San Diego State Aztecs

2022 Record: 2-3, 0-1 MW
11 Bowl Game Appearances in last 12 Seasons (Bowl Eligible all 12)
MW Champions: 2016, 2015, 2012 | 21-Time Conference Champions

Jeff Horton

Offensive Coordinator/Running Backs

- Sixth season as offensive coordinator (12 year at SDSU overall)
- SDSU has 98, 100-yard rushers since he joined SDSU in 2011
- Also has head coaching stints at UNLV (1994-98) & Nevada (1993)
- Coached four years in the NFL (2006-08 at St. Louis, 2009 at Detroit)
- Started coaching career in 1984 as a GA at Minnesota under Lou Holtz

O-LINE NOTES

- SDSU returns just two starters from last year's 12-2 o-line
- The starting 5 has a comb. 58 starts (6th-youngest in FBS)
- The starting offensive line has played in 85 career games.
- This season: 192.6 ypg; 5.1 ypc, 5 rushing TDs.
- San Diego State is 54-2 the last 56 times the Aztecs have rushed for at least 200 yards.

LEFT TACKLE

61 Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson
6-6 ◆ 310 ◆ Jr.-1L — CGP: 20; CGS: 19
Inglewood, Calif. (Narbonne High)

TOP NOTE: Played his prep ball at Narbonne High with fellow 2019 signee Brionne Penny.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*
One of two returning starters... Started all 14 at RT last year & first five at LT this year... Has allowed just one sack this for his career in 562 passing chances... 1 sack allowed in 403 chances in 2021 at RT... Earned snaps in road win at USU in 2020 & was on the travel squad... In 2019, earned offensive scout player of the year... A three-star prospect by multiple outlets out of Narbonne High.

BACKUP
70 Christian Jones
6-9 ◆ 320 ◆ Fr.-RS — CGP: 5; CGS: 0
San Luis Obispo, Calif. (SLO HS)
Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 30 pounds since coming to SDSU... Played first five games this year (off. snaps vs. ISU)... Redshirted in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

LEFT GUARD

60 Cade Bennett
6-3 ◆ 315 ◆ So.-TR — CGP: 7; CGS: 5
Scottsdale, AZ (Notre Dame Prep/Okla. St.)

TOP NOTE: Started for the first time of his career on Sept. 3 against Arizona in just his third career appearance.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*
Transferred from Oklahoma State for the spring semester... Started 1st career game vs. Arizona, earning the team's top passing block grade (85.2) by Pro Football Focus... Played in 2 games at Oklahoma State last year (Kansas on Oct. 30 & Notre Dame on Jan. 1 in the Fiesta Bowl... Redshirted in 2020... Led Notre Dame Prep to 7-4 record in 3 seasons... A consensus 3-star recruit.

BACKUP
79 Joey Wright
6-5 ◆ 305 ◆ So.-SQ — CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue HS)
On depth chart for first season... Played in all five games this year (off. late vs. ISU)... Did not play in 2021... Redshirted in 2020... Prepped with SDSU LB Vai Kaho at Nevada (Reno) powerhouse Bishop Manogue.

CENTER

/ALL-ah-mah/ /ooo-loo-AH-vay/ — CAPTAIN C

72 Alama Uluave
6-2 ◆ 305 ◆ ^Sr.-4L — CGP: 46; CGS: 27
Laie, Hawaii (Punahou High)

TOP NOTE: Is on two premier watch lists (Rimngton Trophy (top center) & Outland Trophy (top interior lineman).

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*
Team captain... Preseason all-MW... Also on the preseason Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Slated to make his 28th consecutive start at center... 2021 HM all-MW... Played the most offensive snaps last year (953)... Logged 553 of the team's 560 offensive snaps in 2020... Special teams play in 2018-19... Prepped at Punahou HSalong with current Aztec LB Seyddrick Lakalaka.

BACKUP
68 Thomas Mirabella
6-4 ◆ 300 ◆ So.-SQ — CGP: 6; CGS: 0
Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mission Viejo High)
Played snaps late in 1st 2 games.. Played 2 games in 2021... Redshirted in 2020... Named a MW Scholar-Athlete (2020) & a member of the league's all-academic team (2020)... A business major with an emphasis in finance.

RIGHT GUARD

ab-dull-ah

76 Dean Abdullah
6-4 ◆ 260 ◆ So.-TR — CGP: 5; CGS: 2
Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

TOP NOTE: Made his first Division I starts each of the last two games.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*
Joined the Aztecs for fall camp out of American River College in Antelope, Calif.... Has played in all five games this year, but in just 125 snaps...Started for first time vs. Toledo, playing all 59 snaps... Played 52 of 53 snaps at Boise State... Logged his first career playing time in the opener vs. Arizona (two snaps)... Also played vs. Idaho State (4 snaps) and at No.. 14/15 Utah (6 snaps)... Prepped at Antelope High School in Antelope, Calif.

BACKUP
79 Joey Wright
6-5 ◆ 305 ◆ So.-SQ — CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue HS)
On depth chart for first season... Played in all five games this year (off. late vs. ISU)... Did not play in 2021... Redshirted in 2020... Prepped with SDSU LB Vai Kaho at Nevada (Reno) powerhouse Bishop Manogue.

RIGHT TACKLE

77 Josh Simmons
6-6 ◆ 305 ◆ Fr.-RS — CGP: 5; CGS: 5
San Diego, Calif. (Helix High)

TOP NOTE: Started the opener against Arizona having never previously played a collegiate snap.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*
Highly touted recruit out of nearby Helix High... Has great footwork... Started the opener at right tackle against Arizona and played 57 of the 59 snaps... Had SDSU's second-best passing block grade (84.2, PFF)... Also started vs. ISU, Utah, Toledo & at BS... RS in 2021... A consensus 4-star recruit... No. 14 guard by ESPN in recruiting class... Picked SDSU over numerous Power 5 offers.

BACKUP
70 Christian Jones
6-9 ◆ 320 ◆ Fr.-RS — CGP: 5; CGS: 0
San Luis Obispo, Calif. (SLO HS)
Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 30 pounds since coming to SDSU... Played first five games this year (off. snaps vs. ISU)... Redshirted in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

TE

- Since 2010, seven SDSU TEs have appeared on the John Mackey Award Watch List.

TIGHT END (Y)

81 Mark Redman
6-6 ◆ 250 ◆ Jr.-TR — CGP: 21; CGS: 6
Newport Beach, CA (Corona del Mar HS/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Was roomates with fellow Aztec Cooper McDonald at Washington.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	5	6	38	6.3	15	0

On Mackey Award Watch List (outstanding TE)... Had a 15-yd catch in a start in his 1st career game as an Aztec vs. Arizona... 4 catches vs. Toledo... Played in 16 games in 2020-21 at Washington (1 GS), where he had a 5-yd catch... Had 149 catches for 1,832 yards and 25 touchdowns at Corona del Mar HS... Was a 4-star recruit by 247sports and Rivals.

BACKUP
82 Jay Rudolph
6-4 ◆ 245 ◆ So.-1L — CGP: 21; CGS: 5
Scottsdale, Ariz. (Horizon High)
Missed 1st 4 games with an injury, playing 15 snaps at BS... Made a 2-yd TD catch in 2021, starting 5 times of 13 app.... Played in 7 of 8 games as a true freshman in 2021 on special teams... Was a 2nd-team all-state selection as a senior at Horizon HS ... A 3-star recruit by multiple outlets.

94 Aaron Greene
6-4 ◆ 255 ◆ So.-1L — CGP: 13; CGS: 2
Prescott, Ariz. (Prescott High)

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).

RB (T)

21 Chance Bell
5-10 ◆ 200 ◆^Sr.-4L — CGP: 40; CGS: 3
Burbank, Calif. (John Burroughs High)

TOP NOTE: Ranks 26th all-time at San Diego State with 1,239 rushing yards.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
3	1	15	52	3.5	10	0

Is back for a fifth year... Started for third time of career vs. Arizona (8 rush., 30 yds.)... Ran for 341 yards and 4 TDs in 2021... Had 273 yards and 3 TDs in 2020... Ran for 384 yards and 2 TD in 2019... Had 189 yards in 2018... Career: 272 carries, 1,239 yards, 9 TDs; 21 rec. 149 yards... Working toward his master's degree in counseling.

BACKUP
23 Kenan Christon
5-10 ◆ 185 ◆ Jr.-TR — CGP: 18; CGS: 3
San Diego, Calif. (Madison High)
2022: 23 att., 84 yds. & 4 rec., 16 yds....Career: 101 att., 527 yds., 2 TD... Rushed for 443 yds & 2 TDs at USC (2019-21)... Ran for 3,042 yards & 36 TDs at Madison HS.

INJ: No. 38 Jaylon Armstead (5-11, 220, So.-1L) ... CGP: 13; CGS: 1.

RB (F)

15 Jordan Byrd
5-9 ◆ 170 ◆ ^Sr.-4L — CGP: 50; CGS: 14
Albuquerque, N.M. (Manzano High)

TOP NOTE: Named the 2019 New Mexico Bowl Co-Most Valuable Offensive Player with a career-high 139 yards and a touchdown.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	3	42	285	6.8	53	3

Preseason MW ST PotY, & 1st-tm at KR & PR... 2022 FBS rks: 9th in PR avg. (15.1) & 10th in KR/PR yds. (294)... 2 TD (1 rush) vs. ISU & Toledo (115 yds.)... Career: 1,248 rush yds & 12 rushing TDs... 1st-team all-MW KR in 2021... Had a 72-yd TD rush on his 4th career carry at BS in 2018... Won 4 straight 100-meter NM state titles in HS.

BACKUP
29 Cam Davis
5-8 ◆ 175 ◆ Fr.-RS — CGP: 7; CGS: 0
Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff High)
Is coming off an excellent fall camp... Has 107 yards & a TD on 27 carries (4.0 avg.)... Played two games on special teams in 2021... Ran for 2,932 yards and 35 touchdowns at South Oak Cliff HS in Dallas.

INJ: No. 5 Braxton Burmeister (6-1, 205, Sr.-TR) ... CGP: 34; CG: 26.

QB

- The last time an SDSU QB earned all-MW recognition was Ryan Lindley (2nd team, '10).

QUARTERBACK

18 Jalen Mayden
6-3 ◆ 220 ◆ Jr.-SQ — CGP: 9; CGS: 0
Garland, Texas (Sachse High/Mississippi State)

TOP NOTE: Switched from safety to quarterback on Monday and will be earning his first career start on Saturday.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Cmp.	Att.	Pct.	Int.	TD	Yds.	Rtg.
5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0

Switched back to QB this week from safety... Has 9 tackles this year at safety, playing most of Toledo game (65 snaps) & recording a career-high 8 tackles... Moved to safety in the spring... Played in 1 game at QB in 2021, going 5-for-6 for 50 yards & at TD vs. Utah State in the Mountain West Championship game & rushing for 36 yards on 4 attempts... Appeared in 3 games at Mississippi State from 2018-19, completing 1 of 2 passes for 9 yards & rushing 7 times for 32 yards... Totaled 9,472 yards & 114 TDs at Sachse HS in Texas... Was a 4-star recruit.

BACKUP
/lee-oo/ /ah-muh-vie/
4 Liu Aumavae
6-3 ◆ 205 ◆ Fr.-HS — CGP: 1; CGS: 0
Waldorf, Md. (Timpview High (Utah))
Made his debut last week at Boise State... Started the year 4th on depth chart as scout team QB... Joined SDSU in the spring... Threw for 5,119 yards & 44 TDs...Full name is Liumotumotua'anaileati Aumavae.

16 DJ Ralph
6-2 ◆ 195 ◆ So.-TR — CGP: 0; CGS: 0
San Diego, CA (Cathedral Catholic HS/Saddleback College)

WR

- San Diego State's two-deep at three receivers positions features three current walk-ons and a former walk-on (Jesse Matthews).
- Jesse Matthews is the only current Aztec with a 100-yard receiving game (he has five).

WR (Z)

CAPTAIN C

45 Jesse Matthews
6-0 ◆ 190 ◆ Sr.-3L — CGP: 40; CGS: 36
San Diego, Calif. (Christian High)

TOP NOTE: One of 27 players in program history to log at least five 100-yard receiving games.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	5	10	94	9.4	26	0

Preseason all-MW... 9 TD catches in 2021 were most by Aztec since 2010... Last 4 games in 2021: 37 rec., 465 yds., 7 TD... Career: 139 rec., 1,695 yds. & 12 TD... Walked-on, earning a scholarship prior to 2019 NM Bowl game.

BACKUP
/muh-kye/
83 Mekhi Shaw
5-10 ◆ 185 ◆ So.-1L — CGP: 17; CGS: 4
San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)
Walk-on... Has 3 catches in 5 GP (3 GS)... Had four catches for 42 yards (10.5 avg.) in 2021 in 12 games... First career start came vs. Towson on Sept. 25... Redshirted 2020... Prepped at nearby Scripps Ranch HS.

ALSO: No. 85 **Joshua Nicholson** (6-0, 175, Fr.-RS) ... CGP: 3; CG: 0.

WR (H)

/muh-kye/

83 Mekhi Shaw
5-10 ◆ 185 ◆ So.-1L — CGP: 17; CGS: 4
San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

TOP NOTE: Walk-on, who started for second and third time of his careeer this year.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	3	3	28	9.3	16	0

Walk-on... Has 3 catches in 5 GP (3 GS)... Had four catches for 42 yards (10.5 avg.) in 2021 in 12 games... First career start came vs. Towson on Sept. 25... Redshirted 2020... Prepped at nearby Scripps Ranch HS.

BACKUP
84 Darius De Los Reyes
5-9 ◆ 175 ◆ So.-1L — CGP: 11; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Lincoln High)
Has an 8-yard catch in 5 games this year... Played in final 6 games last season (mostly on special teams), recording a 15-yard catch... Redshirted in 2020... Prepped at local Lincoln High School in San Diego.

ALSO: No. 41 **Phillippe Wesley II** (6-0, 190, Fr.-RS) ... CGP: 2; CG: 0.

WR (X)

14 Tyrell Shavers
6-6 ◆ 210 ◆ Sr.-1L — CGP: 50; CGS: 10
Lewisville, Texas (Mississippi State Univ.)

TOP NOTE: Had a touchdown catch in three straight games before not having one at No. 14/15 Utah. Only had two his first 44 games.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	5	7	65	9.3	16	2

Tall, athletic WR who joined SDSU in spring 2021 after 4 yrs in SEC (2017-19 at Alabama, 2020 at MSU)... TD catches vs. UA & ISU... Career: 35 rec., 405 yds., 5 TD, 3 BLK punts... 4-star recruit out of Lewisville HS (TX).

BACKUP
11 Brionne Penny
6-3 ◆ 205 ◆ Jr.-SQ — CGP: 10; CGS: 0
Norwalk, Calif. (Norbonne High)
Has three catches for 22 yards in five games... Had 5 catches last year for 61 yards... DNP in 2020... RS in 2019... Older brother, Rashaad, ran for an Aztec-record 2,248 yards and 2,974 AP yards in 2017.

SPECIALISTS

	GP	GS
PUNTER (P)		
13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	18	5
49 Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 150, Fr.-HS	0	0
PLACEKICKER (PK)		
13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	18	5
92 Jarrett Reeser, 5-10, 205, Fr.-TR	1	0
KICKOFFS (KO)		
13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	18	5
92 Jarrett Reeser, 5-10, 205, Fr.-TR	1	0
HOLDER (H)		
41 David Delgado, 5-10, 165, Jr.-SQ	6	6
13 Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	**18**	**13**
LONG SNAPPER (LS)	**GP**	**GS**
50 Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, So.*	**19**	**19**
64 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-HS	0	0
SHORT SNAPPER (SS)	**GP**	**GS**
50 Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, So.*	19	5
64 Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-HS	0	0
KICKOFF RETURNS (KOR)		
15 ^Jordan Byrd, 5-9, 170, Sr.**	**50**	**42**
11 Brionne Penny, 6-3, 205, Jr.-SQ	10	0
PUNT RETURNS (PR)		
15 ^Jordan Byrd, 5-9, 170, Sr.**	**50**	**40**
45 Jesse Matthews, 6-0, 190, Sr.***	40	12
or83 Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 175, So.*	17	0

Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list

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 10th year working with Brady Hoke
- Has 10 years of experience as a defensive coord.
- Has twice been a Broyles Award nominee (2020-21) for the top assistant coach

DEFENSIVE END

CAPTAIN C

66 Jonah Tavai /tuh-vye/

6-0 ◆ 290 ◆ ^Sr.-3L CGP: 40; CGS: 25

Manhattan Beach, CA (Mira Costa HS/El Camino College)

TOP NOTE: Has five brothers and a sister, including four brothers who played or currently play Division I football.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Preseason all-MW... 2x HM All-MW... Team captain... Has 21 tackles (3.5 TFL), 1.0 sack & 1 FF... According to PFF, has the most QB pressures (sacks/hits/hurries) in the MW (25, 5th in FBS), the most hurries (17, T-5th in FBS) & QB hits (7, T-6th in FBS)... 47 tackles, 14.5 TFL, 8.5 sacks in 2021... Ranked 2nd in the MW last year (T-7th in FBS) in QB pressures (sacks/hits/hurries) (61)... 25 tackles (15 solo), 6.0 TFL & 3.5 sacks in 8 GP (5 GS)... Recorded 15 tackles in 2019 in 13 GP (1 GS), while adding a pair of TFL & 1.5 sacks... Career: 108 TCK, 25.5 TFL, 14.5 SCK... Spent 1 year at El Camino College in 2018 as a 2nd-team all-league pick... Was a 3-time all-league pick at Mira Costa HS & a star rugby player... Turns 22 on Dec. 13... Brother, Justus, transferred from Hawai'i in the spring.

BACKUP

39 Garret Fountain

6-4 ◆ 250 ◆ Jr.-2L CGP: 27; CGS: 0

Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

Moved from LB in spring... Leads team in TFL (4.5) & 3rd in TCK (28) in just 170 of 365 snaps... Had 19 tackles in 2021, 5.0 TFL, 3.0 SCK, 1 FR & 1 PBU... FF 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.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

91 Justus Tavai /tuh-vye/

6-3 ◆ 290 ◆ ^Sr.-TR CGP: 30; CGS: 23

Manhattan Beach, CA (Mira Costa HS/El Camino College)

TOP NOTE: One of three sets of brothers on the team with Jonah Tavai (also Caden and Cooper McDonald, and Lucky and Noah Avinger).

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Transferred to SDSU from Hawai'i in the spring... Has 12 tackles, including a 6-yard sack, in 5 starts... Career: 83 TCK, 11.0 TFL, 5.0 SCK... Started 18 of 25 appearance at Hawai'i (2019-21)... Totaled 72 tackles (40 solo), 10.0 TFL, 4.0 sacks, 3 PBUs, 3 FR & a FF... 2021: 34 tackles (19 solo), 5 TFL, 1 SCK & 2 FR in 13 GP (11 GS)... 2020: 35 tackles (18 solo), 4 TFL, 2 SCK, 1 FF, 1 FR in 9 GP (7 GS)... 2019: 2 TCK in 3 GP... 2018: RS... Played 1 season at El Camino College in 2017, logging 41 tackles, 2.5 sacks & a FF... Prepped at Mira Costa HS, amassing 83 tackles, 10 TFL & 5 sacks as a senior in 2016... Was on 2015 USA Rugby team... Has 5 brothers & a sister, including 4 brothers who played or currently play Division I football.

BACKUP

45 Wyatt Draeger

6-4 ◆ 265 ◆ Jr.-2L CGP: 21; CGS: 0

Reno, Nev. (Reno High)

Has four tackles on the season in 44 snaps... Made one stop vs. Arizona (7 snaps) and one vs. Idaho State (17)... 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. 95 **Nassir Sims** (6-2, 280, Jr.-1L) ..CGP: 15; GS: 0.

DEFENSIVE END

2 Keshawn Banks

6-4 ◆ 255 ◆ ^Sr.-4L CGP: 51; CGS: 39

Rio Rancho, N.M. (Rio Rancho High)

TOP NOTE: Is a three-time all-Mountain West selection (2019-21), having started each of the last 39 games he has appeared in.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Preseason all-MW... Played as a true freshman in 2018, despite 4 seniors on the d-line... 11 tackles this year... 2nd-team all-MW in 2021 w/ 35 tackles, 11.0 TFL, 5.0 sacks & 2 PBU... According to PFF, ranked 2nd FBS in QB hits (19) & 3rd in QB pressures (59)... MW HM in 2020 w/14 tackles (5 TFL) in 7 starts... 2nd-team all-MW pick in 2019 w/ 43 tackles, 13.5 TFL & 4.5 sacks... Had 7 tackles, inc. 1 TFL, in 12 games off the bench in 2018... Career: 110 tackles, 30.5 TFL, 9.5 sacks... Led Rio Rancho HS in the Albuquerque (N.M.) area to a 13-0 record & 2016 state championship... Had 133 tackles, 37 TFL, 18 sacks, 8 PBU, 3 FF, 3 FR & an INT in his 3 yrs at RRHS... Was all-state... Also played basketball & lettered in track & field ... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

BACKUP

30 Dominic Oliver

6-3 ◆ 230 ◆ Fr.-RS CGP: 4; CGS: 0

San Jose, Calif. (Valley Christian High)

Has one tackle on the season after moving to DE from linebacker in the fall camp... Has played just 12 snaps on the season... Redshirted last year working with the linebackers... Was a three-star recruit out of Valley Christian High School in San Jose, Calif.

INJ: No. 90 **Daniel Okpoko** (6-5, 255, Sr.-1L) ..CGP: 18; GS: 0.

Defensive Tidbits

- Kurt Mattix is serving as the defensive coordinator in his third season at San Diego State and is the first person to call the Aztec defense not named Rocky Long since 2008. Has 10 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 eight 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	70th	94th	75th	98th
2014-22	7th	6th	15th	4th

- SDSU defensive ranks under defensive coordinator Kurt Mattix (since 2020): sixth in rushing (102.4), 13th in total (325.9), 14th in pass efficiency (119.8) and T-16th in scoring (20.3).

- San Diego State has held its opponent to single digits 19 times time since 2015 (94 games) and to 10 or less points 27 times over that span.

- SDSU has allowed just 709 points over the last 40 games (17.7 ppg).

- This year opponents have had 66 drives where they have tried to score on SDSU and the Aztecs have forced three-and-outs (or less) in 26 of those drives (39.4 pct.). San Diego State averages 5.20 three-and-outs per game.

- The Aztecs have held their opponents scoreless in 10 of the 20 quarters this season.

- Over the past four-plus seasons (2018-22), San Diego State allowed only 24 rushes (out of 1,667 attempts, 1.44 pct.) for 20 or longer (seven in 188 attempts this year (3.72 pct.).

- SDSU's 135 interceptions since the 2014 season are tied for the most in the country with Iowa, while its 15 interceptions returned for a touchdown ranks in a tie for 10th.

- Since the start of the 2020 season, San Diego State has 12 non-offensive touchdowns, tied for the third most in the country over that span, trailing only Alabama (14) and Middle Tennessee (14).

LINEBACKER (SAM)

55 Cooper McDonald

6-3 ◆ 240 ◆ Jr.-TR CGP: 20; CGS: 15

Haslet, Texas (Northwest High)

TOP NOTE: Started 10 of 12 games last year as a true sophomore linebacker at Washington.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Transferred into SDSU from Washington in the spring along with tight end Mark Redman... Had six tackles (three solo) against Arizona ... FR vs. Toledo ... Has 18 tackles, a TFL, a FR & a PBU overall... Has two years of experience in the Pac-12 (Washington), having played in 15 of the 16 games the past two seasons with 10 starts... Younger brother of Colton (who played at North Texas) and Caden (sixth-year linebacker at San Diego State)... Had 25 tackles with a sack last year in 10 starts... Played in three of four games as a true freshman in 2020... Was honorable-mention all-state in high school... Ranked as nation's No. 36 inside linebacker by 247sports... Won the discus throw at the 5A state championships in 2019.

BACKUP

57 Darrell Masaniai

6-2 ◆ 220 ◆ So.-SQ CGP: 4; CGS: 0

Honolulu, Hawaii (St. Louis School)

Is on the depth chart for the first time... Made 1 tackle in his 1st 6 snaps at No. 14/15 Utah... Has played in three games overall... Did not play in 2021... Played in one game in 2020 on special teams... Played at Hawai'i high school powerhouse St. Louis School.

LINEBACKER (MIKE)

54 Caden McDonald

6-3 ◆ 235 ◆ ^Sr.-4L CGP: 53; CGS: 37

Haslet, Texas (Northwest High)

TOP NOTE: Is a two-time first-team all-Mountain West selection (2020 and 2021).

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Nagurski & Lombardi watch lists... An excellent pash rusher... His 36-game start streak is longest on the team... Has 25 tackles, 4.0 TFL, an INT & 2 PBU... Career: 144 tackles, 26 TFL, 10 SCK... 1st-team all-MW in 2021 (49 TCK, 6.5 TFL, 3.0 SCK) & in 2020 (34 TCK, 10.0 TFL & 4.5 SCK in just 8 games)... Named MW Def. PotW for play vs. UNLV on Oct. 24, 2020 (8 TCK, 3 TFL, 2.5 SCK)... Had 34 tackles in 2019 in 13 GP (10 GS), inc. 5.5 TFL, 2.5 SCK, 2 PBU, an INT & a FR... Recorded 2 tackles in 13 games off the bench in 2018... RS in 2017... Totaled a school-record 290 tackles over his 3-yr career at Northwest HS in Haslet, Texas... Was NHS's def. PotY all 3 seasons... Older brother, Colton, played at North Texas, while younger brother, Cooper, is a fellow linebacker at SDSU.

BACKUP

43 Seyddrick Lakalaka /SAID-rick/ /LOCK-ah-LOCK-ah/

6-1 ◆ 235 ◆ ^Sr.-4L CGP: 48; CGS: 11

Kalihi, Hawaii (Punahou High)

CH 44 TCK (4.5 TFL) in 14 GP (5 GS) in 2021... 28 TCK (6.0 TFL) in 2020 in 7 GP (6 GS)... 7 TCK in 2019... 3 TCK in 2018... RS in 2017... Career: 95 TCK, 12 TFL... Prepped at Punahou HS w/ fellow C Alama Uluave... Younger brother of Ronley (2015-18 LB at SDSU) & Steven (2013-16 RB at Hawai'i).

LINEBACKER (WILL)

51 Zyrus Fiaseu /fee-uh-say-so/

6-0 ◆ 230 ◆ Fr.-RS CGP: 5; CGS: 0

Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty High)

TOP NOTE: Will be making his first career start on Saturday against Hawai'i.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Hard-hitting lienbacker... Is making his first start on Saturday... Has four tackles on the season in just 16 defensive snaps... Came up with all four tackles at No. 14/15 Utah in just four snaps... Played in two games in 2021 on special teams without recording a stat... Prepped at Liberty High School in Las Vegas, helping the Patriots to a 2019 state championship... Was an all-state selection and three-time all-league pick... Ran for 2,390 yards and 29 touchdowns on offense... Picked SDSU over numerous offers, including Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska and Boise State... Is majoring in kinesiology.

BACKUP

44 Vai Kaho /vye/ /kaw-ho/

6-1 ◆ 230 ◆ Jr.-2L CGP: 23; CGS: 1

Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

Physical run-stopper... Logged four tackles (three solo), including one tackle for loss, last year in 12 games (one start vs. Air Force)... Played in seven games on special teams as a true freshman in 2020... Second-team all-state at Bishop Manogue HS with fellow Aztec Joey Wright.

INJ: No. 46 **Michael Shawcroft** (6-2, 220, Sr.-3L) ..CGP: 39; GS: 17.

FIELD CORNERBACK

10 Noah Tumblin

6-2 ◆ 185 ◆ Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 10

San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

TOP NOTE: Was a dual-threat quarterback and star point guard at nearby Mira Mesa High School.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Has three tackles, an interception and a pass breakup in five games, starting the last two... When targeted this season, QBs are 3-for-10 for 49 yards, no touchdowns and an interception (51.16 defensive pass efficiency rating)... First career INT in opener at Arizona... 2021: 32 tackles & 7 PBUs in 14 GP (8 GS)... 8 tackles, 3 PBUs vs. NMSU... 1st start at Arizona... Played in 7 games in 2020, mainly on special teams, recording 2 solo tackles... 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

12 Dallas Branch

5-11 ◆ 180 ◆ Sr.-2L CGP: 22; CGS: 7

Redondo Beach, Calif. (Salesian HS/LBCC)

Has 11 tackles, 1.0 TFL & a PBU in 5 GP (3 GS)... Had 20 tackles (2 TFL), 2 INT, 5 PBUs, a FF and a FR in 9 games (4 starts) last year... Had 7 tackles off bench in 2020... 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... An accounting major.

ALSO: No. 21 **Chris Johnson** (6-0, 170, Fr.-HS) ..CGP: 5; GS: 0.

FIELD WARRIOR

31 Davaughn Celestine

6-0 ◆ 190 ◆ Jr.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 4

Placentia, Calif. (El Dorado High)

TOP NOTE: Started for first time of his career against Idaho State on Sept. 10.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

A walk-on... Entered the season as the backup boundary warrior, but started against Idaho State (Sept. 10) for the 1st time of his career... Had a career-high 9 tackles & his 1st 2 career PBUs vs. ISU in the start after entering with 4 tackles for his career... Had 2 stops the previous week vs. Arizona in his 1st career 7 defensive snaps... Has 21 tackles, 2 PBU, 1 INT & 1 FF... Logged 2 solo tackles on special teams in 9 games in 2021... Played in 3 statless games on special 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.

BACKUP

3 Cedarious Barfield

5-11 ◆ 195 ◆ Sr.-3L CGP: 29; CGS: 14

El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

Had 5 tackles, 1.0 TFL, 1 FF & 1 FR in a start vs. Arizona... DNP vs. Idaho St.... INT vs. Toledo... Had 38 tackles (24 solo) & 3 PBU in 1st 10 games last year (9 GS) before an 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.

AZTEC

CAPTAIN C

33 Patrick McMorris

6-0 ◆ 210 ◆ Sr.-3L CGP: 34; CGS: 19

Santa Ana, Calif. (Santa Ana High)

TOP NOTE: Is the preseason Mountain West Co-Defensive Player of the Year.

On Bednarik & Nagurski WLs... Has gained 30 pounds since arriving as a true frosh in 2019... In 2021 became 1st 'Aztec' (safety) in SDSU's 3-3-5 defense to earn 1st (or 2nd) team all-MW honors since Nat Berhe in 2013... Had a TH 90 tackles (2.5 TFL), 4 INTs, FR & 9 PBUs ... MW Def. PotY for play vs. Boise St. (5 TCK, 2 INT)... 0... Logged 7 TCK, 1 TFL & 1 PBU in 1st start at Nevada (11/21/20)... Had 1 stop as a TR-Fr. in 2019... Career: 127 TCK, 5.5 TFL, 4 INT & 12 PBU... Played 1 year at Santa Ana HS (10-3), running for 1,801 yds & 23 TD... Had 99 stops on defense w/2 INT... Previously starred at Godinez HS... Is a triplet w/ 2 sisters... Brother, Hakim, is a decathlete at Cal.

BACKUP

19 Kyron White

5-11 ◆ 210 ◆ Jr.-2L CGP: 23; CGS: 1

Fort Worth, Texas (Arlington High)

Missed 1st 2 games (team suspension)... 1st career start vs. Toledo... Had 8 tackles in 13 games in 2021 w/ only 5 on defense... Had 3 tackles in 69 snaps vs. Utah w/ McMorris ejected (targeting) in 1st half (entered game w/ 6 career snaps)... FF vs. USU... 2021: 3 tackles & FF in 6 games on ST... 2019: 1 GP... Prepped at Arlington HS in Arlington, Texas... Is majoring in biology.

BOUNDARY WARRIOR

6 CJ Baskerville

6-2 ◆ 200 ◆ So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 9

North Richland, Texas (Richland High)

TOP NOTE: Was named the Frisco Bowl Defensive MVP after making nine tackles with an interception.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

A young, athletic safety... Has 31 tackles (17 solo) & 1.5 TFL... Was third on depth chart after 2021 fall camp but moved into the two-deep prior to the New Mexico game on Oct. 9... Had 39 tackles (23 solo), 1 TFL, 3 PBUs, an INT & a FR... Became just the second true freshman safety (Tariq Thompson) to start in SDSU's 3-3-5 defense since 2009... CH & TM nine tackles vs. Utah State... Was all-district as a S & a WR at Richland High School... Also competed in track & field in the 200 meters and long jump... Is majoring in business.

BACKUP

27 Isaiah McElvane

6-0 ◆ 195 ◆ Jr.-2L CGP: 24; CGS: 0

San Jose, Calif. (Valley Christian High)

Athletic safety, who mainly plays on special team... Enters this week's game with one career defensive snap (Sept. 10 vs. Idaho State)... Has three tackles... Had four tackles on special teams in 2021, playing all 14 games... Played five games as true freshman in COVID shortened 2020 campaign... Prepped at Valley Christian High in San Jose, Calif.

CORNERBACK

32 Dez Malone

6-2 ◆ 200 ◆ So.-1L CGP: 15; CGS: 3

Fresno, Calif. (Edison High)

TOP NOTE: Logged his first career start on Sept. 17 at No. 14/15 Utah, tying a team high with six tackles.

Notes: *Current; Career; Personal*

Is on the two-deep for the 1st time of his career... Has his first 19 tackles, 2 PBUs & an INT in 1st career defensive snaps (212)... Had a tackle in his 1st career defensive snaps (18) vs. Arizona on Sept. 3... Made 4 stops in 49 snaps vs. Idaho State (Sept. 10)... Had CH 6 tackles in 1st career start at Utah (Sept. 17)... 5 tackles, PBU vs. Toledo... 1st INT at BS... Saw action in 8 games in 2021 on special teams... Moved from S to CB in 2021 fall camp... Played 2 games on special teams in 2020 before redshirting... A 3-star recruit out of Edison HS in Fresno... Was a 2x 1st-team all-league pick & a team captain.

BACKUP

17 Noah Avinger

6-1 ◆ 190 ◆ So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 5

Cerritos, Calif. (Servite High)

Has 10 tackles & a PBU (8 TCK, 1 PBU vs. UA) (2 GS)... In 2021 became 3rd true freshman to start in the 3-3-5 defense since it started at SDSU in 2009... Had 15 tackles, an INT, 2 PBus & a FR in 12 games with 3 starts... Had 5 tackles vs. NMSU in 1st start... Two-time all-state pick at powerhouse Servite High School... Brother, Lucky, is an Aztec RB, while twin sister, Asia, is on the SDSU WBB team.

Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list