



# Aztec Football 2019 Preseason Honors

as of Aug. 13

## ► Team Honors

### ► National Rankings

32nd - Paul Myerberg, *USA Today*

### ► Projected MW Championship Finish

Runner-Up - *Phil Steele Magazine*

### ► Projected MW West Division Finish

1st - *USA Today*

1st - *Phil Steele Magazine*

2nd - Mountain West Media

2nd - *Athlon Sports*

### ► Projected Bowl

Idaho Potato Bowl vs. Buffalo, *Athlon Sports*

New Mexico Bowl vs. Middle Tennessee, *USA Today*

New Mexico Bowl vs. Florida International, *Stadium*

New Mexico Bowl vs. Marshall, *Phil Steele Magazine*

New Mexico Bowl vs. Southern Miss, *College Football News*

New Mexico Bowl s. Louisiana Tech, *247sports*

Arizona Bowl vs. Georgia Southern, *Sporting News*

Arizona Bowl vs. Troy, *Mountain West Wire*

### ► Games to Watch

Sept. 7 - San Diego State at UCLA, *Athlon Sports*

Sept. 21 - Utah State at San Diego State, *Athlon Sports*

Nov. 15 - Fresno State at San Diego State, *USA Today*

Nov. 15 - Fresno State at San Diego State, *Athlon Sports*

### ► Top Units

Running Backs (1st in Mountain West) - *Athlon Sports*

Running Backs (2nd in Mountain West; 41st in FBS) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

Linebackers (2nd in Mountain West; 32nd in FBS) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

Defensive Backs (2nd in Mountain West) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

Offensive Line (3rd in Mountain West) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

Linebackers (3rd in Mountain West) - *Athlon Sports*

Defensive Backs (3rd in Mountain West) - *Athlon Sports*

Offensive Line (4th in Mountain West) - *Athlon Sports*

Defensive Line (4th in Mountain West) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

### ► Superlatives

"8th-ranked Non-Power 5 Team" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"8th-most improved scoring team" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"8th-best projected run defense" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"15th-most improved offensive rushing team" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

## ► Individual Honors

**Turner Bernard | Jr. | Glendale, Ariz. | Long Snapper**

All-Mountain West first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Myles Cheatum | Sr. | Cedar Park, Texas | Defensive Tackle**

All-Mountain West third team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Daishawn Dixon | Sr. | San Antonio, Texas | Offensive Guard**

All-Mountain West third team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West third team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Darren Hall | So. | Pasadena, Calif. | Cornerback**

All-Mountain West third team - *Athlon Sports*

**Brandon Hecklen | Sr. | Tarzana, Calif. | Punter**

All-Mountain West fourth team - *Athlon Sports*

"24th-rated draft eligible punter" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Parker Houston | Sr. | Sparks, Nev. | Tight End**

Mackey Award Watch List (Outstanding Collegiate Tight End)

Wuerffel Trophy Watch List (Community Service, Athletic and Academic Achievement)

All-Mountain West second team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Keith Ismael | Jr. | Oakland, Calif. | Offensive Guard/Center**

Outland Trophy Watch List (Top Interior Lineman)

Rimington Trophy Watch List (Nation's Outstanding Center)

All-Mountain West first team - Mountain West Media

All-Mountain West first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"7th-rated draft eligible center" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Kyahva Tezino | Sr. | Los Angeles, Calif. | Linebacker**

Chuck Bednarik Award Watch List (College Defensive Player of the Year)

Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List (Defensive Player of the Year)

Butkus Award (Nation's Best Linebacker)

College Football America Group of 5 Starting Lineup

All-Mountain West first team - Mountain West Media

All-Mountain West first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"11th-rated draft eligible outside linebacker" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Tariq Thompson | Jr. | San Diego, Calif. | Warrior (Safety)**

Jim Thorpe Award (Best Defensive Back)

All-Mountain West first team - Mountain West Media

All-Mountain West first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"8th-rated draft eligible free safety" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Juwan Washington | Sr. | Fort Worth, Texas | Running Back/Kick Returner**

Maxwell Award Watch List (College Player of the Year)

Paul Hornung Award Watch List (Most Versatile Player)

Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award (Offensive Player of the Year with Texas ties)

All-Mountain West first team (RB) - Mountain West Media

All-Mountain West first team (RB) - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West first team (RB) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Mountain West third team (KR) - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West third team (KR) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"25th-rated running back in FBS" - *Athlon Sports*

"40th-rated draft eligible running back" - *Phil Steele Magazine*