San Diego State Aztecs

2023 Record: 2-2, 0-0 Mountain West 12 Bowl Game Appearances in last 13 Seasons (Bowl Eligible all 13) MW Champions: 2016, 2015, 2012 | 21-Time Conference Champions

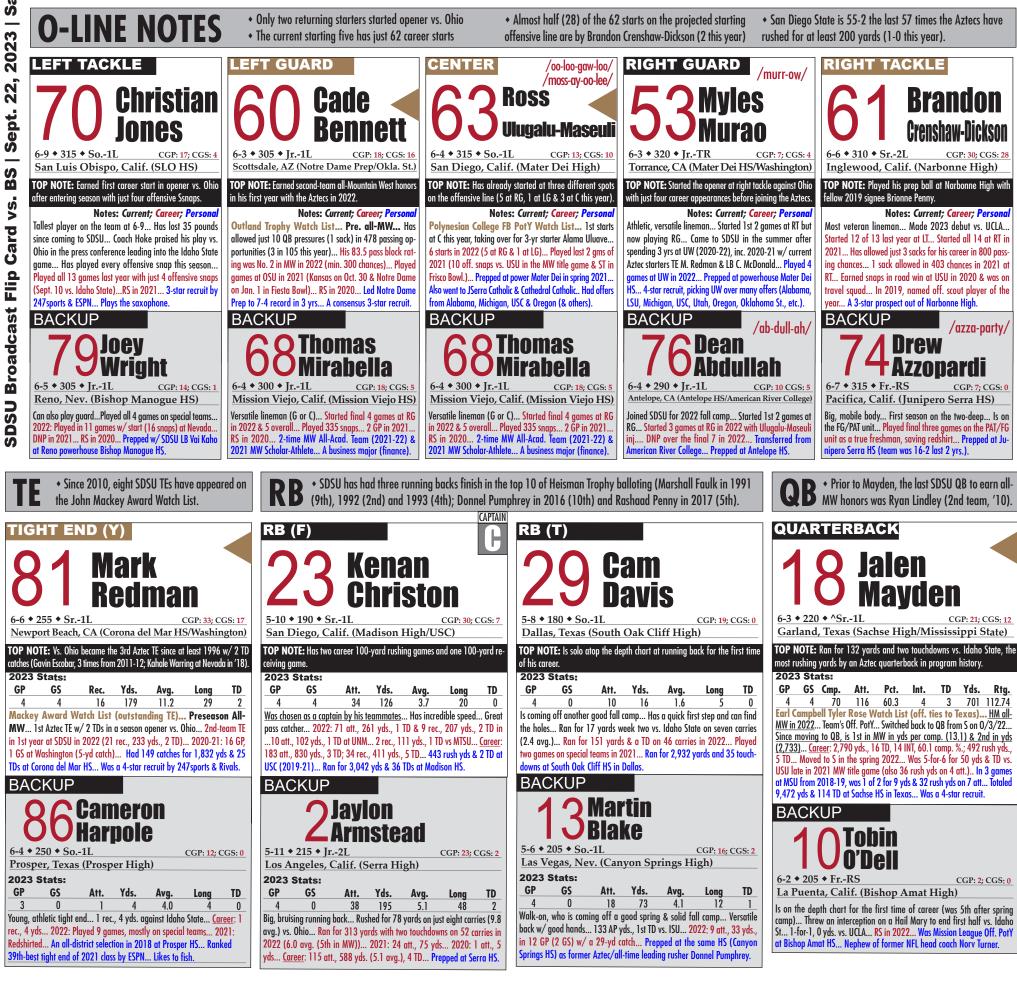


Ryan Lindley

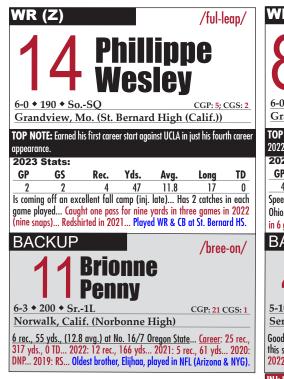
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

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)



2023 | San Diego, CA



their first career starts this season.

Positions in gold notes returning starter



indicates player is on a national

award watch list

• San Diego State's wide receivers have combined for just 17 starts with Brionne Penny, Josh Nicholson, Phillippe Wesley and true freshman Baylin Brooks each making

	WR	(X)						PUNTI 13	Jack Brow
	Q		Ba	ayl	in				Zechariah R KICKER (PK
	U	U	B	rōc	k s			13 <u>46</u>	Jack Brow Gabriel Plas
CGS: 2	-	195 • Fr.	-			CGP: 4 ; (CGS: 2	KICKO	OFFS (KO)
High)	Pasad	ena, Cal	if. (Pasa	idena I	ligh)			13	Jack Brow
Sept. 17,		TE: Made hi ug. 26, ma				egiate game	e against	<u>46</u>	<u>Gabriel Plas</u>
	2023 \$			5 101 02 7				HOLD	ER (H)
TD	GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD	<u>49</u>	<u>Zechariah R</u>
0	4	2	6	73	12.2	24	0	83	Mekhi Shaw
inaps vs. ds., 1 TD						np, despite b freshman V		LONG	SNAPPER (
IS (TX).	start since	e Elijah Koth	ie in 2018.	Prepped	at Pasader	a High Scho	ol.	50	Ryan Win
		KUP						<u>64</u>	Tyson Chave
			Moʻi	ion				SHOR	T SNAPPER
		h	Ma j					50	Ryan Win
		J	Ma'j Wri	ght				<u>64</u>	Tyson Chav
CGS: 0		.00 • Jr				CGP: 7 ; C	GS: 1	KICKO	OFF RETURN
	Pasad	ena, Cal	if. (Pasa	idena H	ligh)			23	Kenan Chris
1st time RS in	Enters two 2021-22	o-deep ahea at Arizona	nd of Boise 2022: Re	State 2 dshirt 2(GP this yea	r on ST Pla I as a true fr	iyed esh-	13	Martin Blak
a senior.						r, played in		PUNT	RETURNS (
			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			,,		83	Mekhi Shav
								4	Dez Malone

			05	
13	Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.**	30	17	
<u>49</u>	Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, FrRS	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	
PLACE	KICKER (PK)			
13		30	17	
46	Gabriel Plascencia, 6-1, 210, JrTR	<u>l</u>	<u>0</u>	
кіско	DFFS (KO)			
13	Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	30	15	
<u>46</u>	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u>l</u>	1	
HOLD	ER (H)			
49	Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, FrRS	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	
83		28	0	
LONG	SNAPPER (LS)	GP	GS	
50	Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.**	31	31	
<u>64</u>	Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, FrRS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
SHOR	T SNAPPER (SS)	GP	GS	
50	Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.**	31	17	
<u>64</u>	Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, FrRS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
KICKO	OFF RETURNS (KOR)			
23	Kenan Christon, 5-10, 190, Sr.*	30	4	
13	Martin Blake, 5-6, 205, So.*	16	0	
PUNT	RETURNS (PR)			
83	Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.**	28	3	
4	Dez Malone, 6-2, 200, Jr.**	27	1	

SPECIALISTS

CAPTAIN

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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: 29; CGS: 4 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 four games this season (the first of his career) and recorded five tackles (four solo) along with three quarterback hurries and a PBU... Career: 20 tackles, 3.5 TFL, 2.0 sack, 2 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 Wyatt 6-4 + 270 + Sr.-3L

CGP: 35; CGS: 0 Reno, Nev. (Reno High) Has seven 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... Allrable mention at Reno High ALSO: No. 30 Dominic Oliver (6-3, 250, So.-1L) ... (GP: 15; 65: 0.

LINEBACKER (SAM) 5 Cooper McDonald

6-3 * 245 * Sr.-1L CGP: 31; CGS: 20 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 10 tackles (five solo), 1.5 sacks, 1.5 tackles for loss and six quarterback hurries in four starts this season... <u>Career</u>: 79 tackles (50 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)... Tied for ninth in QB hits (9 per Pro Football Focus)... 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.



CORNERBACK

6-2 * 185 * Sr.-3L

6-1 + 240 + Fr.-RS CGP: 7; 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 allue selection at nearby Eastlake Hig

CGP: 38: CGS: 16





6-1 + 275 + Jr.-TR CGP: 4; CGS: 4 Honolulu, Hawaii (Moanalua HS/Mt. SAC)

TOP NOTE: Has started each of his first four collegiate career games tied for fourth in the Mountain West in sacks (2.0).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Joined the Aztecs in the

/too-poo/

spring from Mt. SAC... Has 12 total tacks (four 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 In-stitute 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.

Darrion 6-3 + 275 + So.-SO CGP: 10; CGS: 0 Apple Valley, Minn. (Saguaro High (Ariz.)) Is on the two-deep for the first season of his career... Has logged eight tackles (two solo) on 108 defensive snaps... Played in six games (20 statless snaps) in 2022... Redshirted in 2021... Prepped at Saguaro HS in Ari zona, going 29-5 last three years... First-team all-league. ALSO: No. 94 Samuela Tuihalamaka (6-1, 290, Sr.-TR)... (GP: 34; 65: 3.

BACKUP



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 with 25 tackles (15 solo)... Had a monster game against UCLA with 12 tackles, two fumbles forced, one fumble recovered... 14th time in program history a player had two FF... Also had a sack and PBU... 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.



6-2 * 230 * So.-1L Bakersfield, Calif. (Liberty High)

Young, strong linebacker... Recorded his first career tackle against ISU.. Redshirted his second season in 2022... Had one tackles 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



6-4 + 260 + Sr.-3I

BACKUP

6-4 * 260 * So.-SQ

<u>6-3 * 210 * Jr.-TR</u>

team

DEFENSIVE END

Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

Kurt Mattix DC/Linebackers Coach * Has twice been a Broyles Award nominee (2020-21)

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 14

tackles (nine solo), including 2.5 TFL and 0.5 sacks... Career: 76 tackles

(48 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 Tm PotY... Led Turlock HS to undefeated league title in 2018... Also played

baseball... Has thrown the football over 70 yards in practice.

Framingham, Mass. (Framingham High)

ALSO: No. 93 Brady Nassar (6-5, 240, Fr.-HS) ... (GP: 3; 65: 0.

Q Cody

LINEBACKER (WILL)

Is on the two-deep for the first time of his young career... Has totaled four

tackles in four games this season... Did not play in 2022... Redshirted in

2021... Was an all-conference defensive line player at Framingham HS in

Albuquerque, N.M. (Volcano Vista HS/New Mexico)

Keion

- Named defensive coordinator in January 2020
- Now in his 11th year working with Brady Hoke
- Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coord.
- for the top assistant coach

CAPTAIN

C

CGP: 40; CGS: 4

CGP: 4; CGS: 0

CGP: 28; CGS: 12

OR

CAPTAIN

Η

Notes: Current: Career: Persona

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.

• The Aztecs have had eight of the best defen-sive seasons nationally and are looking to con-tinue that success this year. Below are total ranks of the last nine seasons and this year so far:

S	Scoring	Total	Pass	Rush
2014	13th	16th	19th	48th
2015	7th	5th	10th	7th
2016	17th	11th	42nd	7th
2017	21st	11th	15th	32nd
2018	32nd	22nd	66th	7th
2019	2nd	5th	44th	2nd
2020	11th	3rd	14th	7th
2021	17th	12th	93rd	3rd
2022	19th	15th	39th	19th
2023	83rd	114th	120th	<u>84th</u>
2014-23	7th	6th	18th	3rd

 SDSU defensive ranks under defensive coordinator Kurt Mattix (since 2020): 5th in rushing (101.9), 13th in total (327.0), 15th in pass effiency rating (119.2) and 16th in scoring (20.2).

• San Diego State has held its opponent to sin-gle digits 20 times time since 2015 (106 games) and to 10 or less points 30 times over that span.

 The Aztecs have allowed just 875 points over the last 186 quarters (4.70 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 3.25 three-and-outs per game.

• San Diego State has forced 10 turnovers (eight interceptions, two fumble recoveries) on the season, tied for the most in the country (also California, Colorado, Fresno State and Liberty).

• Over the past five-plus seasons (2018-23), San Diego State allowed only 36 rushes (out of 1,976 attempts, 1.82 pct.) for 20 or longer (3 in 119 attempts this year (2.52 pct.).

 SDSU's 151 interceptions since the 2014 season are the most in the country over that while its 15 interceptions returned for a touchdown ranks in a tie for 17th.

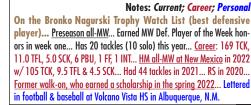
 Since the start of the 2020 season, SDSU has 14 non-offensive touchdowns, tied with Ohio State, Pittsburgh and Utah for the seventh most in the country over that span, trailing only Iowa (16), Middle Tenn. (16), Alabama (15), Houston (15), TCU (15) and Western Kentucky (15).







6-2 • 210 • Fr.-HS CGP: 4; CGS: 4 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).



Va /vie/ /cah-ho/

6-1 + 230 + Sr.-3L CGP: 34; CGS: 1 Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

Notes: Current; Career; Personal Hard-hitting linebacker who has bided his time working behind veteran lienbackers... Is excellent against the run... Has nine tackles and three QBH in four games this year... 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

BOUNDARY WARRIOR

San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

Notes: Current: Career: Persona Athletic CB, who was a dual-sport star at nearby Mira Mesa HS... FBS ranks: 2nd in passes defended (7), T-3rd in interceptions (2) and T-3rd in pass breakups (5) ... Has 12 tackles (10 solo), five pass breakups and two interceptions... Career 57 tackles (50 solo), 3 INT, 14 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



6-0 + 180 + So.-1L CGP: 16; CGS: 0 Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS)

Young cornerback who has impressed the coaching staff... Is coming off a great fall camp... Has 7 tackles (2 solo), including 4 at No. 16 OSU... Was named the team's outstanding freshman award for the defensive side of the ball 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.

<u> Placentia, Calif. (El Dorado High)</u> TOP NOTE: Is in his first season as a scholarship player (earned it on April 27, <u>2022).</u> Notes: Current; Career; Personal Pronounced sell-es-teen... Has 12 tackles (8 solo) with a pass breakup in four games played this year (three starts)... Had 48 tackles (41 solo) in 2022 with 1.5 tackles for loss, 0.5 sacks, an interception, three pass brekaups

FIELD WARRIOR

6-0 + 190 + Sr.-2L

and two forced fumbles, starting 11 times and playing in all 13 games... Logged 2 solo tackles on special teams in nine games in 2021... Played in three statless games on special teams in 2020... Redshirted in 2019... Prepped at El Dorado HS in Placentia, Calif.... Also excelled as a triple jumper for the track and field team.



CGP: 5; CGS: 0 Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

Logged his first defensive snaps (14) in opener with Ohio, making two solo tackles... 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 ti-tles and three league championships, where it was a com-bined 43-2 (.956)... Father, Brian, spent nine years in Major League Baseball.

INJ: No. 17 Deshawn McCuin (6-0, 195, Sr.-TR) ... (GP: 29; GS: 2.

Notes: Current: Career: Persona

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... Career-high six tackles to lead the team against Idaho State... Has 17 total tackles in 274 defensive snaps... 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.



6-0 • 190 • Jr.-TR CGP: 15: CGS: 0 Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS/Texas)

Transfer from Texas who joined the Aztecs for spring ball.. Has two solo tackles in 27 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 freshman... Picked Texas out of high school out of numerous offers, cindluing Michigan, Penn State, LSU, Notre Dame, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Florida.

El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High) TOP NOTE: The most veteran player on defense with 24 starts & 42 games played.

5-11 + 195 + ^Sr.-4L

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

CGP: 42; CGS: 24

Cedarius

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... Is tied for the FBS lead with three interceptions... Career: 118 tackles, 8.0 TFL, 4 INT, 8 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.



6-1 + 185 + So -1L CGP: 16; CGS: 0 Corona, Calif. (Centennial High) Has six tackles (five solo) in 109 snaps off the bench this

year... Mainly played on special teams in 2022 with seven tackles (three solo) as a true freshman... Logged 30 defensive snaps overall... Played in the final 12 aames.. Prepped at Centennial High School in Corona, Calif.... Led the Huskies to the state semifinals... Centennial HS ended up finishing ranked third in the state.

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 corner. back... Has 15 tackles (12 solo) and played 258 defensive snaps... Tied for third in FBS in passes defended (6) and tied for fourth in PBUs (5)... Earned honorable-mention all-MW accolades in 2022 with 43 tackles (34 solo), three interceptions and five pass breakups... Saw action in eight games in 2021 on special teams... Moved from safety to cornerback in 2021 fall camp... Played two games on spe cial 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.





5-11 • 180 • ^Sr.-2L CGP: 33; CGS: 10 Redondo Beach, Calif. (Salesian HS/LBCC)

Has 5 tackles (4 solo) & a PBU in 3 games (1 start) this year... HM-All-MW in 2022 w/34 tackles (26 solo), 5 TFL, 3 INT, a FR & 2 PBU... 2021: 20 tackles (2 TFL), 2 INT, 5 PBUs, a FF & a FR in 9 GP (4 GS)... 2020: Had 7 tackles... Joined SDSU from LBCC, where he was a 1st-team allleague pick in 2019... Had 50 tackles, 5.5 TFL, 3.0 sacks, 6 INT, 9 PBUs, 2 FF & a FR... Prepped at Salesian HS.

