

# San Diego State Aztecs

2023 Record: 3-4, 1-2 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 71 career starts
- Thirty-one (31) of the 71 starts on the projected starting offensive line are by Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson (5 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: 33; CGS: 31  
 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: 21; CGS: 19  
 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 12 QB pressures (1 sack) in 591 passing opportunities (5 in 231 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: 21; 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: 16; CGS: 13  
 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 & 7 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: 21; 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: 13; CGS: 7  
 Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

**TOP NOTE:** Has started and played every offensive snap the last 2 games.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**  
 Joined SDSU for 2022 fall camp... Has 4 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... Has played every snap for the last 2 games... 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: 10; CGS: 1  
 Pacifica, Calif. (Junipero Serra HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Entering his first career start at Hawai'i, he has 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... 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: 36; CGS: 20  
 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
7	7	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: 15; CGS: 3  
 Prosper, Texas (Prosper High)

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
6	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 (F)

**23 Kenan Christon**  
 5-10 • 190 • Sr.-1L CGP: 33; CGS: 10  
 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
7	7	64	253	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: 213 att., 938 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: 26; CGS: 2  
 Los Angeles, Calif. (Serra High)

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	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 (T)

**29 Cam Davis**  
 5-8 • 180 • So.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 0  
 Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff High)

**TOP NOTE:** Is solo atop the depth chart at running back for the first time of his career.

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	0	23	79	3.4	25	0

Is coming off another good fall camp... Has a quick first step and can find the holes... Had a career-game at Hawai'i with 10 carries for 53 yards and 2 catches for 17 yards... Ran for 151 yards & a TD on 46 carries in 2022... Played two games on special teams in 2021... Ran for 2,932 yards and 35 touchdowns at South Oak Cliff HS in Dallas.

#### BACKUP

**13 Martin Blake**  
 5-6 • 205 • So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 2  
 Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs High)

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	0	25	91	3.6	12	1

Former walk-on, who earned a scholarship on 5/28/23... Versatile back w/ good hands... 315 AP yds., 1st TD vs. ISU... 2022: 9 att., 33 yds., in 12 GP (2 GS) w/ a 29-yl catch... Prepped at the same HS (Canyon Springs HS) as former Aztec/all-time leading rusher Donnel Pumphrey.

ALSO: No. 7 Lucky Sutton (6-1, 215, Fr.-RS) ... CGP: 4; CGS: 0.

#### QUARTERBACK

**18 Jalen Mayden**  
 6-3 • 220 • ^Sr.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 15  
 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.
7	7	117	186	62.9	6	6	1,285	125.13

**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. (12.91) & 3rd in yds (3,317 yds)... Career: 3,374 yds., 19 TD, 16 INT, 61.3 comp. %; 647 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 18 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: 24; CGS: 2  
 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
7	2	18	221	12.2	36	0

Started last 2 gms... 16 catches, 208yds over last three games... Career: 35 rec., 448 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: 7; 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: 30; CGS: 10  
 San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

**TOP NOTE:** Recorded 2nd 100+ rec. yd game at Hawai'i with career-high 7 catches, career-high 126 yds, 1 TD in first game back from injury.

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	4	16	230	14.4	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 third 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: 7; 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
7	4	13	227	17.3	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 Josh Nicholson**  
 6-0 • 175 • So.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 2  
 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	20
49	0

Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.\*\*  
 Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS

**PLACEKICKER (PK)**

GP	GS
13	20
46	0

Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.\*\*  
 Gabriel Plascencia, 6-1, 210, Jr.-TR

**KICKOFFS (KO)**

GP	GS
13	17
46	2

Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.\*  
 Gabriel Plascencia, 6-1, 210, Jr.-TR

**HOLDER (H)**

GP	GS
49	7
83	0

Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS  
 Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.\*\*

**LONG SNAPPER (LS)**

GP	GS
50	34
64	0

Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.\*\*  
 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS

**SHORT SNAPPER (SS)**

GP	GS
50	20
64	0

Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.\*\*  
 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS

**KICKOFF RETURNS (KOR)**

GP	GS
23	6
29	0

Kenan Christon, 5-10, 190, Sr.\*  
 Cam Davis, 5-18, 180, So.\*

**PUNT RETURNS (PR)**

GP	GS
83	5
4	2

Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.\*\*  
 Dez Malone, 6-2, 200, Jr.\*\*

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 CPG: 32; CGS: 7  
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 seven games this season (the first of his career) and recorded 14 tackles (six solo) along with five quarterback hurries, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack... **Career:** 26 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 CPG: 4; CGS: 0  
Las Vegas, Nev. (Goodyear High)

Is on the 2-deep for the 1st time of his career... Came up with 2 big tackles at Hawai'i - 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) ... CPG: 18; GS: 0.

### LINEBACKER (SAM)

# 55 Cooper McDonald

6-3 ♦ 245 ♦ Sr.-1L CPG: 34; CGS: 23  
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 pass rusher... Transferred from Washington in the spring 2022 along with his roommate and tight end Mark Redman... Has 19 tackles (11 solo), 1.5 sacks, 1.5 tackles for loss and seven quarterback hurries in seven starts this season... Ranks fifth in the MW in QB hits (22 per PFF)... **Career:** 88 tackles (56 solo), 12.0 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 CPG: 10; 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 CPG: 7; CGS: 7  
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 15 total tacks (five solo), including two sacks for eight yards... Has also logged three 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 CPG: 38; CGS: 0  
Reno, Nev. (Reno High)

Has 10 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 Samuela Tuihalamaka (6-1, 290, Sr.-TR) ... CPG: 37; GS: 3.

### LINEBACKER (MIKE)

# 6 Zyrus Fiaseu

/fee-uh-say-oo/

6-0 ♦ 220 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 22; CGS: 13  
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 (43), TFL (7.0), FF (3) & FR (2)... Had a monster game against UCLA with 12 tackles, 2 FF, 1 FR, 1 sack & 1 PBU... 14th time in program history a player had 2 FF... 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 CPG: 19; 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 CPG: 43; CGS: 7  
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 22 tackles (13 solo), including 2.5 TFL and 0.5 sacks... **Career:** 84 tackles (52 solo), 14.5 TFL, 6.5 sacks, 1 FF, 2 FR... 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 Tom PatY... 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 CPG: 5; CGS: 0  
Pleasanton, Calif. (Amador Valley High)

Has recently moved up into the two-deep as a true freshman... Has one solo tackle and a quarterback hurry in four games... Has played 63 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) ... CPG: 7; GS: 0.

### LINEBACKER (WILL)

# 44 Vai Kaho

/vie/ /kah-ho/

6-1 ♦ 230 ♦ Sr.-3L CPG: 37; CGS: 4  
Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Hard-hitting linebacker who has bided his time working behind veteran linebackers... Is excellent against the run... Has 18 tackles and four QBH in seven games this year (three starts)... Had 10 tackles (seven solo) with one for a loss in 11 games in 2022 (113 snaps)... Had four stops (three solo) with one TFL in 59 snaps and three games in 2021... Played seven games on special teams in 2020... Lettered at Bishop Manogue with fellow Aztec Joey Wright... Full name is Kahomovailahi Kaho.

# 58 Cody Moon

6-3 ♦ 210 ♦ Jr.-TR CPG: 31; CGS: 12  
Albuquerque, N.M. (Volcano Vista HS/New Mexico)

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

On the Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List (best defensive player)... Preseason all-MW... Earned MW Def. Player of the Week honors in week one... Has 32 tackles (17 solo) this year... **Career:** 181 TCK, 11.0 TFL, 5.0 SCK, 6 PBU, 1 FF, 1 INT... HM all-MW at New Mexico in 2022 w/ 105 TCK, 9.5 TFL & 4.5 SCK... Had 44 tackles in 2021... RS 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.

**ALSO:** No. 36 New Zealand Williams (6-2, 205, So.-SQ) ... CPG: 6; GS: 1.

### CORNERBACK

# 10 Noah Tumblin

6-2 ♦ 185 ♦ Sr.-3L CPG: 41; CGS: 19  
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Athletic CB, who was a dual-sport star at nearby Mira Mesa HS... FBS ranks: 2nd in passes defended (INT + PBU) (11) & PBUs (9), & T-5th interceptions (2)... Pro Football Ranks: 7th in pass coverage by a CB (82.6, min. 200 passes) & 11th in defensive grade by a CB (81.0, min. 350 snaps)... Has 21 tackles (18 solo), nine pass breakups and two interceptions... **Career:** 66 tackles (58 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 point guard on hoops team

### BACKUP

# 21 Chris Johnson

6-0 ♦ 180 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 19; CGS: 0  
Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS)

Young CB who has impressed the coaching staff... Coming off a great fall camp... Has 13 tackles in last four 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

# 24 Josh Hunter

5-9 ♦ 180 ♦ Fr.-RS CPG: 8; CGS: 0  
Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

**TOP NOTE:** Saturday's game vs. Nevada will be his first collegiate start.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Is expected to make his first career start Saturday vs. Nevada... Enters the game with just 33 defensive snaps... Smart, young player who is an excellent tackler... Has five solo tackles in five games... Played in first three games of 2022 on special teams but ended up redshirting... Helped Mater Dei HS to two CIF open championships, two state titles and three league championships, where it was a combined 43-2 (.956)... Father, Brian, spent nine years in Major League Baseball.

### BACKUP

# 31 Davaughn Celestine

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ Sr.-2L CPG: 32; CGS: 16  
Placentia, Calif. (El Dorado High)

Pronounced sell-es-teen... Former walk-on... Has 18 tackles (11 solo) with a PBU in 7 GP (5 GS)... Had 48 tackles (41 solo) in 2022 with 1.5 TFL, 0.5 sacks, 1 INT, 3 PBUs & 2 FF, starting 11 times & playing all 13... 2021: 2 tackles in 9 games on special teams... 2020: 3 GP on ST... 2019: Redshirted... Prepped at El Dorado HS in Placentia, Calif... Also excelled as a triple jumper for the T&E.

### AZTEC

# 32 Marcus Ratcliffe

6-2 ♦ 210 ♦ Fr.-HS CPG: 7; CGS: 7  
Chula Vista, Calif. (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; Personal**

Hard-hitting safety who joined the Aztecs for the spring season... Not afraid of contact... Started the opener vs. Ohio, the first SDSU true freshman to start at the signature Aztec position since the 3-3-5 defense started here in 2009... Only the fifth true freshman overall to start in the 3-3-5 defense... Has 32 total tackles (24 solo) in 428 defensive snaps (second-most snaps on defense)... Prepped at nearby power Cathedral Catholic High School... Was a three-time first-team all-league pick on defense and once on offense... Also played basketball and was on the track & field team.

### BACKUP

# 33 JD Coffey III

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ Jr.-TR CPG: 18; CGS: 0  
Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS/Texas)

Transfer from Texas who joined the Aztecs for spring ball... Has three solo tackles in 30 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 frosh... Picked Texas out of high school out of numerous offers, including Michigan, Penn State, LSU, Notre Dame, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Florida.

### BOUNDARY WARRIOR

# 3 Cedarius Barfield

5-11 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-4L CPG: 45; CGS: 27  
El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

**TOP NOTE:** The most veteran player on defense with 27 starts & 45 games played.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... Is tied for 12th in FBS with 3 interceptions... **Career:** 129 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 CPG: 19; 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 CPG: 30; CGS: 18  
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 25 tackles (19 solo), 1 TFL, 1 INT & 6 PBU... FBS ranks: T-26th in pass breakups (6) & T-33rd in passes defended (PBU + INT) (7)... Longest active start streak (18 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 CPG: 8; 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 seven 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... Played both sides at Carter High... Also ran track & field.