

San Diego State Aztecs

2019 Record: 7-1, 4-1 MW
Nine Straight Bowl Game Appearances
MW Champions: 2016, 2015, 2012 | 21-Time Conference Champions



Jeff Horton

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

- Fifth season as offensive coordinator (ninth year at SDSU overall)
- SDSU has the second-fewest turnovers (63) under his watch (min. 50 GP)
- 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

71 Kyle Spalding

6-6 ♦ 300 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 25; CGS: 10
McKinleyville, Calif. (McKinleyville High)

Started first seven games at LT ... Was recruited to SDSU as a TE, but moved to OL in the fall of 2017 ... Says that he is more comfortable at LT as he has practiced at that position more ...
Played in all 13 games last year, starting final 3 at RT ... Played 3 games in '17 logging 44 snaps ... RS in 2016 as a TE ... QB McKinleyville HS, throwing for 5,103 yards & 54 TD, & rushing for 960 yards & 22 TD ... Also punted for the Panthers ... Was all-county & team MVP ... Also played baseball & basketball ... Majoring in criminal justice.

OR

77 Jacob Capra

6-5 ♦ 315 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 25; CGS: 7
Auburn, Calif. (Univ. of Oregon)

Versatile OL, who spent previous 3 yrs at Oregon under 3 different OC's ... Joined SDSU for the '19 spring camp & has 2 years left ... Started first 4 this year at RT & last 2 at LT ... Has played in all 9 games ... Has allowed just 2 sacks (0 this year) & 6 QBH for his career ... 15 GP; 1 GS at Oregon, logging 357 snaps ... A 2-time Pac-12 All-Acad. HM pick ... Graduated from Oregon in June w/ a degree in general social science & crime law society ... Working on his master's in homeland security & conflict resolution ... Older brother, Johnny, played at Utah, while younger brother, Joey, is TR-Fr. at SDSU.

LEFT GUARD

79 Daishawn Dixon

6-5 ♦ 330 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 48; CGS: 34
San Antonio, Texas (Wm. Howard Taft HS)

TOP NOTE: Is the most experienced Aztec on either side of the ball with 48 career games played.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Pronunciation: DAY-shawn ... Played every snap this season ... PFF National Team of the Week for his play at NMSU ... Big body who moves well (can pull) ... Made 34 regular-season straight starts at LG & played in 48 straight regular-season games ... 3rd-most snaps played on team in '18 (808) and '17 (819) ... Logged 34 offensive snaps in '16, the most among OL reserves ... That season he played in all 14 games, mostly on PAT & FG units ... Redshirted during the '15 campaign ... Represented the U.S. National Select Team in a 20-15 victory over the IFAF World Team on Jan. 31, 2015 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas ... Born Phoenix, prep'd in San Antonio.

BACKUP

64 Chris Martinez

6-4 ♦ 305 ♦ So.-SQ CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Turlock, Calif. (Pitman HS)

Has not played yet ... Redshirted in 2017 ... A three-time letterwinner at Pitman High in Turlock, Calif. ... A three-star prep recruit ... Twice named first-team all-Central California Conference ... Was born in San Jose, Calif.

CENTER

60 Keith Ismael

6-3 ♦ 310 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 34
Oakland, Calif. (Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep)

TOP NOTE: One of only two players on the entire team to start every game he has played in (also Tariq Thompson).

Pronunciation: iz-MALE ... On 2 watch lists (Outland for top interior lineman & Rimington for top center) ... All-MW preseason team ... No. 2-graded center by PFF ... Leader of the o-line ... Started all 9 at C ... Started 12 games in 2018 (6 at C, 5 at RG & 1 at LG) ... Named 1st-team all-MW (2018) & 2nd-team all-MW (2017) ... Started all 13 games in 2017 (8 at C, 5 at RG) ... 1 of 2 non-senior O-linemen to make the MW 1st or 2nd team (made 2nd) ... Was on the depth chart in 2016 at LG, but did not play & redshirted ... Was a 1st-team all-league pick & a 2nd-team all-Metro selection as a Sr. at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep ... Played lax at SHCP ... An int'l & conflict resolution major.

BACKUP

62 Jacob Jimenez

6-5 ♦ 300 ♦ Sr.-TR CGP: 16; CGS: 0
Pflugerville, Texas (Brigham Young Univ.)

Saw action on special teams in week one ... Joined the Aztecs after spending four years at Brigham Young, playing in 15 games and 134 offensive snaps in three seasons ... Attended Pflugerville High.

RIGHT GUARD

73 William Dunkle

6-5 ♦ 350 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 9; CGS: 8
Chula Vista, Calif. (Eastlake High)

TOP NOTE: Nephew of Freddie Dunkle, who played at San Diego State from 2004-07.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
A big, raw offensive lineman who enjoys contact ... Weighed 380 when he arrived on campus, currently listed at 350 ... Played every snap his college debut and has played 591 snaps through nine weeks ... Has been named to the Pro Football Focus Mountain West Team of the Week three times this season ... Also started at UCLA, Utah State, at Colorado State, vs. Wyoming, at San Jose State, at UNLV and vs. Nevada ... Redshirted last year ... A three-year letterwinner and two-time captain at nearby Eastlake High in Chula Vista, Calif. ... His 2017 prep team finished 10-3 and was CIF runner-up ... Does not turn 20 until a month after the 2019 season ends (currently 19).

BACKUP

56 Dominic Gudino

6-3 ♦ 300 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 22; CGS: 15
Chula Vista, Calif. (Olympian HS)

Pronunciation: GOO-deeno ... Started at RG at NMSU ... Started 8 times last year & has 15 career starts (10 at C, 5 at RG) ... Earned 3 letters at local Olympian HS in Chula Vista, captaining 2 yrs ... Was a Blue-Grey All-American ... A kinesiology major.

RIGHT TACKLE

76 Zachary Thomas

6-5 ♦ 300 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 7
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

TOP NOTE: Started last five games, his first starts since tearing his ACL on Sept. 15, 2018 vs. Arizona State.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
A local lineman out of Carlsbad HS who was in the mix for playing time in 2018 after working as a reserve in 2017 ... Has solid technique ... Tore his ACL in the 3rd game of 2018 (his 2nd straight start) & missed all of the 2019 spring season ... Started the year as the backup LT, but is now expected to start at RT for the 6th straight game this week ... PFF MW Team of the Week at UNLV ... Played in 3 games in 2018 with 2 starts ... Saw action in all 13 games off the bench in 2017 ... Redshirted in 2016 ... Alongside fellow 2016 recruit Troy Cassidy, helped lead Carlsbad HS to an Avocado West League championship ... Younger brother, Cameron, is a starting DT as a redshirt freshman.

BACKUP

75 Desmond Bessent

6-7 ♦ 310 ♦ So.-SQ CGP: 2; CGS: 0
Tampa, Fla. (Sickles HS)

Pronunciation: BESS-ent ... On two-deep for 2nd straight season ... Played special teams in 2 gms in 2018 ... Utilized his redshirt season last year as a true freshman (2017) ... Played high school ball in Tampa ... Criminal justice major.

H-BACK / TE

82 Parker Houston

6-3 ♦ 250 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 45; CGS: 30
Sparks, Nev. (Edward S. Reed High)

TOP NOTE: Is the most experienced receiver (WR, RB or TE) on the offensive side of the ball w/30 career starts (No. 2 has 16 career starts).

2019 Stats:

Rushing					Receiving								
GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg.	100+	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg.	
9	6	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	10	88	8.8	0	19

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Assistant HC/OC Jeff Horton calls him "our hockey goon" and says "he is the heart of our team" ... Played in 45 games with 30 starts (20 straight snapped at SJSU) ... Has played 511 of 667 snaps this year ... Played 660 offensive snaps last season, most on his side of the ball among non-offensive linemen ... Career numbers: 37 receptions, 354 yards, 3 TDs, 9.6 ypc ... 2017: Started 7 w/ 6 rec. for 56 yards ... 2016: 5 rec. for 32 yds. & 1 TD as a true frosh, being named SDSU Co-Freshman of the Year (Juwan Washington) ... Already a college graduate, working on his master's degree in criminal justice ... Led Edward C. Reed HS to a 24-5 record (.828) over his final 2 years ... A 3-time MW Fall Acad. Team member ... Very active in comm. service.

TIGHT END

88 Daniel Bellinger

6-6 ♦ 250 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 18; CGS: 7
Las Vegas, Nev. (Palo Verde High)

Has 8 catches for 127 yards & 2 TD in 1st 7 starts ... Had a 2-yd TD catch at NMSU ... 2 rec., 40 yds, inc. 12-yd TD in GW drive vs. WYO ... Last season, he played in the final 9 games (59 snaps) as a TR-Fr. ... Had 1 catch for 10 yds & was used primarily in big personnel packages ... A 2-way player in high school (TE & LB) ... 1st-team all-state as a linebacker.

ALSO: No. 26 Kaegun Williams (5-9, 190, So.-1L) ... CGP: 12; CGS: 1.

X RECEIVER

92 Kobe Smith

6-2 ♦ 190 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 21; CGS: 8
Compton, Calif. (Junipero Serra HS)

2019 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
9	6	46	554	12.0	42	4

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Is having a breakout season ... Has team-highs of 46 catches, 554 yards & touchdowns (4) ... MW ranks: 7th in receptions per game (5.11) & T-9th in rec. TD (4) ... Already has more receiving TD (4) than SDSU's top receivers last year (3 apiece by Tim Wilson Jr. & Fred Trevillion ... 7 rec., 132 yds & 1st career TD at UCLA ... 7-102-1 vs. USU ... 7-101-2 at CSU ... 1st Aztec w/ b-t-b 100-yd gms. since Ezell Ruffin in 2013 ... Saw action as a true freshman last season (2018) ... 12 GP (2 GS), w/ 9 rec. for 113 yds ... 107 rec. for 1,689 yds & 13 TD at JSHS from 2016-17 ... Turned 19 in July.

BACKUP

13 Isaiah Richardson

6-1 ♦ 190 ♦ So.-SQ CGP: 10; CGS: 0
Palmdale, Calif. (Chaminade Prep)

Speedy, athletic receiver w/ good hands ... 6 rec., 89 yds, 1 TD ... 3 rec., 65 yds & 49-yd TD vs. USU ... Burst onto the scene w/ 3 catches for 58 yds (19.3 avg.) in his 1st career game vs. Ohio in the DXL Frisco Bowl ... Was on travel squad 4 games before bowl game ... RS in 2017 ... Played his HS ball at Chaminade Prep ... Also played basketball & was on the T&F team.

RUNNING BACK

29 Juwan Washington

5-7 ♦ 190 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 43; CGS: 16
Fort Worth, Texas (Kennedale HS)

TOP NOTE: Ranks eighth in school history in all-purpose yards (3,944) and ninth rushing yards (2,649).

2019 Stats:

Rushing					Receiving							
GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg.	100+	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Lg.
7	4	131	450	3.4	2	30	0	15	94	6.3	2	21

Has battled an ankle sprain suffered early in the 1Q of the Weber St. game (Aug. 31) ... Missed 2 gms, but has 400 total yds & 4 TD last 5 gms ... Has 81 career missed tackles ... On 3 preseason watch lists & a preseason all-MW selection ... Rushed for 999 yds in 2018 despite missing 4 1/2 gms ... Was 2nd in FBS in RYPG when he was inj. vs. EMU (4th game of 2018) ... Career: 500 att., 2,631 yards, 25 TD, 5.3 ypc, 7 100-yd games ... 31 career TD ... Ran for 5,139 yds. & 75 TD at KHS.

BACKUPS

15 Jordan Byrd

5-9 ♦ 170 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 5
Albuquerque, N.M. (Manzano HS)

Speedster ... 118 yds., 2 TD at NMSU ... 3rd in MW in PR avg. (7.8) ... 2018: SDSU Co-Fresh of the Year w/ 297 AP yds & 1 TD ... Prep'd as QB.

21 Chance Bell

5-10 ♦ 185 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 13; CGS: 1
Burbank, Calif. (John Burroughs HS)

Tough runner ... 116 yds., 1 TD at NMSU ... 67 att., 307 yds, 1 TD in 2019 ... 2018: 40 att., 189 yds ... 2017: RS ... 4,525 yds, 59 TD at JBHS.

22 Chase Jasmin

5-11 ♦ 195 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 35; CGS: 3
Agoura Hills, Calif. (Westlake HS)

Shifty RB ... 50-yd TD at SJSU ... 40 att., 203 yds, 2 TD in 2019 ... 2018: 138-582-1 (+1 rec. TD) ... 2017: 33-137-2 ... 2016: RS ... Competitive boxer as youth.

Z RECEIVER

45 Jesse Mathews

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 9; CGS: 7
San Diego, Calif. (Christian HS)

2019 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
9	7	29	293	10.1	25	0

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Burlsworth Trophy nominee (top walk-on) ... Made his 1st 7 career starts this season ... Is 2nd on team in both catches (29) & yards (293) ... Walked onto team last year ... Had a great spring camp & brought that into the fall, where he was the most consistent wideout ... Arguably best vertical leap on team ... Has great hands ... CH 6 rec., 73 yds. vs. WYO (5-65 in 2nd half) ... Named off. scout player of the year (2018) after redshirting ... Was a 1st-team all-league & all-county performer in 2017 at nearby Christian HS, when he had 57 rec. for 888 yds (15.6 avg.) & 14 TD ... Also played baseball (SS) & basketball (PG) ... A comm. major.

BACKUP

80 TJ Sullivan

6-0 ♦ 195 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 4; CGS: 1
San Diego, Calif. (Mt. Carmel HS)

Joined SDSU in the spring of 2018 after originally signing with the 2017 class ... A speedster ... Started 1st career game played at CSU ... No career catches ... Redshirted 2018 season ... A two-time all-league pick at Mt. Carmel HS, totaling 71 catches for 1,132 yards (15.9 avg.) & 12 touchdowns ... A 5-time Palomar League T&F champion ... Psychology major.

QUARTERBACK

9 Ryan Agnew

6-0 ♦ 200 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 36; CGS: 16
Southlake, Texas (Carroll HS)

TOP NOTE: Owns a 13-3 record as a starter with wins over nationally-ranked opponents Arizona State and Boise State (on the road).

2019 Stats:

GP	GS	Cmp.	Att.	Pct.	Int.	TD	Yds.	Rtg.
9	9	158	254	62.2	4	10	1,623	125.72

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Athletic, mobile QB ... CH 293 yards at UCLA ... 16-for-20, 3 TD, 0 INT at CSU ... Went CH 124 att. w/out an INT from Sept. 21-Oct. 26 ... 2018 SDSU Off. Player of the Year ... Was 6-1 w/ 3 2nd-half come-from-behind victories for injured Christian Chapmam last year ... Posted wins over 23/25 ASU (1st GS QB to win starting debut vs. a ranked P5 team since 2009) & at rv/25 BSU ... 1,525 yds., 10 TD, 6 INT last year ... Just 2 INT in 192 career passes on the road ... 2017: 4-for-7 for 47 yds in 7 GP, rushing 52 times on 10 att. ... 2016: 2-for-2 for 29 yds ... 2015: RS (off. scout player of the year) ... Career: 3,350 yds, 20 TD, 10 INT ... Passed for 6,967 yds & 56 TD at Carroll HS in Texas ... Econ. major ... Asst. HC/OC Jeff Horton refers to him as Clark Kent for his calm demeanor.

BACKUP

3 Carson Baker

6-3 ♦ 190 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Helix HS)

Entered fall camp fourth on the depth chart but emerged as the backup at the position ... Redshirted in 2018, but did make the travel squad for three road games ... Helped lead his prep team, the Highlanders, to a 34-7 record and a state championship game appearance in his three years on the varsity ... One of three players (Rashad Scott and Michael Sharrow) to attend Helix High (located 3.0 miles from the SDSU campus).

E RECEIVER

81 Ethan Dedeaux

5-9 ♦ 185 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 10
Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty HS)

2019 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	2	5	98	19.6	49	1

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Pronunciation: DAY-doh ... Has 5 catches for 98 yards in 8 GP (2 GS) ... 1st career TD at UNLV (49 yards) ... Started 8 of 10 appearances, missing 3 games (1 with inj., 2 personal) last season ... Had 6 catches for 90 yards (15.0 avg.) vs. Sac State in last season's home opener (90 yards were most by an Aztec freshman since at least 1996) ... 7 rec., 63 yds vs. UNLV (7 catches tied for most in Jeff Horton OC era since 2005) ... Redshirted in 2017 ... Was on the dean's list at Liberty HS ... Scored 54 TDs in 54 career high school games ... In HS, he played the following positions: WR, RB, CB, S & QB ... 19 years old ... A communication major.

BACKUP

41 BJ Busbee

5-8 ♦ 155 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 0
Long Beach, Calif. (St. Anthony HS)

Pronunciation: BUZZ-bee ... Walk-on wide receiver ... Has 8 catches for 53 yards (6.6 avg.) ... Played in final 11 games of the 2018 campaign ... 8 rec. for 136 yards and a touchdown (Eastern Michigan) last season ... 6 rec., 89 yds. (14.8 avg.) last year in 12 GP ... RS in 2016 ... Prep'd at St. Anthony High ... 3x first-team all-CIF ... A social science major

Offensive Tidbits

• Since Jeff Horton took over as offensive coordinator prior to the 2015 campaign, San Diego State is 14th nationally in rushing yards per game (216.6), 30th in rushing yards per carry (4.9) and T-39th in rushing touchdowns (123).

• San Diego State is 43-2 the last 44 times it has rushed for at least 200 yards.

• SDSU has a 100-yard rusher has at least one in 28 of its last 49 games since 2016 (37, 100-yard rushers total) and 37 of the 63 games since Jeff Horton took over as the offensive coordinator in 2015 (49, 100-yard rushers total).

• San Diego State had two rushers at New Mexico State (Jordan Byrd - 118 and Chance Bell - 116) on Sept. 14 for the 30th time in program history. The Aztecs are 29-1 in those occasions, including a 16-0 mark in the Rocky Long era, and now have multiple 100-yard rushers nine times in the last 45 games.

• San Diego State has the fewest interceptions thrown since the 2015 season (24, min. 50 GP), two less than No. 2 (Georgia Southern, 26).

• The Aztecs are 35-4 the last 39 times they have scored at least 30 points and 47-9 in the Rocky Long era when scoring 30-plus points.

• Since Oct. 3, 2015, San Diego State is 41-7 when scoring at least 20 points. The Aztecs are 73-18 in the Rocky Long era when scoring just 20 points.

• Since the beginning of 2014, SDSU is 44-10 when committing one turnover or less and 9-13 when having two or more turnovers in the game. San Diego State has one turnover or less in 46 of the 63 games since the start of the 2015 campaign.

• SDSU is 37-7 in the last 44 games when owning an edge in time of possession.

• San Diego State threw for 293 yards at UCLA on Sept. 7, its most in the Jeff Horton Offensive Coordinator era (since 2015).

SPECIALISTS

PAT'S/FG'S: 2 Matt Araiza, 6-2, 195, Fr.-RS
► Season/Career: FGs: 16-for-18 (.889) | Long: 47 | PATs: 19-for-19
Punts: 59 Brandon Heicklen, 6-0, 190, Sr.-2L
► Season: 52 | Avg.: 45.1 | Long: 59 | TB: 2 | I20: 21 | 50+: 16
► Career: 179 | Avg.: 41.6 | Long: 59 | TB: 6 | I20: 65 | 50+: 35
Kickoffs: 2 Matt Araiza, 6-2, 195, Fr.-RS
► Season: 45 | Avg.: 62.8 | TB: 35 | Avg. Opp. Start: 25
Short/Long Snapper: 50 Turner Bernard, 6-1, 225, Jr.-2L
Holder: 59 Brandon Heicklen, 6-0, 190, Sr.-2L
Kick Returns: 29 Juwan Washington & 22 Chase Jasmin
► Washington (Career) - KR: 43 | Yds: 1,017 | Avg.: 23.7 | TD: 3 | Long: 96
► Jasmin (Career) - KR: 2 | Yds: 26 | Avg.: 13.0 | TD: 0 | Long: 20
Punt Returns: 15 Jordan Byrd, 5-9, 170, So.-1L
► Byrd (Season) - PR: 12 | Yds: 93 | Avg.: 7.8 | Long: 17
► Byrd (Career) - PR: 15 | Yds: 100 | Avg.: 6.7 | Long: 17



Rocky Long

Head Coach

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



Zach Arnett

DC/Linebackers Coach

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

DEFENSIVE END

68 Myles Cheatum

6-2 • 265 • Sr.-2L CGP: 38; CGS: 20
Cedar Park, Texas (Cedar Park HS)

TOP NOTE: Entered the year as the only Aztec with a start on the d-line (11), while his 29 GP were 3 more than the rest of the DL 2-deep (26).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Athletic, relentless defensive lineman with veteran leadership ... Has 20 career starts and 38 games played ... 30 TCK, 7.0 TFL, 4.0 SCK in 9 GS this year ... **Career:** 79 tackles, 13.5 TFL, 8.0 sacks, 2 FF & 1 FR ... 2018: Had 27 tackles, 3.5 TFL, 2 sacks, & 4 QBH in 13 GP (3 GS) ... 2017: 18 stops, 3 TFL, 2 sacks, 1 FF & 4 QBH in 11 GP (8 GS) ... Biggest game came at ASU on 9/9/17 (4 tackles, 2 TFL, 1 SACK & 1 QBH) ... 2016: 4 TCK in 5 GP ... 2015: RS ... Had 10 TFL as a Sr. at Cedar Park HS in 2014, leading the Timberwolves to a 12-4 overall record & to Conference 5A Division 2 championship game ... Also added 10 offensive TD (8 rush, 2 rec.) ... Born in Athens, Greece ... An interdisciplinary studies major ... Housemates with LB Yahyva Tezino, RB Juwan Washington & WR Chaz Collins.

BACKUP

58 Connor Mitchell

6-5 • 260 • So.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 0
Island Lakes, Ill. (Wauconda HS)

Notes: Is the second-most experienced defensive lineman with 22 career games played ... Had eight tackles, including 1 TFL in 2018, playing all 13 games off the bench ... Redshirted in 2017 ... All-state at Wauconda HS in Island Lakes, Ill. ... Led HS league in sacks ... A communication major.

LINEBACKER (SAM)

54 Caden McDonald

6-3 • 230 • So.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 6
Haslet, Texas (Northwest HS)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Is coming off another solid spring, where he earned a starting role at the "Sam" linebacker and held that position through the fall camp ... A physical linebacker, who continues to get bigger in the weight room ... Has 24 tackles, 3.5 TFL, 0.5 sacks, 1 INT, 1 FR & 4 QBH in 9 GP (6 GS) ... 1st FR at UCLA ... 1st INT at SJSU ... Recorded 2 tackles in 13 games off the bench in 2018, working behind 3-year starter Ronley Lakalaka ... Redshirted in 2017 ... Totaled a school-record 290 tackles over his 3-year career at Northwest HS in Haslet, Texas ... Was Northwest High's defensive player of the year all 3 seasons ... Was rated as the 10th-best LB recruit in the talent-rich state of Texas ... Also track & field star, qualifying for state meet ... A kinesiology major with an emphasis as fitness specialist.

BACKUP

42 Troy Cassidy

6-3 • 230 • Sr.-3L CGP: 46; CGS: 28
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

Smart, athletic player ... His 28 career starts are 2nd most among Aztec def. players (Tariq Thompson, 35) ... Has 30 tackles (2 TFL) & 6 QBH ... 2018: 45 TCK, 4 TFL, 2.5 SCK in 13 GP (12 GS) ... 2017: 31 TCK ... 2016: 11 GP ... **Career:** 116 TCK, 8.5 TFL, 4 SCK ... 178 tackles (119 solo) w/ 10 sacks over his 3-yr career at CHS.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

65 Cameron Thomas

6-5 • 260 • Fr.-RS CGP: 10; CGS: 9
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

TOP NOTE: Entered the season with no playing time on the defensive line, but has started all nine games this year.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Young, athletic defensive lineman with a ton of potential ... An excellent pass rusher ... Is the lone projected freshman starter on defense ... Has 37 tackles, 6.0 TFL and 3.5 sacks in 2019 ... Played in one game in 2018 as a true freshman, logging special teams play vs. Ohio in the DXL Frisco Bowl ... Was on the travel squad for three games ... Played his prep ball at Carlsbad High School, along with fellow Aztecs Troy Cassidy (starting WILL linebacker) and Zachary Thomas (backup left tackle), and SDSU's all-time winningest quarterback Christian Chapman ... Had 88 tackles and 9.5 sacks over his final two seasons at Carlsbad High ... Older brother, Zachary, started two games last year on the offensive line before an injury forced him to miss the rest of the season.

BACKUP

66 Jonah Tavai

6-0 • 315 • So.-TR CGP: 9; CGS: 0
Manhattan Beach, CA (Mira Costa HS/El Camino College)

Notes: Big body who is learning the 3-3-5 defense ... 10 TCK, 1.0 TFL, 0.5 SCK in 2019 ... All-league pick at ECC in 2018 ... 3-time all-league selection at Mira Costa HS ... Also a star rugby player ... Turns 19 on Dec. 13 ... Brother, Jahlan, plays LB for Detroit Lions ... Other brother, Justus, plays at Hawai'i.

ALSO: No. 69 Sam Hines (6-2, 260, Fr.-RS) ... CFP: 6, GS: 0

DEFENSIVE END

57 Keshawn Banks

6-4 • 270 • So.-1L CGP: 21; CGS: 9
Rio Rancho, N.M. (Rio Rancho HS)

TOP NOTE: Had a great game at New Mexico State on Sept. 14, recording 5 tackles, 2.0 sacks & 2.0 TFL.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Talented, young defensive end who had a solid 2018 fall camp & played immediately as a true freshman, despite 4 seniors on the defensive line ... Emerged as a starter in the spring, which carried into fall camp ... Has 27 tackles (9.0 TFL), 4.5 sacks & 1 PBU in his first career 9 starts this year ... Had 7 tackles, including 1 TFL, in 12 games off the bench ... Only missed the Nevada game (injury) ... Played 180 snaps last season ... Led Rio Rancho High in the Albuquerque (N.M.) area to a 13-0 record & state championship in 2016, & a 9-3 mark in 2017 ... Had 133 tackles, 37 TFL, 18 sacks, 8 PBUs, 3 forced fumbles, 3 fumble recoveries & an interception in his 3 seasons at Rio Rancho HS ... Earned all-state honors ... Also played basketball & lettered in track & field ... Undecided on a major.

BACKUP

52 Jalil Lecky

6-5 • 240 • Jr.-RS CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Antioch, Calif. (Heritage HS/College of San Mateo)

Notes: Tall, athletic d-lineman ... Has 4 tackles & a sack in 1st 5 GP this year ... RS in 2018, while working w/ both the DL & LBs ... Led the College of San Mateo to a 18-5 record from 2016-17, including a 11-2 mark & a spot in the 2017 California JuCo championship game ... Prepped at Heritage HS.

LINEBACKER (WILL)

38 Andrew Aleki

6-3 • 230 • Jr.-2L CGP: 33; CGS: 5
Honolulu, Hawaii (Kamehameha HS)

TOP NOTE: One of four Aztecs from the state of Hawai'i and the only one to log extensive snaps on either side of the ball.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Young, stout linebacker who has played since he was a true freshman in 2017 ... Has played in 33 games with five starts over his career, including four this year ... Has 23 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, a 5-yard sack, a PBU and five QBH ... Had five tackles, 2.0 TFL and a sack in a start at New Mexico State ... Played in 12 of the team's 13 games last year, starting the DXL Frisco Bowl vs. Ohio ... Had 22 tackles and one pass breakup ... Had 16 tackles and a fumble recovery in 12 games as a true freshman in 2017 ... Prepped at Kamehameha High School in Honolulu ... Ranked as sixth-best recruit in Hawai'i by 247sports and second-best outside linebacker in the state by Scout ... Full name is Andrew Ka'oe Aleki ... Majoring in psychology.

BACKUP

42 Troy Cassidy

6-3 • 230 • Sr.-3L CGP: 46; CGS: 28
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

Smart, athletic player ... His 28 career starts are 2nd most among Aztec def. players (Tariq Thompson, 35) ... Has 30 tackles (2 TFL) & 6 QBH ... 2018: 45 TCK, 4 TFL, 2.5 SCK in 13 GP (12 GS) ... 2017: 31 TCK ... 2016: 11 GP ... **Career:** 116 TCK, 8.5 TFL, 4 SCK ... 178 tackles (119 solo) w/ 10 sacks over his 3-yr career at CHS.

Defensive Tidbits

• Zach Arnett is serving as the team's defensive coordinator for the second season at SDSU, but head coach Rocky Long will still call the game. Since Long took over as the defensive coordinator in 2009, San Diego State's defense ranks 7th nationally in rush avg. (3.5), 14th in total defense (341.3) and 16th in yards per touch (6.3).

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

	Scoring	Total	Pass	Rush
2014	13th	16th	19th	48th
2015	7th	5th	10th	7th
2016	17th	11th	42nd	7th
2017	21st	11th	15th	32nd
2018	32nd	22nd	66th	7th
2019	8th	8th	47th	2nd
2014-19	8th	6th	16th	5th
2015-19	10th	6th	18th	2nd

• The Aztecs are allowing 14.5 points (8th nationally) and 277.1 yards (8th nationally) per game this season. In SDSU's opponents' other games, they are averaging 29.2 points and 400.8 yards per game.

• Opponents this year have had 103 drives where they have tried to score on SDSU's defense (excludes kneel downs to end half/game). The Aztecs have forced three-and-outs (or better) in 44 of those drives (42.7 pct., 8th nationally). SDSU is averaging 4.89 three-and-outs per game (9th nationally).

• SDSU ranks second in FBS play this year in both rushing yards allowed per game (65.3) and defensive rush average (2.4). Over the last two years, San Diego State ranks second in def. RYPG (88.0) and third in def. RYPC (2.8).

• The Aztecs went the first five games of the season last year without allowing a rush longer than 17 yards. San Diego State allowed only three rushes (out of 453, 0.66 pct.) for 20 or longer last year. This year opponents have rushed 216 times against the Aztecs and only four attempts are longer than 20 yards.

• On third down this year, opponents have rushed 44 times for three yards (0.1 avg.). On third and fourth down tries, opponents have rushed 53 times for 16 yards (0.3 avg.).

• The Aztecs have held an opponent to single digits 13 times since the beginning of the 2015 season (63 games).

• Since the beginning of 2015 (63 games), San Diego State's defense ranks first in interceptions (82) and tied for 10th interception TDs (10).

CORNERBACK

16 Luq Barcoo

6-1 • 175 • Sr.-1L CGP: 20; CGS: 9
San Diego, CA (Grossmont College/Castle Park HS)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

A Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist ... Grossmont College transfer who impressed in 2018 fall camp & made the 2-deep ... Worked himself into a starter in the spring ... Has 1st 9 career starts this year, making 43 tackles (33 solo), 4.0 TFL, 5 INT & 11 PBU ... FBS ranks: T-2nd in passes defended (INT + PBU) (16) & T-3rd in INT (5) ... 6 TCK, 3 INT in consecutive snaps, 1 PBU at CSU ... 2018: 20 tackles, 4 PBUs & an INT in 11 games ... **Career:** 55 TCK, 3.5 TFL, 6 INT, 14 PBU ... Played both sides of the ball at Grossmont Coll. ... In 2017, had 35 rec. for 767 yds (21.9 avg.) & 7 TD, while adding 3 INT in 2 yrs ... Played both ways at Castle Park HS in nearby Chula Vista.

BACKUP

12 Nolen Harris

6-0 • 185 • Sr.-SQ CGP: 9; CGS: 0
San Diego, CA (SD Mesa College/Patrick Henry HS)

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

FIELD WARRIOR

14 Tariq Thompson

6-0 • 200 • Jr.-2L CGP: 35; CGS: 35
San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine HS)

TOP NOTE: Has started all 35 games since arriving to campus as a true freshman in 2017.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

On the Jim Thorpe Award Watch List ... A preseason 1st-team all-MW selection ... Has 8 career INT (7-10th among active FBS players) in just 35 GP ... Has the most starts at SDSU, despite turning 20 on Aug. 9 ... Has 36 TCK (27 solo), 8 PBU, 1 INT & 2 FR ... 2nd-team all-MW in 2018 after making 60 tackles, 5 TFL, 2 INT & 5 PBU ... 2nd-team all-MW in 2017 as a true freshman with 63 tackles, 3 TFL, 5 INT (1 for TD), 1 FF, 1 FR, 4 PBU & 3 QBH ... Became 1st Aztec true frosh to start on defense since CB Leon McFadden started at CSU on 0.24-09 (Coach Long's 1st year as SDSU's DC) ... MW Def. PotW vs. UNM (8 TCK, 2 INT, 2 PBU, 1 TFL) ... **Career:** 159 TCK, 9 TFL, 8 INT, 20 PBU, 3 FF, 4 FR ... Played both sides of the ball at local St. Augustine HS under current safeties coach Richard Sanchez.

BACKUP

20 Rashad Scott

6-2 • 195 • So.-1L CGP: 15; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Helix HS)

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

AZTEC

36 Dwayne Johnson Jr.

6-2 • 215 • Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 10
Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta HS)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Hard-hitting safety, who took over for 3-year starter Parker Baldwin ... 2-time Pro Football Focus MW Team of the Week (Sept. 10 & Sept. 17) ... Has 63 tackles (1.5 TFL), 1 FF, 2 FR & 3 PBU ... Played in all 13 games last year, mainly on special teams, making 2 tackles with a FR vs. Hawai'i ... 2017: Had 14 tackles & a TFL in his 1st 12 career games, starting at Hawai'i ... 2016: Redshirted ... Led Vista Murrieta HS to a 35-7 (.833) record & a 15-0 mark in league play over his 3 seasons ... Had 207 tackles & 8 INT over his final 2 years ... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies ... No relation to Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

BACKUP

33 Patrick McMorris

6-0 • 180 • Fr.-HS CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Santa Ana, Calif. (Santa Ana HS)

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

BOUNDARY WARRIOR

18 Trenton Thompson

6-2 • 200 • Jr.-2L CGP: 33; CGS: 11
Palm Springs, Calif. (Palm Springs HS)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

Playmaker, who started eight times & played all 13 games last year at Boundary Warrior ... Has 32 stops & 2.0 TFL this season in 9 GP (3 GS) ... His blocked punt at UNLV was recovered by Caden McDonald in the end zone for a TD ... Made 57 tackles last year w/ 2.0 TFL, 1.0 SCK, 2 PBUs, 1 INT & 1 FF ... 2017: RS w/ 1 tackle in 3 games ... 2016: Made 9 stops w/ a PBU as a true freshman ... **Career:** 99 TCK, 4.0 TFL, 1.0 SCK, 1 INT, 3 PBU, 1 FF ... Led Palm Springs HS to a 24-3 (.889) record over his 3 years where he logged 219 tackles, 7 TFL, 4 INTs, 6 FF, 2 FR & 6 blocked kicks ... Was high school teammates w/ fellow Warrior Tayler Hawkins ... A social science major.

BACKUP

32 Tayler Hawkins

6-1 • 205 • Jr.-2L CGP: 32; CGS: 8
Palm Springs, Calif. (Palm Springs HS)

Notes: Hard-hitting athlete, who has played the last 31 games with 8 starts ... Has great technique ... Chs of 10 tackles & 2 TFL at UCLA ... Has 20 tackles & 3 TFL this year in 9 GP (3 GS) ... 2018: 35 tackles, 1 TFL & 5 PBUs ... 2017: 5 stops on special teams ... 2016: RS ... A 4-year letter winner at Palm Springs HS with fellow S Trenton Thompson ... Helped PSHS to 24-3 record as WR, DB & P.

INJ.: No. 27 Kyree Woods (6-0, 190, Sr.-3L) ... CFP: 37, GS: 15

CORNERBACK

23 Darren Hall

6-0 • 180 • So.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 10
Pasadena, Calif. (Rancho Cucamonga HS)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal

A ball hawk w/ good instincts ... Missed 1st game & most of 2nd vs. UCLA, but has started last 7 at CB w/ 27 TCK, 2.5 TFL, 0.5 SCK, 1 INT, 12 PBU & 2 FF ... MW ranks: 2nd in passes def. PG (1.56) & T-5th in FF PG (0.25) ... Was SDSU's Co-Frosh of the Year w/ 45 tackles (34 solo), 2 INT, 3 PBU, a sack & a FF ... Was a 2-time MW Def. PotW (4 TCK, 1 INT in OT vs. EMU & 9 TCK, 1 SCK, 1 FF, 1 INT at BS), despite not starting either game ... RS in 2017 w/ 2 stops in 2 GP played ... **Career:** 74 TCK, 4.5 TFL, 2.0 SCK, 3 INT, 15 PBU, 3 FF ... Led Rancho Cucamonga HS to a 12-1 record in 2016, earning 1st-team all-league honors ... A comm. major.

BACKUP

17 Eric Wilson

6-0 • 185 • Jr.-TR CGP: 2; CGS: 0
Oceanside, CA (Riverside City College/El Camino HS)

Notes: Worked himself into the two-deep after joining the Aztecs in the fall ... Played 3 statless snaps at CSU & on special teams vs. Nev. ... Totaled 69 tackles (50 solo) over his 2 years at Riverside City College along with 4 TFL, 5 INT, 18 PBU & a blocked kick ... Earned all-California honors as a soph. in 2018 & was a 2-time all-league pick ... Prepped at El Camino HS ... Undecided on a major.