2002 Aztec Volleyball

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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2002 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

RECORD: 0-0 (HOME: 0-0; AWAY 0-0)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 30	Tulane +	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Florida International +	10:30 a.m.
Aug. 31	UC Santa Barbara +	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	Washington #	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 6	at Hawai'i #	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 7	San Francisco #	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 10	UC Irvine	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	Arkansas-Little Rock ^	2:00 p.m.
Sept. 13	at Missouri ^	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	Eastern Illinois ^	11:30 a.m.
Sept. 14	North Carolina State ^	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 17	San Diego	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 20	Winthrop &	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 21	Alabama-Birmingham &	11:00 a.m.
Sept. 21	at Wake Forest &	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	Loyola Marymount	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 27	Brigham Young *	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 29	Utah *	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	at Colorado State *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	at Wyoming *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	UNLV *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 15	at San Diego	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 18	Air Force *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 19	New Mexico *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Utah *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Brigham Young *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 31	Wyoming *	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 2	Colorado State *	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	at UNLV *	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 15	at New Mexico *	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	at Air Force *	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 21-23	MWC Tournament at Fort Collins, Colo.	TBA
Nov. 26	at UC Riverside	7:00 p.m.

+ Ramada Invitational at San Diego State
# Aston Imua Wahine Challenge at Hawaii
^ Tiger Invitational at Missouri
& Black and Gold Challenge at Wake Forest
* Mountain West Conference Match
All times are site times

This Week in Aztec Volleyball

Aug. 30	***Tulane***	***Peterson Gym***	***7:30 p.m.***
Aug. 31	***Florida International***	***Peterson Gym***	***10:30 a.m.***
Aug. 31	***UC Santa Barbara***	***Peterson Gym***	***7:30 p.m.***

LET THE SEASON BEGIN

- San Diego State is set to open its 2002 season this Friday, Aug. 30, when it takes on Tulane in the opening round of the SDSU Ramada Invitational. The match is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. in Peterson Gym.
- The Aztecs continue tourney action on Saturday with matches against Florida International at 10:30 a.m. and 20th-ranked UC Santa Barbara at 7:30 pm.

SDSU RAMADA INVITATIONAL

- For the third year in a row, San Diego State will kick off its season by hosting a four-team tournament. This year's event will be played in Peterson Gym over a two-day period.
- This participants include UC Santa Barbara, Tulane and Florida International.
- The complete tourney schedule is as follows:

Friday, August 30

Florida International vs. UC Santa Barbara.....5:00 p.m.
Tulane vs. San Diego State.....7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 31

Florida International vs. San Diego State.....10:30 a.m.
UC Santa Barbara vs. Tulane.....1:00 p.m.
Florida International vs. Tulane.....5:00 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara vs. San Diego State.....7:30 p.m.

2002 San Diego State Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Previous School)
1	Angela Verdenacci	OH	5-11	Fr.	Sao Paulo, Brazil (Inst. de Ensino Sant'anna)
2	Kara Moriarty	OH	6-1	So.	Idaho Falls, Idaho (Skyline HS)
3	Ashley Bowker	OH	5-10	Fr.	San Diego, Calif. (Grossmont HS)
4	Nicole Akporiaye	MB	6-1	Sr.	Tucson, Ariz. (Canyon Del Oro HS)
5	Brittney Pearson	S	5-10	Jr.	Sanger, Calif. (Fresno State)
6	Melissa Cansdale	OH	5-11	Jr.	Boulder City, Nev. (Boulder City HS)
7	Rochelle Currier	OH	6-0	Sr.	Aliso Viejo. Calif. (Utah State)
8	Robyn Gregg	OH / DS	5-9	Jr.	Santee, Calif. (West Hills HS)
9	Kathryn Landrum	S	5-8	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas (Tom C. Clark HS)
10	Melissa Wright	S	5-9	Sr.	Muncie, Ind. (Washington State)
11	Megan Schauermann	OH / MB	6-0	Jr.	Vancouver, Wash. (Hudson's Bay HS)
12	Kari Dykema	DS	5-9	Fr.	Portage, Mich. (Portage Northern HS)
13	Sara Engstrom	S	5-8	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. (Portland)
14	Janice Dykema	MB	6-0	Jr.	Portage, Mich. (Connecticut)
15	Zlatina Anguelova	OH	6-1	Jr.	Sofia, Bulgaria (Vassil Leuski 166)
16	Aspen McPartland	MB	6-1	Jr.	San Diego, Calif. (Grossmont HS)
17	Lucilla Xavier	MB	6-2	So.	Belo Horizonte, Brazil (St. Gregory's)
18	Natalie Sande	OH	5-11	Jr.	Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. (San Francisco)
19	Caroline Kendall	MB	6-2	Fr.	Orinda, Calif. (Miramonte HS)
20	Jenna Pierson	MB	5-11	Fr.	Malibu, Calif. (Malibu HS)

Head Coach: Mark Warner, Eighth Season (San Diego State '87)
Assistant Coach: John Ross, Eighth Season (San Diego State '93)
Assistant Coach: John Shirk, Fifth Season (San Diego State '98)
Volunteer Assistant Coach: John Engstrom, First Season (San Diego State '00)

SERIES RECORDS

- The Aztecs hold a 1-0 series lead over Tulane, having defeated the Green Wave last season at the Kathy Trosclair Tournament in New Orleans. The match resulted in a three-game sweep for SDSU (32-30, 30-13, 30-15).
- Florida International and San Diego State will meet for the first time ever this weekend.
- SDSU holds a slim 21-19 series lead over UC Santa Barbara. The Gauchos have defeated the Aztecs, 3-0, each of the past two seasons. UCSB has won the last eight meetings between the teams dating back to the 1989 campaign. SDSU's last win came during the 1988 season in Santa Barbara.

SCOUTING THE OPPOSITION

- Tulane returns five starters and 11 letterwinners from last season's 16-14 squad that finished ninth (7-9) in Conference USA. Among the returnees are all-Conference USAoutsides hitters Britney Hurst and Anastasia Kenon. The Green Wave features a pair of players from the San Diego area: Deva Fowler (sophomore from University City HS) and Kim Swafford (junior from Granite Hills HS).
- Florida International is coming off a season that saw it advance to the second round of the NCAATournament after posting a 24-8 overall record and a third-place finish in the Sun Belt Conference. All six starters from a year ago are back led by conference tournament MVP Nirvana Kos. The outside hitter from Croatia is a two-time all-Sun Belt Conference honoree as well.
- UC Santa Barbara comes into the tournament ranked 20th in the nation in the AVCApreseason poll. The Gauchos are coming off a 17-14 season, a third-pace finish in the Big West Conference, and a trip to the NCAATournament. They are led by two-time all-Big West Conference setter Brooke Niles. In addition, senior outside hitter Danielle Bauer returns after finishing among the conference kill leaders ain 2001.

FOR OPENERS

- San Diego State's record in season openers stands at 16-11 since the sport began for the Aztecs in 1976.
- Over the years, the Aztecs are 19-8 in home openers.
- Last season the Aztecs opened the season with five straight wins after beginning the previous two campaigns (1999 and 2000) with four consecutive losses.

HEAD COACH MARK WARNER

- San Diego State head coach Mark Warner is in his eighth season at the helm of the Aztec women's program. His career record over the past seven seasons at SDSU stands at 117-96 (.549).
- Over the past seven years, Warner has led his teams to a pair of NCAA Tournament berths and a Western Athletic Conference championship. His tutelage has produced nine all-conference players.

PRESEASON PROGNOSTICATIONS

- For the third year in a row, the Mountain West Conference coaches poll has predicted the Aztecs to finish fourth in the league. SDSU has finished fourth each of the first two seasons of play in the MWC. The MWCis ranked third among Divison Ivolleyball conferences.
- Utah is picked to win the league title this year, followed by Colorado State and Brigham Young. The results of the preseason poll is as follows:

Team (1st-pl. votes)	Pts.
1. Utah (6)	48
2. Colorado State (1)	40
3. Brigham Young (1)	39
4. San Diego State	32
5. UNLV	28
6. New Mexico	18
7. Wyoming	13
8. Air Force	9

A YEAR AGO

- Last season the Aztecs carved out an overall record of 16-13 en route to a fourth-place finish in the Mountain West Conference where they finished 9-5.
- They concluded their season with a trip to the NCAATournament, the team's first appearance in the postseason since 1996.
- Departed senior Katie Magnuson and returning junior Robyn Gregg earned all-conference honors at season's end, and Gregg was selected the league's defensive player of the year.

THE 2002 AZTECS

- San Diego State return five starters plus three other letterwinners from its 2001 squad. The returning starters includes a pair of seniors (setter Melissa Wright and middle blocker Nicole Akporiaye), plus a trio of juniors (hitters Zlatina Anguelova and Megan Schauermann, along with middle blocker Aspen McPartland). Junior defensive specialist Robyn Gregg and part-time starting outside hitter Rochelle Currier also return.
- Among the news faces who may contribute immediately are three transfers from four-year schools: setter Sara Engstrom from Portland, setter Brittney Pearson from Fresno State, and outside hitter Natalie Sande from University of San Francisco. Also transferring to the Aztec program is sophomore Lucilla Xavier, who was an NAIAall-region selection at St. Gregory's University in Oklahoma last season.
- Atotal of 20 athletes appear on the 2002 SDSU roster. Also in that group are four who redshirted during the 2001 season plus three true freshmen.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

- Five members of the 2002 Aztec squad hail from the San Diego area.
- That quintet includes Aspen McPartland (Grossmont HS), Ashley Bowker (Grossmont HS), Robyn Gregg (West Hills HS), Natalie Sande (Torrey Pines HS) and Sara Engstrom (Rancho Bernardo HS).
- McPartland and Gregg are juniors in their third seasons at San Diego State, Bowker is a redshirt freshman, and both Sande and Engstrom are juniors who came to SDSU this fall from other four-year schools.

2002 Mountain West Conference Standings

(as of Thursday, August 29)

	------Conference-----				-----Overall-----		
Team	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**	**W**	**L**	**Pct**
Air Force	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
Brigham Young	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
Colorado State	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
UNLV	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
New Mexico	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
San Diego State	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
Utah	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000
Wyoming	0	0	.000	–	0	0	.000

This Weekend in the MWC (August 30-31)

San Diego State at SDSU Ramada Invitational
(Tulane, Florida International, UC Santa Barbara)
Air Force at Southwest Texas State Tournament
(So. Illinois, No. Texas, Mississipi, Southwest Texas State)
Brigham Young at Washington State Tournament
(Gonzaga, Nevada, Washington State)
New Mexico at Wichita State Tournament
(Miami, Stephen F. Austin, Wichita State, Georgia)
UNLV at St. Mary's Tournament
(UC Riverside, Army, St. Mary's)
Utah at Utah Classic
(Murray State, Pacific, New Hampshire)
Wyoming at Central Michigan Chippewa Classic
(Central Michiign, Marquette, Cleveland State)
Colorado State at CSU University Park Holiday Inn Classic
(Kansas State, Connecticut, Western Michigan)

The Aztecs Record When...
(2001 Season)

Record
- At Home.....9-3
- Away.....5-7
- Neutral.....2-3
- Non-Conference.....7-8
- MWC.....9-5
- MWC Home.....5-2
- MWCAway.....4-3

By Game
- Three-Game.....8-10
- Four-Game.....6-2
- Five-Game.....2-1
- Leading After Two.....11-0
- Trailing After Two.....0-10
- Leading 2-1.....6-0
- Trailing 2-1.....1-2

By Months
- August.....1-0
- September.....8-3
- October.....4-6
- November.....3-4

Against Ranked Teams
- vs. Top 10.....0-3
- vs. Top 25.....1-9
- vs. Unranked Teams.....15-5

By Kills
- Leading in Kills.....14-3
- Trailing in Kills.....2-10

By Digs
- Leading in Digs.....7-1
- Trailing in Digs.....8-12

By Blocks
- Leading in Blocks.....8-4
- Trailing in Blocks.....6-9

By Attack Percentage
- Hitting .300 or better.....9-0
- Hitting .200 or better.....13-4
- Hitting Below .300.....8-10
- Hitting Below .200.....2-10
- Holding Opp. Below .200.....10-1
- Holding Opp. Below .100.....1-0

Season Match Highs

Team

Kills.....76 vs. UNLV, 10/5
Total Attacks.....185 vs. SMU, 9/8
Hitting Pct.....441 vs. Air Force, 10/20
Assists.....67 vs. UNLV, 10/12
Aces.....20 vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 9/7
Digs.....77 vs. SMU, 9/8
BS.....6 at Loyola Marymount, 9/18
BA.....30 vs. San Diego, 9/1
Team Blocks.....17 vs. San Diego, 9/1

Individual

K.....24, Anguelova vs. UNLV, 10/5
24, Currier vs. Air Force, 10/20
TA.....53 Anguelova vs. BYU, 10/12
Pct.....706, Anguelova vs. Liberty, 8/31
A.....62, Wright vs. UNLV, 10/5
SA.....7, Gregg vs. San Diego, 9/1
Digs.....22, Magnuson vs. SMU, 9/8
BS.....3, Anguelova at Loy. Marymnt, 9/18
3, Akporiaye at Utah, 10/13
BA.....10, Schauermann at AFA
10, Schauermann at UNM

TWO PLAYERS LOST

- Two members of the 2002 Aztecs suffered torn ACLs during preseason training and look to be out for the coming season.
- The first is junior Janice Dykema, who endured the same injury just prior to the start of the 2001 season. Atransfer from the University of Connecticut last year, she was expected to see action last season before the injury. After a fine spring, she was again expected to be one of SDSU's primary weapons before being injured last week.
- Freshman Angela Verdenacci, an outside hitter from Brazil, will also miss the 2002 campaign with a torn ACLsuffered in preseason workouts. Verdenacci redshirted at SDSU in 2001.

TEAM NOTES

- The Aztecs have enjoyed a good deal of success on their home floor, Peterson Gym. Since 1990, the Aztecs have compiled a 108-47 (.697) overall home record and a 57-25 (.695) conference record in the facility.
- San Diego State has three setters on its roster with at least two seasons if Division I experience. In addition to returnee Melissa Wright, others at the position include Sara Engstrom (two years at Portland) and Brittney Pearson (two years at Fresno State).
- SDSU's 2002 schedule includes five teams ranked in the AVCApreseason Top 25: Hawaii (4), Utah (13), Colorado State (18), UC Santa Barbara (20) and Brigham Young (23). In addition, three Aztec opponents were among other schools receiving votes in the poll (Missouri, University of San Diego and Loyola Marymount).
- The Aztecs will be looking to get off to a good start for the second year in a row. Last year's 5-0 start was the team's best since it began with six straight wins to open the 1990 season.

PLAYER NOTES

- Robyn Gregg ranked seventh in NCAA Division I in service aces last season, averaging 0.78 aces per game. She set an MWC record with 40 aces in conference play.
- Setter Melissa Wright ranks fourth on the SDSU career assist list with 2,437 over two seasons at SDSU.
- Bulgarian outside hitter Zlatina Anguelova led the squad in kills last season with 336 for a team-leading average of 3.46 kpg.
- Middle blocker Nicole Akporiaye was honored as an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar for her achievements on the court and in the classroom.

Weekly Preseason Polls

USA Today/AVCA	Volleyball Magazine
1. Stanford	1. Stanford
2. Nebraska	2. Hawai'i
3. USC	3. USC
4. Hawai'i	4. Nebraska
5. Long Beach State	5. Florida
6. Arizona	6. Pepperdine
7. Florida	7. Long Beach State
8. Pepperdine	8. Arizona
9. Ohio State	9. Pacific
10. Wisconsin	10. Ohio State
11. UCLA	11. Utah
12. Pacific	12. Wisconsin
13. Utah	13. UCLA
14. Northern Iowa	14. Northern Iowa
15. Michigan State	15. UC Santa Barbara
16. Penn State	16. Michigan State
17. Texas A&M	17. Penn State
18. Colorado State	18. Illinois
19. Illinois	19. Notre Dame
20. UC Santa Barbara	20. Colorado
21. Colorado	
22. Kansas State	
23. Brigham Young	
24. Santa Clara	
25. Notre Dame	

- Setter Sara Engstrom, a transfer from Portland this fall, is the sister of volunteer assistant John Engstrom, who is a former men's volleyball player at SDSU.
- Brazilian Lucilla Xavier, a transfer from St. Gregory's University, was named the NAIARegion VI Front Row Player of the Year last season.
- Junior Megan Schauermann was the lone athlete at San Diego State to letter in two sports during the 2001-2002 school year. She was a jumper for the Aztec track team last spring.
- Outside hitter Kara Moriarty was the only true freshman to see playing time in 2001. Three other first-year players (Kari Dykema, Ashaley Bowker, Angela Verdenacci) redshirted at SDSU last year.
- Transfer Natalie Sande was a Junior All-American and two-time CIF Player of the Year at nearby Torrey Pines High School.

UP NEXT

- San Diego State travels to Honolulu next week to participate in the Aston Imua Wahine Challenge at the University of Hawaii.
- SDSU opens play against Washington on Thursday (Sept. 5) followed by matches against Hawai'i (Fri., Sept. 6) and San Francisco (Sat., Sept. 7).
- The Aztecs return to Peterson Gym on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to face UCIrvine at 6:00 p.m.