SDSU

## San Diego State Aztecs

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)

• Only two returning starters started opener vs. Ohio

• The current starting five has just 65 career starts

• Thirty (30) of the 65 starts on the projected starting offensive line are by Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson (4 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

6-6 \* 310 \* Sr.-2L Inglewood, Calif. (Narbonne High)

FOP NOTE: Played his prep ball at Narbonne High with

ellow 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** 

6-9 \* 315 \* So.-1L CGP: 19: 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... 3tar recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxon

**LEFT GUARD** 

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 561 passing opportunities (5 in 201 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** 

6-4 \* 300 \* Jr.-1L CGP: 20; 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).

/oo-loo-gaw-loo/ /moss-ay-oo-lee/

## Ross lugalu-Maseuli

6-4 \* 315 \* So.-1L 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 & 6 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

6-4 \* 300 \* Jr.-1L CGP: 20: 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).

• SDSU has had three running backs finish in the top 10 of Heisman Trophy balloting (Marshall Faulk in 1991

# /murr-ow/

CGP: 8; CGS: 5 Torrance, CA (Mater Dei HS/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Started the opener at right tackle against Ohio

with just four career appearances before joining the Aztecs. Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Athletic, versatile lineman... Started 1st 2 games at RT but now playing RG... Came to SDSU in the summer after spending 3 yrs at UW (2020-22), inc. 2020-21 w/ current Aztec starters TE M. Redman & LB C. McDonald... Played 4 games at UW in 2022... Prepped at powerhouse Mater Dei HS... 4-star recruit, picking UW over many offers (Alabama, LSU, Michigan, USC, Utah, Oregon, Oklahoma St., etc.).

**BACKUP** 

# /ab-dull-ah/

6-4 • 290 • Jr.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 6 Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College) Joined SDSU for 2022 fall camp... Has 3 starts at RG this season ... Started 3 games at RG in 2022 with Ulugalu-Maseuli inj.... DNP over the final 7 in 2022... Transferred rom American River College... Prepped at Antelope HS.

RIGHT TACKLE /azza-party/

6-7 • 315 • Fr.-RS CGP: 9: CGS: 0 Pacifica, Calif. (Junipero Serra HS)

TOP NOTE: Entering his first career start at Hawai'i, he nas just three career offensive snaps (all this season).

Notes: Current; Career; Persona

Big, mobile body... First season on the two-deep... Plays on the FG/PAT unit... Has just three offensive snaps played in his career, all coming this season... 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 red shirt... Prepped at Junipero Serra HS (team was 16-2 last 2 yrs.)... Named first team all-West Catholic League as a

**BACKUP** 

6-9 \* 315 \* So.-1L CGP: 19: 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... 3star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxop

• Prior to Mayden, the last SDSU QB to earn all-

2023 Stats:

GS

6-4 \* 250 \* So.-1L

2023 Stats:

Prosper, Texas (Prosper High)

TIGHT END (Y)

the John Mackey Award Watch List.

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).

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-yd catch)... Had 149 catches for 1,832 yds & 25

TDs at Corona del Mar HS... Was a 4-star recruit by 247sports & Rivals.

Yds.

Young, athletic tight end... Made first career start against Boise State... <u>Ca</u>-

reer: 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) ... GCP. 6; GS: 1.

Avg.

18 6.0

19 221 Avg.

11.8

29

CGP: 14; CGS: 2

/bree-on/

/nay-pier/

• Since 2010, eight SDSU TEs have appeared on

(9th), 1992 (2nd) and 1993 (4th); Donnel Pumphrey in 2016 (10th) and Rashaad Penny in 2017 (5th).

San Diego, Calif. (Madison High/USC)

TOP NOTE: Has two career 100-yard rushing games and one 100-yard receiving game. 2023 Stats:

Att. Yds. 60 228 3.8 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: 209 att., 932 yds., 3 TD; 37 rec., 433 yds., 5 TD... 443

rush yds & 2 TD at USC (2019-21)... 3,042 yds & 36 TDs at Madison HS.

5-11 • 215 • Jr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 2 Los Angeles, Calif. (Serra High) 2023 Stats: Att. Yds. Long 48 Avg. 55 248 0 4.5 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: 132 att., 641 yds. (4.9 avg.), 6 TD... Prepped at Serra HS.

5-8 \* 180 \* So.-1L 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:

Att. Yds. 13 26 2.0 Is coming off another good fall camp... Has a quick first step and can find the holes... Ran for 17 yards week two vs. Idaho State on seven carries (2.4 avg.)... 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 touch owns at South Oak Cliff HS in Dallas

**BACKUP** 

5-6 • 205 • So.-1L CGP: 18; CGS: 2 Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs High)

2023 Stats: GS

Yds. 22 77 3.5 Walk-on, who is coming off a good spring & solid fall camp... Versatile back w/ good hands... 133 AP yds., 1st TD vs. ISU... 2022: 9 att., 33 yds. in 12 GP (2 GS) w/ a 29-yd catch... Prepped at the same HS (Canyon Springs HS) as former Aztec/all-time leading rusher Donnel Pumphrey.

MW honors was Ryan Lindley (2nd team, '10). **QUARTERBACK** 

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.

6 6 99 162 61.1 5 5 1,064 120.29 Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Watch List (off. ties to Texas)... HM all-MW in 2022... Team's Off. PotY... Switched back to QB from S on 0/3/22..Since moving to QB, is 2nd in MW in yds per comp. (12.95) & 3rd in yds (3,096)... <u>Career:</u> 3,153 yds., 18 TD, 15 INT, 60.84comp. %.; 594 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 games 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 re-

6-2 \* 205 \* Fr.-RS

La Puenta, 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.

• San Diego State's wide receivers have combined for just 16 starts with Brionne Penny, Josh Nicholson and true freshman Baylin Brooks each making their first career starts this season. Brooks and Penny combined for 11 catches, 214 yards, and a touchdown against Boise State.

/muh-kye/

CGP: 2; CGS: 0

Norwalk, Calif. (Norbonne High)

**TOP NOTE:** Older brother, Rashaad, ran for an Aztec-record 2,248 yds & 2,974 all-purpose yds in 2017, finishing 5th in the Heisman Trophy voting. 2023 Stats: GS Long TD Yds. Rec. Avg. 15 196 13.1 36 0

Started last 2 gms... 13 catches, 183 yds over last three games... Career: 32 rec., 423 yds., 0 TD... 2022: 12 rec., 166 yds... 2021: 5 rec., 61 yds.. 2020: DNP... 2019: RS... Oldest brother, Elijhaa, played in NFL (AZ & NYG). BACKUP

6-1 • 195 • Fr.-HS CGP: 1; CGS: 0 Fontana, Calif. (Jurupa Hills High)

Moved from safety to wide receiver late in camp... Made collegiate debut vs. Idaho State... Played both sides at Jurupa Hills HS... Also offered by Washington, Oregon, Arkansas, Texas A&M and Colorado, among others.

CGP: 28; CGS: 9 San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High) FOP NOTE: Former walk-on, who earned a scholarship on Nov. 21, 2022

following a 6-catch, 120-yard, 2-touchdown effort at New Mexico. 2023 Stats: Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD 104 11.6

Most veteran wideout on the team... Missed last 2 gms to injury... 2022: 29 catches, 349 yards, 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** 

5-10 • 170 • Fr.-RS 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)

6-2 \* 195 \* Fr.-HS CGP: 6; 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: Rec. Yds. Avg.

206 17.2 12 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** 

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)** 

CAPTAIN GP 32

GS

19

0

32 19

32 16

> 2 2

GP GS

33

Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.\*\* 49 Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS PLACEKICKER (PK)

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

KICKOFFS (KO) 13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.\* Gabriel Plascencia, 6-1, 210, Jr.-TR

LONG SNAPPER (LS)

HOLDER (H) Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.\*\* 29

50 Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.\*\* 64 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS

0 **SHORT SNAPPER (SS)** GS GP 50 Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.\*\* 33 19 64 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS

**KICKOFF RETURNS (KOR)** 

23 Kenan Christon, 5-10, 190, Sr.\* 32 Cam Davis, 5-18, 180, So.\* 21

**PUNT RETURNS (PR)** 

83 Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.\*\* 29 4 Dez Malone, 6-2, 200, Jr.\*\* 29

indicates player is on a national award watch list



## Brady Hoke • 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 Head Coach

Ten - 2011, MAC - 2008)

• Led 2010 Aztecs to first winning season since 1998



## **Kurt Mattix**

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

• Named defensive coordinator in January 2020 • Now in his 11th year working with Brady Hoke

for the top assistant coach

C

CGP: 42; CGS: 6

• Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coord.

**DEFENSIVE END** 

# Daniel Okpoko/oh-poke-oh/

CGP: 31; CGS: 6 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 six games this season (the first of his career) and recorded 14 tackles tackles (six solo) along with four quarterback hurries, 2.5 tackles for loss and a sack... Career: 25 tackles, 4.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks, 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

6-3 \* 255 \* Fr.-RS Las Vegas, Nev. (Goodyear High)

Is on the two-deep for the first time of his career... Has two assisted tackles in 21 snaps this year... Games played came against Idaho State, UCLA and Air Force... Redshirted in the 2022 season without playing in a game... ALSO: No. 30 Dominic Oliver (6-3, 250, So.-1L) ... (GP: 17; GS: 0.

LINEBACKER (SAM)

# Cooper McDonald

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 18 tackles (10 solo), 1.5 sacks, 1.5 tackles for loss and seven quarterback hurries in six starts this season... Career: 87 tackles (55 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 the MW in QB hits (7 per PFF)... 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

6-1 \* 240 \* Fr.-RS 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-

## **DEFENSIVE TACKLE**

# /ah-loo-ah-loo/

CGP: 6; CGS: 6

Honolulu, Hawaii (Moanalua HS/Mt. SAC)

TOP NOTE: Has started each of his first six Divison I games after coming

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

/too-poo/

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

6-4 \* 270 \* Sr.-3L

Reno, Nev. (Reno High) Has nine 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) ... (GP. 36; 65: 3.

## LINEBACKER (MIKE)

6-0 \* 220 \* So.-1L 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 (39), TFL (6.0) & FF (2)... Had a monster game against UCLA with 12 tackles, 2 FF & 1 FR... 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 threetime all-league pick... Picked SDSU over numerous offers, including Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska and Boise State... Brother, Austin, playsed linebacker at UNLV... Is majoring in kinesiology.

**BACKUP** 

6-2 \* 230 \* So.-1I

Bakersfield, Calif. (Liberty High) Young, strong linebacker... Has seven tackles (three solo)... 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 MVP at second base.

## **DEFENSIVE END**

Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

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

## 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 Tm PotY... Led Turlock HS to undefeated league title in 2018... Also played baseball... Has thrown the football over 70 yards in practice.

**BACKUP** 

Pleasanton, Calif. (Amador Valley High)

Has recently moved up into the two-deep as a true freshman... Has one solo tackles and a quarterback hurry in four games... Has played 49 snaps... Prepped at Amador Valley High... Picked SDSU over offers Pac12 schools Washington, OSU, WSU, Colorado, ASU and Cal.

ALSO: No. 91 Keion Mitchell (6-4, 260, So.-SQ) ... GP. 6, 68.0.

## LINEBACKER (WILL)

/vie/ /cah-ho/

6-1 \* 230 \* Sr.-3L CGP: 36; CGS: 3 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 14 tackles and four QBH in six games this year (two 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 Manague with fellow Aztec Joey Wright... Full name is Kahomovailahi Kaho. OR

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 29 tackles (14 solo) this year... Career: 178 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) ... (GP: 4 GS: 1

## **Defensive Tidbits**

- Kurt Mattix is serving as the defensive coordinator in his fourth season at San Diego State and is the first person to call the Aztec defense not named Rocky Long since 2008. Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coordinator.
- SDSU defensive ranks under defensive coordinator Kurt Mattix (since 2020): 8th in rushing (109.8), 16th in total (332.5), 18th pass efficiency rating (120.8) and 19th in scoring (20.8).
- Since 2014, SDSU ranks second in the country in interceptions (151), sixth in total defense (318.8), tied for sixth in turnovers forced (216), and eighth in scoring defense (19.5).
- San Diego State has held its opponent to single digits 20 times time since 2015 (108 games) and to 10 or less points 30 times over that span.
- The Aztecs have allowed just 958 points over the last 194 quarters (4.93 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 2.67 three-and-outs per game.
- San Diego State has forced 10 turnovers (eight interceptions, two fumble recoveries) on the season, tied for the 10th most in the coun-
- SDSU opponents are 3-for-12 against the Aztecs on third down in the red zone.
- Over the past five-plus seasons (2018-23), San Diego State allowed only 41 rushes (out of 2,069 attempts, 1.99 pct.) for 20 or longer (8 in 212 attempts this year (3.77 pct.).
- SDSU's 151 interceptions since the 2014 season are the second most in the country over that while its 15 interceptions returned for a touchdown rank 19th.
- San Diego State ranks in tie for fifth in the country this season with eight interceptions.
- Since the start of the 2020 season, San Diego State has 14 non-offensive touchdowns, tied with Kentucky for the 10th most in the country over that span, trailing only lowa (17), Alabama (16), Middle Tennessee (16) and Pittsburgh (16), Houston (15), Ohio State (15), TCU (15), Utah (15) and Western Kentucky (15).

CGP: 40; CGS: 18 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: T-2nd in passes defended (PBUs + INT) & pass breakups (8), & T-33rd in interceptions (2)... Pro Football Ranks: 1st in pass coverage by a CB (86.8, min. 150 passes) & 3rd in defensive grade by a CB (85.7, min. 150 snaps)... Has 15 tackles (13 solo), eight pass breakups and two interceptions... Career: 64 tackles (56 solo), 3 INT, 17 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

# **Chris**

6-0 + 180 + So -1L CGP: 18: CGS: 0 Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS) Young CB who has impressed the coaching staff... Coming off a great fall camp... Has 11 tackles in last three 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

CGP: 28; CGS: 2 6-0 • 195 • Sr.-TR Jacksonville, Texas (TCU)

TOP NOTE: A TCU transfer, made first start as an Aztec against UCLA on Sept. 9 in his third game at SDSU.

## Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Has four tackles (three solo) in his first three games as an Aztec, starting vs. UCLA... Has missed the last three games witn an injury... Had 18 tackles in his three-plus year career at TCU... Played 25 games (one start) with the Horned Frogs, including an appearance against #1 Georgia in the CFP National Championships game last season... In his lone start at TCU, recorded the first intercention of his career... Rated as the No. 86 safety in the nation and No. 131 overall player in Texas coming out of high school... Was listed as a three-star recruit by 247Sports.

**BACKUP** 

# 4 Josh Hunter

5-9 • 180 • Fr.-RS CGP: 7; CGS: 0 Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

Has played 21 defensive snaps this season and five 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 titles and three league championships, where it was a combined 43-2 (.956)... Father, Brian, spent nine years in Major League Baseball.

6-2 • 210 • Fr.-HS CGP: 6; CGS: 6 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: Persona

## Hard-hittina 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 26 total tackles in 368 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.

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# 33<sup>JD</sup> Coffey III

6-0 • 190 • Jr.-TR CGP: 17: CGS: 0 Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS/Texas) Transfer from Texas who joined the Aztecs for spring ball.. Has three 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 frosh... Picked Texas out of high school out of numerous offers, cindluing Michigan, Penn State, LSU, Notre Dame, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Florida. **BOUNDARY WARRIOR** 

5-11 + 195 + ^Sr.-4L CGP: 44; CGS: 26 El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

TOP NOTE: The most veteran player on defense with 26 starts & 44 games played. Notes: Current: Career: Personal

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... Is tied for 7th in FBS with three interceptions... Career: 127 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, &

**BACKUP** 

ran for 3.760 vds & 58 TD.

6-1 \* 185 \* So.-1L CGP: 18; 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's... Centennial HS ranked 3rd in the state.

6-2 \* 200 \* Jr.-2L CGP: 29; CGS: 17 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 23 tackles (17 solo), 1 TFL, 1 INT & 6 PBU.. FBS ranks: T-13th in pass breakups (6) & T-14th in passes defended (PBU + INT) (7)... Longest active start streak (16 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.

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# 35 Jelani Whitmore

6-0 **\*** 175 **\*** Jr.-SQ CGP: 7; 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 six 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.

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

Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list