

San Diego State Aztecs

2022 Record: 4-3, 2-1 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 (12th 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. 68 starts (6th-youngest in FBS)
- The starting offensive line has played in 95 career games.
- This season: 174.1 ypg; 4.7 ypc, 6 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.-IL CPG: 22; CGS: 20
 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 & six of seven at LT this year... Has allowed just one sack this for his career in 629 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 CPG: 7; 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 seven 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 CPG: 9; CGS: 7
 Scottsdale, AZ (Notre Dame Prep/Okla. St.)

TOP NOTE: Started for the first time in 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... Has allowed just 1 QB pressure in 201 passing opportunities... His 85.0 pass block rating is No. 1 in MW (min. 150 chances)... Played in 2 games at OSU 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 CPG: 7; CGS: 1
 Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue HS)

On depth chart for first season... Played in all 7 games this year, starting & playing 1st 16 snaps at Nevada... DNP in 2021... Redshirted in 2020... Prepped with SDSU LB Vai Kaho at Nevada (Reno) powerhouse Bishop Manogue.

CENTER

72 Alama Uluave /ALL-ah-mah/ /oo-loo-AH-vay/ **C**
 6-2 • 305 • ^Sr.-4L CPG: 48; CGS: 29
 Laie, Hawaii (Punahou High)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
 Team captain... Preseason all-MW... Also on the preseason Polynesian College Football PatV Watch List... Started to make his 30th 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 HS along with current Aztec LB Seydrick Lakalaka.

BACKUP

68 Thomas Mirabella
 6-4 • 300 • So.-SQ CPG: 8; CGS: 1
 Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mission Viejo High)

Played 55 snaps at RG vs. Hawai'i & started at RG (16 snaps) at NW... 2 GP in 2021... RS in 2020... MW Scholar-Athlete (2020) & on the league's all-academic team (2020)... A business major with an emphasis in finance.

RIGHT GUARD

63 Ross Uluvalu-Maseuli /oo-loo-gaw-loo/ /mah-sue-lee/ **C**
 6-4 • 320 • Fr.-RS CPG: 6; CGS: 3
 San Diego, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

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

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
 Started first three games for first time of career... Missed next two with an injury... Came back for 51 snaps at Nevada... Played in the final 2 games of 2021, including 10 offensive snaps against USU in the MW Championship game & on special teams in the Frisco Bowl... Prepped at power Mater Dei in spring 2021... Also attended Jesera Catholic (2019) & Cathedral Catholic (2018)... Had offers from Alabama, Michigan, USC & Oregon (all others).

BACKUP

76 Dean Abdullah /ab-dull-ah/ **C**
 6-4 • 260 • So.-TR CPG: 5; CGS: 3
 Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

Joined the Aztecs for full camp... Started 3 games with Uluvalu-Maseuli injured (Toledo, Boise State & Hawai'i)... Transferred from American River College... Prepped at Antelope High School in Antelope, Calif.

RIGHT TACKLE

77 Josh Simmons
 6-6 • 305 • Fr.-RS CPG: 7; CGS: 7
 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 RT against Arizona in 1st game played... Also started vs. USU, Utah, Toledo, BS, UH & at NW... RS in 2021... A consensus 4-star recruit... No. 14 guard by ESPN in recruiting class... Picked SDSU over numerous Power 5 offers, including including Georgia, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State & USC.

BACKUP

70 Christian Jones
 6-9 • 320 • Fr.-RS CPG: 7; 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 seven 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 Mackay Award Watch List.

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); Dannel Pumphrey in 2016 (10th) and Rashad Penny in 2017 (5th)).

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

TIGHT END (V)

81 Mark Redman
 6-6 • 250 • Jr.-TR CPG: 23; CGS: 8
 Newport Beach, CA (Corona del Mar HS/Washington)

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

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	7	9	80	8.9	21	0

 On Mackay 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... 2 rec., 34 yds. at NW... Played in 16 games in 2020-21 & Washington (1 GS) w/ a 5-yd catch... Had 149 catches for 1,832 yds & 25 TDs at Corona del Mar HS... Was a 4-star recruit by 247sports & Rivals.

BACKUP

82 Jay Rudolph
 6-4 • 245 • So.-IL CPG: 23; CGS: 6
 Scottsdale, Ariz. (Horizon High)

Missed 1st 4 games with an injury, playing 15 snaps at BS... Started vs. UH... Made a 2-yd TD catch in 2021, starting 5 times of 13 opp... Played in 7 of 8 games as a TR-Fresh in 2021 on special teams... Was a 2nd-team all-state selection at Horizon HS... A 3-star recruit by multiple outlets.

94 Aaron Greene
 6-4 • 255 • So.-IL CPG: 15; CGS: 2
 Prescott, Ariz. (Prescott High)

RB (T)

21 Chance Bell
 5-10 • 200 • ^Sr.-4L CPG: 42; CGS: 3
 Burbank, Calif. (John Burroughs HS)

TOP NOTE: Ranks 24th all-time at San Diego State with 1,347 rushing yards.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
5	7	34	160	4.7	24	0

 Is back for a sixth year... Started for 3rd time of career vs. Arizona... 7 attempts, 53 yards vs. Hawai'i... 12 att., 55 yds. at NW... Ran for 341 yds & 4 TDs in 2021... Had 273 yds & 3 TDs in 2020... Ran for 384 yds & 2 TD in 2019... Had 189 yds in 2018... Career: 291 carries, 1,347 yds, 9 TDs; 21 rec., 149 yds... Working toward his master's degree in counseling.

BACKUP

23 Kenan Christon
 5-10 • 185 • Jr.-TR CPG: 20; CGS: 3
 San Diego, Calif. (Madison High)

2022: 34 att., 100 yds. & 4 rec., 16 yds... Career: 112 att., 543 yds., 2 TD... Rushed for 443 yds & 2 TDs at USC (2019-21)... Ran for 3,042 yards & 36 TDs at Madison HS.

BACKUP

38 Jaylon Armstead
 5-11 • 220 • So.-IL CPG: 19; CGS: 1
 Los Angeles, Calif. (Serra High)

RB (F)

15 Jordan Byrd
 5-9 • 170 • ^Sr.-4L CPG: 52; CGS: 16
 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
7	5	62	337	5.4	53	3

 Preseason MW ST PatV & 1st-tm at KR & PR... 2022 FBS rks: 7th in PR avg. (14.5, min. 8 PR) & 13th in KR/PR yds. (360)... 2 TD (1 rush) vs. ISU & 1 rushing (15 yds)... 5 overall TD this yr... Career: 1,300 rush yds (26th at SDSU) & 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 CPG: 9; CGS: 0
 Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff High)

Is coming off an excellent fall camp... Has 126 yards & a TD on 35 carries (3.6 avg... Played two games on special teams in 2021... Ran for 2,932 yards and 35 touchdowns at South Oak Cliff HS in Dallas.

Has 190 yds on 18 att. in just 30 snaps... 1st start at Utah... 5 att., 96 yds. vs. ISU... Recovered a blocked punt in end zone for a TD vs. UA... Career: 43 att., 270 yds.

QUARTERBACK

18 Jalen Mayden
 6-3 • 220 • Sr.-SQ CPG: 11; CGS: 2
 Garland, Texas (Sachse High/Mississippi State)

TOP NOTE: Threw for 322 yards in his starting QB debut against Hawai'i on Oct. 8, the most in an Aztec win since 1997.

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Comp.	Pct.	Int.	TD	Yds.	Rtg.
7	7	26	61	59.0	0	478	130.25

 Switched back to QB from safety on Oct. 3... Had 9 tackles at safety, playing most of Toledo game (65 snaps) & recording a career-high 8 tackles... Was 24-of-36 for 322 yds. & 3 TD in 1st start vs. Hawai'i... 37-yd rush TD at NW... Moved to safety in the spring... Played 1 game at QB in 2021, going 5-for-6 for 57 yds & 1 TD vs. USU in the MW title game & rushing for 36 yds on 4 att... Appeared in 3 games at Mississippi St. from 2018-19, completing 1 of 2 passes for 9 yds & rushing 7 times for 32 yds... Totaled 9,472 yds & 114 TD at Sachse HS in Texas... Was a 4-star recruit.

BACKUP

5 Braxton Burmeister
 6-1 • 205 • ^Sr.-TR CPG: 35; CGS: 26
 La Jolla, CA (La Jolla Country Day HS/Va. Tech)

On 1. Unites WL... 448 total off. & 3 TD... 47-yd TD run vs. ISU... 19-yd. rec. at NW... Has gone 31 straight qns w/out throwing multiple INTs... Career: 3,283 yds., 20 TD, 14 INT, 271 att., 1,019 yds, 8 TD... Was a 1st-team AA at UCD.

4 Liu Aumavae /lee-oo/ /ah-muh-vee/
 6-3 • 205 • Fr.-HS CPG: 1; CGS: 0
 Waldorf, Md. (Timpview High (Utah))

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 was the only current Aztec with a 100-yard receiving game (he has five) until Tyrell Shavers had 149 yards on eight catches vs. Hawai'i.

SPECIALISTS

WR (Z)

45 Jesse Matthews
 6-0 • 190 • Sr.-3L CPG: 42; CGS: 38
 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
7	7	19	189	9.9	26	0

 Preseason all-MW... 910 catches in 2021 were most by Aztec since 2010... Led 4 GP in 2021: 37 rec., 465 yds, 7 TD... Career: 148 rec. (9th at SDSU), 1,790 yds. & 12 TD... Walked-on, earning a scholarship prior to 2019 NM Bowl.

BACKUP

83 Mekhi Shaw /muh-kye/ **C**
 5-10 • 185 • So.-1L CPG: 19; CGS: 5
 San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

Walk-on... Has 8 catches in 7 GP (4 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.

WR (H)

83 Mekhi Shaw /muh-kye/ **C**
 5-10 • 185 • So.-1L CPG: 19; CGS: 5
 San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

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

2022 Stats:

GP	GS	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
7	4	8	69	8.6	16	0

 Walk-on... Has 8 catches in 7 GP (4 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 CPG: 13; CGS: 0
 San Diego, Calif. (Lincoln High)

Has an 8-yd catch in 8 games this year... Played in final 6 games last season (mostly on special teams), recording a 15-yd catch... Redshirted in 2020... Prepped at local Lincoln High School in San Diego.

ALSO: No. 5 Braxton Burmeister (6-1, 205, Sr.-TR) (CP: 35, CG: 6)

WR (X)

14 Tyrell Shavers
 6-6 • 210 • Sr.-1L CPG: 52; CGS: 12
 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
7	7	18	250	13.9	42	2

 Tall, athletic WR who joined SDSU in spring 2021 after 4 yrs in SEC (2017-19 at Alabama, 2020 at MSU)... CH 8 catches, 149 yds. vs. UH... Career: 46 rec., 590 yds., 5 TD, 3 BLK punts... 4-star recruit out of Lewisville HS.

BACKUP

11 Brionne Penny
 6-3 • 205 • Jr.-SQ CPG: 12; CGS: 0
 Norwalk, Calif. (Narbonne High)

Has eight catches for 98 yards in seven games... Had 5 catches last year for 61 yards... DNP in 2020... RS in 2019... Older brother, Rashad, ran for an Aztec-record 2,248 yards and 2,974 AP yards in 2017.

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 coach
- Has twice been a Broyles Award nominee (2020-21) for the top assistant coach

DEFENSIVE END

66 Jonah Tavai /tuh-vye/

6-0 • 290 • Sr.-3L CPG: 42; CGS: 27
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 27 tackles (5.5 TFL), 3 sacks & 1 FF... According to PFF, has the most QB pressures (sacks/hits/buries) in the MW (36, 3-3rd in FBS), the most hurries (24, T-4th in FBS) & QB hits (9, T-3th in FBS)... 47 tackles, 14.5 TFL, 8.5 sacks in 2021... Ranked 2nd in the MW last year (17-7th in FBS) in QB pressures (sacks/hits/buries) (60)... 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: 114 TCK, 27.5 TFL, 16.5 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 CPG: 29; CGS: 0
Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

Moved from LB in spring... Has 30 tackles, 4.5 TFL & 2.5 sacks in just 27 of 487 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 gs of 2019 on ST... 2019 ST Scout Tom Pat'04... Led Turlock HS to undefeated league title in 2018.

LINEBACKER (SAM)

54 Caden McDonald

6-3 • 235 • Sr.-4L CPG: 55; CGS: 39
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 pass rusher... His 38-game start streak is longest on the team... Has 32 tackles, 4.5 TFL, 1 INT, 2 PBU & 5 QBH... Career: 151 tackles, 26.5 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. PoW 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... In 2017... Totaled a school-record 290 tackles over his 3-yr career at Northwest HS in Haslet, Texas... Was NHS's def. PoY all 3 seasons... Older brother, Colton, played at North Texas, while younger brother, Cooper, is a fellow linebacker at SDSU.

BACKUP

57 Darrell Masaniai

6-2 • 220 • So.-SQ CPG: 4; CGS: 0
Honolulu, Hawaii (St. Louis School)

Is on the depth chart for the first season... Made 1 tackle in his 61 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.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

91 Justus Tavai /tuh-vye/

6-3 • 290 • Sr.-TR CPG: 32; CGS: 25
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
Polynesia College Football PoW Watch List... Transferred to SDSU from Hawai'i in the spring... Has 16 tackles, including a 6-yard sack, & an INT in 7 starts... Career: 87 TCK, 11.0 TFL, 5.0 SCK... Started 18 of 25 appearances 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 CPG: 23; CGS: 0
Reno, Nev. (Reno High)

Has four tackles on the season in 52 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) (GP: 15; GS: 6)

DEFENSIVE END

2 Keshawn Banks

6-4 • 255 • Sr.-4L CPG: 53; CGS: 41
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 40 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... 18 tackles, 3.5 TFL (all at Nevada) 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, 4.0 TFL, 9.5 sacks... Led Rio Rancho HS in the Albuquerque (N.M.) area to a 13-0 record & 2016 state title... 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 T&F... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

BACKUP

90 Daniel Okpoko /oh-poke-oh/

6-5 • 255 • Sr.-1L CPG: 19; CGS: 0
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (St. Joseph's High)

Has seven tackles, 1.5 TFL and a sack... Had 3 stops & a PBU in 2021... Entered 2021 with two games played (one in 2020 and one in 2019) without recording a stat... Redshirted in 2018... A member of the Football Canada U19 National Team... Also on basketball & T&F teams.

ALSO: No. 30 Dominic Oliver (6-3, 230, Fr.-RS) (GP: 6; GS: 6)

LINEBACKER (MIKE)

51 Zyrrus Fiaseu /tee-uh-say-oo/

6-0 • 230 • Fr.-RS CPG: 7; CGS: 2
Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty High)

TOP NOTE: Made his first career start against Hawai'i on Oct. 8.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Hard-hitting linebacker... Made his first career start against Hawai'i on Oct. 8 after entering the game with 16 career defensive snaps... Had four tackles in 38 snaps... Has 10 tackles on the season in just 78 defensive snaps... Came up with four tackles at No. 14/15 Utah in just six 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

43 Seyddrick Lakalaka /SAID-rikk/ /LOK-ah-LOK-ah/

6-1 • 235 • Sr.-4L CPG: 50; CGS: 11
Kalihi, Hawaii (Punahou High)

GH 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: 104 TCK, 12.5 TFL... Prepped at Punahou HS w/ fellow Cal Alama Uluave... Younger brother of Ronley (2015-18 LB at SDSU) & Steven (2013-16 RB at Hawai'i).

LINEBACKER (WILL)

46 Michael Shawcroft

6-2 • 220 • Sr.-3L CPG: 40; CGS: 18
San Diego, Calif. (Helix High)

TOP NOTE: Was named the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Week on Monday (7 tackles, 2.0 TFL, 1.0 sack, 1 FF at Nevada).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Versatile linebacker who always seems to be around the ball... Has team-highs of 42 tackles & 6 TFL, along with 3 sacks, 3 PBU & a FF... Career: 137 TCK, 18.5 TFL, 7.5 SCK, 5 FF (9-9th at SDSU), 2 FR & 4 PBU... HM all-MW in 2021 w/ 55 tackles (33 solo), 7.5 TFL, 3 sacks, 2 FF and INT... Had 8 tackles (5 solo), 3.0 TFL, 1 SCK and a FF at San Jose State on Oct. 15... 2020: Recorded 35 tackles (24 solo) in 8 games (5 starts) in 2020, including 5 TFL, 1.5 sacks, 2 FF and 2 FR... 2019: Played all 13 games on special teams as a true freshman in 2019 and six snaps on defense, recording 5 tackles overall... Starred a nearby high school power Helix High School in La Mesa... Was the 2018 CIF San Diego Section Defensive Player of the Year.

BACKUP

55 Cooper McDonald

6-3 • 240 • Jr.-TR CPG: 21; CGS: 16
Haslet, Texas (Northwest High/Washington)

Transferred from Washington in the spring... Has 19 tackles, 1.5 TFL, 2 FR, a PBU & 4 QBH... Had 28 tackles (1.5 sacks) at UW (2020-21), playing 15 of 16 games (10 starts)... Younger brother of Caden (6th-year LB at SDSU)... Won the discus throw at the SA state championships in 2019.

ALSO: No. 44 Val Kaho (6-1, 230, Jr.-2L) (GP: 15; GS: 1)

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	33rd	60th	59th	73rd
2014-22	5th	6th	14th	3rd

• SDSU defensive ranks under defensive coordinator Kurt Mattix (since 2020): sixth in rushing (101.6), 10th in scoring (19.6), 12th in total (324.2) and 13th pass efficiency (118.9).

• San Diego State has held its opponent to single digit TDs 20 times since 2015 (96 games) and to 10 or less points 28 times over that span.

• SDSU has allowed just 730 points over the last 42 games (17.4 ppg).

• This year opponents have had 88 drives where they have tried to score on SDSU and the Aztecs have forced three-and-outs (or less) in 37 of those drives (42.1 pct.). San Diego State averages 5.29 three-and-outs per game.

• SDSU shut out an opponent in the first half for three straight games (Sept. 24 vs. Toledo, Sept. 30 at Boise State and Oct. 8 vs. Hawai'i) for the first time since at least 2000. That is tied with Michigan for the longest streak in this season.

• The Aztecs have held their opponents scoreless in 15 of the 28 quarters this season, including 15 of the last 23.

• Over the past four-plus seasons (2018-22), San Diego State allowed only 27 rushes (out of 1,711 attempts, 1.58 pct.) for 20 or longer (10 in 262 attempts this year (3.82 pct.).

• SDSU's 136 interceptions since the 2014 season are the second most in the country over that span (Iowa, 137) while its 15 interceptions returned for a touchdown ranks in a tie for 11th.

• Since the start of the 2020 season, San Diego State has 13 non-offensive touchdowns, tied with Houston for the third most in the country over that span, trailing only Alabama (15) and Middle Tennessee (14).

FIELD CORNERBACK

10 Noah Tumblyn

6-2 • 185 • Jr.-2L CPG: 28; CGS: 12
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 eight tackles, an interception and a pass breakup in seven games, starting the last four... When targeted this season, QBs are 6-for-14 for 88 yards, no touchdowns and an interception (81.3 defensive pass efficiency rating)... First career INT in opener at Arizona... 2021: 32 tackles & 7 PBUs in 14 GP (18 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 yards & 40 TDs at nearby Mira Mesa HS, & ran for 1,891 yards & 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 CPG: 24; CGS: 2
Redondo Beach, Calif. (Salesian HS/LBCC)

Has 16 tackles, 2.0 TFL & 2 PBUs in 7 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) (GP: 18; GS: 4)

FIELD WARRIOR

31 Davaughn Celestine

6-0 • 190 • Jr.-1L CPG: 19; CGS: 6
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 career PBU 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 26 tackles, 2 PBU, 1 INT & 1 FF... Logged 2 solo tackles on special teams in 9 games in 2021... Played in 3 statuses 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

34 Eric Butler

6-1 • 180 • Fr.-HS CPG: 6; CGS: 0
Corona, Calif. (Centennial High)

Has played in each of the last six games as a true freshman, mainly on special teams... Only has 18 defensive snaps this season... Has three assisted tackles... Did not play in the opener against Arizona... Prepped at Centennial High School in Corona, Calif... Led the Huskies to the state semifinals... Centennial HS ended up finishing ranked third in the state.

Positions in gold notes returning starter

AZTEC

33 Patrick McMorris

6-0 • 210 • Sr.-3L CPG: 36; CGS: 21
Santa Ana, Calif. (Santa Ana High)

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

On Bednarik & Nagurski WFLs... Has won 30 pounds since arriving as a true freshman in 2019... In 2021 became 1st Aztec (safely) in SDSU's 3-3-5 defense to earn 1st (or 2nd) team all-MW honors since Matt Barthe in 2013... Had a 1st 90 tackles (2.5 TFL), 4 INTs, FR & 9 PBUs... MW Def. PoW for play vs. Boise St. (5 TCK, 2 INT)... Logged 7 TFL & 1 PBU in 1st start at Nevada (11/21/20)... Had 1 stop on a FR in 2019... Career: 134 TCK, 5.5 TFL, 4 INT & 15 PBU... Played 1 year at Santa Ana HS (10-3), running for 1,801 yards & 23 TD... Had 99 stops on defense w/ 2 INT... Previously started at Goddard HS... A tripart w/ 2 sisters... Brother, Hakim, is a decathlete at Cal.

BACKUP

19 Kyron White

5-11 • 210 • Jr.-2L CPG: 25; 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. LSU... 2021: 3 tackles & FF in 6 games on ST... 2019: 1 GP... Prepped at Arlington HS in Arlington, Texas... Is majoring in biology.

Indicates player is on a national award watch list

BOUNDARY WARRIOR

3 Cedarius Barfield

5-11 • 195 • Sr.-3L CPG: 32; CGS: 14
El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

TOP NOTE: Is the only Aztec with at least one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and an interception.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Has 17 tackles on the season in six games (one start), while adding an interception, forced fumble, fumble recovery and a PBU... Had 5 tackles, 1.0 TFL, 1 FF & 1 FR in start vs. Arizona... DNP vs. Idaho St... INT vs. Toledo... 6 stops vs. Utah... Had 38 tackles (24 solo) & 3 PBU in 1st 10 games last year (9.5 before inj... 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... Threw for 5,670 yards & 59 TD, & ran for 3,760 yards & 58 TD.

BACKUP

24 Josh Hunter

5-9 • 175 • Fr.-HS CPG: 3; CGS: 0
Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

Played in each of the first three games on special teams but has not played over the last four... Helped Mater Dei HS to two CIF open championships, two state titles and three league championships, where it was a combined 43-2 (956)... Father, Brian, spent nine years in Major League Baseball.

INJ: No. 6 CJ Baskerville (6-2, 200, So.-1L) (GP: 21; GS: 11)

CORNERBACK

32 Dez Malone

6-2 • 200 • So.-1L CPG: 17; CGS: 5
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 26 tackles, 2 PBUs, INT & TFL in 1st career defensive snaps (29.5)... Had a tackle in his 1st career defensive snaps (18) vs. Arizona on Sept. 17... Had career-high 6 tackles in 1st career start at Utah (Sept. 17)... 5 tackles, PBU vs. Toledo... 1st INT at RS... 17th vs. Utah... Saw action in 8 games in 2021 on special teams... Moved from 5 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 CPG: 19; CGS: 5
Cerritos, Calif. (Servite High)

Has 19 tackles & 2 PBUs (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 PBU & a FR in 1st 2 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.