

AZTEC MEN'S SOCCER

1 SDSU is one of only three Pac-10 teams to make a final four. The Aztecs advanced to the 1987 national championship game by defeating Harvard in the semifinals via penalty kicks.

2 The Aztecs have had two former student-athletes inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame. Eric Wynalda (1987-89) was inducted in 2004, while Marcelo Balboa (1988-89) was enshrined in 2005.

3 In the 41-year history of the program, Aztec soccer has had only three coaches - George Logan (1968-81), Chuck Clegg (1982-99) and Lev Kirshner (2000-present).

4 SDSU has had four former student-athletes compete in the World Cup, including National Soccer Hall of Famers Marcelo Balboa and Eric Wynalda, along with Chris Sullivan and Cle Kooiman.

4 San Diego State has had four Hermann Trophy semifinalists, including Chris Keenan (1987), Marcelo Balboa (1988-89), Kyle Whittemore (1988). Tally Hall was a semifinalist in 2007.

5 Men's soccer has five Aztec Hall of Fame members, including four individuals - Kevin Crow (1989), Vidal Fernandez (1993), Marcelo Balboa (1995), Eric Wynalda (1996) and the entire 1987 NCAA runner-up squad (2002).

8 Tally Hall became the eighth San Diego State student-athlete to be named an Academic All-American in 2006 when he was selected to the NSCAA/adidas first team.

8 The Aztecs have played in the NCAA tournament eight times, including two of the past four seasons.

9 SDSU has nine NCAA tournament victories in its eight appearances, owning a .633 (9-6-1) tournament winning percentage.

10 The Aztecs have had 10 All-America selections. The award winners include Pete Goossens (1969), Alan Kelly (1976-77), Kevin Crow (1981-82), Kyle Whittemore (1987), Marcelo Balboa (1988-89) and Tally Hall (2005-06).

28 San Diego State has had 28 winning seasons in its 41-year history of the program. Over the last four years, the Aztecs have gone 32-26-17 with two NCAA tournament appearances.

29 Twenty-nine SDSU student-athletes have been a national team member for their respective country. 2008 redshirt senior Myles Davis was called up to the U-23 Canadian National Team in March, 2008 and has 14 international caps in his career.

32 The Aztecs have had 32 all-academic conference recipients. Last season, Raymundo Reza (now a junior) and then redshirt senior Nick Collins landed on the Pac-10 All-Academic Team has honorable-mention selections.

39 SDSU has had 39 NSCAA All-Far West selections, including Nick Cardenas' third consecutive pick in 2008.

47 Aztec men's soccer has had 47 student-athletes named all-conference, including seven all-Pac-10 selections in 2008.

49 Kraig Chiles (Chivas USA of the MLS) and Omar Persad (Lousanense of Portugal) are the 48th and 49th Aztecs to play professional soccer.

404 San Diego State has garnered 404 wins in its 41-year history.

1987 In 1987 as the NCAA tournament's lowest seeded team, SDSU advanced all the way to the championship game where they lost to final four host Clemson, 2-0. The Aztecs picked up road wins at St. Louis, SMU and UCLA, before defeating Harvard, 2-1, on penalty kicks in a national semifinal game.

.594 The Aztecs own a .594 (404-263-85) all-time winning percentage.

.700 One of the toughest places to play on the West Coast, San Diego State has posted a remarkable .700 all-time home winning percentage (251-94-37).

NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1969, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2005, 2006

1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST



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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY QUICK FACTS

Location	San Diego, Calif.
Population	1,264,600 (2000 Census)
Founded	1897
Enrollment	35,887
Team Nickname	Aztecs
Colors	Scarlet and Black
Home Field	SDSU Sports Deck (1,500)
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Pacific-10
University President	Dr. Stephen L. Weber
Director of Athletics	Jeff Schemmel

SAN DIEGO STATE SOCCER QUICK FACTS

Head Coach	Lev Kirshner (Rutgers, 1991)
Record at San Diego State	.62-81-29 (.444) (nine seasons)
Career Collegiate Record	Same
Record at SDSU in Pac-10 ERA	.32-26-17 (.540)
Office Phone	(619) 594-0136
E-mail	aztecsoccer@mail.sdsu.edu
Assistant Coach	Matt Hall (San Diego, 2001)
Assistant Coach	Sami B. Nedjar (USC, 1989)
Assistant Coach	Oscar Rodriguez (San Diego State, 2001)
Director of Soccer Operations	TBA
2008 Record	.6-9-3
Home Record	.4-6-0
Away/Neutral Record	.2-3-3
2008 Pac-10 Record	.3-4-3
2008 Pac-10 Finish	Third
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	.21/5
Starters Returning/Lost	.8/3
All-Time NCAA Tournament Berths (Record)	Eight (9-6-1)

SAN DIEGO STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

Assistant A.D./Media Relations	Mike May
Assistant M.R. Director/Men's Soccer Contact	Jamie McConeghy
Office Phone	(619) 594-4348
Cell Phone	(607) 435-5577
E-mail	jmcconeg@mail.sdsu.edu
Fax	(619) 594-6541
Press Box Phone	(619) 594-3989
Mailing Address	San Diego State University Media Relations Office Department of Athletics 5500 Campanile Drive San Diego, CA 92182-4309
Official Website	www.goaztecs.com

MEDIA INFORMATION

Requests for interviews and credentials should be directed to Jamie McConeghy in the San Diego State Media Relations office. Interviews are generally available following practice sessions, but must be arranged 24 hours in advance by contacting Jamie McConeghy at (619) 594-4348 or at jmcconeg@mail.sdsu.edu. On game days, Aztec players and coaches will be available postgame following a 10-minute cooling off period.

MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

The 2009 San Diego State men's soccer media guide is a publication of the San Diego State athletic media relations office. The publication was written, edited and designed by assistant media relations director Jamie McConeghy. Cover designed by Jenna Schuster. Photography by Stan Liu, SDSU photography, Jamie McConeghy and Lev Kirshner.

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2009 Schedule

AUGUST

Saturday	22	% UC SAN DIEGO	SDSU Sports Deck	1 p.m.
Wednesday	26	% at Cal Poly	San Luis Obispo	7 p.m.

Preseason Exhibitions

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday	1	LOYOLA MARYMOUNT	SDSU Sports Deck	L, 1-2
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Family, Friends and Alumni Weekend

Saturday	5	% ALUMNI	SDSU Sports Deck	W, 5-1
Sunday	6	SAN DIEGO	SDSU Sports Deck	L, 0-1

Second Annual Courtyard Marriott San Diego Central Tournament

Friday	11	UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA	SDSU Sports Deck	T, 2-2 (2ot)
Sunday	13	WISCONSIN	SDSU Sports Deck	W, 3-2 (2ot)

Friday	18	WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY	SDSU Sports Deck	T, 2-2 (2ot)
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First Annual Nike Aztec Soccer Classic

Friday	25	No. 6 UC SANTA BARBARA	SDSU Sports Deck	4 p.m. PT
Sunday	27	(rv) PRINCETON	SDSU Sports Deck	Noon PT

OCTOBER

Friday	2	* at Washington	Seattle, Wash.	7:30 p.m. PT
Sunday	4	* at Oregon State	Corvallis, Ore.	1 p.m. PT

Sunday	11	* UCLA	SDSU Sports Deck	2 p.m. PT
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Friday	16	* STANFORD	SDSU Sports Deck	4 p.m. PT
Sunday	18	* CALIFORNIA	SDSU Sports Deck	2 p.m. PT

Friday	23	* at Stanford	Palo Alto, Calif.	7 p.m. PT
Sunday	25	* at California	Berkeley, Calif.	2 p.m. PT

NOVEMBER

Sunday	1	at Michigan State	Lansing, Mich.	1 p.m. ET
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Friday	6	* WASHINGTON	SDSU Sports Deck	3 p.m. PT
Sunday	8	* OREGON STATE	SDSU Sports Deck	Noon PT

Saturday	14	* at UCLA	Los Angeles, Calif.	7 p.m. PT
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Thursday	19	NCAA First Round	On-Campus Sites	TBA
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Sunday	22	NCAA Second Round	On-Campus Sites	TBA
Sunday	29	NCAA Third Round	On-Campus Sites	TBA

DECEMBER

Fri.-Sun.	4, 5 or 6	NCAA Quarterfinals	On-Campus Sites	TBA
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Fri. & Sun.	11-13	NCAA College Cup	Raleigh, N.C. (WakeMed Stadium)	TBA
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Schedule is subject to change
 Home games in CAPS
 % Exhibition match
 * Pacific-10 Conference game



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NUMERICAL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown/Last School
0	R.J. Smith	GK	6-4	195	RS-So.	1L	San Diego, Calif./UC Davis
01	Blake Hysten	GK	6-3	180	Fr.	HS	San Diego, Calif./Torrey Pines HS
1	Brad Byrns (burns)	GK	6-2	200	RS-Jr.	2L	Alamo, Calif./Monte Vista HS
2	Michio Akazawa (ME-chee-O Ahk-a-zawa)	D	5-7	155	Jr.	1L	Bellevue, Wash./Issaquah HS
3	Steve Beitashour (bet-uh-shower)	D	5-10	170	RS-Sr.	3L	San Jose, Calif./Leland HS
4	* Nick Cardenas (car-DEEN-iss)	D	6-4	205	Sr.	3L	Thornton, Colo./Horizon HS
5	Daniel Steres (stare-iss)	D	6-0	170	So.	1L	Calabasas, Calif./Calabasas HS
6	Pedro Adan (uh-DON)	MF	5-8	155	RS-So.	1L	San Diego, Calif./Preuss HS
7	Evan Toft	MF	5-8	155	Sr.	3L	Aurora, Colo./Grandview HS
8	Daniel Ortega	MF	5-10	180	Sr.	3L	San Diego, Calif./Eastlake HS
9	Devon Sandoval (devin)	F	6-1	200	Fr.	HS	Albuquerque, N.M./Eldorado HS
10	Khadim Diouf (HA-deem DAY-oof)	MF	6-1	160	Jr.	2L	Dakar, Senegal/Suffield Acad. (Conn.)
11	* Matt McManus	F	6-1	185	RS-Sr.	2L	Santa Clarita, Calif./Canyon HS
12	Gemechu Abraham (GUH-met-choo)	MF	5-9	155	RS-So.	1L	Beaverton, Ore./Beaverton HS
14	Raymundo Reza	F	5-10	175	Jr.	2L	Denver, Colo./John F. Kennedy HS
16	Justin Davies	D	5-8	160	RS-So.	1L	San Diego, Calif./Brooks School (Mass.)
17	Michael Rocha	F	5-9	185	Jr.	2L	Pasadena, Calif./John Muir HS
18	Jordan Phillips	D	5-11	170	Fr.	HS	The Woodlands, Texas/The Woodlands HS
19	* Jamel Wallace (JUH-mel)	MF	6-1	180	RS-Sr.	3L	San Diego, Calif./Oceanside HS
20	Andre Acevedo (ah-ce-VEEDO)	D	5-8	160	RS-So.	SQ	San Diego, Calif./Eastlake HS
21	Morgan Sacco	MF	5-8	140	Fr.	HS	Greeley, Colo./Greeley Central HS
23	Jose Altamirano	MF	5-7	135	Fr.	HS	San Diego, Calif./Southwest HS
24	Chance Marden	MF	6-1	175	RS-Fr.	HS	Fremont, Calif./Washington HS
29	Kevin Werbner	MF	6-1	185	RS-Sr.	3L	Manchester, Conn./Manchester HS

* Captains

Head Coach: Lev Kirshner (Rutgers, 1991), 10th season
Assistant Coach: Matt Hall (San Diego, 2001), 10th season
Assistant Coach: Sami B. Nedjar (USC, 1989), second season
Assistant Coach: Oscar Rodriguez (San Diego State, 2001), fifth season

BY POSITION

Goalkeepers (3) Byrns, Hysten, Smith

Defenders (7) Acevedo, Akazawa, Beitashour, Cardenas, Davies, Phillips, Steres

Midfielders (10) Abraham, Adan, Altamirano, Diouf, Marden, Ortega, Sacco, Toft, Wallace, Werbner

Forwards (4) McManus, Reza, Rocha, Sandoval

BY YEAR

Seniors (7) Beitashour, Cardenas, McManus, Ortega, Toft, Wallace, Werbner

Juniors (5) Akazawa, Byrns, Diouf, Reza, Rocha

Sophomores (6) Abraham, Acevedo, Adan, Davies, Smith, Steres,

Redshirt Freshmen (1) Marden

True Freshmen (5) Altamirano, Hysten, Phillips, Sacco, Sandoval

BY EXPERIENCE

Three Letters (6) Beitashour, Cardenas, Ortega, Toft, Wallace, Werbner

Two Letters (5) Byrns, Diouf, McManus, Reza, Rocha

One Letter (6) Abraham, Adan, Akazawa, Davies, Smith, Steres

Redshirts (2) Acevedo, Marden

High School (5) Altamirano, Hysten, Phillips, Sacco, Sandoval

ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Pos.
12	Gemechu Abraham	MF
20	Andre Acevedo	D
6	Pedro Adan	MF
2	Michio Akazawa	D
23	Jose Altamirano	MF
3	Steve Beitashour	D
1	Brad Byrns	GK
4	Nick Cardenas	D
16	Justin Davies	D
10	Khadim Diouf	MF
01	Blake Hysten	GK
24	Chance Marden	MF
11	Matt McManus	F
8	Daniel Ortega	MF
18	Jordan Phillips	D
14	Raymundo Reza	F
17	Michael Rocha	F
21	Morgan Sacco	MF
9	Devon Sandoval	F
0	R.J. Smith	GK
5	Daniel Steres	MD
7	Evan Toft	MF
19	Jamel Wallace	MF
29	Kevin Werbner	MF

BY PLACE

San Diego (8) Acevedo, Adan, Altamirano, Davies, Hysten, Ortega, Smith, Wallace

California (6) Beitashour, Byrns, Marden, McManus, Rocha, Steres

Colorado (4) Cardenas, Reza, Sacco, Toft

Oregon (1) Abraham

Washington (1) Akazawa

New Mexico (1) Sandoval

Texas (1) Phillips

Connecticut (1) Werbner

Senegal (1) Diouf

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2009 Broadcast Roster



0 • R.J. Smith
RS-So. • GK • 6-4 • 195
San Diego, Calif.



01 • Blake Hysten
Fr. • GK • 6-3 • 180
San Diego, Calif.



1 • Brad Byrns
RS-Jr. • GK • 6-2 • 200
Alamo, Calif.



2 • Michio Akazawa
Jr. • D • 5-7 • 155
Bellevue, Wash.



3 • Steve Beitashour
RS-Sr. • D • 5-10 • 170
San Jose, Calif.



4 • Nick Cardenas
Sr. • D • 6-4 • 205
Thornton, Colo.



5 • Daniel Steres
So. • D • 6-0 • 170
Calabasas, Calif.



6 • Pedro Adan
RS-So. • MF • 5-8 • 155
San Diego, Calif.



7 • Evan Toft
Sr. • MF • 5-8 • 155
Aurora, Colo.



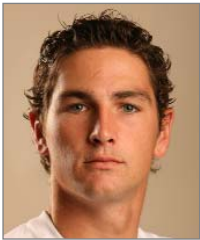
8 • Daniel Ortega
Sr. • MF • 5-10 • 180
San Diego, Calif.



9 • Devon Sandoval
Fr. • F • 6-1 • 200
Albuquerque, N.M.



10 • Khadim Diouf
Jr. • MF • 6-1 • 160
Dakar, Senegal



11 • Matt McManus
RS-Sr. • F • 6-1 • 185
Santa Clarita, Calif.



12 • Gemechu Abraham
RS-So. • MF • 5-9 • 155
Beaverton, Ore.



14 • Raymundo Reza
Jr. • F • 5-10 • 175
Denver, Colo.



16 • Justin Davies
RS-So. • D • 5-8 • 160
San Diego, Calif.



17 • Michael Rocha
Jr. • F • 5-9 • 185
Pasadena, Calif.



18 • Jordan Phillips
Fr. • D • 5-11 • 170
The Woodlands, Texas



19 • Jamel Wallace
RS-Sr. • MF • 6-1 • 180
San Diego, Calif.



20 • Andre Acevedo
RS-So. • D • 5-8 • 160
San Diego, Calif.



21 • Morgan Sacco
Fr. • MF • 5-8 • 140
Greeley, Colo.



23 • Jose Altamirano
Fr. • MF • 5-7 • 135
San Diego, Calif.



24 • Chance Marden
RS-Fr. • MF • 6-1 • 175
Fremont, Calif.



29 • Kevin Werbner
RS-Sr. • MF • 6-1 • 185
Manchester, Conn.



Lev Kirshner
Head Coach • 10th Year
Rutgers, 1991



Matt Hall
Asst. Coach • 10th Year
San Diego, 2001



Sami B. Nedjar
Asst. Coach • 2nd Year
USC, 1989



Oscar Rodriguez
Asst. Coach • 5th Year
San Diego State, 2001

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2009 Season Outlook

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Like the old adage says, sometimes you need to take one step back to take two steps forward.

That may be the plan for this year's Aztecs after finishing with a disappointing 6-9-3 record in 2008, the program's first losing season in their Pac-10 era. Although SDSU did complete its third consecutive top-half finish in Pac-10 at 3-4-3 and improve to 4-1-3 against top-10 teams since 2005 after downing No. 7 California, 1-0, it did not win a championship, which has been the goal of Lev Kirshner since he became head coach at San Diego State in 2000.

On the bright side, the Aztecs return eight of their 11 starters, including 86.2 percent of their goal scoring and six all-conference selections from a year ago. Throw in a healthy all-Pac-10 goalkeeper in Brad Byrns and the 22nd-ranked recruiting class in the nation and one can see why optimism is still high on The Mesa.

Kirshner is looking forward to the good mix of veteran leadership and talented newcomers that will dot the 2009 roster. Of the 24 on the initial roster, there are seven seniors, five juniors, six sophomores and six freshmen.

Below is a position-by-position breakdown of the 2009 San Diego State men's soccer team:

GOALKEEPERS

The one inconsistent in last year's team was the goalkeeping unit. Because of injuries and illnesses, an unusual four goalkeepers made appearances in 18 Aztec games, with all four earning at least three starts. The group performed well at times, shutting out five opponents.

Gone are goalkeepers Jorge Rosales (4-3-2, 1.52 goals against average, 831:06) and Morgan Maestas



Brad Byrns

(1-3-0, 1.16 GAA, 388:36). Returning to SDSU are redshirt junior Brad Byrns (Alamo, Calif.) and redshirt sophomore R.J. Smith (San Diego/UC Davis).

Last season, Byrns was 1-0-1 in just three appearances, recording a 1.47 goals against average over 244:12. Smith had a 0-2-0 record in three games with a 1.97 GAA over 228:46.

Byrns seems to have the edge after finally looking healthy for the first time since the beginning of his freshman season in 2007, where he earned honorable mention all-Pac-10 accolades, posting a 6-1-2 record with a 0.73 goals against average (sixth-lowest in school history) and five shutouts.

In his fabulous freshman campaign, Byrns started nine of the first 10 games before going down with a season-ending injury in the waning moments of the team's 3-2 victory over eventual Pac-10 champion California on Oct. 12. Over his career, Byrns is 7-1-3 (.773) with a 0.89 goals against average, a mark which would rank fifth in San Diego State's storied history had he enough minutes to qualify.

Smith, who became an Aztec after redshirting his first season at UC Davis in 2007, impressed in his short amount of playing time a year ago. Smith, who was the team's opening day starter against Michigan, also got the starting nod against nationally ranked UC Irvine on Sept. 19 and made a season-high four stops. Smith also played 45 minutes of shutout soccer against Cal State Bakersfield.

Another keeper who could be in the mix is true freshman Blake Hysten. Hysten, who was ranked as the seventh-best goalkeeper in the nation by *Top Drawer Soccer* and among the top-100 overall players by the site, starred for multiple state club champion Del Mar Sharks and Torrey Pines High School.

DEFENDERS

What has been the strength of the SDSU team the past few seasons and appears to be once again this season is the defense.

Three starting defenders from last year's squad return in senior captain Nick Cardenas (Thornton, Colo.), redshirt sophomore Justin Davies (San Diego/Brooks School (Mass.)) and sophomore Daniel Steres (Calabasas, Calif.). In addition, redshirt senior Steve Beitashour (San Jose, Calif.), a two-year starter in the back from 2006-07 who battled injuries last year, appears healthy and ready to go in 2009.

Cardenas, one the most decorated players in San Diego State men's soccer history, will once again anchor the backline, which has posted 18 shutouts of his three-year career. Cardenas, a three-time NSCAA/adidas all-Far West Region selection, was named a preseason All-American by *College Soccer News* in July. Last year, Cardenas tallied a career-high four assists while leading the team in minutes played (1,646). Over his career, the three-time all-Pac-10 selection and 2008 preseason M.A.C. Hermann Award Watch List member has eight goals and six assists for 22 points.

Beitashour, who was limited to just four games and one start a year ago, has played in 40 games



Steve Beitashour

over his career with 21 starts to his credit. A player who Kirshner has said is the team's best 1-v-1 player on both sides of the ball, Beitashour could also use his blazing speed to create chances for the offense.

Steres may have been a surprise to others across the soccer world, but not to Kirshner and the Aztecs. Last season, Steres started 14 of the 17 games he appeared in, finishing fourth on the team with eight points on three goals and two assists. A physical player in the back, Steres logged 1,394 minutes, the third-most on the squad and most by a freshman.

Justin Davies, the brother of current U.S. national team member Charlie, excelled in his first season at SDSU, starting 14 times in 17 appearances. A physical player with good field awareness, Davies had seven shots from the back in 1,205 minutes.

Other backs who should see playing time include junior Michio Akazawa (Bellevue, Wash.), redshirt sophomore Andre Acevedo (San Diego/Eastlake HS) and freshman Jordan Phillips (The Woodlands, Texas).

Akazawa made the most of his opportunities a year ago with two assists in just 90 minutes, which tied him for fifth on the squad. Acevedo redshirted last year but figures to challenge for a starting spot after playing in five games as a freshman in 2007. Phillips comes to San Diego after starting three years with the South Texas ODP team while playing for Texas powerhouse The Woodlands HS.

MIDFIELDERS

Without a doubt, the midfielders are the most experienced unit on this year's team. The group includes five upperclassmen, including four seniors, two redshirt sophomores and three freshmen (one redshirt).

Senior Evan Toft (Aurora, Colo.) should be the face of the San Diego State midfield once again after

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leading the team in assists (six) and shots (40) a year ago. Toft, who earned second-team all-Pac-10 accolades for his second consecutive season, is the Aztecs' active leading scorer with 25 points on five goals and 15 assists. In 17 games and 15 starts last year, Toft set career-bests in goals (three), assists, points (12), shots and shots on goal (19).

Another important part of the midfield will be red-shirt senior captain Jamel Wallace (San Diego/Oceanside HS). Wallace, who started all 17 of his appearances a year ago, has earned starts in each of his last 49 matches dating back to the 2005 season (he redshirted in 2006). A versatile player who can also play in the front and back, Wallace garnered second-team all-Pac-10 accolades in 2008 after amassing seven points (three goals, one assist).

Senior Daniel Ortega (San Diego/Eastlake HS) is also back for his final season. After logging minutes in 14 matches a year ago, Ortega brings experience to SDSU with 45 career games and nine starts. With one of the most deadly shots on the team, Ortega has two career goals and two assists for six points.

The final senior in the midfield is Kevin Werbner (Manchester, Conn.). Werbner, who redshirted a year ago with a leg injury, has seven starts in 46 games over his career. If he is completely healed by the team's opening match, he could challenge for playing time. He has one career goal and two assists for four points.

Two-time all-Pac-10 honorable mention pick Khadim Diouf (Dakar, Senegal) looks to continue his solid play heading into the 2009 campaign. A deadly finisher, Diouf has eight career goals with four of them being game-winners. A year ago, Diouf registered six points on three goals. He could also see minutes up front.

Improving redshirt sophomore Pedro Adan (San Diego/Preuss HS) has looked good in the spring season and training camp and could vie for a starting spot. Adan, who has added some 15 pounds of muscle to his frame, played in 14 games a year ago with seven starts. A pinpoint passer with great vision, Adan had seven shot attempts a year ago.

Another redshirt sophomore looking to compete for a spot in the midfield is Gemechu Abraham (Beaverton, Ore.). Abraham has battled injuries through his first two seasons to log 73 minutes over four matches a year ago.

After redshirting last season, Chance Marden (Fremont, Calif.) is expected to log valuable minutes both in the midfield and in the backline. Marden will add a physical presence to the team with his 6-1 frame.

Rounding out the midfield corps are true freshmen Jose Altamirano (San Diego/Southwest HS) and Morgan Sacco (Greeley, Colo.), both who could start right way. Altamirano, who was tabbed by *College Soccer News* as one of the 100 Freshman From Coast to Coast to Keep an Eye On in August, comes to The Mesa as one of the most heralded recruits in program history. Altamirano is a member of three U.S. national team age groups (U-20, U-18, U-17)

Evan Toft



and is a three-time NSCAA Youth All-American (2006-08). Altamirano, who *ESPNRISE.com* ranks as the third-best prospect in the country and *Top Drawer Soccer.com* rates as the fifth, also garnered All-America accolades from EA Sports, *Parade Magazine* and *ESPNRISE.com* after the 2008 campaign. Additionally, Altamirano was picked as the CIF Player of the Year and San Diego County's Player of the Year.

Sacco, another NSCAA High School All-American, comes to San Diego State from U.S. Academy League power Colorado Rush. Sacco was a Colorado ODP starter from 2003-07 and racked up numerous accolades while at Greeley Central High School, including the Colorado Gatorade Player of the Year (2007), the Colorado High School Player of the Year (2007) and an all-state player in 2006-07.

FORWARDS

Leading the way up front for San Diego State will be redshirt senior Matt McManus (Santa Clarita, Calif.) and junior Raymundo Reza (Denver, Colo.), who combined for 31 points a year ago on 13 goals and five assists.

McManus, a tri-captain, completed a breakout 2008 campaign with career highs in points (11), goals (five), shots (22) and shots on goal (nine). He finished second on the team in goals and third in points en route to being named an all-Pac-10 honorable mention pick. At 6-1 and 185 pounds, McManus will use his physical presence in the air and will also see time in the backline to preserve leads.

Reza, the team's most valuable player a year ago, recorded the program's top offensive season this decade with 20 points on eight goals and four assists. The 20 points were the most by an Aztec since Aaron Susi has 21 points in 1996. Reza, who possesses a

hard and accurate shot, earned honorable mention all-Pac-10 accolades after playing his freshman season (2007) in the backline.

A pleasant surprise for SDSU a year ago was Michael Rocha (Pasadena, Calif.). Rocha, a former walk-on, started five times in 16 games last year and recorded three assists. One of the fastest players on the team, Rocha wreaked havoc on opposing defenses and goalkeepers with his constant pestering and relentless pressure.

The final forward is incoming freshman Devon Sandoval (Albuquerque, N.M.). At 6 feet 1 inches and 200 pounds, Sandoval could fit perfectly into the college game's need for power and athleticism. Sandoval was a two-year Region ODP starter (2007-08) and three-time New Mexico ODP starter (2006-08). Sandoval arguably could have had a chance at being selected New Mexico's Player of the Year and HS All-American before an injury ended his season.

SCHEDULE

Year after year the Aztecs play one of the toughest schedules on the West Coast and this year is certainly no exception.

The 2009 schedule may be the toughest of Kirshner's tenure as seven of the 18 games are against teams who made the 2008 NCAA tournament, while four were former national champions. Two of the squads SDSU will meet earned national seeds in last year's tourney and three were conference champions.

San Diego State will play host to two tournaments again this season, the second annual The Courtyard Marriott San Diego Central Tournament (Sept. 11-13) and the inaugural Nike Aztec Soccer Classic (Sept. 25-27).

The Aztecs begin their portion of the Pac-10 schedule Oct. 2 at Washington.

Raymundo Reza



NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1969, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2005, 2006

1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST



2009 AZTEC SOCCER



Pac-10 Conference

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Entering the 2009-10 season, the Pacific-10 Conference continues to uphold its tradition as the "Conference of Champions."® Pac-10 members have claimed an incredible 166 NCAA team titles over the past 19 seasons, for an average of more than eight championships per academic year.

Even more impressive is the breadth of the Pac-10's success, as those 166 team titles have come in 26 different men's and women's sports. The Pac-10 has led the nation in NCAA Championships 43 of the last 49 years and finished second five times.

Spanning nearly a century of outstanding athletics achievements, the Pac-10 has captured 380 NCAA titles (261 men's, 119 women's), far outdistancing the runner-up Big Ten Conference's 222 titles.

The Pac-10 captured a nation's-best 11 NCAA titles in 2008-09. The total does not include a national title in men's rowing, which Washington claimed by taking top honors at the IRA Championships Regatta. Men's rowing is not a NCAA event.

NCAA team champions came from Arizona State (women's golf), California (women's swimming), Oregon (men's cross country, men's indoor track & field), UCLA (women's water polo), Stanford (men's gymnastics, women's rowing), USC (men's tennis, men's water polo) and Washington (women's cross country, softball). The Pac-10 also had runners-up in nine NCAA Championship events: women's cross country (Oregon), women's volleyball (Stanford), women's water polo (USC), men's volleyball (USC), women's tennis (California), women's golf (UCLA), women's rowing (California), men's and women's outdoor track & field (Oregon). The Pac-10 also earned a runner-up finish at the IRA men's rowing championship (California). Overall, the conference had 26 teams finish in the top four at NCAA Championship events.

Participation in the postseason was a common occurrence for the Pac-10 in 2008-09. Of the 22 sports sponsored by the Conference, 18 witnessed at least half its teams participating in NCAA or other postseason action. The men sent 63 of a possible 93 teams into the postseason (67.7 percent), while the women sent 65 of a possible 101 teams (64.4 percent).

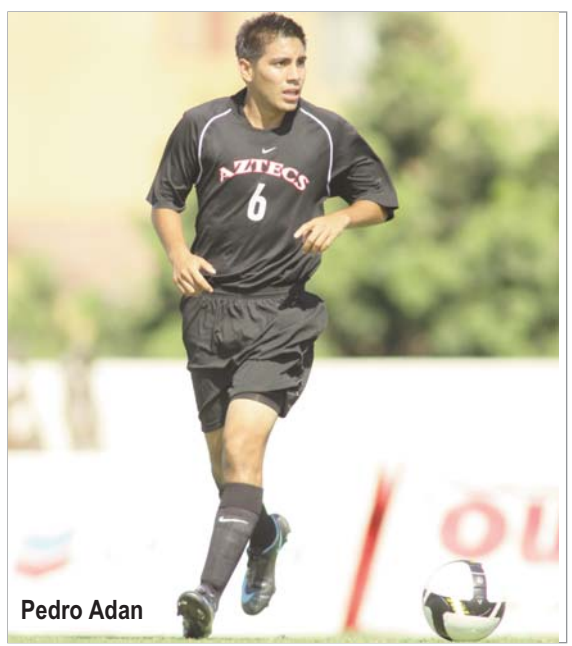
On the men's side, Pac-10 members have won 261 NCAA team championships, far ahead of the 200 claimed by the runner-up Big Ten. Men's NCAA crowns have come at a phenomenal rate for the Pac-10 - 15 basketball titles by five schools (more than any other conference), 50 tennis titles, 44 outdoor track & field crowns, and 26 baseball titles. Pac-10 members have won 24 of the last 40 NCAA titles in volleyball, 35 of the last 50 in water polo, and 21 in swimming & diving national championships.

Individually, the Conference has produced an impressive number of NCAA men's individual champions, as well, boasting 1,169 individual crowns.

On the women's side, the story is much the same. Since the NCAA began conducting women's championships 28 years ago, Pac-10 members have claimed at least four national titles in a single season on 20 occasions, including 2008-09. Overall, the Pac-10 has captured 119 NCAA women's titles, easily outdistancing the SEC, which is second with 74. Pac-10 members have dominated a number of sports, winning 21 softball titles, 18 tennis crowns, 13 of the last 19 volleyball titles, 13 of the last 20 trophies in golf and 11 in swimming & diving.

Pac-10 women athletes shine nationally on an individual basis, as well, having captured an unmatched 525 NCAA individual crowns, an average of more than 18 championships per season.

The roots of the Pacific-10 Conference date back over 90 years to December 2, 1915, when the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) was founded at a meeting at the Oregon Hotel in Portland, Ore. Original membership consisted of four schools - the University of California at



Pedro Adan

Berkeley, the University of Washington, the University of Oregon, and Oregon State College (now Oregon State University). All still are charter members of the Conference.

Pacific Coast Conference play began in 1916. One year later, Washington State College (now Washington State University), was accepted into the Conference, and Stanford University joined in 1918.

In 1922, the PCC expanded to eight teams with the admission of the University of Southern California and the University of Idaho. Montana joined the Conference in 1924, and in 1928, the PCC grew to 10 members with the addition of UCLA.

The Pacific Coast Conference competed as a 10-team league until 1950, with the exception of 1943-45, when World War II curtailed intercollegiate athletic competition to a minimum. In 1950, Montana resigned from the Conference and joined the Mountain States Conference. The PCC continued as a nine-team Conference through 1958.

In 1959, the PCC was dissolved and a new Conference was formed - the Athletic Association of Western Universities. Original AAWU membership consisted of California, Stanford, Southern California, UCLA, and Washington. Washington State became a member in 1962, while Oregon and Oregon State joined in 1964. In 1968, the name Pacific-8 Conference was adopted.

Ten years later, on July 1, 1978, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University were admitted and the Pacific-10 Conference became a reality. In 1986-87, the league took on a new look, expanding to include 10 women's sports.

Currently, the Pac-10 sponsors 11 men's sports and 11 women's sports. Additionally, the Conference is a member of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in four other men's sports and two other women's sports.

Pacific-10 Conference
800 South Broadway, Suite 400
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone (925) 932-4411
Fax (925) 932-4601
www.pac-10.org



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1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST