

LEFT TACKLE

75 Kwayde Miller
 6-7 • 310 • Jr.-SO CGP: 3; CGS: 0
 Ramona, Calif. (Ramona High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 Pioneered KWAYD ... Big, tall lineman who is taking over the blindside spot at left tackle after backing up two-time all-Mountain West pick and 2015 NFL fourth-round draftee Terry Pool ... Has only played in three career games, all in 2014 ... Logged his first career snaps in the 2014 opener vs. Northern Arizona ... Also played off the bench vs. Fresno State and San Jose State ... Did not see any action during his freshman season in 2013 ... Redshirted the 2012 campaign ... Switched to offensive line from tight end during his junior year at Ramona High School ... Was a three-star recruit by Rivals, Scout & ESPN ... Also played basketball and was on the track and field team at Ramona High ... A social science major.

BACKUP

66 David Servatius
 6-5 • 350 • Jr.-TR CGP: 0; CGS: 0
 Torrance, Calif. (Long Beach City College)

Notes: Joined SDSU for fall camp after spending two seasons at Long Beach City College ... Big, physical lineman ... Helped LBC to a 9-2 overall record in 2014 ... Played her prep ball at South High.

LEFT GUARD

56 Nico Siragusa
 6-5 • 335 • Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 14
 Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 Pronounced: KWAYD ... A big body with solid technique ... Is one of two current Aztecs (Darrell Green) who have at least one start at offensive line over the past two seasons ... Was named a preseason four-team all-Mountain West selection by Phil Steele ... Started all 13 games in 2014 at left guard ... Played all 13 games in 2013 as a redshirt freshman, including a start in the opener vs. EU ... Was the only freshman (redshirt or true) to start the 2013 opener for SDSU ... Played the final 12 contests of 2013 on special teams ... Switched to offensive line from tight end during his junior year at Ramona High School ... Was a three-star recruit by Rivals, Scout & ESPN ... Also played basketball and was on the track and field team at Ramona High ... A social science major.

BACKUP

67 Antonio Rosales
 6-4 • 295 • So.-SO CGP: 0; CGS: 0
 Tucson, Ariz. (Tucson Magnet High)

Notes: Physical lineman who continues to get bigger ... Backed up all-MW pick Darrell Greene last year ... DNP in 2014 ... Redshirted in 2013 ... A 3-star recruit by ESPN at Tucson Magnet HS ... Is majoring in criminal justice.

CENTER

70 Arthur Flores
 6-5 • 305 • Jr.-SO CGP: 0; CGS: 0
 Denver, Colo. (J.K. Mullen High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 Athletic lineman who will start and play for the first time in his collegiate career Saturday vs. San Diego ... Moved to center in the spring after playing guard his first three years at SDSU ... Is the only Aztec who is projected to start this year having never played a collegiate game ... From the same high school (J.K. Mullen) as former two-time all-Mountain West second-team center Alec Johnson (2011-12) ... Did not play in 2013 during the 2014 season ... Did not see action in 2013 ... Redshirted his first year at SDSU in 2011 ... Was the ninth-ranked high school recruit out of Colorado, earning first-team all-state & all-conference as a senior in 2011 ... A three-star recruit by ESPN & Scout ... Helped J.K. Mullen to three state titles ... Also was all-state & all-conference in track & field ... Is majoring in computer science.

BACKUP

74 Austin Maass
 6-4 • 290 • Jr.-SO CGP: 2; CGS: 0
 Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mission Viejo High)

Notes: Pronounced: MASS ... Has played in 2 career games ... Played in the 2014 opener vs. NAU without seeing any action the rest of year ... Played in Potlato Bowl in 2013 ... RS in 2012 ... A sustainability major.

RIGHT GUARD

53 Robert Craighead
 6-3 • 300 • Sr.-3L CGP: 34; CGS: 3*
 Lakeside, Calif. (El Capitan High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 * Has played in 34 games with three career starts, but Saturday will be his first-ever time on the offensive line ... Has switched positions in three of his four seasons, playing as a light end in 2011, on the defensive line in 2012, as a light end the past two years (2013-14) & on the offensive line this year ... Won the right guard spot after a strong spring season ... Played in all 13 games in 2014 as a light end, starting three times and making four catches for 42 yards and a touchdown ... Caught five passes for 32 yards in eight games ... Made three tackles on the defensive line in eight games in 2012 ... Redshirted in 2011 at tight end ... Was a two-time all-East County first-team pick at El Capitan HS ... Two-time captain for the Vagueros, who won three straight league titles ... Also played basketball ... Majoring in social science.

BACKUP

65 Sergio Phillips
 6-2 • 300 • So.-1L CGP: 7; CGS: 0
 DeSoto, Texas (DeSoto High)

Notes: Originally signed in 2013 as an OL, but joined SDSU in 2014 ... Worked up to backup DT for 2014 bowl game ... Moved to OL in spring ... Had 5 stops (2 TFL) & 1 O-sack in 2014 ... 3-star recruit by many recruiting sources ... A criminal justice major.

RIGHT TACKLE

71 Pearce Slater
 6-7 • 335 • Sr.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 13
 Los Angeles, Calif. (El Camino College)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 On the Rotary Lombardi Watch List ... Chosen as a captain by his teammates ... Named a preseason first-team all-Mountain West pick by the league's media at MW Media Day in July and by Phil Steele's magazine ... Didn't start playing football until his senior season of high school after focusing early on basketball ... Started all 13 games in his first Division I season in 2014 ... Played two seasons at El Camino College in Torrance, Calif. ... Helped El Camino average 426.6 yards of offense per game in 2013, up from 323.7 yards per contest in 2012 ... Was a three-star recruit out of El Camino by Rivals.com and Scout.com, & a two-star recruit by 247sports.com ... Also was rated as the 31st-best offensive tackle by 247sports ... Earned two letters at Taft High School in Woodland Hills, Calif. ... Is majoring in communications.

BACKUP

78 Joe Salcedo
 6-7 • 300 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
 Santa Barbara, Calif. (Bishop Diego High)

Notes: Tall, aggressive lineman, who is on the two-deep after redshirting his true freshman season in 2014 ... RS in 2014, where he was SDSU's Off. Co-Scout Pot' ... Also played basketball & threw for Bishop Diego HS T&F team.

TIGHT END

89 Daniel Brunskill
 6-5 • 255 • Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 4
 Valley Center, Calif. (Valley Center High)

2014 Stats:

TD	No.	Yds	TD	Avg.
13	5	31	1	6.2

Notes: Earned a scholarship in the summer ... Good blocker, who came to SDSU as an offensive lineman & made the move to tight end ... Had five catches in 2014, including a 6-yard TD at Boise State, while playing in all 13 games ... Made first four starts in 2014 ... Played all 13 games in 2013 without recording a stat ... Redshirted in 2012 ... First-team all-CIF, all-league & all-county as a senior at Valley Center HS ... Majoring in civil engineering.

BACKUP

88 David Wells
 6-5 • 255 • So.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 0
 Clovis, Calif. (Clovis North High)

2014 Stats:

TD	No.	Yds	TD	Avg.
12	0	0	0	0.0

Notes: Tall, big body with great hands ... Played in 12 games in 2014, mostly on special teams ... Redshirted in 2013 as a true freshman ... Former QB, who converted to tight end late in prep career at Clovis North HS ... 1st-team all-league & all-Valley at CNHS ... 3-star recruit by Rivals.

OFFENSE

2014 Statistics

Category	Average	NCAA	MW
Scoring	25.00	88	8
Total Offense	394.46	71	8
Rushing Offense	216.08	26	3
Passing Offense	178.38	106	10
Passing Efficiency	109.11	110	11

OVERALL:
 * SDSU was 1 of 4 teams in FBS to have a winning record & have every win come by a double-digit margin last year
 * SDSU's average margin of victory (in its 5 wins) in MW play last year was 16.80 points per game
 * SDSU has gone 103 games without being shut out (11/18/06 at TCU), which is the 3rd-longest streak among current MW schools
 * SDSU is 31-9 in the Rocky Long era when scoring just 20 or more points
 * SDSU has won 13 of 15 and 17 of 20 when having less turnovers than its opponent

OFFENSIVE RUSHING:
 * SDSU rushed for 2,809 yards last year, the second most in program history
 * SDSU has a 1,000-yard rusher in five straight seasons for the first time since 1991-95. The Aztecs have never had a 1,000-yard rusher in six consecutive years
 * SDSU has won 13 straight games when rushing for at least 200 yards & 15 of its last 16 (21-2 in the Rocky Long era)
 * SDSU has a 100-yard rusher in 18 of its past 23 games & has a total of 20, 100-yard rushers during that span
 * SDSU has 143 rushing TDs since the beginning of the 2010 season (65 games), which is ranked in a tie for 22nd in FBS over that span. SDSU had just 134 (113th nationally) TDs over its previous 11 years (1999-2009) in the MW.

OFFENSIVE PASSING:
 * SDSU has won 10 straight games when it did not throw an interception
 * Over the last 53 games, SDSU has 76 passing touchdowns & just 47 interceptions
 * SDSU had the lowest passing efficiency (109.1) in the country last year among teams with a winning record

OFFENSIVE COACHING STAFF / GAME DAY ASSIGNMENTS
 F Head Coach: Rocky Long (New Mexico '74)
 F Assoc. HC/Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs: Jeff Horton (Nevada '81)
 F Wide Receivers: Hunkie Cooper (UNLV '91)
 F Offensive Line: Mike Schmidt (SDSU '09)
 F Quarterbacks: Blaine Morgan (Air Force '99)
 Game day location; F - indicates field; P - indicates press box.

X RECEIVER

85 Mikah Holder
 6-0 • 180 • So.-1L CGP: 10; CGS: 0
 Oceanside, Calif. (Oceanside High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 An athletic, playmaking true sophomore with good hands ... Worked into the playing mix last year with injuries to veteran starters ... Brother, King, lettered at SDSU from 2011-13 at cornerback, starting in 2013 ... Is also listed as the backup punt returner this year ... Played in each of the final 10 games last season as a true freshman, making five catches for 53 yards (10.6 avg.) ... Had three receptions for 33 yards (11.0 avg.) in first career game vs. UNLV ... Was a three-star recruit from all the major recruiting services out of nearby Oceanside HS ... Had 41 career catches for 1,229 yards & 11 touchdowns as a senior ... A social science major.

BACKUP

81 Eric Judge
 6-1 • 190 • Jr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 6
 San Diego, Calif. (San Diego High)

Notes: Speedy, good route runner ... Led SDSU in rec. yds (471) & rec. avg. (19.6, min. 3 rec.) last year ... The 19.6 YPC was the 2nd best by an Aztec since 1996 (min. 20 rec.) ... Played in all 13 games as a RS from 2013, making 13 catches for 218 yds & 3 TDs ... Had 6 catches for 54 yds & 2 TD in 1st start vs. New ... RS in 2012 as a TR from ... Played locally at San Diego HS on both sides of the ball ... Was a 3-star recruit by Scout.com.

QUARTERBACK

17 Maxwell Smith
 6-5 • 235 • Sr.-TR CGP: 21; CGS: 11
 Granada Hills, Calif. (Univ. of Kentucky)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 Talk, mobile quarterback who was announced as the team's starter on Monday ... Transferred from Kentucky, where he started 11 times & played in 9 games vs. top-25 teams ... Has 3 career 300-yard games ... Joined SDSU in the spring ... Had the 7th-lowest INT% (1.85) in FBS play from 2011-13 (min. 450 att.) ... Was 292-for-486 (60.1 pct) for 3,070 yards at Kentucky (2011-13), passing for 21 TDs against just 9 INTs ... 2013: 1,276 yds, 57.4 pct., 9 TD, 1 INT ... 2012: 975 yds, 58.7 pct., 9 TD, 4 INT ... 2011: 819 yds, 54.9 pct., 4 TD, 4 INT as a true freshman, earning Freshman All-SEC honors ... Played senior year of high school at Birmingham HS in Van Nuys, Calif. ... Also played basketball.

BACKUP

10 Christian Chapman
 6-0 • 200 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
 Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad High)

Notes: Mobile, accurate quarterback with a quick release ... Has a ton of potential ... Is expected to play Saturday in the opener vs. San Diego ... Was one of three true freshman quarterbacks on the depth chart in 2014 and traveled to every road contest, but ultimately utilized his redshirt season ... Was a three-star recruit by Rivals, Scout & ESPN ... Local Carlsbad High School ... A two-time first-team Avocado League selection.

FULLBACK

46 Dakota Gordon
 5-10 • 235 • Sr.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 8
 Clovis, Calif. (Fresno City College)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 Was chosen as a captain by his teammates ... Hard-nosed, physical player, who joined SDSU in the spring of 2014 after playing 2 years at Fresno City College ... Earned a scholarship right before spring drills ... Started 8 times & played in all 13 games ... Had the 5th-most attempts (26) in FBS without a net loss & the 15th-most yards (110) without a net loss ... Played 2 years at FCC, helping the Rams to back-to-back league titles ... All-league in 2013, rushing for 243 yards & 3 TDs on 37 carries (6.6 avg.) ... Prepped at Clovis HS, where he also was a 2012 CIF State wrestling runner-up at 197 lbs.

BACKUP

15 Nick Bowden
 6-3 • 220 • So.-1L CGP: 5; CGS: 2
 Los Gatos, Calif. (Los Gatos High)

Notes: Played in 5 games, starting 2, at quarterback as a true freshman in 2014, but moved to fullback in the fall ... Was 1-1 as the starting QB last year, going 13-for-38 for 147 yards & a TD ... Was just the 2nd true freshman to start at QB in SDSU's DI history at Fresno State ... 1st to start having never thrown a pass prior to the start ... Was a three-star recruit by Scout.com over 2011: RS ... All-league at Diamond Bar HS ... A sociology major.

RUNNING BACK

19 Donnel Pumphrey
 5-9 • 180 • Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 14
 Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 On the Maxwell Award and Donk Walker Award Watch List ... Also a preseason first-team all-MW selection by the league's media & 6 magazines ... Can go inside & outside & is not afraid of contact ... Has 13 career 100-yd games (5 straight) ... Set a SDSU single-season record with 1,867 rushing yards in 2014 ... Was a SI HM All-American & 1st-team all-MW ... 2014 FBS ranks: 4th in RYPC (143.6), 8th in APYPC (155.9), 9th in rush TDs (2) & 9th in RYPC (6.8) ... Had 752 yards & 8 TDs as a TR in 2013 ... 1st Aztec fresh w/ 100+ yds in 3 straight games since M. Faulk in 1991 ... Nevada Gatorade Pot' at Canyon Springs HS in 2012 ... Had 4,152 yds & 49 TDs over HS career ... Comm. major.

BACKUP

22 Chase Price
 5-8 • 200 • Sr.-3L CGP: 36; CGS: 0
 Diamond Bar, Calif. (Diamond Ranch High)

Notes: Has good speed & power ... 866 career yds & 6 TDs ... 2014: 674 yds & 5 TDs ... 141 yds & a TD at UNM ... 2011: RS ... All-league at Diamond Bar HS ... A sociology major.

Z RECEIVER

5 Chase Favreau
 6-1 • 200 • So.-1L CGP: 7; CGS: 0
 Huntington Beach, Calif. (Edison High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
 Entered last fall as a second-string quarterback & is now good the depth chart at the 'Z' wide receiver ... A good route-runner, who is coming off a solid spring ... Originally signed with the 2011 class as a left-handed dual-threat QB, but grayshirted & joined SDSU for spring ball in 2013 ... Played in 7 games in 2014, catching 2 passes for 55 yards (7.9 avg.), including a 52-yard vs. Hawaii ... Redshirted 2013, where he was named the team's offensive co-scout player of the year ... Helped Edison HS go undefeated as a senior in 2011, passing for 1,866 yards & 16 TDs, while rushing for 515 yards & 4 TDs ... 2011 Sunset League MVP ... A communication major.

BACKUP

4 Jemond Hazely
 6-1 • 195 • Sr.-1L CGP: 23; CGS: 3
 Corona, Calif. (Santiago High)

Notes: Inside slot receiver, who can go up & get the ball ... Played in all 13 games in 2014 with 3 starts, making 13 catches for 173 yards (13.3 avg.) & a TD ... Best game was at Nevada, catching 3 balls for 31 yards & a TD ... Logged 4 appearances in 2013 without recording a stat ... Played in 6 games in 2012 with a 5-yard rush ... Redshirted in 2011 ... First-team all-league final 2 years after moving from QB ... Played basketball & ran track at Santiago HS ... A social science major.

HEAD COACH

Rocky Long
 5th Year as H.C. at SDSU
 New Mexico, 1974

Overall: 97-89, SDSU Record: 32-29;
 ▶ Named MW Coach of the Year for the 2nd time in 2012.
 ▶ All-time winningest coach in Mountain West history.
 ▶ Named head coach at SDSU on Jan. 12, 2011, after a two-year stint as the Aztecs' defensive coordinator.
 ▶ Only coach in SDSU history to lead the Aztecs to a bowl game in his first season.
 ▶ His 25 victories were tied for the most at San Diego State in first three seasons with Claude Gilbert.
 ▶ Prior to becoming the head coach at UNM, served as defensive coordinator for 12 seasons at three different schools (UNLV, Oregon State & Wyoming).

OFF. COORDINATOR

Jeff Horton
 5th Year at SDSU; 1st as OC
 Nevada, 1981

Notes:
 ▶ In his fifth season at San Diego State as the associate head coach and running backs coach, and first as the offensive coordinator.
 ▶ Has had a 1,000-yard rusher all five years at SDSU.
 ▶ Has been a head coach at Nevada and UNLV, and an interim head coach at Minnesota.
 ▶ Started his collegiate coaching career in 1984 as a graduate assistant at Minnesota under Lou Holtz.
 ▶ Participated in 12 bowl games as a coach.

SPECIALISTS

59 Donny Hageman
 2014 Stats: FGMA 80.0, Pct. 49, Long 0, Blk. 0, PATs 37-37
 PAT/FGs • 6-1 • 175 • Sr.-1L
 Covina, Calif. (Mt. SAC)

91 Tanner Blain
 2014 Stats: G No. Avg. Long 50+ 120 0
 0 0 0.0
 Punter • 6-0 • 205 • Jr.-TR
 Lindenhurst, Ill. (El Camino College)

▶ Other Specialists
 Kickoffs: 59 Donny Hageman, 6-1, 175, Sr.-1L
 Long Snapper: 60 Jeff Overbaugh, 6-2, 240, Sr.-3L
 Holder: 91 Tanner Blain, 6-0, 205, Jr.-TR
 Kick Returns: 20 Rashaad Penny & 22 Chase Price
 Punt Returns: 23 Damontae Kazee

San Diego State Aztecs

2015 Record: 0-0; 0-0 MW
Five Straight Bowl Game Appearances
19-Time Conference Champions



Rocky Long Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator

- Two-Time Conference Coach of the Year
- All-time winningest coach in Mountain West history
- Has led San Diego State to 18 come-from-behind victories
- Defensive unit ranked 13th nationally in points allowed last season
- 12 players selected in the NFL Draft in his four seasons as head coach

DEFENSIVE END

99 Jon Sanchez

6-2 • 255 • Sr.-3L CGP: 39; CGS: 13
Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta High)

TOP NOTE: One of three current Aztec players to see action in all 39 games the last three seasons (LS Jeff Overbaugh, DB Pierre Romain).

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
Started 13 consecutive games at defensive end ... Recorded multiple tackles in four straight games and has at least one tackle in 10 straight contests ... A preseason fourth-team all-conference selection by multiple publications (*Phil Steele, Athlon Sports*) ... Has 75 career tackles and 13.5 tackles for loss ... In 2014, recorded 7.5 tackles for loss, the fourth most by an Aztec defensive lineman in the Rocky Long era (since 2009) ... As a junior, 84.5 percent of his tackles were solo stops (second highest percentage of Long era; King Holder, 2012) ... Posted a career-high six tackles at No. 21 North Carolina (9-6-14) ... Majoring in kinesiology as a fitness specialist ... A three-star recruit at Vista Murrieta HS by both *Rivals* & *ESPN.com*

BACKUP

59 Kyle Kelley

6-3 • 260 • Jr.-TR CGP: 12; CGS: 0
Irvine, Calif. (Saddleback College)

Notes: Transfer from Arizona via Saddleback College who should see the field ... Attended UA in 2012 and 2013 ... Saw action in 12 games in 2013, recording two tackles ... A four-star *Rivals* recruit out of Woodbridge High.

LINEBACKER

54 Calvin Munson

6-1 • 240 • Jr.-2L CGP: 24; CGS: 13
St. Charles, Mo. (Francis Howell High)

TOP NOTE: Selected in the 31st round of the 2013 MLB Draft by St. Louis. Last fall, pitched 5 1/3 in seven outings for Aztec baseball team.

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
Played in 24 straight games and started 13 consecutive games at linebacker ... Named the preseason conference defensive player of the year by *Athlon Sports* ... Had 31 tackles in his final four games of the 2014 campaign ... Is the only returning starting linebacker from a group that lost three to graduation ... 2014 honorable mention all-Mountain West after making 83 tackles (54 solo), 10.5 tackle for loss, four sacks, four interceptions & two forced fumbles ... Averaged 36.5 yards per interception return last year, which ranked third in the nation ... Named team defensive player of the year as a sophomore ... Majoring in business administration with a focus in marketing ... Father, Kurt, was a defensive lineman at Oregon State.

BACKUP

52 Tyler Morris

6-3 • 220 • So.-SO CGP: 1; CGS: 0
Henderson, Nev. (Foothill High)

Notes: Returned from season-ending ACL injury in the 2014 season opener ... Moved from safety to LB when he arrived on campus in 2013, moved back to safety in the 2014 camp, before team injuries moved him back to LB ... Also a star baseball and basketball player in high school.

CAPTAIN

CORNERBACK

7 J.J. Whittaker

5-10 • 180 • Sr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 26
Oceanside, Calif. (Oceanside High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: Earned all-Mountain West honors each of the last two seasons (2014; 2nd; 2013; HM).

• Thorpe Watch List (top defensive back) ... • Preseason Mountain West first team (consensus) ... Along with Whittaker, makes up one of the best cornerback tandems in the nation ... Played in 18 consecutive games and has at least one stop in each of those games ... Led the Mountain West and was tied for 10th nationally (first among freshmen) with four forced fumbles (2013) ... Career: 99 tackles, 7 tackles for loss, 1 sack, 2 interceptions, 4 forced fumbles and 1 fumble recovery ... Brother, Walter, was a 1,000-yard running back for the Aztes from 2009-12 ... A criminal justice major.

BACKUP

22 Kalan Montgomery

6-1 • 185 • So.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 0
Compton, Calif. (Dominguez High)

Looking to see action on the defensive unit after contributing on special teams last season ... Named the 2013 SDSU Special Teams Scout Player of the Year ... Saw significant action on special teams during his redshirt freshman season (2014) ... Career totals: 4 tackles ... A consensus three-star recruit ... An all-conference performer in both football and track & field.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

95 Noble Hall

6-3 • 265 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Las Vegas, Nev. (Valley High)

TOP NOTE: For the second consecutive season, San Diego State will likely start exactly one freshman in the season opener (2014: Trey Lomax).

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
Expected to make his first career start on Saturday against USD ... Was projected to backup Christian Hayward, but pressed into the starting position due to a knee injury to Hayward ... One of five players on the roster that call Las Vegas home (also two SDSU assistant coaches were once head coaches at UNLV) ... 2014 SDSU Defensive Scout Team Player of the Year ... Utilized his redshirt season last year ... Received three stars from both *ESPN* and *24/7Sports* out of high school ... A three-time letterwinner and a three-time captain at Valley High in Las Vegas ... Also earned three letters in basketball ... Previously known as Eric Burrell, but legally changed his name to honor his father, who was shot and killed before he was born.

BACKUP

69 Jordan Watson

6-5 • 285 • So.-SO CGP: 2; CGS: 0
Chicago, Ill. (Hales Franciscan High)

Notes: Listed 30 pounds heavier than when he signed with SDSU ... Looks to increase playing time this year ... Third year in the program after a redshirt season in 2013, played in two games (at Oregon St., AFA) in 2014 ... Was co-MVP at Franciscan High as senior ... Earned all-state honors. (N.J.: No. 92 Christian Hayward (6-3; 300; Sr.-1L) ... CGP: 16; CGS: 1)

LINEBACKER

40 Randy Ricks

6-5 • 230 • Jr.-TR CGP: 0; CGS: 0
St. Las Vegas, Nev. (Arizona Western College)

TOP NOTE: One of only two San Diego State defensive players expected to make his first start Saturday against USD (DT Noble Hall).

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
Making his four-year college debut after originally signing with the Aztecs in 2012 ... Big athletic body, who will play a lot in a three-point stance on the defensive line and back at linebacker ... Has experience playing at both positions ... Spent two seasons at Arizona Western College ... Posted 43 tackles, 8.5 sacks and three forced fumbles in 2014, helping the Matadors to a 11-1 overall record ... In 2013, made 36 tackles, 16 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and three pass breakups ... Was named the defensive MVP at the El Toro Bowl, recording three sacks, five tackles and a forced fumble ... Played both defensive line & linebacker at Legacy High in Las Vegas, where he was a two-time all-league pick ... Also played basketball & competed in track & field.

BACKUP

57 Ryan Dunn

6-3 • 235 • So.-SO CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Alamo, Calif. (Univ. of Arizona)

Notes: Looking to see the first action of his college career after a 2013 redshirt season at Arizona and a 2014 transfer season ... Prepped at San Ramon Valley High ... A consensus three-star recruit who played in the BMW West Coast Bowl and Cal State All-Star Game.

DEFENSIVE END

58 Alex Barrett

6-3 • 260 • Jr.-2L CGP: 22; CGS: 10
Mesa, Ariz. (Desert Ridge High)

TOP NOTE: Has the most tackles for loss (14) and sacks (6) of any current Aztec since 2013 despite making only 10 career starts.

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
• Lombardi Watch List (top lineman or LB near the line of scrimmage) ... • Preseason Mountain West first team (Phil Steele) ... Named 2014 Mountain West honorable mention as a sophomore ... Despite missing the final three games due to injury (foot), his 39 tackles last season were the second-highest total by a defensive lineman in the Rocky Long era ... In his career, 14 of his 54 tackles have come behind the line of scrimmage ... Earned team's defensive lineman of the year ... Two-time first-team all-state at Desert Ridge High School ... Also played offensive line & lettered in track and field ... Criminal justice major.

BACKUP

41 Dakota Turner

6-3 • 255 • So.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 0
Mililani, Hawaii (Mililani High)

Notes: Physical, athletic body who made the move from linebacker at defensive line in the spring of 2014 ... Had 18 tackles (14 solo), 2.5 tackles for loss and two sacks in his first career 12 games off the bench last year ... First-team all-state his senior year at Mililani High.

CAPTAIN

LINEBACKER

42 Jake Fely

5-10 • 220 • Sr.-2L CGP: 36; CGS: 30
Oceanside, Calif. (Oceanside High)

TOP NOTE: Only player in Aztec history to see action in five seasons that resulted in a bowl game.

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
Finally back and at 100 percent healthy after battling injuries each of the last two seasons ... Will likely start his first game since Sept. 28, 2013 (at New Mexico State) ... Twice named Mountain West defensive player of the week ... Has earned nearly every team honor (2011 Outstanding Freshman Award, 2012 Outstanding Defensive Player and 2014 Most Inspirational Player) ... Prior to the 2013 season, was on both the Bednarik Award and Lombardi Award Watch Lists ... Named honorable mention all-MW in 2012 ... Career numbers: 182 tackles, 21 tackles for loss, 10.5 sacks, five forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries ... His mother, grandmother and aunt all attended SDSU ... A social science major ... Helped guide prep team to No. 1 state ranking his senior year.

BACKUP

43 Austin Wyatt-Thayer

6-5 • 230 • Jr.-TR CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Paradise, Calif. (Sierra College)

Notes: Big, athletic body who has worked into the two-deep after a solid fall camp ... Saturday could be his 1st career Division I game ... Was 2-time all-Wal Cal League pick at Sierra College & a captain in 2014 ... His 119 tackles in 2013 were 2nd most in state ... Prepped at Paradise HS.

Defensive Tidbits

• Several of the Aztec defensive players are on watch list for the nation's top player at their position, including Alex Barrett (Lombardi), Dante Kazeem (Thorpe) and J.J. Whittaker (Thorpe).

• Rocky Long will serve as the team's defensive coordinator for the seventh straight season (includes all five as head coach). According to a recent survey, he is one of six head coaches at the FBS level that is both a head coach and coordinator and the only head coach in the country that serves as the defensive coordinator.

• San Diego State ended the 2014 campaign with the following FBS rankings: 13th in scoring defense (19.8), 16th in total defense (332.5), 19th in pass efficiency defense (112.10), 37th in yards allowed per rush (3.8).

• If the depth chart holds up, only two players on the defensive side of the ball will make their first starts on Saturday - redshirt freshman defensive tackle Noble Hall and junior linebacker Randy Ricks. The other nine projected starters have a combined 140 career starts.

• San Diego State has held nine consecutive opponents to less than 400 yards of total offense. That is the second-longest active streak nationally, behind week 10. A opponent Penn State (13).

• Since Oct. 3, 2014 (includes nine SDSU games), San Diego State ranks seventh nationally in yards allowed per game (309.9). Trailing only Clemson, Penn State, Arkansas, UCF, Florida and Wisconsin.

• The Aztecs allowed just 38 points in their final three games of the 2014 campaign (12.7 ppg).

• Since the beginning of 2009, when Long took over as defensive coordinator, the Aztecs rank 28th nationally in yards per play (6.4) and 33rd nationally in yards per rush allowed (3.8). Both numbers are league bests for programs that have been in the Mountain West the last seven seasons.

• SDSU's pass defense FBS ranks since Sept. 27, 2014: T-3rd in touchdowns (8), 6th in yards per game (159.5) & seventh in pass efficiency defense (104.3)

WARRIOR

12 Malik Smith

6-0 • 190 • Jr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 13
Compton, Calif. (Dominguez High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: One of only 13 underclassmen on defense to earn all-Mountain West accolades in 2014.

Played in 25 straight games, started 13 straight games and recorded a tackle in 14 consecutive games ... A preseason third-team all-conference selection (Phil Steele) ... Earned honorable mention all-conference honors as a true sophomore (2014) ... Recorded 55 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, seven pass breakups, three interceptions and a fumble recovery in 2014 ... Has two career games with 10 tackles ... Career: 76 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, 3 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery ... Quoted in an August article as saying "Football saved my life" ... A criminal justice major.

BACKUP

32 Kendrick Mathis

6-0 • 195 • Jr.-SO CGP: 10; CGS: 0
Ventura, Calif. (Buena High)

In his fourth season with the Aztecs ... Played in 10 career games (4 in 2013 and 6 in 2014), including the final six games of last season ... Played significant time on special teams and has two career kick returns (23.5 avg.) ... Career: 2 tackles ... His aunt, Amelia, played soccer at UCLA ... A criminal justice major ... Three-star prospect out of high school (Scout.com).

AZTEC

21 Na'im McGee

6-0 • 200 • Jr.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 11
Oakland, Calif. (Diablo Valley College)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: In 2014, he tied for third in tackles (63) and fourth in solo stops (41) despite missing a game.

Set to play the signature position in Rocky Long's 3-3-5 defense for a second consecutive season (previous Aztec to hold the position was current San Diego Giant Nat Berhe) ... Added 10 pounds to his frame over the summer ... Has made 10 plus tackles in all 12 of his college games ... Career: 63 tackles, 1 TFL ... Played one year at Diablo Valley College, earning first-team all-conference ... A business management major, specializing in entrepreneurship management ... Was a two-time All-American at St. Mary's High ... A member of the Stockton (Calif.) Athletic Hall of Fame ... A three-star recruit (Rivals.com).

BACKUP

33 Parker Baldwin

6-2 • 200 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Siloam Springs, Ark. (Siloam Springs High)

Originally signed as an athlete and has put himself in a position as a reserve at the coveted Aztec position as a true freshman ... Earned all-state accolades as a senior ... Scored eight touchdowns and had 76.2 receiving yards, 135 rushing yards and 134 tackles in his final high school season ... Earned a state championship in the 200-meter dash.

WARRIOR

14 Trey Lomax

5-11 • 190 • So.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 11
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: His 63 tackles in 2014 were the most by an Aztec freshman since Andrew Preston had 72 in 2007.

Only a sophomore, he has an route to establishing himself as one of the top defensive players in the league ... A preseason fourth-team all-conference selection (Phil Steele) ... Named the team's most outstanding freshman (2014) ... Has two career games with double-digit tackles (10 at No. 21 North Carolina and 11 at Oregon State) ... Career: 63 tackles, 3 tackles for loss, 1 sack, 2 fumble recoveries ... In high school, earned conference offensive MVP honors (2012) ... Hit .341 in high school where he was a two-time first-team all-conference baseball selection.

BACKUP

27 Kameron Kelly

6-2 • 195 • So.-SO CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Murphy, Texas (Wylie High)

Explosive speedster who saw immediate playing time as a true freshman last season ... Played in the first six games as a true freshman in 2014 before being sidelined with an injury ... Career: 1 tackle, 5 kick returns for 26.2 average ... A three-star recruit (scout.com) ... Recorded seven interceptions on defense as a prep athlete at Wylie High.

CORNERBACK

23 Damontae Kazeem

5-11 • 185 • Jr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 13
San Bernardino, Calif. (Cajon High)

Notes: '15; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: Ranked third in the Mountain West with 1.08 passes defended in 2014.

• Thorpe Watch List (top defensive back) ... • Preseason Mountain West first team (consensus) ... Along with Whittaker, makes up one of the best cornerback tandems in the nation ... Played in 18 consecutive games and has at least one stop in each of those games ... Led the Mountain West and was tied for 10th nationally (first among freshmen) with four forced fumbles (2013) ... Career: 99 tackles, 7 tackles for loss, 1 sack, 2 interceptions, 4 forced fumbles and 1 fumble recovery ... Brother, Walter, was a 1,000-yard running back for the Aztes from 2009-12 ... A criminal justice major.

BACKUP

13 Pierre Romain

5-8 • 170 • Jr.-2L CGP: 39; CGS: 0
Compton, Calif. (Dominguez High)

Depth of experience ... Will see significant snaps as the cornerback position ... One of three current Aztec players to see action in all 39 games the last three seasons (LS Jeff Overbaugh, DB Jon Sanchez) ... Career: 22 tackles, 1 fumble recovery ... A business major ... Earned Mountain West fall all-academic accolades each of the past three seasons.