

# San Diego State Aztecs

*2023 Record: 2-1, 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)

## O-LINE NOTES

- Only two returning starters started opener vs. Ohio
- The current starting five has just 57 career starts
- Almost half (27) of the 57 starts on the projected starting offensive line are by Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson (1 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

# 70 Christian Jones

6-9 ♦ 315 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 16; CGS: 3  
 San Luis Obispo, Calif. (SLO HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Earned first career start in opener vs. Ohio after entering season with just four offensive Ssnaps.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**  
 Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 35 pounds since coming to SDSU... Has allowed just 1 sack in 105 passing chances this year... Coach Hoke praised his play vs. Ohio in the press conference leading into the Idaho State game... Played all 13 games last year with just 4 offensive snaps (Sept. 10 vs. Idaho State)... RS in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

### BACKUP

# 79 Joey Wright

6-5 ♦ 305 ♦ Jr.-1L CPG: 13; CGS: 1  
 Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue HS)

Can also play guard... Played all 3 games on special teams... 2022: Played in 11 games w/ start (16 snaps) at Nevada... DNP in 2021... RS in 2020... Prepped w/ SDSU LB Vai Kaho at Reno powerhouse Bishop Manogue HS.

### LEFT GUARD

# 60 Cade Bennett

6-3 ♦ 305 ♦ Jr.-1L CPG: 17; CGS: 15  
 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 10 QB pressures (1 sack) in 478 passing opportunities (3 in 105 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

# 68 Thomas Mirabella

6-4 ♦ 300 ♦ Jr.-1L CPG: 17; 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).

### CENTER

# 63 Ross Ulugalu-Maseuli

6-4 ♦ 315 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 12; CGS: 9  
 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 & 3 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

# 68 Thomas Mirabella

6-4 ♦ 300 ♦ Jr.-1L CPG: 17; 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).

### RIGHT GUARD

# 53 Myles Murao

6-3 ♦ 320 ♦ Jr.-TR CPG: 7; CGS: 3  
 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

# 76 Dean Abdullah

6-4 ♦ 290 ♦ Jr.-1L CPG: 9; CGS: 5  
 Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

Joined SDSU for 2022 fall camp... Started 1st 2 games at RG... Started 3 games at RG in 2022 with Ulugalu-Maseuli inj... DNP over the final 7 in 2022... Transferred from American River College... Prepped at Antelope HS.

### RIGHT TACKLE

# 61 Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson

6-6 ♦ 310 ♦ Sr.-2L CPG: 29; CGS: 27  
 Inglewood, Calif. (Narbonne High)

**TOP NOTE:** Played his prep ball at Narbonne High with fellow 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 3 sacks for his career in 800 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

# 74 Drew Azzopardi

6-7 ♦ 315 ♦ Fr.-RS CPG: 6; CGS: 0  
 Pacifica, Calif. (Junipero Serra HS)

Big, mobile body... First season on the two-deep... Is on the FG/PAT unit... Played final three games on the PAT/FG unit as a true freshman, saving redshirt... Prepped at Junipero Serra HS (team was 16-2 last 2 yrs.).

## TE

• Since 2010, eight SDSU TEs have appeared on the John Mackey Award Watch List.

## RB

• SDSU has had three running backs finish in the top 10 of Heisman Trophy balloting (Marshall Faulk in 1991 (9th), 1992 (2nd) and 1993 (4th); Donnel Pumphrey in 2016 (10th) and Rashaad Penny in 2017 (5th)).

## QB

• Prior to Mayden, the last SDSU QB to earn all-MW honors was Ryan Lindley (2nd team, '10).

### TIGHT END (Y)

# 81 Mark Redman

6-6 ♦ 255 ♦ Sr.-1L CPG: 32; CGS: 16  
 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).

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	3	12	102	8.5	23	2

**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.

### BACKUP

# 82 Jay Rudolph

6-4 ♦ 245 ♦ Sr.-3L CPG: 32; CGS: 12  
 Scottsdale, Ariz. (Horizon High)

Excellent blocker... Good hands... 4 rec., 27 yds., in 2023... Career: 6 rec., 38 yds., 1 TD... 2022: 9-yd. catch in 9 GP (5 GS)... 2021: 2-yd TD in 13 GP (5 GS)... 2020: Played in 7 of 8 games as a TR-Frosch in 2021 on special teams... Was a 2nd-team all-state selection at Horizon HS.

# 49 Cameron Harpole

6-4 ♦ 250 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 11; CGS: 0  
 Prosper, Texas (Prosper High)

### RB (F)

# 23 Kenan Christon

5-10 ♦ 190 ♦ Sr.-1L CPG: 29; CGS: 6  
 San Diego, Calif. (Madison High/USC)

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

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	3	27	112	4.1	20	0

Was chosen as a captain by his teammates... Has incredible speed... Great pass catcher... 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: 176 att., 816 yds., 3 TD; 30 rec., 368 yds., 5 TD... 443 rush yds & 2 TD at USC (2019-21)... Ran for 3,042 yds & 36 TDs at Madison HS.

### BACKUP

# 2 Jaylon Armstead

5-11 ♦ 215 ♦ Jr.-2L CPG: 22; CGS: 2  
 Los Angeles, Calif. (Serra High)

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	0	27	147	5.4	48	1

Big, bruising running back... Rushed for 78 yards on just eight carries (9.8 avg.) vs. Ohio... 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: 104 att., 540 yds. (5.2 avg.), 3 TD... Prepped at Serra HS.

CAPTAIN  
C

### RB (T)

# 29 Cam Davis

5-8 ♦ 180 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 18; CGS: 0  
 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:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	0	8	17	2.4	5	0

Is coming off another good fall camp... Has a quick first step and can find the holes... Ran for 17 yards last week 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 touchdowns at South Oak Cliff HS in Dallas.

### BACKUP

# 13 Martin Blake

5-6 ♦ 205 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 15; CGS: 2  
 Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs High)

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	0	18	73	4.1	12	1

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.

### QUARTERBACK

# 18 Jalen Mayden

6-3 ♦ 220 ♦ ^Sr.-1L CPG: 20; CGS: 11  
 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.
3	3	50	84	59.5	3	3	445	108.67

**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 1st in MW in yds per comp. (13.0) & 3rd in yds (2,477)... Career: 2,534 yds., 16 TD, 13 INT, 59.9 comp. %; 483 rush yds., 5 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 recruit.

### BACKUP

# 10 Tobin O'Dell

6-2 ♦ 205 ♦ Fr.-RS CPG: 2; CGS: 0  
 La Puente, 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.

## WR

• San Diego State's wide receivers have combined for just nine starts with Brionne Penny and true freshman Baylin Brooks making their first start last week.

### WR (Z)

# 14 Phillippe Wesley

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ So.-SQ CPG: 4; CGS: 1  
 Grandview, Mo. (St. Bernard High (Calif.))

**TOP NOTE:** Earned his first career start last Saturday against UCLA in just his fourth career appearance.

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
1	1	2	26	13.0	16	0

Is coming off an excellent fall camp... Had 2 rec., 26 yds. in first career start vs. UCLA... Caught one pass for nine yards in three games in 2022 (nine snaps)... Redshirted in 2021... Played WR & CB at St. Bernard HS.

### BACKUP

# 11 Brionne Penny

6-3 ♦ 200 ♦ Sr.-1L CPG: 20; CGS: 1  
 Norwalk, Calif. (Narbonne High)

Earned his 1st career start in the opener vs. Ohio... Career: 19 rec., 240 yds., 0 TD... 2022: 12 rec., 166 yds... 2021: 5 rec., 61 yds... 2020: DNP... 2019: RS... Oldest brother, Elijahha, played in NFL (Arizona & NYG).

### WR (H)

# 83 Mekhi Shaw

5-10 ♦ 190 ♦ Jr.-2L CPG: 28; CGS: 9  
 San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

**TOP 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:**

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	3	9	104	11.6	22	1

Most veteran WR on the team... 5 rec., 54 yds., 1 TD vs. UCLA... 2022: 29 rec., 349 yds., 3 TD in 13 GP (5 GS) as SDSU's 3rd WR... 2021: 4 rec., 42 yds. in 12 GS... RS in 2020... Prepped at nearby Scripps Ranch HS.

### BACKUP

# 40 Mikey Welsh

5-10 ♦ 170 ♦ Fr.-RS CPG: 1; CGS: 0  
 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)

# 85 Josh Nicholson

6-0 ♦ 175 ♦ So.-1L CPG: 9; CGS: 1  
 Grand Prairie, Texas (South Grand Prairie High)

**TOP NOTE:** Caught his first two passes at No. 14/15 Utah on Sept. 17, 2022, including an 18-yard touchdown.

**2023 Stats:**

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	1	1	18	18.0	18	0

Speedster, who is coming off an injury in fall camp... Played 2 snaps vs. Ohio... 1st start vs. ISU... 18-yr. rec. vs. UCLA... 2022: 4 rec., 44 yds., 1 TD in 6 games... RS in 2021... Also ran track at South Grand Prairie HS (TX).

### BACKUP

# 80 Baylin Brooks

6-2 ♦ 195 ♦ Fr.-HS CPG: 3; CGS: 1  
 Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena High)

Has impressed the staff with his play through fall camp, despite battling an early injury... Against Ohio, became 1st Aztec true freshman WR to start since Elijah Kothe in 2018... Prepped at Pasadena High School.

## SPECIALISTS

CAPTAIN  
C

**PUNTER (P)**

GP	GS
13	29
49	3

13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.\*\*  
 49 Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS

**PLACEKICKER (PK)**

GP	GS
13	29
46	0

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

**KICKOFFS (KO)**

GP	GS
13	29
46	0

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

**HOLDER (H)**

GP	GS
49	3
83	28

49 Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS  
 83 Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.\*\*

**LONG SNAPPER (LS)**

GP	GS
50	30
64	0

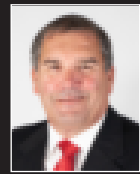
50 Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.\*\*  
 64 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS

**SHORT SNAPPER (SS)**

GP	GS
50	30
64	0

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

**KICKOFF RETURNS (KOR)**



# Brady Hoke

## Head Coach

- ♦ 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)
- ♦ Led 2010 Aztecs to first winning season since 1998



# Kurt Mattix

## DC/Linebackers Coach

- ♦ Named defensive coordinator in January 2020
- ♦ Now in his 11th year working with Brady Hoke
- ♦ Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coord.
- ♦ Has twice been a Broyles Award nominee (2020-21) for the top assistant coach

### DEFENSIVE END

## 90 Daniel Okpoko

/oh-poke-oh/

6-5 ♦ 275 ♦ Sr.-2L CGP: 28; CGS: 3  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (St. Joseph's HS)

**TOP NOTE:** In his third consecutive (and career) start, 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 camps this fall... Lanky, defensive end who can move... Is up to his biggest playing weight of his career (275 pounds)... Has started all three games this season and recorded five tackles (four solo) along with three quarterback hurries and a PBU... **Career:** 14 tackles, 1.5 TFL, 1.0 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

## 45 Wyatt Draeger

6-4 ♦ 270 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 31; CGS: 0  
Reno, Nev. (Reno High)

Has six 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. 30 Dominick Oliver (6-3, 250, So.-1L) ... CGP: 12; GS: 0.

### LINEBACKER (SAM)

## 55 Cooper McDonald

6-3 ♦ 245 ♦ Sr.-1L CGP: 30; CGS: 19  
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 pass rusher... Transferred from Washington in the spring 2022 along with his roommate and tight end Mark Redman... Has eight tackles (five solo), 1.5 sacks, 1.5 tackles for loss and eight quarterback hurries in three starts this season... **Career:** 77 tackles (50 solo), 12.0 TFL, 5.0 sacks, 2 FR, 5 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 (1-3rd 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.**

### BACKUP

## 47 Trey White

6-1 ♦ 240 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 6; 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 all-league selection at nearby Eastlake High.**

### DEFENSIVE TACKLE

## 99 Tupu Alualu

/too-poo/ /ah-loo-ah-loo/

6-1 ♦ 275 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 2; CGS: 2  
Honolulu, Hawaii (Moanalua HS/Mt. SAC)

**TOP NOTE:** Has started each of his first three collegiate career games, tied for second in the Mountain West in sacks (2).

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Joined the Aztecs in the spring from Mt. SAC... Has nine total tacks (three solo), including two sacks for eight yards... Has also logged three QBH... **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 High School.**

### BACKUP

## 97 Darrion Dalton

6-3 ♦ 275 ♦ So.-SQ CGP: 9; CGS: 0  
Apple Valley, Minn. (Saguaro High (Ariz.))

Is on the two-deep for the first season of his career... Has logged five tackles (two solo) on 86 defensive snaps... **Played in six games (20 statless snaps) in 2022...** **Redshirted in 2021...** **Prepped at Saguaro HS in Arizona, going 29-5 last three years...** **First-team all-league.**

**ALSO:** No. 94 Samuelia Tuihalamaka (6-1, 290, Sr.-TR) ... CGP: 33; GS: 3.

### LINEBACKER (MIKE)

## 6 Zyrus Fiaseu

/fee-uh-say-oo/

6-0 ♦ 220 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 18; CGS: 9  
Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty High)

**TOP NOTE:** Had a Pro Football Focus grade of 90.5 last weekend, highest in the country among linebackers and third highest overall.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Hard-hitting linebacker... High energy guy... Leads the team with 18 tackles (12 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 offers, including Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska and Boise State...** **Brother, Austin, played linebacker at UNLV...** **Is majoring in kinesiology.**

### BACKUP

## 42 Brady Anderson

6-2 ♦ 230 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 15; CGS: 0  
Bakersfield, Calif. (Liberty High)

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

### DEFENSIVE END



## 39 Garret Fountain

6-4 ♦ 260 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 39; CGS: 3  
Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

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

**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 10 tackles (five solo), including 1.5 TFL and 0.5 sacks...** **Career: 72 tackles (40 solo), 12.5 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

## 91 Keion Mitchell

6-4 ♦ 260 ♦ So.-SQ CGP: 3; CGS: 0  
Framingham, Mass. (Framingham High)

Is on the two-deep for the first time of his young career... Has totaled three tackles in three games this season... **Did not play in 2022...** **Redshirted in 2021...** **Was an all-conference defensive line player at Framingham HS in Massachusetts.**

**ALSO:** No. 93 Brady Nassar (6-5, 240, Fr.-HS) ... CGP: 1; GS: 0.

### LINEBACKER (WILL)

## 58 Cody Moon

6-3 ♦ 210 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 27; CGS: 11  
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 15 tackles (nine solo) this year...** **Career: 164 TCK, 11.0 TFL, 5.0 SCK, 7 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.**

## 44 Vai Kaho

/vie/ /ah-ho/

6-1 ♦ 230 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 33; CGS: 1  
Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Hard-hitting linebacker who has bided his time working behind veteran linebackers... Is excellent against the run... **Has eight tackles and three QBH in 116 snaps this season off the bench...** **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 Manogue with fellow Aztec Joey Wright...** **Full name is Kahomavaihai Kaho.**

**ALSO:** No. 36 New Zealand Williams (6-2, 205, So.-SQ) ... CGP: 4; GS: 1.

### CORNERBACK

## 10 Noah Tumblin

6-2 ♦ 185 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 37; CGS: 15  
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Athletic CB, who was a dual-sport star at nearby Mira Mesa HS... Is tied for fifth in the country in PBUs (4) ... **Has 10 tackles (nine solo) and an interception...** **Career: 55 tackles (47 solo), 2 INT, 13 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

## 21 Chris Johnson

6-0 ♦ 180 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 15; CGS: 0  
Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS)

Young cornerback who has impressed the coaching staff... Is coming off a great fall camp... **Has 3 tackles (2 solo)...** **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.**

### FIELD WARRIOR

## 17 Deshawn McGuin

6-0 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-TR CGP: 28; CGS: 2  
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... **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 interception 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

## 34 Eric Butler

6-1 ♦ 185 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 15; CGS: 0  
Corona, Calif. (Centennial High)

Has four tackles (three solo) in 90 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 games...** **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.**

**ALSO:** No. 24 Josh Hunter (5-9, 180, Fr.-RS) ... CGP: 4; GS: 0.

### AZTEC

## 32 Marcus Ratcliffe

6-2 ♦ 210 ♦ Fr.-HS CGP: 3; CGS: 3  
Chula Vista, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Is first SDSU true freshman to start at signature Aztec position in the 3-3-5 defense (started in 2009).

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

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 11 total tackles in 210 snaps, second most on the team...** **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.**

### BACKUP

## 33 JD Coffey III

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, including Michigan, Penn State, LSU, Notre Dame, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Florida.**

### BOUNDARY WARRIOR



## 3 Cedarius Barfield

5-11 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 41; CGS: 23  
El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

**TOP NOTE:** The most veteran player on defense with 23 starts & 41 games played. Leads team with 212 snaps

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... **Leads MW in interceptions (2) and INT/game (0.67)...** **Career: 115 tackles, 8.0 TFL, 3 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.**

### BACKUP

## 31 Devaughn Celestine

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 28; CGS: 13  
Placentia, Calif. (El Dorado High)

Pronounced sell-es-tee... Has seven tackles (six solo) on the season, starting the first two games... **Had 48 tackles (41 solo) in 2022...** **Logged 2 solo tackles on spec. teams in 9 games in 2021...** **Played in 3 statless games on spec. teams in 2020...** **RS in 2019...** **Prepped at El Dorado HS in Placentia, Calif....** **Also excelled as a triple jumper for the track and field team.**

### CORNERBACK

## 4 Dez Malone

6-2 ♦ 200 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 14  
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 11 tackles (eight solo) and played 207 defensive snaps...** **Tied for third in FBS in passes defended (5) and tied for fifth in PBU (4)...** **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 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.**

### BACKUP

## 12 Dallas Branch

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 all-league pick in 2019...** **Had 50 tackles, 5.5 TFL, 3.0 sacks, 6 INT, 9 PBUs, 2 FF & a FR...** **Prepped at Salesian HS.**

## 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.

♦ The Aztecs have had eight of the best defensive seasons nationally and are looking to continue that success this year. Below are total ranks of the last nine seasons and this year so far:

	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	80th	111th	115th	77th
2014-22	7th	6th	19th	3rd

♦ SDSU defensive ranks under defensive coordinator Kurt Mattix (since 2020): 4th in rushing (99.5), 9th in total (323.1), and 15th in both scoring (20.1) and pass efficiency (119.1).

♦ San Diego State has held its opponent to single digits 20 times time since 2015 (105 games) and to 10 or less points 31 times over that span.

♦ SDSU has allowed just 923 points over the last 51 games (18.1 ppg).

♦ 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 3.33 three-and-outs per game.

♦ San Diego State has forced eight turnovers (six interceptions, two fumble recoveries) on the season, tied with the Liberty for most in the country.

♦ Over the past five-plus seasons (2018-23), San Diego State allowed only 35 rushes (out of 1,944 attempts, 1.80 pct.) for 20 or longer (3 in 70 attempts this year (4.28 pct.).

♦ SDSU's 149 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, San Diego State has 14 non-offensive touchdowns, tied with Houston and Pittsburgh for sixth most in the country over that span, trailing only Iowa (16), Middle Tennessee State (16), Alabama (15), TCU (15), and Western Kentucky (15).