



Aztec Football 2023 Preseason Honors

as of Aug. 17

► Team Honors

► Projected Finish

T-2nd in Mountain West (Phil Steele Magazine)

4th in Mountain West (MW media)

4th in Mountain West (Athlon Sports)

4th in Mountain West (Lindy's Sports)

► Team Rankings

2nd in Mountain West recruiting class (Phil Steele Magazine)

3rd in Mountain West; 59th overall (Phil Steele Magazine power poll)

4th in Mountain West; 54th overall (Phil Steele Magazine preseason poll)

► Unit Rankings

Special Teams - first in Mountain West; 5th overall (Phil Steele Magazine)

Defensive Backs - first in Mountain West; 35th overall (Phil Steele Magazine)

Linebackers - third in Mountain West; 53rd overall (Phil Steele Magazine)

Quarterbacks - fourth in Mountain West (Phil Steele Magazine)

Running Backs - fourth in Mountain West (Phil Steele Magazine)

Defensive Line - fourth in Mountain West (Phil Steele Magazine)

► Games to Watch

Sept. 9, San Diego State vs. UCLA (Lindy's Sports)

Sept. 16, San Diego State at Oregon State (Lindy's Sports)

Sept. 22, San Diego State vs. Boise State (Lindy's Sports)

Nov. 25, Fresno State at San Diego State (Lindy's Sports)

► Individual Honors

Tupu Alualu | Jr. | Honolulu, Hawaii | Offensive Line

Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Watch List (Polynesian Ancestry)

Cedarious Barfield | ^Sr. | El Paso, Texas | Safety

All-Mountain West third team - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West fourth team - Athlon Sports

Cade Bennett | Jr. | Scottsdale, Ariz. | Offensive Line

Outland Trophy Watch List (Top Interior Lineman)

All-Mountain West first team - MW Media

All-Mountain West first team - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West first team - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West first team - Athlon Sports

All-Mountain West first team - Lindy's Sports

All-Mountain West first team - Sports Info Solutions

Dallas Branch | ^Sr. | Redondo Beach, Calif. | Cornerback

All-Mountain West first team - Lindy's Sports

All-Mountain West third team - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West third team - Athlon Sports

Jack Browning | ^Sr. | Lakeside, Calif. | Kicker/Punter

All-American first team (P) - Sports Info Solutions

Ray Guy Award Watch List (Best Collegiate Punter)

Lou Groza Award Watch List (Top Placekicker)

Mountain West Special Teams Player of the Year - MW media

All-Mountain West first team (P) - MW Media

All-Mountain West first team (P) - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West first team (P) - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West first team (P) - Athlon Sports

All-Mountain West first team (P) - Lindy's Sports

All-Mountain West first team (P) - Sports Info Solutions

All-Mountain West third team (K) - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West third team (K) - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West third team (K) - Athlon Sports

"No. 4-rated punter in FBS" - Lindy's Sports

"No. 6 draft-eligible punter in FBS" - Phil Steele Magazine

"No. 6 draft-eligible kicker in FBS" - Phil Steele Magazine

"No. 8 NFL Talent in MW" - Lindy's Sports

Kenan Criston | Sr. | San Diego, Calif. | Running Back

All-Mountain West third team - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West fourth team - Athlon Sports

Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson | Sr. | Inglewood, Calif. | Right Tackle

All-Mountain West second team - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West third team - Athlon Sports

"No. 50 draft-eligible offensive tackle" - Phil Steele Magazine

Garret Fountain | Sr. | Turlock, Calif. | Defensive End

All-Mountain West second team - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West third team - Athlon Sports

Dez Malone | Jr. | Fresno, Calif. | Cornerback

All-Mountain West first team - Sports Info Solutions

All-Mountain West second team - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West third team - Athlon Sports

Jalen Mayden | ^Sr. | Garland, Texas | Quarterback

Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award Watch List (Offensive Player with Ties to Texas)

All-Mountain West third team - Athlon Sports

Cooper McDonald | Sr. | Haslet, Texas | Linebacker

All-Mountain West second team - Phil Steele Magazine

All-Mountain West third team - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West third team - Athlon Sports

"No. 63 draft-eligible outside linebacker" - Phil Steele Magazine



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Cody Moon | Jr. | Albuquerque, N.M. | Linebacker

Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List (Best Defensive Player in College Football)

All-Mountain West first team - MW Media

All-Mountain West first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Mountain West first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West first team - *Sports Info Solutions*

All-Mountain West second team (Edge) - Pro Football Focus

All-Mountain West second team - *Lindy's Sports*

Mark Redman | Sr. | Newport Beach, Calif. | Tight End

John Mackey Award Watch List (Most Outstanding Tight End)

All-Mountain West first team - MW Media

All-Mountain West first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Mountain West first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Mountain West second team - *Lindy's Sports*

"No. 42 draft-eligible tight end" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

Mekhi Shaw | Jr. | San Diego, Calif. | Wide Receiver

All-Mountain West fourth team - *Athlon Sports*

Samuela Tuihalamaka | Sr. | Riverside, Calif. | Defensive Line

Top Newcomer - *Lindy's Sports*

Ross Ulugalu-Maseuli | So. | San Diego, Calif. | Offensive Line

Polynesian College Football Player of the Year Watch List (Polynesian Ancestry)