zone.

 Over the past five-plus seasons (2018-23), San Diego State allowed only 43 rushes (out of 2,172 attempts, 1.98 pct.) for 20 or longer (10 in 354 attempts this year (2.82 pct.).

 SDSU's 152 interceptions since the 2014 season are the second most in the country over that span while its 15 interceptions returned for a touchdown rank in a tie for 17th.

• San Diego State ranks in tie for 32nd in the country this season with 10 interceptions.

 Since the start of the 2020 season, San Diego State has 15 non-offensive touchdowns, tied with Kentucky, Utah and Western Kentucky for the ninth most in the country over that span, trailing only Alabama (17), Iowa (17), Middle Tennessee State (17), Notre Dame (17), Pittsburgh (17), Houston (16), Ohio State (16) and TCU (16).





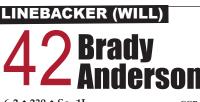




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Cedarius CGP: 10; CGS: 9 5-11 + 195 + ^Sr.-4L CGP: 48; CGS: 30



Brady

Pleasanton, Calif. (Amador Valley High)

Has recently moved up into the two-deep as a true freshman... Has three

solo tackles and a quarterback hurry in nine games... Has have snaps... Prepped at Amador Valley High... Picked SDSU over offers Pac-12 schools Washington, OSU, WSU, Colorado, ASU and Cal. <u>ALSO:</u> No. 91 Keion Mitchell (6-4, 260, So.-SQ)__GE.9, GS.0

6-2 + 230 + So.-1L CGP: 25; CGS: 0 Bakersfield, Calif. (Liberty High) TOP NOTE: Is expected to start Saturday at San Jose State for the first time of his career.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Young, strong linebacker... Has mostly played on special teams throughout his career... Is expected to start Saturday with just 61 defensive snaps to his credit (all this season)... His defensive snaps by game this year: 8 vs. Ohio (Aug. 26), 1 vs. Idaho State (Sept. 2), 17 vs. Boise State (Sept. 22), 34 at Air Force (Sept. 30) and 1 vs. Utah State (Nov. 4)... Has 10 tackles (four solo)... Redshirted his second season in 2022 with an injury early in fall camp... Had one tackles in 12 games on special teams as a true freshman 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



6-3 • 210 • Jr.-TR CGP: 34; CGS: 14 Albuquerque, N.M. (Volcano Vista HS/New Mexico) Was on Nagurski Watch List (best def. player)... <u>Preseason all-</u> MW... Has 60 tackles in 10 GP (5 GS).. Career: 213 tackles, 12 TFL, 5 sacks, 7 PBU, 1 FF, 2 FR & 1 INT... HM all-MW at UNM in 2022 w/ 105 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss & 4.5 sacks... Former walk-on

San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

6-2 * 185 * Sr.-3L

BACKUP

6-0 + 180 + So.-1L

TOP NOTE: Has played in 44 consecutive games, the longest active streak on the team.

Notes: Current; Career; Persona

CGP: 44; CGS: 22

Athletic CB, who was a dual-sport star at nearby Mira Mesa HS... <u>MW ranks</u>: T-1st in passes defended (INT + PBU) (11), PBUs (8) & passed defended per game (1.10)... Has 27 tackles (22 solo), 9 PBUs & 2 INT... Career: 72 tackles (62 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.

Chris

Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS)

Young CB who has impressed the coaching staff... Coming

off a great fall camp... Has 21 tackles in last seven 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.

Johnson

CGP: 22; CGS: 0

Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High) TOP NOTE: His 15 tackles at CSU on Nov. 11 were most by an Aztec since 11/17/18 (Kyahva Tezino, 15 at FS).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

An excellent tackler... Has started three straight games, making four tackles vs. Nevada, six vs. Utah State and 15 at Colorado State... The 15 stops match the most by an Aztec since the 2017 Armed Forced Bowl... Has 31 tackles in eight games and 205 snaps (over last three starts: 25 tackles and 172 snaps)... 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.



CGP: 30; CGS: 3 Jacksonville, Texas (TCU)

Played in six games (two starts) ... Has 12 tackles (9 solo), 1.5 TFL & 1 INT (70 yds for a TD) ... Had 18 tackles in his 3-plus year career at TCU... Played 25 gms (one start) with the Horned Frogs, the 2022 CFP National Championship game... 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.

ALSO: No. 31 Davaughn Celestine (6-0, 190, Sr.-2L) ... (GP: 34; 65: 1

Chula Vista, CA (Cathedral Catholic HS) **TOP NOTE:** Is first SDSU true frosh to start at signature Aztec position in the 3-3-5 defense (started in 2009).

Notes: Current: Career: Persona

Hard-hitting safety who joined the Aztecs for the spring season... Not afraid of contact... Started the openervs Ohio, becoming the first 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... Started first 8 games and 9 overall... Has 43 tackles (29 solo) totaling 565 snaps, fourth-most on the team... Prepped at nearby power Cathedral Catholic HS.. Was a three-time first-team all-league pick on defense and once on offense.



6-0 • 190 • Jr.-TR CGP: 21: CGS: 1 Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS/Texas)

Transfer from Texas who joined the Aztecs for spring ball.. Has 8 tackles and a PBU in 113 snaps, earning first career start vs. Utah State... Played 2 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 frosh... Picked Texas out of high school out of numerous offers, including eight P5 programs.

El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High) TOP NOTE: The most veteran player on defense with 30 starts and 48 games played.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

CAPTAIN

Fres

TOP West

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... Is tied for 1st in MW (T-9th in FBS) with 4 INT... Career: 146 tackles, 9.5 TFL, 5 INT, 9 PBU, 3 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 aames 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 vds & 58 TD.



6-1 * 185 * So.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 0 Corona, Calif. (Centennial High) Has 28 tackles, 2.5 TFL & a sack ... Tied for second-most

blocked punts in SDSU single-season history (2)... 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's... Centennial HS ranked 3rd in the state.

no, Calif. (Edison High)			
NOTE: Was a honorable-mention all-Mountain selection last year in his first season as a starter.			
Notes: Current; Career; Personal			
d his career out at safety but as thrived at corner-			
. Has 38 tackles (28 solo), 2 TFL, 1 INT, 1 FF & 6			

Started erhack ß 6 PBU... Longest active start streak (20 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



6-0 ***** 175 ***** Jr.-SQ 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 10 games, all on special teams... Played in the 2022 Hawai'i Bow vs. Middle Tennessee State for first collegiate appearance... DNP in 2021... RS in 2020... Played both sides at Carter High...Also ran track & field.

