



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 last year
- Defense ranked 11th last year and 17th in scoring defense
- 15 players selected in the NFL Draft in his six seasons as head coach



Danny Gonzales

DC/Safeties Coach

- Named defensive coordinator in March 2017
- Is in his seventh season at SDSU coaching safeties
- SDSU's 49 interceptions from 2015-16 are most in FBS
- Aztecs led nation with 26 interceptions last year
- Has spent 15 years working/playing with Coach Long

DEFENSIVE END

95 Noble Hall

/nobel/

6-3 • 265 • Jr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 17
Las Vegas, Nev. (Valley High)

TOP NOTE: Is only player on the defensive line with a collegiate start, having started 17 career games (all 14 last year) at defensive tackle.

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
Athletic, mobile defensive lineman ... Making the move to defensive end this year after playing his first two seasons at defensive tackle ... Had 26 tackles, 6.0 TFL for 27 yards, three sacks for 19 yards, a pass breakup and five quarterback hurries last year ... Had 20 tackles in 2015 in 11 games (three starts), including 6.0 TFL, 0.5 sacks, a FF & a PBU ... Starts came in the first three games vs. USD, Cal & South Alabama ... 2014 SDSU Defensive Scout Team Player of the Year while redshirting ... Received three stars from both ESPN & 247sports out of HS ... A three-time letterwinner & a three-time captain at Valley High in Las Vegas ... Also earned three letters in basketball ... Previously known as Eric Burrell, but legally changed his name to honor his father, who was shot and killed before he was born ... Majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

BACKUP

55 Chibu Onyuekwu

/chee-boo/ /on-you-koor/

6-4 • 255 • Jr.-RS CGP: 6; CGS: 0
Pittsburg, Calif. (Deer Valley HS/Contra Costa College)

Notes: Athletic DE who has 3 years of collegiate experience (2014-15 with Contra Costa College & redshirting last year at SDSU) ... Won 2 PacWest 7 titles at CCC, along with his brother, Chimo ... Led 2015 team with 9 sacks & 12 TFL ... Prepped at Deer Valley HS ... Full name is Chibuzo Onyuekwu ... Majoring in sociology.

LINEBACKER

39 Ronley

/ron-lee/ /Lakalaka/lock-ah-lock-ah/

6-0 • 225 • Jr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 13
Kalihi, Hawaii (Punahou HS)

TOP NOTE: His 73 tackles last year were the third most by an Aztec underclassman in the Rocky Long defensive coordinator era (since 2009).

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
Physical run-stopping linebacker who has become one of the leaders on defense ... Moved into the two-deep for the South Alabama game as a true freshman in 2015 with Jake Foley injured & stayed there for the rest of the season, before starting 13 of 14 games last year ... Had 73 tackles (2nd on team) last year with 3.0 TFL, an 8-yard sack, 2 INTs for 20 yards & a touchdown, a PBU & 5 QBH ... Was 1 of 2 true freshmen on the depth chart in either side of the ball in 2015 (also safety Parker Baldwin) ... Had 11 tackles ... Full name is Ronley Sumaunifanife Lealoo Lakalaka ... Was two-time all-state first-team selection at Punahou HS ... Older brother, Steven, played RB at Hawaii, while younger brother, Seydick, is a true freshman LB at SDSU ... Is majoring in social science.

BACKUP

44 Kyahva Tezino

/Key-AH-va/ /tah-ZEENO/

6-0 • 230 • So.-1L CGP: 11; CGS: 0
Los Angeles, Calif. (Salesian HS)

Notes: Explosive athlete, who will be counted on for more snaps in 2017 ... 2016: 5 tackles (1.5 sacks) in 11 GP ... 2015: RS, where he was named the team's defensive scout PkY ... Rushed for 1,704 yards & 13 TD on offense & made 243 tackles at Salesian HS ... A 4-star recruit.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

65 Sergio Phillips

6-2 • 285 • Sr.-3L CGP: 29; CGS: 0
DeSoto, Texas (DeSoto HS)

TOP NOTE: Has the second-most career tackles (47) among current SDSU defensive linemen, despite never starting a game.

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
Has switched back & forth from the offensive line (2013 recruit, spring 2015) & defensive line (spring/fall 2014, fall 2015-current) ... Saturday will be his first career collegiate start ... Had 42 tackles (20 solo), 3.5 sacks for 18 yards, three sacks, a forced fumble, a pass breakup and three quarterback hurries last year off the bench ... Career-high 10 stops, 1 sack in 2016 MW Championship game ... Played in eight games in 2015 (six on OL, two on DL), including being the only defensive substitute at the MW Championship game ... Had five tackles, 2.0 TFL & a sack in 2014 ... Was a three-star recruit out of DeSoto HS in Texas ... Was an all-state selection as a senior ... Led DeSoto to a 14-1 record & 7-0 mark in league play as a senior ... Majoring in social science.

BACKUP

61 Damon Moore

6-4 • 250 • Jr.-SQ CGP: 13; CGS: 0
Novato, Calif. (San Marin High)

Notes: Walk-on, who played in one game last year after missing the entire 2015 season & the 2016 spring campaign with a knee injury ... Had two tackles vs. Hawai'i in 2016 ... Missed 2015 with injury ... RS in 2014 ... Earned two letters at San Marin HS ... A business administration major.

DEFENSIVE END

68 Myles Cheatum

6-2 • 255 • So.-SQ CGP: 5; CGS: 0
Cedar Park, Texas (Cedar Park HS)

TOP NOTE: One of three Aztec defensive linemen from the state of Texas (also starting DT Sergio Phillips and reserve DE Mark Brown).

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
Athletic defensive linemen who continues to improve his technique ... Was promoted to a starter when incumbent Dakota Turner injured his knee in the Aztec Fan Fest on Aug. 19 and was ruled out for the season ... Saturday will be his first collegiate start ... Appeared in five games last year off the bench, recording four tackles (three solo) ... Redshirted his first season in 2015 ... Recorded 10 tackles for loss as a senior at Cedar Park High in 2014, leading the Timberwolves to a 12-4 overall record and a narrow loss in the Conference 5A Division 2 championship game ... Also added 10 offensive touchdowns (eight rushing, two receiving) ... Was born in Athens, Greece ... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

BACKUP

40 Randy Ricks

6-5 • 235 • Sr.-RS CGP: 13; CGS: 6
Las Vegas, Nev. (Legacy HS/Arizona Western CC)

Notes: Moved from LB to DE w/in. to Dakota Turner ... Missed 15 of team's 28 games last 2 yrs w/ INJ ... 2016: 11 TCK, 3 TFL, 1 SK, 1 FF, 2 PBU in 4 GS ... 2015: 2 TCK, 1 TFL, 2.5 SCK, 4 PBU & 2 FF in 9 GP (2 GS) ... Originally signed w/ SDSU in 2012 ... 43 TCK, 8.5 SCK & 3 FF in 2014 at AJCC ... Played DL & LB at Legacy HS. **INJ:** No. 41 Dakota Turner (6-3, 250, Sr.-3L) on 2/2/16

LINEBACKER

42 Troy Cassidy

6-3 • 215 • So.-1L CGP: 11; CGS: 0
Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad HS)

TOP NOTE: Entered fall camp third on the depth chart, but is projected to start in the 2017 opener for the first time of his career.

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
Smart, athletic player who played in 11 games as a true freshman last year ... Joins fellow starters Ronley Lakalaka (LJ) and Jay Henderson (S&L) as linebackers who never redshirted a season (true freshman Andrew Aleki is also on the two-deep) ... Played in each of the final 11 games, mostly on special teams, making 10 tackles (four solo) with a 1-yard sack (and tackle for loss) ... Made a career-high three stops (all solo) vs. San José State, while also recording his first sack (and tackle for loss), going for 1-yard ... Recorded 178 tackles (119 solo) with 10 sacks over his three-year career at Carlsbad High School (same school as starting quarterback Christian Chapman) ... Also played tight end for the 2015 Avocado West League champ ... Is undecided on a major.

BACKUP OR BACKUP

57 Ryan Dunn 52 Tyler Morris

6-3 • 230 • Sr.-2L CGP: 25; CGS: 20
6-3 • 225 • Sr.-1L CGP: 15; CGS: 0

Notes: Has the most returning starts ... 2016: Missed 200 of any returning Aztec linebacker ... with INJ ... 2015: 3 TCK in 14 GP ... 2014: 24 tackles in 2016 ... 40 stops in 2015 ... 1 GP, missed rest with INJ ... 2013: RS ... **DNP** in 2014 ... RS at Ariz. in 2013 ... Working on master's in homeland security.

Defensive Tidbits

• Danny Gonzales is serving as the team's defensive coordinator for first time 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 14th nationally in yards per rush allowed (3.7), 18th nationally in yards per touch (6.3), 21st in yards allowed per game (350.9) and 28th in points allowed per game (23.6).

• The Aztecs have had three of the best defensive seasons over the last three years. Below are comparisons of the past three seasons and total rankings over the last three years:

| | Scoring | Total | Pass | Rush |
|---------|---------|-------|------|------|
| 2014 | 13th | 16th | 19th | 48th |
| 2015 | 7th | 5th | 10th | 7th |
| 2016 | 17th | 11th | 42nd | 7th |
| 2014-16 | 7th | 7th | 9th | 9th |

• SDSU's defensive ranks last season: 1st in passes intercepted (22), 11th in rushing defense (111.9), 12th in total defense (320.2), 19th in scoring defense (21.0), and 21st in passing efficiency rating (116.2).

• San Diego State held three straight opponents to single digits in scoring last for the first time since a four-game stretch from Oct. 15-Nov. 5, 1977. The Aztecs have held an opponent to single digits 10 times since the beginning of last season (28 games).

• Over SDSU's last 23 Mountain West contests (does not include MW Championships), opponents have scored just 15.9 points per game vs. San Diego State and only 275.3 yards per game.

• The Aztecs forced three or more turnovers in 12 of their last 21 contests.

• SDSU has held six opponents to less than 200 yards of total offense since the beginning of 2015 (28 games), including twice last year.

• Since the beginning of 2015 (28 games), San Diego State's defense ranks first in interceptions (49) and third in interception TDs (9).

• Since the beginning of the 2015 campaign, the Aztecs rank fifth nationally in rushing yards allowed per game (107.2) and fourth in rushing yards per attempt (3.1).

• SDSU has held its opponent to seven or less points in the first half in 15 of the last 24 games.

• In 15 of its last 30 games, San Diego State has held its opponent to a passer rating of less than 100.00.

CORNERBACK

17 Ron Smith

6-0 • 170 • So.-1L CGP: 14; CGS: 6
Oakland, Calif. (St. Mary's HS)

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
Tied a SDSU single-season record with two interceptions returned for a touchdown last year.

Good technique with a knack for coming up with the big play ... Started the final six games last year, recording 45 tackles, 0.5 TFL, three interceptions (two for a TD), one pass breakup and a forced fumble over that span ... Had 29 tackles, three interceptions for 77 yards and two touchdowns, three pass breakups, a forced fumble and 0.5 tackles for loss on the season ... Was named to the 2016-17 Associated Press and Athlon Sports all-bowl teams for his play in the Las Vegas Bowl (10 tackles, INT for a TD) ... Redshirted in 2015 as a true freshman ... A three-star recruit by Rivals, Scout, ESPN & 247sports ... Majoring in psychology.

BACKUP

27 Kyree Woods

6-0 • 175 • So.-1L CGP: 7; CGS: 0
Mesa, Ariz. (Chandler HS)

Athletic, young cornerback who should increase workload this year ... Had 11 tackles in 7 games as a true freshman last year, which went down as a 10-yard sack on Hawai'i quarterback Drew Brown on 4th & 5, keeping SDSU's 55-0 shutout intact ... Led Chandler HS to a 24-4 record over his 2 years, including a state title in 2014 ... A 3-star recruit by ESPN ... A business admin. major.

WARRIOR

14 Tariq Thompson

/tah-REEK/

6-0 • 190 • Fr.-HS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine HS)

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: Looking to become the first Aztec true freshman to start on defense since Leon McFadden in 2009.

Athletic safety, who has impressed the coaching staff in fall camp ... If he starts as expected Saturday against UC Davis, Thompson would be the first Aztec true freshman to start on defense since cornerback Leon McFadden started at Colorado State on Oct. 24, 2009, and the first to start a season opener on defense since McFadden started Sept. 5, 2009, at UCLA (Coach Rocky Long's first game as SDSU's defensive coordinator) ... Played on both sides of the ball at local St. Augustine High, where the team was 20-6 over his final two seasons (2015-16) ... Was a two-time all-CIF pick ... Undecided on major.

BACKUP

18 Trenton Thompson

6-2 • 190 • So.-1L CGP: 8; CGS: 0
Palm Springs, Calif. (Palm Springs HS)

Played eight games last year as a true freshman ... Had eight 11 tackles in 7 games as a true freshman in his first career game last year ... Had four tackles in his first career game on San Jose State, tied for the third most on the team ... Led Palm Springs HS to a 24-3 (.889) record over his three years ... Was a three-star recruit by Scout and 247sports ... Majoring in criminal justice.

AZTEC

33 Parker Baldwin

6-2 • 215 • Jr.-2L CGP: 26; CGS: 9
Siloam Springs, Ark. (Siloam Springs HS)

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: Ranked third on the team in tackles last year (66), despite coming off the bench in 5 games.

Big time playmaker, who will make his 10th career start this weekend at the signature Aztec spot in Rocky Long's 3-3-5 defense ... Had 66 tackles (37 solo), three tackles for loss, two interceptions, a forced fumble, fumble recovery and seven pass breakups last year ... Was second on the team in special teams tackles (10) as a true freshman in 2015 ... Had 14 tackles, an interception & a forced fumble, being named team's Freshman of the Year ... Earned all-state accolades as a senior ... Scored 8 TD & had 758 rec. yds, 135 rush yds & 134 tackles in his final HS season ... Was the state champ in the 200 ... A communication major.

BACKUP

11 Will Stricklin II

6-0 • 200 • Fr.-RS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
San Marcos, Calif. (Mission Hills HS)

Notes: Young, athletic linebacker who has impressed the coaching staff with a solid fall camp ... Played his prep ball at Kamehameha High School in Honolulu ... 247sports ranked him as the sixth-best recruit in the state of Hawaii and gave him a grade of 83 ... Full name is Andrew 'Ka' ea Aleki.

WARRIOR

3 Trey Lomax

5-11 • 195 • Sr.-3L CGP: 31; CGS: 25
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa HS)

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: Has the most starts (26) among any active Aztec on either the offensive or defensive side of the ball.

Reads plays exceptionally well ... Has the most tackles (105) among any current Aztec ... 2016: 33 tackles, 1.5 TFL, 1 INT & 5 PBU in 14 GP (13 GS) ... 2015: Battled injuries to finish with 9 tackles, 1.0 TFL & 1 FR in 5 GP (2 GS) ... 2014: Had most tackles (63) by an Aztec freshman in the Rocky Long DC era (since 2009) ... Named the team's most outstanding freshman (2014) with 2 FR as well ... Career: 105 tackles, 5.5 TFL, 1 sack, 1 INT, 8 PBU, 3 FR ... 2013: RS ... Also was recruited to play baseball at SDSU ... Offensive conference MVP at Mira Mesa HS ... Also hit .341 & was a 2-time 1st-team all-league baseball pick ... Earned his bachelor's in criminal justice & working on master's in homeland security.

BACKUP

23 Darren Hall

6-0 • 170 • Fr.-HS CGP: 0; CGS: 0
Pasadena, Calif. (Rancho Cucamonga HS)

Ball hawk, who will see action in his first season on The Mesa ... One of three true freshmen on the defensive side of the depth chart (also LB Andrew Aleki and WAR Tariq Thompson) ... Led Rancho Cucamonga HS to a 12-1 record last year, earning first-team all-league honors ... Was a consensus three-star recruit ... Prepped with fellow true freshman Tayari Venable ... Majoring in communication.

CORNERBACK

7 Kameron Kelly

6-2 • 200 • Sr.-3L CGP: 33; CGS: 14
Murphy, Texas (Wylie HS)

Notes: '17; Career; Personal
TOP NOTE: Recorded two interceptions against Houston in the 2016 Las Vegas Bowl game.

Making the move to cornerback this year after spending first three seasons at Warrior ... Also will be in the mix in the kick return game ... Had 38 tackles, 5 interceptions & 6 pass breakups last year ... Ranked 3rd in the MW & 1st nationally in INT per game (0.36) ... Started 13 times in 2015 at Warrior, making 58 tackles, 3 TFL, 3 PBU & 2 INT ... Logged time in 6 games as a true freshman in 2014 with 1 tackle & a blocked punt before having surgery on a leg for compartment syndrome ... The 4A Region II District 13 PkY after racking up 4,000 all-purpose yards at Wylie HS in Texas ... Is majoring in social science.

BACKUP

30 Garrett Binkley

5-9 • 170 • So.-SQ CGP: 2; CGS: 0
Ramona, Calif. (Ramona HS)

Athletic, cornerback who always seems to be in the right place at the right time ... Was awarded a scholarship late in fall camp ... Played in first two career games in 2016 without recording a stat ... Redshirted 2015 season ... Earned three letters at nearby Ramona HS, garnering second-team all-CIF honors and first-team all-Palomar League accolades at wide receiver ... Is majoring in interdisciplinary studies.