

SAN DIEGO STATE FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES ♦ No. 19 San Diego State 28, UNLV 20 ♦ Fri., Nov. 19, 2021 ♦ Allegiant Stadium (Las Vegas, Nev.)



FINAL SCORE	28	20
Time Spent in the Lead (<i>Tied 5:02</i>)	46:33	8:25
Total Plays-Yards	57-290	60-394
Plus Territory: Plays-Yards	27-160	22-135
Drives with Plays in Plus Territory	7 of 11	6 of 12
First Down Plays-Yards	23-100	25-151
Average on First Down	4.35	6.04
Rushes-Yards (Avg.)	12-26 (2.2)	14-2 (0.1)
Passes-Yards (Avg.)	11-94 (8.5)	11-154 (14.0)
First Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	0-0	0-0
First Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	0-0	0-0
First Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	4-20	1-5
First Downs Made	4	4
First Down Turnovers	0	0
First Down Touchdowns	0	1
Third Down Efficiency (Pct.)	3-12 (25.0)	5-13 (38.5)
Rushing (Pct.)	1-9 (11.1)	1-6 (16.7)
Passing (Pct.)	2-3 (66.7)	4-7 (57.1)
Third Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	2-(-21)	2-(-15)
Conversion by Penalties	0	1
Third Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	0-0	1-5
Third Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	0-0	0-0
Average Yards to Go (All)	6.8	5.6
Yards Gained	70	109
Average Yards Gained/Att.	5.8	8.4
3rd & Long (9 or more)	0-4	1-2
3rd & Short (4 or less)	2-4	3-6
Third Down Turnovers	0	0
Third Down Touchdowns	1	1
Fourth Down Efficiency (Yards)	2-2 (11)	0-2 (0)
Total Possessions/Average Field Position	11/SDSU36	12/UNLV18
First Half	5/SDSU34	7/UNLV19
Second Half	6/SDSU37	5/UNLV17
Drives Started Inside/At Own 25	5 (2/3)	11 (6/5)
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	0 (0/0)	17 (2/1)
Drives Started in Plus Territory/Attempted to Score	3/3	0/0
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	7 (1/0)	0 (0/0)
Three and Outs or Less (must not have earned 1st D or scored)	4	4
Opponent Turnovers (Points)	2 (7)	1 (0)
Scores-Times in the Red Zone (Points)	2-3 (14)	3-3 (13)
Plays-Yards	12-33	11-12
Third Down Efficiency	1-2	0-2
Scores-Times in the Goal to Go (Points)	1-1 (7)	3-3 (17)
Plays-Yards	2-1	9-14
Explosive Plays (20-plus Yards)	3	7
Rushing	1	0
Passing	2	7
Yards by Quarter:		
First	45	77
Second	135	120
Third	15	164
Fourth	95	33

BIG NOTES

- San Diego State improved to 10-1 overall, matching its best 11-game start since starting 11-0 in 1969.
- The Aztecs have now started 10-1 or better four times in their Division I history (since 1969): 11-0 in 1969; 10-1 in 1976, 1977 and 2021.
- SDSU went onto win its league title in one of those seasons (1969) and was independent in the other two (1976 and 1977).
- San Diego State reached double-digits in victories for the fifth time in the last seven seasons (and fifth time in the last six seasons it played at least 10 games). The Aztecs finished 11-3 in 2015, 11-3 in 2016, 10-3 in 2017, 10-3 in 2019 and are now 10-1 in 2021.
- SDSU is one of only seven schools who currently have had at least five double-digit winning seasons over its last seven years (also Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Oklahoma). Appalachian State (currently 8-2), Boise State (currently 6-4) and Wisconsin (currently 7-3) could all join that list by season's end.
- San Diego State is one of five schools in the country currently with 10 wins (also Cincinnati, Georgia, Houston and UTSA).
- The Aztecs finished their regular season with a 5-0 road record. It is the sixth time in their Division I history (since 1969) they finished a regular season unbeaten on the road but just the second with a minimum of five road games played (also 5-0 on the road in 2017). SDSU's other unbeaten road seasons in its DI history came in 1969 (4-0), 1970 (3-0), 1973 (3-0-1), 1976 (3-0) and 2017 (5-0).
- San Diego State improved to 6-0 this season in games decided by one score or less. That is the best record in the country (2nd: Oklahoma 5-0).

SERIES

- San Diego State improved to 21-10 all-time against UNLV.
- The Aztecs are now 9-6 all-time against the Rebels in Las Vegas.
- SDSU has won three straight games in the series, seven of its last eight and 17 of the 23 games played in Mountain West history.

TEAM NOTES

- San Diego State scored its ninth non-offensive touchdown since 2020 with Andrew Aleki's interception return. The nine non-offensive scores are tied for third in FBS play over that span.
- The Aleki score was SDSU's 15th interception return for a touchdown since 2014.
- San Diego State allowed one first down rushing for the second straight game.
- The Aztecs improved to 6-0 on the season in games decided by one score.
- SDSU improved to 25-10 in the Brady Hoke era when scoring just 20 or more points.
- The Aztecs improved to 20-2 in the Brady Hoke era when starting on at least their own 30-yard line.
- San Diego State improved to 12-1 in the Brady Hoke era when holding its opponent to an average starting position of 25 or less (7-0 this year).
- The Aztecs improved to 22-2 in the Brady Hoke era when having better field position than their opponent (8-0 this year).
- The Aztecs owned a +18 in field position. That is tied for the 10th-largest average field position margin in recorded history. SDSU is 31-4 when AFP is +13 or better in recorded history. Two of the top 14 widest margin in AFP (SDSU is 13-1 in those games) have occurred this season.
- SDSU improved to 26-2 in the Brady Hoke era when allowing 24 or less points (9-0 this season).
- The Aztecs improved to 8-0 on the season and 20-3 in the Brady Hoke era when rushing for more yards than their opponent.
- SDSU won its 15th straight game when forcing at least two turnovers.
- San Diego State has won 10 straight games when owning an advantage in turnover margin.
- San Diego State was outgained by 104 yards in the game against UNLV. This was the 19th-largest deficit in total yardage in an Aztec victory in Division I history.
- UNLV had a passer rating of 161.32. That is the eighth-highest passing rating by an opponent in an SDSU history in the Division I era. The last time the Aztecs won a game against a team with a passer rating that high was Oct. 10, 2013 (Air Force, 182.50).
- SDSU entered Saturday with a 3-26 record on the road since 1997 against teams with a passing efficiency of 160 or higher.

TRENDS

- The Aztecs lost the coin toss for the sixth time this season in 11 games.
- SDSU did not start with the ball for just the 26th time over the last 129 games.
- San Diego State had held its opponent scoreless on its opening possession in 10 straight games prior to tonight, including eight, three-and-outs or less.
- San Diego State improved to 5-0 on the season and 16-8 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after the first quarter.
- SDSU improved to 8-0 this season and 24-5 in the Brady Hoke era when leading at the half, including wins in nine straight games.
- The Aztecs won their 23rd straight game when leading after three quarters. SDSU also improved to 25-3 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after three quarters.

PLAYER NOTES

* Jesse Matthews, Jr., WR (9 rec., 75 yds., 3 TD)

Caught a career-high three touchdown passes... Became the first Aztec since Colin Lockett in the 2011 New Orleans Bowl to record three touchdown catches in a game... All five of his touchdown catches this season have come from Lucas Johnson... Now has eight touchdown catches for his career... The nine catches were a career high.

* Lucas Johnson, Sr., QB (18-for-24, 192 yds., 3 TD, 1 INT)

Improved to 6-1 as the starting quarterback this season... His three touchdown passes were a career high... Threw his seventh, eighth and ninth passing touchdowns of the season... He now has 10 touchdown passes as an Aztec and 12 for his career... Over Johnson's last three games, he is 51-for-74 (68.9 pct.) for 467 yards and four touchdowns with one interception, owning a 137.06 pass efficiency rating.

* Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (4-for-4 PAT | 6 P, 47.5 avg., 5 I20, 59 LG | 5 KO, 65.0 avg., 5 TB)

Had two punts of at least 50 yards and now has 36 for the season, which extends his NCAA FBS record... Tied a career-high with five punts inside the 20-yard line (had another punt blocked, which goes down as a team punt and landed inside the 20)... Off his six punts, UNLV started on its own 13-yard line... Also kicked off five times with all going for touchbacks.

* Elijah Kothe, Sr., WR (5 rec., 84 yds.)

Led the team in receiving yards... Now has 17 receptions for 276 yards over the last four games.

* Greg Bell, Sr., RB (17 att., 58 yds.)

Now has 1,535 rushing yards at SDSU in just 17 games, which ranks 21st in program history.

* Patrick McMorris, Jr., AZT (12 tackles (6 solo), 1 PBU)

Tied a career high with 12 tackles... Led the team in tackles for the fourth time this season.

* Andrew Aleki, Sr., LB (5 tackles (3 solo), 0.6 TFL, 1 INT returned for TD)

Recorded his second interception returned for a touchdown this season... Both of his career interceptions have now been returned for a touchdown.

* Seyddrick Lakalaka, Sr., LB (4 tackles (2 solo), 2.0 TFL, 1 INT)

Had a season-high two tackles for loss... Recorded his first interception of the season and second of his career.

OTHER NOTES

- TE Daniel Bellinger and LB Caden McDonald each started for the 28th consecutive game, the longest streaks on the team (offense/defense).
- LB Caden McDonald played for the 45th straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- S Trenton Thompson and CB Tayler Hawkins each played in their 54th game of their career, the most played among current Aztecs.
- San Diego State started two true freshmen in CB Noah Avinger and S CJ Baskerville.
- DE Cameron Thomas had 1.5 tackles for loss and a sack, and now has 18 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks on the season.
- DE Keshawn Banks had sack, his third of the season and now has 7.5 for his career.
- Tonight's attendance was 16,713.