



**Rocky Long**  
Head Coach

- Three-Time Mountain West Coach of the Year
- All-time winningest coach in Mountain West history
- SDSU finished 25th in both national polls in 2016
- Aztecs have won two of last four MW titles and three since 2012
- 18 players selected in the NFL Draft in his eight seasons as head coach



**Zach Arnett**  
DC/Linebackers Coach

- Named defensive coordinator in January 2018
- Is in his ninth season at SDSU and sixth as asst. coach
- Has worked with the SDSU linebackers all nine seasons
- Has coached an all-MW linebacker in seven straight years
- Has spent 12 years working/playing with Coach Long

**DEFENSIVE END**

**68 Myles Cheatum**

6-2 • 265 • Sr.-2L CGP: 49; CGS: 22  
Cedar Park, Texas (Cedar Park HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Entered the year as the only Aztec with a start on the d-line (11), while his 29 GP were 3 more than the rest of the DL 2-deep (6).

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Young, athletic defensive lineman with veteran leadership... Has 22 career starts and 40 games played... Has 22 career starts and 40 games played... Has 22 career starts and 40 games played...

**BACKUP**

**58 Connor Mitchell**

6-5 • 260 • So.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 0  
Island Lakes, Ill. (Wauconda HS)

**Notes:** Is the second-most experienced defensive lineman with 24 career games played... Had eight tackles, including 1 TFL in 2018, playing all 13 games off the bench... Redshirted in 2017... All-state of Wauconda HS in Island Lakes, Ill... Led HS league in sacks... A communication major.

**LINEBACKER (SAM)**

**54 Caden McDonald**

6-3 • 230 • So.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 8  
Haslet, Texas (Northwest HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Recovered a blocked punt in the end zone at UNLV for his first career touchdown.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Is coming off another solid spring, where he earned a starting role at the "Sam" linebacker and held that position through the fall camp... A physical LB, who continues to get bigger in the weight room... Has 29 tackles, 5.5 TFL, 2.5 sacks, 1 INT, 1 FR & 4 QBH in 10 GP (7 GS)... 1st FR at UCLA... 1st INT at SDSU... 2 SCK in WH... Recorded 2 tackles in 13 games off the bench in 2018, working behind 3-year starter Ronley Lokoloko... Redshirted in 2017... Totaled a school-record 290 tackles over his 3-year career at Northwest HS in Haslet, Texas... Was NH's defensive player of the year all 3 seasons... Was rated as the 10th-best LB recruit in the talent-rich state of Texas... Also track & field star, qualifying for state meet... A kinesiology major with an emphasis as fitness specialist.

**BACKUP**

**42 Troy Cassidy**

6-3 • 230 • Sr.-3L CGP: 48; CGS: 28  
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

Smart, athletic player... His 28 career starts are 2nd most among Aztec def. players (Troy Thompson, 37)... Has 32 tackles (2 TFL) & 8 QBH... 2018: 45 TCK, 4 TFL, 2.5 SCK in 13 GP (12 GS)... 2017: 31 TCK... 2016: 11 GP... Career: 118 TCK, 8.5 TFL, 4 SCK... 178 tackles (119 solo) w/ 10 sacks over his 3-yr career at CHS.

**CORNERBACK**

**16 Luq Barcoo**

6-1 • 175 • Sr.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 11  
San Diego, CA (Grossmont College/Castle Park HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Was named the MW Defensive Player of the Week on Oct. 7 after his 3-interception game at CSU.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

A Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist... Has 47 career INT (6th among active FBS players) in just 37 GP... Has the most starts at SDSU, despite turning 20 on Aug. 9... Has 42 TCK (33 solo), 8 PBU, 2 INT & 2 FR... 2nd-team all-MW in 2018 after making 60 tackles, 5 TFL, 2 INT & 5 PBU... 2nd-team all-MW in 2017 as a true freshman with 63 tackles, 3 TFL, 5 INT & 1 FR, 1 FF, 1 FR & 3 QBH... Became 1st Aztec true freshman to start on defense since CG Leon McFarland started at CSU on 0-24-09 (Coach Long's 1st year as SDSU's DC)... MW Def. PatH w/ UNM (8 TCK, 2 INT, 2 PBU, 1 TFL)... Career: 165 TCK, 10 TFL, 9 INT, 20 PBU, 3 FF, 4 FR... Played both sides of the ball at local St. Augustine HS under current safeties coach Richard Sanchez.

**BACKUP**

**12 Nolen Harris**

6-0 • 185 • Sr.-SQ CGP: 11; CGS: 0  
San Diego, CA (SD Mesa College/Patrick Henry HS)

**Notes:** Logged first time on special teams in first 11 games this year... TH 3 tackles on KO unit... Is coming off a solid fall camp... Did not play in 2018... Spent two seasons at San Diego Mesa College, leading the Olympians to an 11-2 record in 2017 and a Southern California Bowl title... Had a combined 64 tackles, 11 pass breakups and an interception... Prepped at local Patrick Henry HS.

**FIELD WARRIOR**

**14 Tariq Thompson**

6-0 • 200 • Jr.-2L CGP: 37; CGS: 37  
San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Has started all 37 games since arriving to campus as a true freshman in 2017.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

On the Jim Thorpe Award Watch List... A preseason 1st-team all-MW selection... Has 9 career INT (6th among active FBS players) in just 37 GP... Has the most starts at SDSU, despite turning 20 on Aug. 9... Has 42 TCK (33 solo), 8 PBU, 2 INT & 2 FR... 2nd-team all-MW in 2018 after making 60 tackles, 5 TFL, 2 INT & 5 PBU... 2nd-team all-MW in 2017 as a true freshman with 63 tackles, 3 TFL, 5 INT & 1 FR, 1 FF, 1 FR & 3 QBH... Became 1st Aztec true freshman to start on defense since CG Leon McFarland started at CSU on 0-24-09 (Coach Long's 1st year as SDSU's DC)... MW Def. PatH w/ UNM (8 TCK, 2 INT, 2 PBU, 1 TFL)... Career: 165 TCK, 10 TFL, 9 INT, 20 PBU, 3 FF, 4 FR... Played both sides of the ball at local St. Augustine HS under current safeties coach Richard Sanchez.

**BACKUP**

**20 Rashad Scott**

6-2 • 195 • So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 0  
San Diego, Calif. (Helix HS)

**Notes:** Young, smart player who returned from an injury which occurred during the summer to play four games on special teams... Had a tackle and a fumble recovery on plays... Had one stop in 11 games on special teams in 2018 as a true freshman... Had Helix HS to a 34-7 record in his three years (2015-17), including a state championship berth in 2017... Also a 1&A star.

**AZTEC**

**36 Dwayne Johnson Jr.**

6-2 • 215 • Jr.-2L CGP: 36; CGS: 12  
Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Had 12 tackles & 1.5 TFL in 2nd career start vs. Weber St. (entered with 16 career TCK in 25 GP).

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Hard-hitting safety, who took over for 3-year starter Parker Baldwin... 2-time Pro Football Focus MW Team of the Week (10 & Sept. 17)... Has 77 tackles (1.5 TFL), 1 FF, 2 FR & 5 PBU... Played in all 13 games last year, mainly on special teams, making 2 tackles with a FR vs. Hawai'i... 2017: Had 14 tackles & a TFL in his 1st 12 career games, starting at Hawai'i... 2016: Redshirted... Led Vista Murrieta HS to a 35-7 (.833) record & a 15-0 mark in league play over his 3 seasons... Had 20 tackles & 8 INT over his final 2 years... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies... No relation to Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

**BACKUP**

**33 Patrick Morris**

6-0 • 180 • Fr.-HS CGP: 7; CGS: 0  
Santa Ana, Calif. (Santa Ana HS)

Is coming off a good camp, vaulting to No. 2 spot in the signature Aztec position in Long's 3-3 defense... Played on ST in 6 games... Played 1 year at Santa Ana HS, leading team to a 10-3 record in 2018 & 5-0 league mark... Ran for 1,801 yards & 23 TD, while catching 17 passes for 375 yards & 2 TD... Had 99 snaps on defense with 2 interceptions... Previously starred at Godinez HS.

**BOUNDARY WARRIOR**

**18 Trenton Thompson**

6-2 • 200 • Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 12  
Palm Springs, Calif. (Palm Springs HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Best game was against UNLV, where he had a career-high 12 tackles, 2.0 TFL & a blocked punt.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

Playmaker, who started 8 times & played all 13 games last year of Boundary Warrior... Has 33 stops, 2.0 TFL, 1 PBU & 1 blocked kick this year in 10 GP (4 GS)... His blocked punt at UNLV was recovered by Caden McDonald in the end zone for a TD... Made 57 tackles last year w/ 2.0 TFL, 1.0 SCK, 2 PBU, 1 INT & 1 FF... 2017: RS w/ 1 tackle in 3 games... 2016: 9 stops w/ a PBU as a true freshman... Career: 100 TCK, 4.0 TFL, 1.0 SCK, 1 INT, 4 PBU, 1 FF... Led Palm Springs HS to a 24-3 (.889) record over his 3 years where he logged 219 tackles, 7 TFL, 4 INTs, 6 FF, 2 FR & 6 blocked kicks... Was HS teammates w/ fellow Warrior Taylor Hawkins... A social science major.

**BACKUP**

**32 Tayler Hawkins**

6-1 • 205 • Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 9  
Palm Springs, Calif. (Palm Springs HS)

Notes: Hard-hitting athlete, who has played the last 34 games with 9 starts... Has great technique... Cts 10 tackles & 2 TFL at UCLA... Has 29 tackles & 3 TFL this year in 11 GP (4 GS)... 2018: 35 tackles, 1 TFL & 5 PBU mark... 2017: 5 stops on special teams... 2016: RS... 4-year letter winner at Palm Springs HS with fellow S Trenton Thompson... Helped PSHS to 24-3 record w/ WR, DB & P... NIJ: No. 27 Kyree Woods (6-0, 190, Sr.-3L) - GP: 16/33

**Defensive Tidbits**

Zach Arnett is serving as the team's defensive coordinator for the second season at SDSU, but head coach Rocky Long will still call the game. Since Long took over as the defensive coordinator in 2009, San Diego State's defense ranks 7th nationally in rush avg. (3.5), 14th in yards per touch (6.3) and 15th in total defense (340.3).

The Aztecs have had five of the best defensive seasons nationally and are off to another good start this year. Below are total ranks of the last five-plus seasons:

	Scoring	Total	Pass	Rush
2014	13th	61th	19th	48th
2015	7th	5th	10th	7th
2016	17th	11th	42nd	7th
2017	21st	11th	15th	32nd
2018	22nd	62nd	66th	7th
2019	6th	8th	41st	3rd
2014-19	7th	6th	14th	6th
2015-19	10th	6th	15th	2nd

The Aztecs are allowing 13.7 points (6th nationally) and 277.1 yards (8th nationally) per game this season. In SDSU's opponents' other games, they are averaging 28.8 points and 410.4 yards per game.

Opponents this year have had 122 drives where they have tried to score an SDSU's defense (excludes kneel downs to end half/game). The Aztecs have forced three-and-outs (or better) in 51 of those drives (41.8 pct., 5th nationally). SDSU is averaging 4.64 three-and-outs per game (1-9th nationally).

SDSU ranks third in FBS play this year in rushing yards allowed per game (71.8) and fifth in defensive rush average (2.6). Over the last two years, San Diego State ranks second in def. RYPC (89.1) and fourth in def. RYPC (2.8).

The Aztecs went the first five games of the season last year without allowing a rush longer than 17 yards. San Diego State allowed only three rushes (out of 453, 0.66 pct.) for 20 or longer last year. This year opponents have rushed 302 times against the Aztecs and only four attempts are longer than 20 yards.

On third down this year, opponents have rushed 54 times for 70 yards (1.3 avg.). On third and fourth down tries, opponents have rushed 64 times for 82 yards (1.3 avg.).

The Aztecs have held an opponent to single digits 14 times since the beginning of the 2015 season (65 games).

Since the beginning of 2015 (65 games), San Diego State's defense ranks first in interceptions (86) and tied for 10th interception TDs (10).

**CORNERBACK**

**23 Darren Hall**

6-0 • 180 • So.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 12  
Pasadena, Calif. (Rancho Cucamonga HS)

**TOP NOTE:** Came up with interceptions on his back-to-back snaps in 2018 vs. Eastern Michigan and Boise State.

**Notes: Current; Career; Personal**

A ball hawk w/ good instincts... Missed 1st game & most of 2nd vs. UCLA, but has started 18 GP at CSU w/ 37 TCK, 2.5 TFL, 1.0 SCK, 1 INT, 14 PBU & 2 FF... MW ranks: 2nd in passes def. PG (1.45) & 17th in FF PG (0.20)... Was SDSU's Co-Fresh of the Year w/ 45 tackles (34 solo), 2 INT, 3 PBU, a sack & a FF... Was a 2-time MW Def. PatH (4 TCK, 1 INT in OT vs. EMU & 9 TCK, 1 SCK, 1 FF, 1 INT on WS), despite not starting either game... RS in 2017 w/ 2 stops in 2 GP played... Career: 84 TCK, 4.5 TFL, 2.0 SCK, 3 INT, 17 PBU, 3 FF... Led Rancho Cucamonga HS to a 12-1 record in 2016, earning 1st-team all-league honors... A comm. major.

**BACKUP**

**17 Eric Wilson**

6-0 • 185 • Jr.-TR CGP: 4; CGS: 0  
Oceanside, CA (Riverside City College/El Camino HS)

Notes: Worked himself into the two-deep against joining the Aztecs in the fall... Played 3 snapless snaps at CSU & on special teams last 2 games... Totaled 67 tackles (50 solo) over his 2 years at Riverside City College along with 4 TFL, 5 INT, 18 PBU & a blocked kick... Earned all-California honors as a soph. in 2018 & was a 2-time all-league pick... Prepped at El Camino HS... Undecided on a major.

