

SAN DIEGO STATE FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES ♦ SAN DIEGO STATE 20, AIR FORCE 14 ♦ Sat., Oct. 23, 2021 ♦ Falcon Stadium (Colorado Springs, Colo.)



FINAL SCORE	20	14
Time Spent in the Lead (<i>Tied 2:34</i>)	57:26	0:00
Total Plays-Yards	52-229	63-259
Plus Territory: Plays-Yards	33-121	19-79
Drives with Plays in Plus Territory	6 of 10	3 of 10
First Down Plays/Yards	20/63	24/116
Average on First Down	3.15	4.83
Rushes-Yards (Avg.)	13-41 (3.2)	21-85 (4.1)
Passes-Yards (Avg.)	6-22 (3.7)	3-31 (10.3)
First Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	1-(-11)	0-0
First Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	0-0	0-0
First Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	0-0	1-15
First Downs Made	1	4
First Down Turnovers	0	0
First Down Touchdowns	1	0
Third Down Efficiency (Pct.)	5-13 (38.5)	4-16 (25.0)
Rushing (Pct.)	4-10 (40.0)	3-10 (30.0)
Passing (Pct.)	1-3 (33.3)	1-6 (16.7)
Third Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	0-0	0-0
Conversion by Penalties	0	0
Third Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	0-0	0-0
Third Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	4-20	0-0
Average Yards to Go (All)	5.8	7.3
Yards Gained	76	65
Average Yards Gained/Att.	5.85	4.06
3rd & Long (9 or more)	0-2	1-4
3rd & Short (4 or less)	3-8	2-4
Third Down Turnovers	0	1
Third Down Touchdowns	1	0
Fourth Down Efficiency (Yards)	1-1 (100.0)	3-4 (75.0)
Total Possessions/Average Field Position	10/SDSU40	10/AF421
First Half	5/SDSU49	6/AF420
Second Half	5/SDSU30	4/AF421
Drives Started Inside/At Own 25	4 (2/2)	9 (4/5)
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	7 (1/0)	1 (1/0)
Drives Started in Plus Territory/Attempted to Score	4/4	0/0
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	13 (1/2)	0 (0/0)
Three and Outs or Less (must not have earned 1st D or scored)	4	4
Opponent Turnovers (Points)	2 (6)	0 (0)
Scores-Times in the Red Zone (Points)	3-3 (17)	2-2 (14)
Plays-Yards	11-22	12-37
Third Down Efficiency	1-3	1-3
Scores-Times in the Goal to Go (Points)	3-3 (17)	1-1 (7)
Plays-Yards	9-15	4-7
Explosive Plays (20-plus Yards)	2	1
Rushing	1	0
Passing	1	1
Yards by Quarter:		
First	19	63
Second	79	24
Third	82	80
Fourth	49	92

BIG NOTES

- San Diego State improved to 7-0 for the first time since 1975 (Gerald Ford was President and "Bad Blood" by Neil Sadaka was the No. 1 song).
- This marks the fourth 7-0 start for the Aztecs in the Division I era (1969, 1970, 1975 and 2021).
- This is the second 7-0 start as a head coach for Brady Hoke (2008 Ball State started 12-0).
- San Diego State's seven-game win streak is its longest since an eight-game win streak in the 2016-17 seasons (final two games of 2016 and first six games of 2017).
- This marks the first time San Diego State has won seven consecutive games inside a single season since the Aztecs won their final seven games of the 1977 campaign. SDSU was an independent at that time.
- San Diego State defeated Air Force for the ninth consecutive time. That matches the longest win streak for either team in the series (37 total games).
- San Diego State entered the day as one of only 10 unbeaten teams in the nation.
- San Diego State has won consecutive games as a nationally ranked team for the first time since 2017.
- The Aztecs have won their last four road games as a nationally ranked team (two in 2017 and two in 2021). In all games since 1996, that is tied for the eight-longest active streak in the country.

THE SERIES

- San Diego State closes the all-time series deficit to 19-18.
- This is the closest the Aztecs-Falcons series has been since the Academy led, 2-1, following the 1982 meeting.
- The Aztecs won for the fourth consecutive time at Falcon Stadium. Prior to the start of this stretch, San Diego State was 4-11 lifetime at Air Force.
- San Diego State is 2-0 all-time vs. Air Force when nationally ranked. In both games (2017 and 2021), the Aztecs were ranked No. 22 in the AP Top 25 Poll entering the game.

TEAM NOTES

- The Aztecs held their 29th straight opponent to fewer than 450 yards of total offense. That is the longest active streak in the nation.
- San Diego State is 3-0 outright as an underdog this season. The Aztecs are 12-6 straight-up as an underdog since Oct. 17, 2015
- San Diego State is 17-7 in road games since claiming the Mountain West championship at Wyoming in 2016. That is the eighth-best record nationally over that span.
- San Diego State is 9-1 in its last 10 games on exactly eight days between games (the Aztecs last game was Fri., Oct. 15 at San José State).
- Streaks extended with the win:
 - 7-game overall winning streak
 - 9-game winning streak against Air Force
 - 4-game Mountain West win streak
 - 3-game road winning streak
- San Diego State improved to 3-0 in Mountain West play, its best start to a league campaign since the 2018 squad opened 3-0.
- San Diego State improved to 15-2 in its last 17 games played against a team from the state of Colorado.
- San Diego State improved to 7-1 in its last eight games played inside the state of Colorado.
- San Diego State improved to 11-2 in its last 13 games played in the Mountain Time Zone.
- San Diego State snapped Air Force's four-game win streak. The Aztecs improved to 8-3 since 2011 when facing teams that entered the game with at least a four-game winning streak.
- The last time the Aztecs won a road game against an opponent that carried a four-game winning streak or longer into the contest was Nov. 9, 2013, when the Aztecs won at San Jose State, 34-30.
- San Diego State has forced at least one turnover in 20 consecutive games.
- The Aztecs allowed a rushing touchdown with 3:59 left in the fourth quarter, the first one given up by SDSU this season in regulation. San Diego State had gone 33 quarters without allowing a rushing touchdown until that score.
- The Aztecs won their 20th straight game when leading after three quarters and are now 22-3 under head coach Brady Hoke when leading after three quarters.

- SDSU has won 11 consecutive games when the opposition passer rating is below 100.
- Since Brady Hoke returned as head coach, San Diego State has outscored the opposition, 243-128, in the nine Mountain West games.
- The Aztecs didn't have a turnover for the second time this season. SDSU is 2-0 when not committing a turnover and 7-0 in the Brady Hoke era.
- San Diego State won its seventh straight game when committing fewer turnovers than its opponent. SDSU is 11-2 in the Brady Hoke era when committing fewer turnovers.

TRENDS

- The Aztecs won the coin toss for the fourth time this season in seven games.
- SDSU did not start with the ball for just the 24th time over the last 125 games.
- San Diego State held its opponent scoreless on its opening possession for the seventh straight game (six, three-and-outs or less) and the 62nd time since 2015 (82 games).
- The Aztecs improved to 4-0 this season and 15-4 in the Brady Hoke era when scoring first.
- SDSU improved to 5-0 on the season and 21-5 in the Brady Hoke era when leading at the half.
- SDSU improved to 45-1 the last 46 times it has led by at least 14 points in a game.
- The Aztecs improved to 52-8 the last 60 times they have scored at least 20 points in a game.
- The Aztecs improved to 23-2 in the Brady Hoke era when allowing 24 points or less (6-0 this season).
- San Diego State improved to 53-5 the last 58 times it held its opponent to a third-down conversion percentage of 33.3 or less.
- The Aztecs improved to 3-0 this season in games decided by seven or less points.

PLAYER NOTES

* **Chance Bell, Sr., RB (8 att., 50 yds., 1 TD)**

Scored his third rushing touchdown of the season and eighth of his career ... Now has three overall touchdowns this year and eight for his career.

* **Kaegun Williams, Sr., RB (10 att., 34 yds., 1 TD)**

Scored his second rushing touchdown of the season and third of his career ... Now has two overall touchdowns this year and four for his career.

* **Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (2-for-2 FG, 51 LG | 2-for-2 PAT | 5 P, 54.8 avg., 4 I20, 81 LG | 5 KO, 65.0 avg., 5 TB)**

Made a pair of field goals and now has multiple field goals in 14 of his 28 career games ... Kicked a 51-yard field goal in the second quarter, tied for the second longest of his career ... Is now 3-for-5 on 50-yard attempts this season ... Had an 81-yard punt, which was his second straight game with an 80-yard punt ... Finished with two 60-yard punts and now has 14 on the season, which is tied with Texas A&M Braden Mann (2018) for the most in a season in FBS history ... Tied a career high with four punts inside the 20-yard line.

* **Lucas Johnson, Sr., QB (11-for-13, 72 yds., 0 TD, 0 INT)**

Improved to 3-0 as the starting quarterback this season ... Posted a 84.6 completion percentage, the highest mark of his career (min. 12 attempts).

* **Patrick McMorris, Jr., S (7 tackles)**

Tied for the team lead with seven tackles.

* **Michael Shawcroft, Jr., LB (7 tackles, 1.0 TFL)**

Tied for the team lead with seven tackles ... Now has 15 tackles and four tackles for loss over his last two games.

OTHER NOTES

- TE **Daniel Bellinger** and LB **Caden McDonald** each started for the 24th consecutive game, the longest streaks on the team (offense/defense).
- LB **Caden McDonald** played for the 41st straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- S **Trenton Thompson** and CB **Taylor Hawkins** each played in their 50th game of their career, the most played among current Aztecs.
- LT **Desmond Bessent**, LB **Vai Kaho** and CB **Dallas Branch** all made their first career start today.
- CB **Dallas Branch** recorded his first career interception in the first quarter.
- S **Trenton Thompson** recorded his second career forced fumble and first since Nov. 24, 2018 against Hawai'i.
- CB **Noah Avinger** recovered his first career fumble.
- Tonight's attendance was 23,887.