

San Diego State Aztecs

2016 Record: 11-3; 8-0 MW; MW Champs; Hawai'i Bowl Champs
Six Straight Bowl Game Appearances
20-Time Conference Champions



Jeff Horton

Assoc. HC/Off. Coordinator/RB's Coach

- Second season as offensive coordinator (sixth year at SDSU overall)
- Spent the final five games of 2011 as the interim head coach at Minnesota
- 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

LEFT TACKLE

75 Kwayde Miller
6-7 • 315 • Sr.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 14
Ramona, Calif. (Ramona HS)

TOP NOTE: Started all 14 games last year after playing in just three games total from 2012-14.

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Pronounced: KWAYD ... Big, tall lineman who took over the blind spot last year from two-time all-MW pick & 2015 NFL fourth-round draftee Terry Poole ... Started all 14 games last season ... Logged his 1st career snaps in the 2014 opener vs. NAU ... Also played off the bench vs. FS & SIS ... Did not see any action during his freshman season in 2013 ... Redshirted in 2012 ... Switched off-offensive line from right end during his junior year at Ramona HS ... Was a 3-star recruit by Rivals, Scout & ESPN ... Also played basketball & was on the T&F team at Ramona HS ... A social science major.

BACKUP

74 Tyler Roemer
6-7 • 305 • Fr.-HS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Fernley, Nev. (Fernley HS)

Notes: One of only two true freshmen on the offensive two-deep (also LG Keith Ismael) ... Was all-league and all-state at both offensive and defensive line at Fernley HS in Nevada ... Also played two years of basketball.

LEFT GUARD

56 Nico Siragusa
6-5 • 335 • Sr.-3L CGP: 40; CGS: 28
Chula Vista, Calif. (Mater Dei Catholic HS)

TOP NOTE: Is the only Aztec on the offensive line who has at least one start over last three seasons (2013-15).

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Pronounced: sar- GOOSE-uh ... On the Outland Trophy Watch List (outstanding interior lineman) ... Has just as many career starts (28) as the rest of the SDSU offensive line combined ... Is a preseason 2nd-team All-American by *Phil Steele Magazine* ... Was a 1st-team all-MW pick last year ... Career starts: 14 at LG in 2015, 13 at LG in 2014, 1 at RG in 2013 ... Was the only SDSU frosh (RS or start) to start 2013 opener ... Final 12 GP of 2013 were on special teams ... RS in 2012 ... Was an all-CF 1st-team selection & a 1st-team all-state pick at local Mater Dei HS in Chula Vista, Calif. ... Also was 3-year letterwinner in basketball ... A social science major.

BACKUP

60 Keith Ismael
6-3 • 310 • Fr.-HS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Daly City, Calif. (Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep.)

Notes: Joins backup LT Tyler Roemer as the only 2 true freshmen on the offensive 2-deep ... Was a 1st-team all-league pick & 2nd-team all-Metro selection as a senior at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. ... Also played lax at SHCP.

CAPTAIN

CENTER

70 Arthur Flores
6-5 • 305 • Sr.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 14
Denver, Colo. (J.K. Mullen HS)

TOP NOTE: Was the only Aztec on offense who started the 2015 opener having never played in a collegiate game.

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
On the Rimington Trophy Watch List (most outstanding center) ... Athletic lineman who will start at center vs. New Hampshire for the 15th straight game ... Moved to center in spring 2015 after playing guard his first 3 years at SDSU ... From the same high school (J.K. Mullen) as former 2-time all-MW 2nd-team center Alec Johnson (2011-12) ... Did not play in 2013 or 2014 ... Redshirted his 1st year at SDSU in 2012 ... Was the 9th-ranked RS recruit out of Colorado, earning 1st-team all-state & all-conference as a junior in 2011 ... A 3-star recruit by ESPN & Scout ... Helped J.K. Mullen to 3 state titles ... Also was all-state in track & field.

BACKUP

62 Nick Gerhard
6-5 • 300 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Arlington, TX (Mansfield Timberview HS)

Notes: Pronounced GAIR-hard ... On the two-deep in his first official playing season ... Redshirted his first year at SDSU in 2015 ... Was a first-team all-district & all-state pick at Mansfield Timberview HS in Arlington, Texas.

RIGHT GUARD

67 Antonio Rosales
6-4 • 295 • Jr.-1L CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Tucson, Ariz. (Tucson Magnet HS)

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Physical, offensive lineman who continues to get bigger ... Is the co-starter with Daishawn Dixon heading into the opener with New Hampshire ... Played in six games off the bench in 2015 ... Did not see any action in 2014 ... Redshirted in 2013 ... A three-star recruit by ESPN and 247sports at Tucson Magnet HS ... A social science major.

OR

RIGHT GUARD

79 Daishawn Dixon
6-5 • 340 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
San Antonio, TX (William Howard Taft HS)

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Big body who is looking to see his 1st career action this year ... Is listed as the co-starter at RG heading into the opener ... Redshirted his 1st season at SDSU last year ... Played for the U.S. National Select Team in a 2015 win over the IFAF World Team at AT&T Stadium in Jan. 2015 ... A 1st-team all-district pick ... A business admin major

RIGHT TACKLE

71 Daniel Brunskill
6-5 • 260 • Sr.-3L CGP: 40; CGS: 18
Valley Center, Calif. (Valley Center HS)

TOP NOTE: Moving to right tackle after being named a *Pro Football Focus* HM All-American last year at right end.

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
On the Wuerffel Trophy Watch List (top community service) ... Good blocking tight end, who moved to right tackle in the fall with injuries to the offensive line ... Was named an honorable-mention all-MW pick by the MW coaches & media in 2016 ... Has three career touchdown catches and 15 receptions overall ... 2015: Started all 14 games, making 10 catches with two touchdowns ... 2014: Started four games and played in all 13, making five catches (one TD) ... 2013: Played in all 13 games ... 2012: Redshirt ... First-team all-CF all-league and all-county as a senior at Valley Center HS ... Majoring in civil engineering.

BACKUP

72 Derrick Achayo
6-4 • 285 • Jr.-TR CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Roseville, CA (Oakmont HS/Sierra College)

Notes: Pronounced ah-CHAY-oh ... Joined SDSU in the spring out of Sierra College ... Was an All-America Community College player of Sierra, as well as first-team all-region performer ... All-league at Oakmont High.

FULLBACK

15 Nick Bawden
6-3 • 240 • Jr.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 2
Los Gatos, Calif. (Los Gatos HS)

Former quarterback, who moved to fullback in the fall of 2015 ... Put on 20 pounds of muscle since switching positions ... Coach Long called him the most improved player in the spring ... Played in nine games in 2015 ... Was 13-for-38 (34.2 pct.) with a TD and two HBS in 2014 ... Was a three-star QB out of Los Gatos High School by ESPN, Scout and 247sports.

FULLBACK

41 Dakota Turner
6-3 • 250 • Jr.-2L CGP: 18; CGS: 0
Mililani, Hawaii (Mililani HS)

Moved to fullback in the fall after playing regularly as a backup d-linebacker each of the past 2 years ... Is coming off a torn ACL in his left knee ... Was leading tackler off the bench on the DL (15) in 6 games before injuring knee at Hawaii ... Had 18 stops in 12 games in 2014 ... Redshirted in 2013 ... 1st-team all-state at Mililani HS in Hawaii in 2012 ... A bus. admin. major.

No. 3 RUNNING BACK

29 Juwan Washington
5-7 • 190 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS)

Notes: Has a great blend of speed and power ... Is expected to play Saturday vs. New Hampshire for 1st time of career ... Redshirted his 1st season at SDSU in 2015 ... Rushed for 5,139 yards & 75 TDs, averaging 9.5 yards per carry at Kennedale HS ... Had 5 3,000-yard games in HS.

RUNNING BACK

19 Donnel Pumphrey
5-9 • 180 • Sr.-3L CGP: 40; CGS: 28
Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs HS)

TOP NOTE: Is just 318 rushing yards (currently at 4,272) shy of breaking Marshall Faulk's career program record of 4,589 yards.

2015 Stats:
Rushing: GP 65 Att. Yds. Avg. TD Lg. 100+ No. Yds. Avg. TD Lg. 14 14 309 1.63 5.3 17 72 9 28 416 416 3 40
On Walter Camp, Maxwell & Doak Walker Award Watch Lists ... Is the pre-MW Off. Boy ... Is also 2nd all-time at SDSU in overall TDs (50), rush TDs (45) & all-purpose yds (5,145) ... Has 22 career 100-yd games, which is 22 at SDSU & in MW history ... Leads all active FBS players in rushing yds (4,272) & all-purpose yds (5,142) ... Was 1 of 4 in FBS last year to lead team in rushing & receptions ... Has 9 100-yd rushing games en route to being named a SLM, AA & the MW Off. Boy ... 2014 FBS ranks: 4th in RYPP (143.6), 8th in APYPP (155.9), 9th in rush TDs (20) & RYPC (6.8) & 1st-team all-MW ... Had 752 yds & 8 TD as a TR-Fr. in 2013 ... First 31st-team all-MW ... In 3 straight games since Marshall Faulk in 1991 ... New. Gatorade Pk at CHS in 2012 ... Had 4,152 yds & 49 TDs over HS career ... Comm. major.

BACKUP

20 Rashaad Penny
5-11 • 220 • Jr.-2L CGP: 27; CGS: 4
Norwalk, Calif. (Norwalk HS)

Notes: Named pre-MW ST ParV & 2nd-tm AA by 2 publications ... Is 1st among active FBS leaders in KR avg. (29.6) ... Was MW ST ParV last year, ranking 2nd in KR avg. (33.5) & 2nd in KR TDs (3) ... 2015: rush - 61-368 TD 0 rec - 8-120-1 (15.0); KR - 24-804-3 (33.5) ... Was 25th in FBS in 2014 w/25 KR avg. ... Had 2,504 rush yds & 41 TDs as HS Sr. ... Brother, Ephraim, led Idaho in rushing.

QUARTERBACK

10 Christian Chapman
6-0 • 200 • So.-1L CGP: 9; CGS: 2
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

TOP NOTE: Is 2-0 as a starting quarterback, winning both the 2015 MW Championship game and the Hawai'i Bowl.

2015 Stats:
GP 65 Att. Cmp. Pct. Int. TD Yds. Rtg. 9 2 49 29 59.2 1 2 436 143.31
Notes: Mobile, accurate quarterback with a quick release ... Has a ton of potential ... Had the 3rd-best pass eff. rating in FBS from Dec. 3, 2015 (Chapman's 1st start) until the end of the season (200.58, min. 25 at-tempts) ... Threw for 436 yards last year with no interceptions over his final 39 attempts ... Posted the 2nd-best pass eff. (209.7) among QBs making their debut in MW Championship vs. AFA (9-for-14, 1 TD, 0 INT) en route to being named the game's MVP ... Was 1 of 3 true freshmen QB's on the depth chart in 2014 & traveled to every road contest, but ended up redshirting ... Was a 3-star recruit by Rivals, Scout & ESPN at local Carlsbad High School ... Was a 2-time All-Avocado League selection, passing for 1,986 yards & 23 TDs as a senior.

BACKUP

9 Ryan Agnew
6-0 • 185 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Southlake, Texas (Carroll HS)

Notes: Athletic, mobile quarterback with an accurate arm ... Redshirted in 2015 at SDSU, where he was named the team's offensive scout player of the year ... Passed for 6,967 yards & 56 touchdowns over three years at Carroll High in Southlake, Texas ... Also rushed for 2,286 yards & 38 TDs.

Offensive Tidbits

- Several of the Aztec offensive players are on watch lists for the nation's top player at their position, including TE (now RT) Daniel Brunskill (Wuerffel), C Arthur Flores (Rimington), RB Donnel Pumphrey (Walter Camp, Maxwell, Doak Walker) and RG Nico Siragusa (Outland).
- Associate head coach and running backs coach Jeff Horton is in his second year as offensive coordinator at SDSU. In his sixth year overall at San Diego State, Horton has head coaching stints at Minnesota (interim in 2011), UNLV (1994-98) and Nevada (1993).
- SDSU is 42-11 in the Rocky Long era when scoring just 20 or more points.
- San Diego State has won 22 of 24 and 26 of 29 when having less turnovers than its opponent.
- The Aztecs had a school-record 3,266 rushing yards last season (previous best was 2,869 in 2012).
- SDSU has a 1,000-yard rusher in six straight seasons for the first time in program history. Donnel Pumphrey (1,653) and Chase Price (1,008) gave San Diego State multiple 1,000-yard rushers for the first time in school history in 2015.
- The Aztecs have won 23 straight games when rushing for at least 200 yards (31-2 in the Rocky Long era).
- San Diego State had 200-plus rushing yards in 10 straight games last year in the same season for the first time in its Division I history (since 1969).
- SDSU has a 100-yard rusher in 27 of its past 35 games and has a total of 31, 100-yard rushers during that span.
- San Diego State is 20-1 in program history when it has two 100-yard rushers, including three times last year - Oct. 3 vs. Fresno State, Nov. 14 vs. Wyoming and Nov. 28 vs. Nevada.
- The Aztecs have 207 passes without throwing an interception, the longest-active streak in FBS).
- SDSU has not turned the ball over in its last 285 snaps from scrimmage (dates back to third quarter of Nov. 14 game vs. Wyoming).

Z RECEIVER

6 Mikah Holder
6-0 • 180 • Jr.-2L CGP: 24; CGS: 11
Oceanside, Calif. (Oceanside HS)

TOP NOTE: Brother, King, lettered at SDSU from 2011-13 at cornerback, starting during the 2013 season.

2015 Stats:
GP 65 Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD 14 11 24 439 18.3 48 6

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
An athletic, playmaker with good hands ... Had 24 catches for a team-high 439 yards (18.3 avg.) and six touchdowns ... His six touchdowns were the most by an Aztec wide receiver since Colin Lockett had eight in 2011 and were tied for the sixth most in the MW ... CHS of 4 rec. & 78 yds with a TD at PSU ... 2 TD vs. WYO ... Played in final 10 games in 2014 as a TR-Frosh, making 5 rec. for 53 yds (10.6 avg.) ... Had 3 rec. for 33 yds (11.0 avg.) in 1st career game vs. UNLV ... Was a 3-star recruit from all the major recruiting services out of nearby Oceanside HS ... Had 41 rec. for 1,229 yds & 11 TD as a Sr. ... A social science major.

BACKUP

5 Chase Favreau
6-1 • 200 • Jr.-2L CGP: 21; CGS: 5
Huntington Beach, Calif. (Edison High)

Notes: Came to SDSU as a left-handed QB in the spring of 2013, but moved to WR after 2014 fall camp ... Improved route-runner with good hands ... 2015: 2 rec. in 14 GP (5 GP) ... 2014: 2 rec. in 7 GP ... 2013: Redshirt ... Helped Edison HS go undefeated as a senior ... A comm. major.

X RECEIVER

81 Eric Judge
6-1 • 190 • Sr.-3L CGP: 39; CGS: 8
San Diego, Calif. (San Diego HS)

TOP NOTE: Has the second-highest career reception average (18.9) by an Aztec since 1996 (min. 20 rec.) (Derrick Lewis, 20.5 from 1999-01).

2015 Stats:
GP 65 Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD 14 11 24 439 18.3 48 6

Notes: Big-play receiver with excellent speed ... Has been a starter throughout his career when healthy ... Has seven career touchdown receptions, the most of any current Aztec ... 2015: Had 15 catches for 296 yards (19.7 avg.) and two touchdowns ... 2014: Led SDSU in receiving yards (471) and reception avg. (19.6), adding 24 catches ... The 19.6 YPC was second best at SDSU since 1996 (min. 20 rec.) ... 2013: 218 yards and three touchdowns in 13 games ... 2012: Redshirt ... Played locally at SDHS ... Had three games with 100-plus yards ... A social science major.

BACKUP

97 Curtis Anderson III
6-3 • 200 • Sr.-1L CGP: 6; CGS: 1
Palmdale, Calif. (Pete Knight HS/Antelope Valley College)

Notes: Battled injuries last year in his 1st season at SDSU, starting one & playing in 6 games ... Had a 6-yd catch at Hawai'i & started at San Jose State ... Played 2 years at Antelope Valley College, combining for 34 rec., 387 yds & 4 TDs ... A social science major ... Prepped at Pete Knight HS.

TIGHT END

88 David Wells
6-5 • 255 • Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 0
Clovis, Calif. (Clovis North HS)

TOP NOTE: Played in each of the last 26 games off the bench after not playing in the 2014 opener vs. Northern Arizona.

2015 Stats:
GP 65 Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD 14 0 0 4 22 5.5 10 0

Notes: Tall, big body with great hands ... Expected to start for 1st time of career vs. UNLV ... Had 4 catches for 22 yards (5.5 avg.) last year ... Former final 12 games in 2014, mostly on ST ... RS in 2013 as a true frosh ... Played QB, who converted to TE late in prep career at Clovis North HS ... 1st-team all-league & all-Valley of CHS ... 3-star recruit by Rivals.

BACKUP

84 Darryl Richardson
6-5 • 255 • Jr.-2L CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Seffner, FL (Armwood HS)

Notes: Big, athletic TE who played QB in HS ... Played in 5 games in 2015 ... DNP in 2014 ... RS in 2013 ... Led Armwood HS to a state title ... Was a 4-star recruit as a dual-threat QB by ESPN ... Majoring in social science.

OR

87 Kahale Warring
6-6 • 245 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Sonora, Calif. (Sonora HS)

Notes: Has shown dramatic improvement in 1 year at SDSU, putting on 25 lbs. ... RS in 2015 ... Played just 1 year of football in HS, while also excelling in basketball & water polo ... Full name: Kahale Kaioa Kahale Michael Wadehouse Warring.

SPECIALISTS

PAT'S/FG'S: 29 John Baron II, 5-11, 190, So.-50
• FG/FGA: 0-for-0 (0.00) | Long: N/A | PAT'S: 0-for-0 (0.00)
Punts: 91 Tammer Blain, 6-0, 205, Sr.-1L
• Punt: 77 | Avg.: 40.3 | Long: 63 | TB: 8 | 120: 25 | 50+: 8
Kickoffs: 29 John Baron II, 5-11, 190, So.-50
• KO: 0 | Avg.: 0.0 | TB: 0 | OB: 0 | Avg. Opp. Start: N/A
Long Snapper: 50 Turner Bernard, 6-1, 200, Fr.-HS
Holder: 91 Tammer Blain, 6-0, 205, Sr.-1L
Kick Returns: 20 Rashaad Penny ◀ 85 Quest Truxton
• Penny: KR: 24 | Yds: 804 | Avg.: 33.5 | TD: 3 | Long: 100
Punt Returns: 19 Donnel Pumphrey
• PR: 0 | Yds: 0 | Avg.: 0.0 | TD: 0 | Long: 30

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Six Straight Bowl Game Appearances
20-Time Conference Champions



Rocky Long Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator

- Three-Time Conference Coach of the Year
- All-time winningest coach in Mountain West history
- Has led San Diego State to 20 come-from-behind victories
- Defensive unit ranked in top 10 in all four major categories in 2016
- 12 players selected in the NFL Draft in his five seasons as head coach

DEFENSIVE END

59 Kyle Kelley

6-3 • 260 • Sr.-1L CGP: 26; CGS: 2
Irvine, Calif. (Woodbridge HS/Saddleback College)
TOP NOTE: Had a Hawai'i Bowl-record 3.5 sacks vs. Cincinnati on Dec. 24, 2015, in just his second career start.

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Excellent pass rusher who has gotten better each game... Second year at SDSU after playing the 2014 season at Saddleback College & 2013 at Arizona... Led SDSU in quarterback hurries (11) last year & ranked 2nd in sacks (7.5), despite starting just two times... His 3.5 sacks in the Hawai'i Bowl were tied for the 3rd most in a game in program history... First 10 games last year: 8 tackles, 2 TFL, 1.0 sack & 1 PBU. Final 4 games: 16 tackles, 7 TFL, 6.5 sacks & 1 FF... Earned 1st career start against Air Force in the MW Championship... Had 46 tackles, 9.5 sacks & 13 TFL in 2014 at Saddleback College... Played 12 games in 2013 at Arizona with 1 stop... RS in 2012... A 4-star Kivals recruit out of Woodbridge HS, where he was a PrepStar & Parade All-American... Is majoring in social science.

BACKUP

45 Fred Melifonwu

6-5 • 250 • Jr.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Lincoln HS)
Notes: Originally a DE in high school, who moved to LB when he arrived at SDSU, before moving back to DE in the fall... Only played in 1 game last year... Had 6 tackles, 2.5 TFL & 2 sacks in all 13 games in 2014... Redshirted in 2013... Local product out of Lincoln HS... A social science major.

LINEBACKER

54 Calvin Munson

6-1 • 245 • Sr.-3L CGP: 38; CGS: 27
St. Charles, Mo. (Francis Howell HS)
TOP NOTE: His three career interceptions returned for a touchdown are tied for the most in SDSU history with Ricky Parker (1996-99).

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
On Anational preseason watch lists (Nagurski, Bednarik, Burkus & Lott IMPACT)... Also a preseason all-MW pick... Was a 1st-team all-MW selection last year, totaling 98 tackles, 15.0 TFL, 9.5 sacks, 2 INT (both for TD), 2 FF, 2 FR & 2 PBU... Named SDSU Co-Def. POY in 2014... Earned national Def. POY honors (Walker Camp & Lott IMPACT) & MW PoW accolades after posting 10 tackles, w/ 2 INT returns for TD & a FR vs. USD... 2014 HM all-MW... Avg. 36.5 yds per INT return in 2014, which ranked 3rd in FBS... Named SDSU Def. POY in 2014... 2013: 4 tackles on ST... Career: 185 tackles, 25.5 TFL, 13.5 sacks, 6 INT, 4 FF, 2 PBU... A health communication major... Father, Kurt, was an OL at Oregon St... Drafted in 31st round of 2013 MLB Draft by STL... Also pitched on SDSU baseball team in 2013.

BACKUP

44 Kyahwa /Key-AH-va/ Tezino /tah-ZEENO/

6-0 • 230 • Fr.-RS CGP: 10; CGS: 0
Los Angeles, Calif. (Salesian HS)
Notes: Explosive athlete who is expected to log key snaps this year in his redshirt freshman year... Redshirted 2015, where he was named the team's defensive scout player of the year... Rushed for 1,704 yards & 13 TDs on offense & made 343 tackles at Salesian HS... A 4-star recruit.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

95 Noble Hall /nobel/

6-3 • 265 • So.-1L CGP: 11; CGS: 3
Las Vegas, Nev. (Valley High)
TOP NOTE: Was the only Aztec freshman to start the 2015 opener (defense or offense), starting at defensive tackle.

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Athletic, mobile defensive lineman... Started three times and played in 11 games as a redshirt freshman last year... Had 20 tackles in 2015, including six tackles for loss, 0.5 sacks, a forced fumble and a pass breakup... Starts came in the first three games vs. San Diego, California and South Alabama... 2014 SDSU Defensive Scout Team Player of the Year, while redshirting... 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 Burrall, but legally changed his name to honor his father, who was shot and killed before he was born.

BACKUP

65 Sergio Phillips

6-2 • 295 • Jr.-2L CGP: 15; CGS: 0
DeSoto, Texas (DeSoto HS)
Notes: Was recruited on OL, but played DL in 2014, OL in 2015 and back to DL since AFA game last year with injuries to DL... Played in eight games last year (six on OL, two on DL)... Had 5 tackles, 2.0 TFL & a sack in 2014... A 3-star recruit out of DeSoto HS... A criminal justice major.

LINEBACKER

40 Randy Ricks

6-5 • 230 • Sr.-1L CGP: 9; CGS: 2
Las Vegas, Nev. (Legacy HS/Arizona Western College)
TOP NOTE: Ranked fourth on the team in quarterback hurries last year, despite playing in only one of the 14 games (two starts).

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Big body who has experience playing both linebacker & at defensive line... Originally signed with the Aztecs in 2012, but didn't join SDSU until the fall of 2015... Played in 9 games with 2 starts last year, missing 4 games with a toe injury... Had 22 tackles, 5.0 TFL, 2.5 sacks, 4 PBU & 2 FF in 2015... Spent 2 seasons at Arizona Western College... Posted 43 tackles, 8.5 sacks & 3 forced fumbles in 2014, helping the Matadors to a 11-1 overall record... In 2013, made 36 tackles, 16 TFL, 3 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries & 3 PBUs... Was named the defensive MVP at the El Toro Bowl, recording 3 sacks, 5 tackles & a FF... Played both defensive line & linebacker at Legacy High in Las Vegas, where he was a 2-time All-American... Also played basketball & competed in track & field.

BACKUP

57 Ryan Dunn

6-3 • 230 • Jr.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 13
Alamo, CA (San Ramon Valley HS/Univ. of Arizona)
Notes: Started all 13 games he played in last year... Had 40 tackles and 4.5 tackles for loss... Sat out in 2014 after transferring from Arizona, where he redshirted in 2013... Prepped at San Ramon Valley HS... A consensus 3-star recruit who played in the BMW West Coast Bowl & Cal State All-Star Game.

DEFENSIVE END

58 Alex Barrett /bear-it/

6-3 • 255 • Sr.-3L CGP: 36; CGS: 24
Mesa, Ariz. (Desert Ridge HS)
TOP NOTE: Last year became SDSU's first defensive lineman to earn first-team all-MW honors since 2006 (Anthony Applewhite).

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Is a preseason 1st-team all-MW selection by all the major publications & the MW media... Is the only Aztec to be named the team's defensive lineman of the year twice since the award started in 2011... Has the most tackles for loss (27) & the 2nd-most sacks (11.5) of any current Aztec, despite starting just 24 times... Career: 116 tackles, 27.0 TFL, 11.5 sacks, 2 INT (1 TD), 4 PBU, 2 FF... Was a 1st-team all-MW pick last year... Had 62 tackles in 2014 to go along with 13 TFL, 5.5 sacks, 2 interceptions, 2 forced fumbles & a PBU... Named 2014 MW honorable mention as a sophomore, despite missing the final 3 games due to injury (foot)... Earned team's defensive lineman of the year... Was a 2-time 1st-team all-state at Desert Ridge HS... Also played OL & lettered in track & field... Criminal justice major.

BACKUP

90 Julian Rochelin

6-5 • 245 • So.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 0
Woodland Hills, Calif. (El Camino Real HS)
Notes: Athletic body, who comes from a basketball background... Is an 2-deep for 4th straight game... 1st 2 career tackles, sack & TFL at UNLV... Redshirted the 2014 season... Was WFL Def. Player of the Year in 2013 with 114 tackles, 8 sacks, 2 FF & 2 FR... A business management major.

LINEBACKER

39 Ronley /ron-lee/ Lakalaka /lock-ah-lock-ah/

6-0 • 235 • So.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 0
Kalihi, Hawaii (Punahou HS)
TOP NOTE: One of two San Diego State players on the defensive side of the ball scheduled to make his first start Saturday (Derek Babash).

Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Is expected to start Saturday for the first time of his career... Physical linebacker who has a ton of potential... One of two players on the team from Hawaii (also fullback Dakota Turner)... Played in 11 consecutive games (starting with Penn State, Sept. 26, 2015)... Was one of two true freshmen on the depth chart in either side of the ball last season (also safety Parker Baldwin)... Has 11 tackles, including a career-high three tackles at San Jose State (Oct. 17, 2015)... Middle name is *Soumanvasee* (68 points on Scrabble (includes 50 points for using all tiles))... A business administration with an emphasis on finance... Was two-time all-state first-team selection at Punahou High.

BACKUP

43 Austin Wyatt-Thayer

6-5 • 230 • Sr.-1L CGP: 12; CGS: 1
Paradise, Calif. (Sierra College)
Notes: Played in nine consecutive games... Made his first career start in the Hawai'i Bowl against Cincinnati last season... Was a two-time all-MW-Cal League pick at Sierra College & a captain in 2014... His 119 tackles in 2013 were second nd 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 CB Damontae Kazez (Thorpe) LB Calvin Munson (Nagurski, Burkus).
- Rocky Long is serving as the team's defensive coordinator for the eighth straight season (includes all six as head coach). Since he's taken over as the defensive coordinator in 2009, SDSU's defense ranks 21st in yards allowed per rush (3.7), 25th in total defense (356.4), 31st in rushing yards allowed per game (143.8) and 34th in points allowed per game (24.1).
- San Diego State had posted two of the best defensive seasons in each of the last two seasons. Below are comparisons of the past two seasons and total rankings over the last two years:

	Scoring	Total	Pass. Eff.	Rush Avg.
2014	13th	16th	19th	37th
2015	7th	5th	10th	5th
2014-15	3rd	7th	11th	22nd

- Since Oct. 3, 2014 (includes 23 SDSU games), San Diego State ranks fourth nationally in yards allowed per game (295.3).
- The Aztecs have allowed just 261 points in their last 17 games (15.8 ppg).
- SDSU had the ninth-best defensive third-down conversion percentage (28.9) in FBS and No. 1 in the Mountain West.
- San Diego State has held 16 straight league opponents below 400 yards of total offense, the longest active streak in FBS (league games only), and 11 straight games overall (2nd).
- Over the Aztecs' last 15 Mountain West contests (does not include MW Championship), opponents have scored just 151.3 points per game vs. SDSU and only 263.9 yards per game.
- SDSU has forced three or more turnovers in six of last seven contests.
- Over the last 129 offensive drives vs. SDSU (since the second half at Penn State), opponents have totaled just 117 points, 2,541 yards, 40 three and outs, 145 first downs and 4.17 yards per play (609 plays). During that span, opponents have 37-for-136 on third-down conversions (27.2 percent).

CORNERBACK

31 Derek Babish /BAB-ish/

6-1 • 190 • Jr.-1L CGP: 16; CGS: 0
Poway, CA (Poway HS/Univ. of Ariz.)
Notes: '16; Career; Personal
One of three players on SDSU roster who played at UA in 2013 (Ryan Dunn and Kyle Kelley).

TOP NOTE: Fantastic athlete, who also was an all-star basketball & track runner in high school... Scheduled to make his first career start on Saturday... One of only two first-time starters Saturday on defensive side of the ball (Ronley Lakalaka)... In his fourth season as a collegiate athlete in played nine games as a true freshman at Arizona in 2013, SDSU redshirt in 2014, played final seven games of 2015 campaign as a sophomore at SDSU... Has five career tackles and three career PBUs (all last season)... Had two tackles in nine games as a true-freshman at Arizona in 2013... A communication major.

BACKUP

24 Billy Vaughn, Jr.

6-1 • 190 • Jr.-2L CGP: 23; CGS: 0
Los Angeles, Calif. (Dorsey HS)
Notes: An athletic playmaker... Listed as a backup corner for the second consecutive season... In 2015, had 11 tackles (nine on special teams) in eight games... Had 30 sacks (19 solo), an INT & a PBU in 2014 games... Had 2 stops & blocked kick in 2013 opener before redshirting with an injury... Career: 43 tackles, 1 INT & 3 PBU... A 3-star recruit by ESPN & track stand-out at Dorsey HS... A business admin. major.

WARRIOR

12 Malik Smith /mah-LEEK/

6-0 • 190 • Sr.-3L CGP: 39; CGS: 27
Compton, Calif. (Dominguez HS)
Notes: '16; Career; Personal
One of two SDSU safeties to earn multiple all-MW honors under Rocky Long (current NYG Nat Berhe).

TOP NOTE: Two-time all-MW honorable-mention... Has played last 39 games & started last 27... Has been a part of a turnover in 6 of last 7 games (5 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery)... Had 77 tackles, 5.0 TFL, 5 INT, 9 PBU, a FF & a FR in 2015... Career-high 11 stops vs. So. Ala. (2015)... MW Def. POW on Nov. 30, 2015... Earned HM all-MW honors as a TR-soph. (2014), recording 55 tackles, 3.5 TFL, 7 PBUs, 3 INT & a FR in 2014... Has 3 career games with 10+ tackles... 21 stops in 2013 as true freshman... Career: 153 tackles, 8.5 TFL, 8 INT, 16 PBU, 1 FF, 2 FR... Quoted in an article as saying "Football saved my life"... A criminal justice major.

BACKUP

10 Jeff Clay

6-0 • 195 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Lancaster, Calif. (Antelope Valley HS)
Notes: A smart player looking to see action as a redshirt freshman... Currently listed as the backup behind two-time all-Mountain West selection Malik Smith... Redshirted in 2015 and was named SDSU special teams scout team player of the year... An environmental engineering major.

AZTEC

21 Na'im McGee /nye-EM/

6-0 • 200 • Sr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 24
Oakland, CA (St. Mary's HS/Diablo Valley College)
Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Was the defensive most valuable player of the Mountain West Championship (15) with 10 tackles.

TOP NOTE: Plays the signature position in Rocky Long's 3-3-5 defense... Plays the signature position in Rocky Long's 3-3-5 defense... Started last year (in 2015): 19 tackles, 1 TFL... Added 10 lbs. to his frame since 2014... Has made at least 3 tackles in 22 of his 26 college games... Career: 144 tackles... Three career games with double-digit tackles... Played 1 year at DVC, earning 1st-team all-conference... A criminal justice major... Was a 2-time All-American at St. Mary's HS... A member of the Stockton (Calif.) Athletic Hall of Fame... A 3-star recruit (Rivals.com).

BACKUP

33 Parker Baldwin

6-2 • 215 • So.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 0
Siloam Springs, Ark. (Siloam Sprgs, HS)
Notes: Played all 14 games as a true freshman in 2015... Was named team's Freshman of the Year... Ranked second on the team as a freshman in special teams tackles (10)... Only true freshman to see action in 2015 opener... Had 14 tackles, an INT & a FF... Earned all-state accolades as a Sr... Scored 8 TDs & had 758 rec. yds, 135 rush yds & 134 catches in his final HS season... Was the state champ in the 200m dash.

WARRIOR

3 Trey Lomax

5-11 • 195 • Jr.-2L CGP: 17; CGS: 13
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa HS)
Notes: '16; Career; Personal
In 2014 had the most tackles (63) by a freshman in the Rocky Long era (since 2009).

TOP NOTE: Fantastic athlete, who is coming off a pair of solid seasons... Battled injuries last year and had nine tackles and a fumble recovery in five games (three games started)... Named the team's most outstanding freshman (2014) with 63 stops & two fumble recoveries... Career: 72 tackles, 4 TFL, 1 sack, 3 PBU, 3 FR... Redshirted the 2013 campaign... Was also recruited to play baseball at SDSU... Offensive conference MVP at Mira Mesa High School... Also hit .341 & was a two-time first-team all-league baseball selection... Is majoring criminal justice.

BACKUP

7 Kameron Kelly

6-2 • 195 • Jr.-2L CGP: 19; CGS: 13
Murphy, Texas (Wylie HS)
Notes: Explosive speedster who saw immediate playing time as a true freshman in 2014 & started final 13 games in 2015... Had 58 tackles, 3 PBU, 2 INT & 2.0 TFL in 2015... Played in the 1st 6 games as a true freshman in 2014 before being sidelined with an injury... Career: 59 tackles, 2 INT... A 3-star recruit (Scout.com)... Recorded 7 interceptions on defense as a prep athlete at Wylie High.

CORNERBACK

23 Damontae Kazez /kay-ZEE/

5-11 • 190 • Sr.-3L CGP: 39; CGS: 27
San Bernardino, Calif. (Cajon HS)
Notes: '16; Career; Personal
Preseason MW defensive player of the year, earned preseason league defensive POY last season.

TOP NOTE: On the following national award watch lists: Bednarik (defensive POY) and Thorpe (top DB)... Joins Kirk Morrison as the only Aztecs to ever be named MW defensive player of the year... Ranks fourth among all active FBS players with 10 career interceptions (one off the lead)... Started 27 consecutive games and played in 32 straight games... Career: 174 tackles, 10 interceptions, 6 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery... Ranks 9th in SDSU history in career interceptions (10)... Brother, Walter, was a 1,000-yr RB for the Aztecs from 2009-12, captaining in 2012... A criminal justice major.

BACKUP

22 Kalan Montgomery /KAY-len/

6-1 • 185 • Jr.-2L CGP: 27; CGS: 0
Compton, Calif. (Dominguez Hills HS)
Notes: Played in all 27 games the last two seasons after earning special teams scout player of the year as a redshirt (2013)... Has 13 career tackles and a pass break up... Was a prep teammate of fellow Aztec Malik Smith... Also a high school letterwinner in track... A social science major.