

#23 DAMONTAE KAZEE

(KAY-zee)

Cornerback • 5-11 • 190 • San Bernardino, Calif. • Cajon HS

- **At San Diego State:** Big playmaker, who always seems to be in the right place at the right time ... Started the final 41 games of his career at right cornerback ... Can also return punts ... Is the SDSU career record-holder in interceptions (17) ... Also was sixth with 30 PBUs, tied for sixth with six forced fumbles and seventh in interception yards (214) ... Was the first Aztec in program history with six or more interceptions in consecutive seasons ... Was a two-time MW Defensive Player of the Year (2015-16).
- **2016 (Senior):** Was named the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year for a second straight season ... Became the first cornerback in MW history to win the defensive player-of-the-year award twice and the fifth player overall, joining Tank Carder (2010-11 at TCU), Jerry Hughes (2008-09 at TCU), Eric Weddle (2005-06 at Utah) and Kirk Morrison (2003-04 at San Diego State) ... Earned the Byron H. Chase Memorial Trophy (outstanding defensive player) and also earned the team's Dr. R. Hardy/C.E. Peterson Memorial Trophy (team captain award) ... Racked up numerous preseason accolades, including being named to the Bednarik Award Watch List (collegiate defensive player of the year) and the Jim Thorpe Award Watch List (top defensive back) ... Also was a second-team preseason All-American by *USA Today* and *Sports Illustrated* ... Is also a team captain, chosen by his teammates ... Also was named the Mountain West Preseason Defensive Player of the Year by the MW media and *Lindy's Sports* ... Was a preseason first-team all-MW pick by the MW media, *Phil Steele's 2016 College Football Preview*, *ESPN College Football*, *Sporting News*, *Lindy's Sports*, *Athlon Sports* and *Paul Myerberg by USA Today* ... Was also labeled "No. 1 on MW's Top-10 NFL Talent," the "No. 5 Cornerback on 2017 NFL Draft Board," the "Ninth-Best Cornerback in FBS," the "MW's Best Cover Corner," and a "SDSU Player to Watch" by *Lindy's Sports* ... Was deemed the "MW's Best Athlete" by *Sporting News*, the "10th-Best Draft-Eligible Cornerback" by Phil Steele, while *Campus Insiders* listed him as "SDSU's Best Defensive Player" ... Had 65 tackles (45 solo), three tackles for loss, seven interceptions for 156 yards (22.3 avg.) and a touchdown, eight pass breakups and a quarterback hurry ... Ranked in a tie for fifth in the nation in interceptions per game (0.50) (second in the MW) and seventh in interception yards (156) (first in the MW) ... Also was fourth in the league in passes defended (INT + PBU) per game (1.07) ... The seven interceptions were tied for the fourth most in SDSU single-season history ... Led the team in tackles on passing plays (31) ... Started for the 28th consecutive game in the 2016 opener vs. New Hampshire ... Came up with four tackles (three solo) ... Made six tackles (five solo) against California, while adding three pass breakups and an interception ... The three PBUs tied a career best ... Had five tackles (all solo), an interception and a quarterback hurry at Northern Illinois ... Registered five tackles (four solo) with a 1-yard tackle for loss at South Alabama ... Tied a team high with five tackles (all solo) against UNLV ... Also had a 2-yard tackle for loss and a pass breakup ... Had five tackles (four solo) and an interception at Fresno State ... Came up with two tackles (one solo) in a start vs. San José State ... Had two stops in a start at Utah State ... Finished with four tackles, two interceptions, including one for a touchdown, and a PBU against Hawai'i ... The two interceptions game him 15 for his career, setting an Aztec record ... Scored his second interception return for a score and third overall touchdown (also a punt return touchdown) ... Finished with a season-high-tying six tackles and a PBU at Nevada ... Registered six tackles (three solo) in a start at Wyoming ... Came up with four stops (three solo) in another start vs. Colorado State ... Had six tackles, two interceptions for 44 yards and two pass breakups en route to being named the most valuable defensive player at the MW Championship game at Wyoming ... Recorded his sixth and seventh interceptions of the season and 16th and 17th of his career ... The seven interceptions are tied for the fourth most in SDSU single-season history, while his 17 career picks extended his career record ... Recorded multiple interceptions in a game for the second time this year and third time of his career ... Became the first Aztec in program history with six or more interceptions in consecutive seasons ... Registered five stops (four solo) in a start vs. Houston in the Las Vegas Bowl.
- **2015 (Junior):** Was named a second-team All-American by *USA Today*, an honorable-mention selection by *Sports Illustrated* and a fourth-team honoree by Phil Steele ... Was named the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year by the league's head coaches and media, the first SDSU player to be named the MW Defensive Player of the Year since Kirk Morrison won it in back-to-back seasons in 2003-04 ... Kazee and Morrison are now the only defensive players of the year in a league in school history ... Also was named a first-team all-league pick ... Shared the team's defensive player-of-the-year award with Calvin Munson ... Was on the Jim Thorpe Award Watch List, which goes out to the top defensive back in the country ... Also earned postseason first-team all-MW honors from Phil Steele ... Was on the preseason all-Mountain West team by the league's media ... Also was a preseason first-team pick by *USA Today*, *Sporting*

News and Athlon Sports ... Also a second-team selection by Phil Steele and *Lindy's Sports*, and is listed as a "SDSU Player to Watch" by *Lindy's* ... Put together a terrific season, recording 75 tackles (team-high 58 solo - next highest was 45), a team-best eight interceptions, 5.5 tackles for loss, seven pass breakups and two forced fumbles in 14 starts ... The eight picks were tied for the most in SDSU's Division I era, tied for the most in MW history and tied for the second most in Aztec history ... Led the Mountain West and tied for second in FBS play in interceptions (8) ... Ranked fourth in the MW in passes defended (INT + PBU) per game (1.07) ... Also returned five punts for 70 yards (14.0 avg.), including a 66-yard touchdown ... Had a standout game vs. San Diego, recording three tackles (all solo), including a career-high 2.0 tackles for loss, and three interceptions ... The three interceptions were the most by an Aztec since Ed Ricketts had three on Oct. 13, 1951 vs. the Marines and are ranked in a tie for the second most in a game in program history ... Only Dick Adair's four-interception game bettered Kazee's output and that came on Oct. 15, 1949 vs. New Mexico State ... The three picks, which came in the first, second and third quarter, respectively, tied West Virginia's Karl Joseph for the most in FBS during the opening week ... The three picks also matched the most in FBS play since Middle Tennessee's Damon Nickson had four against Louisiana-Lafayette on Oct. 28, 2006 ... Kazee became the 25th FBS player this decade (since 2011) with three interceptions in the same game (as of the end of the season, there were 30) ... Came up with seven tackles (five solo) and a PBU at California ... Had a career-high and game-high-tying 11 tackles, including 10 solo, against South Alabama ... Also recorded two pass breakups and his fifth forced fumble of his career ... Had eight tackles (six solo) and 0.5 tackles for loss at Penn State ... The eight tackles tied teammate Kameron Kelly for the second most in the game ... Had four tackles (three solo) against Fresno State ... Had a tackle and his fourth interception of the season at Hawai'i ... Finished with nine tackles (seven solo), an interception and a tackle for loss at San José State ... It was his second straight game with an interception ... Had another solid outing against Utah State with four tackles (three solo) and a pass breakup ... Was named the MW Defensive Player of the Week on Nov. 2 for his play at Colorado State, recording seven tackles (five solo), an interception for a touchdown and a forced fumble ... It was the first touchdown of his career ... The forced fumble kept the Rams out of the end zone at the goal line and safety Trey Lomax recovered it ... The 55-yard interception returned for a touchdown gave San Diego State a 27-10 lead ... Made five stops and two pass breakups against Wyoming ... Had three tackles (two solo) in a start at UNLV ... The big contribution came in the return game, where he returned his first career punt for a 66-yard touchdown ... It was his second touchdown of the year (also an interception return for a score) ... Had another good game against Nevada with four tackles (three solo), a 2-yard tackle for loss, his seventh interception of the season and a pass breakup ... Also returned a punt, but lost five yards on the play ... Made three stops (two solo) with a 4-yard tackle for loss vs. Air Force in the MW Championship game ... Recorded six tackles and a 10-yard interception against Cincinnati in the Hawai'i Bowl ... The interception was his eighth of the season.

- **2014 (Sophomore):** Was named a second-team all-Mountain West selection by the league's coaches and media ... Was named to the MW midseason first team by Phil Steele ... Was named the team's emerging star by *Lindy's Sports* ... Started all 13 games for SDSU, making 58 tackles (40 solo), with a team-high 13 pass breakups, an interception, a fumble recovery, 4.0 TFL and two quarterback hurries ... Ranked third in the MW with 1.08 passes defended (INT + PBU) per game ... Made his first career start in the opener vs. Northern Arizona, registering four tackles (three solo) ... Started again at No. 21/23 North Carolina, where he made four tackles (three solo), including one for a 1-yard loss ... Had one assisted tackle in another start at Oregon State ... Earned another start vs. UNLV, where he had four tackles (three solo) and a career-high three PBUs ... Had five tackles (all solo) at Fresno State to go along with a PBU ... Had another five tackles (four solo) and two pass breakups at New Mexico ... The two PBUs were a game-high ... Had another good game against Hawai'i, making six tackles, a game-high-tying two PBUs and his second career interception ... Came up with five tackles (three solo), including a 2-yard loss, and a PBU in an eighth straight start at Nevada ... Had three stops (one solo) and another pass breakup in a start against Idaho, and added a quarterback hurry ... Recorded a season-high seven tackles (four solo), a PBU and a QBH in a start at Boise State ... Made four stops, all solo, in an 11th straight start vs. Air Force to go along with a 3-yard tackle for loss, a fumble recovery and another PBU ... The fumble recovery was this first of his career ... Recorded four tackles (three solo) with a PBU in a 12th consecutive start vs. San José State ... Started for the 13th straight game of the season vs. Navy in the Poinsettia Bowl, where he had six tackles (five solo) and a 4-yard tackle for loss.
- **2013 (Freshman):** Played in each of the first seven games off the bench, making impact plays in almost every contest, before missing the New Mexico game with concussion-like symptoms ... Returned for the San José State game and the following contests at Hawai'i, vs. Boise State, UNLV and vs. Buffalo in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl ... Had 41 tackles (28 solo), four

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forced fumbles, 3.0 TFL, two pass breakups, an interception, a sack and a blocked kick ... Led the MW and was tied for 10th (first among freshmen) in the nation in forced fumbles per game (0.33) (four total) ... The four forced fumbles were tied for fourth all-time at SDSU and the most since current Oakland Raider Miles Burris had four in 2010 ... Had the most tackles (41) on the team of any player without a start (next highest was 22) ... Made his collegiate debut in the opener vs. Eastern Illinois and had four tackles (all solo) and a forced fumble ... The four tackles tied King Holder for the most among all cornerbacks ... Had another solid outing off the bench at No. 3/2 Ohio State, making six tackles (all solos) with a one-handed interception ... The six solos were the most by either team ... The interception was the first by an Aztec this season and came at the SDSU 21-yard line ... Came off the bench against Oregon State and have five tackles and a forced fumble ... Made three tackles in a reserve role at New Mexico State ... Came off the bench in fine fashion vs. Nevada, making four stops (three solo) with a sack, tackle for loss and forced fumble ... Made two tackles off the bench at Air Force ... Had five stops and a tackle for loss vs. No. 15/18 Fresno State ... Missed the New Mexico game with concussion-like symptoms ... Had a solid all-around game in the win at San José State with two tackles, along with his first career pass breakup and blocked kick ... The blocked kick in the fourth quarter was arguably the biggest play of the game for SDSU, as it kept the Spartans from taking a 26-12 lead and allowed Nat Berhe to return the loose ball 56 yards ... Donnel Pumphrey then followed with a 34-yard touchdown run, bringing the Aztecs to within three points at 23-20 ... Made three stops (two solo) with a forced fumble at Hawai'i ... Came up with two tackles (both solo), a tackle for loss and a pass breakup vs. Boise State ... Had two solo stops off the bench in the team's loss at UNLV ... Came up with three stops in a reserve role vs. Buffalo in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

- **2012 (Redshirt):** Utilized his redshirt season.
- **High School:** Three-time all-CIF athlete who played both sides of the ball at Cajon High in San Bernardino, Calif. ... Helped the Cowboys to a 9-2 overall record in 2011, including a 6-1 mark in league play ... Recorded 27 tackles, two interceptions and a forced fumble on defense during his senior year ... On offense, he scored four touchdowns on the ground and caught another four touchdowns through the air ... *Scouts, Inc.* rated him as a three-star recruit and gave him a grade of 75 ... In high school, he lettered in football, basketball and track.
- **Personal:** Damontae T. Kazee was born June 5, 1993, in San Bernardino, Calif. ... Son of Latrease and Walter Kazee ... Has three brothers and two sisters ... Brother, Walter, was a four-year running back for the Aztecs from 2009-12 ... Also considered Arizona and Washington State ... Majoring in criminal justice.

Kazee's Career Statistics

Season	GP	GS	UA	A	TT	TFL	Sk	Int.	PBU	FF	FR
2013	12	0	28	13	41	3.0	1.0	1	2	4	0
2014	13	13	40	18	58	4.0	0.0	1	13	0	1
2015	14	14	58	17	75	5.5	0.0	8	7	2	0
2016	14	14	45	20	65	3.0	0.0	7	8	0	0
Career	53	41	171	68	239	15.5	1.0	17	30	6	1

Career Highs: Tackles: 11 vs. South Alabama (9/19/15); Tackles For Loss: 2.0 vs. San Diego (9/5/15); Sacks: 1.0 vs. Nevada (10/4/3); Interceptions: 3 vs. San Diego (9/5/15); Pass Breakups: 3 vs. California (9/10/16), vs. UNLV (9/27/14); Forced Fumbles: 1, six times; Fumble Recoveries: 1 vs. California (9/10/16), vs. Air Force (11/21/14); Blocked Kicks: 1 at San José State (11/9/13); Defensive Touchdowns: 1 vs. Hawai'i (11/5/16), at Colorado State (10/31/15); Punt Returns: 1, five times; Punt Return Yards: 66 at UNLV (11/21/15); Punt Return Touchdowns: 1 at UNLV (11/21/15); Punt Return Long: 66 at UNLV (11/21/15); Overall Touchdowns: 1 vs. Hawai'i (11/5/16), at UNLV (11/21/15), at Colorado State (10/31/15).

2016 Highs: Tackles: 6, four times; Tackles For Loss: 1.0 vs. UNLV (10/8/16), at South Alabama (10/1/16), at Northern Illinois (9/17/16); Interceptions: 2 at Wyoming (12/3/16), vs. Hawai'i (11/5/16); Pass Breakups: 3 vs. California (9/10/16); Defensive Touchdowns: 1 vs. Hawai'i (11/5/16).

Kazee's Career Game-by-Game

Date	Opponent	GP	GS	UA	A	TT	TFL	Sk.	Int.	PBU	FF	FR
A.31.13	Eastern Illinois	1	0	4	0	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0
S.7.13	at 3/2 Ohio State	1	0	6	0	6	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0
S.21.13	Oregon State	1	0	3	2	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0
S.28.13	at New Mexico State	1	0	1	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
O.4.13	Nevada*	1	0	3	1	4	1.0	1.0	0	0	1	0
O.10.13	at Air Force*	1	0	1	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

O.26.13	15/18 Fresno State*	1	0	3	2	5	1.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
N.2.13	New Mexico*	--- Did Not Play - Injured ---										
N.9.13	at San José State*	1	0	0	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
N.16.13	at Hawai'i*	1	0	2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0
N.23.13	Boise State*	1	0	2	0	2	1.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
N.30.13	at UNLV*	1	0	2	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
D.21.13	vs. Buffalo&	1	0	1	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
A.30.14	Northern Arizona	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
S.6.14	at 21/23 No. Carolina	1	1	3	1	4	1.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
S.20.14	at Oregon State	1	1	0	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
S.27.14	UNLV*	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	3	0	0
O.3.14	at Fresno State*	1	1	5	0	5	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
O.10.14	at New Mexico*	1	1	4	1	5	0.0	0.0	0	2	0	0
O.18.14	Hawai'i*	1	1	2	4	6	0.0	0.0	1	2	0	0
N.1.14	at Nevada*	1	1	3	2	5	1.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
N.8.14	Idaho	1	1	1	2	3	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
N.15.14	at Boise State*	1	1	4	3	7	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
N.21.14	Air Force*	1	1	4	0	4	1.0	0.0	0	1	0	1
N.29.14	San José State*	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
D.23.14	Navy#	1	1	5	1	6	1.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
S.5.15	San Diego	1	1	3	0	3	2.0	0.0	3	0	0	0
S.12.15	at California	1	1	5	2	7	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
S.19.15	South Alabama	1	1	10	1	11	0.0	0.0	0	2	1	0
S.26.15	at Penn State	1	1	6	2	8	0.5	0.0	0	0	0	0
O.3.15	Fresno State*	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
O.10.15	at Hawai'i*	1	1	1	0	1	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0
O.17.15	at San José State*	1	1	7	2	9	1.0	0.0	1	0	0	0
O.23.15	Utah State*	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
O.31.15	at Colorado State*	1	1	5	2	7	0.0	0.0	1	0	1	0
N.14.15	Wyoming*	1	1	3	2	5	0.0	0.0	0	2	0	0
N.21.15	at UNLV*	1	1	2	1	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
N.28.15	Nevada*	1	1	3	1	4	1.0	0.0	1	1	0	0
D.5.15	Air Force``	1	1	2	1	3	1.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
D.24.15	vs. Cincinnati%	1	1	5	1	6	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0
S.3.16	New Hampshire	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
S.10.16	California	1	1	5	1	6	0.0	0.0	1	3	0	0
S.17.16	at Northern Illinois	1	1	5	0	5	1.0	0.0	1	0	0	0
O.1.16	at South Alabama	1	1	4	1	5	1.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
O.8.16	UNLV*	1	1	5	0	5	1.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
O.14.16	at Fresno State*	1	1	4	1	5	0.0	0.0	1	0	0	0
O.21.16	San José State*	1	1	1	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
O.28.16	at Utah State*	1	1	0	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
N.5.16	Hawai'i*	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	2	1	0	0
N.12.16	at Nevada*	1	1	3	3	6	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0
N.19.16	at Wyoming*	1	1	3	3	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
N.26.16	Colorado State*	1	1	3	1	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
D.3.16	at Wyoming@	1	1	2	4	6	0.0	0.0	2	2	0	0
D.17.16	vs. Houston^	1	1	4	1	5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0

*Bold indicates season high. * - Mountain West game. & - 2013 Famous Idaho Potato Bowl (Bronco Stadium; Boise, Idaho). # - 2014 San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl (Qualcomm Stadium; San Diego, Calif.). `` - 2015 Sports Authority Mountain West Championship (Qualcomm Stadium; San Diego, Calif.). % - 2015 Hawai'i Bowl (Aloha Stadium; Honolulu, Hawaii). @ - 2016 Mountain West Championship (War Memorial Stadium; Laramie, Wyo.). ^ - 2016 Las Vegas Bowl (Sam Boyd Stadium; Las Vegas, Nev.).*