

San Diego State Aztecs

2023 Record: 3-8, 1-6 Mountain West
12 Bowl Game Appearances in last 13 Seasons (Bowl Eligible all 13)
MW Champions: 2016, 2015, 2012 | 21-Time Conference Champions



Ryan Lindley Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

- ♦ First season as offensive coordinator (second season as QB coach)
- ♦ Is SDSU's all-time leader in six categories, inc. yards (12,690) & TDs (90)
- ♦ Lettered at SDSU from 2008-11, including 2009-10 under Brady Hoke
- ♦ Came to SDSU as QB coach in Oct. 2022 from Miss. St. (def. analyst)
- ♦ Also coached 2 yrs for the Cleveland Browns (2018 RBs & 2019 QBs)

O-LINE NOTES

- ♦ Only two returning starters started opener vs. Ohio
- ♦ This week's projected line has 74 career starts.
- ♦ San Diego State has had six different starting offensive line combinations through its 11 games.
- ♦ San Diego State is 55-2 the last 57 times the Aztecs have rushed for at least 200 yards (1-0 this year).

LEFT TACKLE

61 Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson
6-6 ♦ 310 ♦ Sr.-2L CGP: 37; CGS: 35
Inglewood, Calif. (Narbonne High)

TOP NOTE: Played his prep ball at Narbonne High with fellow 2019 signee Brionne Penny.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Most veteran lineman... Made 2023 debut vs. UCLA... Has played every off. snap since season debut... Started 12 of 13 last year at LT... Started all 14 at RT in 2021... Just 5 sacks allowed in 1,038 career chances... 1 sack allowed in 403 chances in 2021 at RT... Earned snaps at USU in 2020 & was on travel squad... In 2019, named off. scout player of the year... 3-star prospect from Narbonne High.

BACKUP

70 Christian Jones
6-9 ♦ 315 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 6
San Luis Obispo, Calif. (San Luis Obispo HS)

Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 35 pounds since coming to SDSU... Played all 13 games last year with just 4 offensive snaps (Sept. 10 vs. ISU)... RS in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

LEFT GUARD

60 Cade Bennett
6-3 ♦ 305 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 22
Scottsdale, AZ (Notre Dame Prep/Okla. St.)

TOP NOTE: Earned second-team all-Mountain West honors in his first year with the Aztecs in 2022.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Outland Trophy Watch List... Pre. all-MW... Has allowed just 15 QB pressures (1 sack) in 684 passing opportunities (8 in 324 this year)... Played every off. snap through first 9 games... His 83.5 pass block rating was No. 2 in MW in 2022 (min. 300 chances)... Played games at OSU in 2021... RS in 2020... Led Notre Dame Prep to 7-4 record in 3 yrs... A consensus 3-star recruit.

BACKUP

76 Dean Abdullah
6-4 ♦ 290 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 10
Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

Joined SDSU for 2022 fall camp... Has 7 starts this season... Started 3 games at RG in 2022... Played 6 games total... DNP over the final 7 in 2022... Transferred from American River College... Prepped at Antelope HS.

CENTER

68 Thomas Mirabella
6-4 ♦ 300 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 6
Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mission Viejo HS)

TOP NOTE: Made first career start at center at Colorado State. Started at right guard at San Jose State.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Versatile lineman (G or C)... Made first start of the season at Colorado State, his first career start at center... Has 150 defensive snaps played this season, all coming in the last four games... Started final 4 games at RG in 2022 & 5 overall... Played 335 snaps... 2 GP in 2021... RS in 2020... 2-time MW All-Acad. Team (2021-22) & 2021 MW Scholar-Athlete... A business major (finance).

BACKUP

63 Ross Uhugu-Maseuli
6-4 ♦ 315 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 16
San Diego, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

Polynesian College FB PotY Watch List... 1st starts at C this year... 6 starts in 2022 (5 at RG & 1 at LG)... Played last 2 gms of 2021... Prepped at power Mater Dei in spring 2021... Also went to J Serra Catholic & Cathedral Catholic.

RIGHT GUARD

53 Myles Murao
6-3 ♦ 320 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 10; CGS: 6
Torrance, CA (Mater Dei HS/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Started the opener at right tackle against Ohio with just four career appearances before joining the Aztecs.

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Athletic, versatile lineman... Started 1st 2 games at RT but now playing RG... Missed four games due to injury... Came to SDSU in the summer after spending 3 yrs at UW (2020-22)... Played 4 games at UW in 2022... Prepped at powerhouse Mater Dei HS... 4-star recruit, picking UW over many offers (Alabama, LSU, Michigan, USC, Utah, Oregon, Oklahoma St., etc.).

BACKUP

76 Dean Abdullah
6-4 ♦ 290 ♦ Jr.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 10
Antelope, CA (Antelope HS/American River College)

Joined SDSU for 2022 fall camp... Has 7 starts this season... Started 3 games at RG in 2022... Played 6 games total... DNP over the final 7 in 2022... Transferred from American River College... Prepped at Antelope HS.

RIGHT TACKLE

74 Drew Azzopardi
6-7 ♦ 315 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 14; CGS: 5
Pacifica, Calif. (Junipero Serra HS)

TOP NOTE: Made his first career start at Hawai'i, after having just three career offensive snaps (all this season).

Notes: Current; Career; Personal
Big, mobile body... First season on the two-deep... Impressed coaching staff in his first career start at Hawai'i... Played every offensive snap as a starter... Also plays on special teams/PAT unit... Was on the travel squad for all 13 games in 2022... Played final three games on the PAT/FG unit as a true freshman, saving redshirt... Prepped at Junipero Serra HS (team was 16-2 last 2 yrs)... Named first team all-West Catholic League as a senior.

BACKUP

70 Christian Jones
6-9 ♦ 315 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 24; CGS: 6
San Luis Obispo, Calif. (San Luis Obispo HS)

Tallest player on the team at 6-9... Has lost 35 pounds since coming to SDSU... Played all 13 games last year with just 4 offensive snaps (Sept. 10 vs. ISU)... RS in 2021... 3-star recruit by 247sports & ESPN... Plays the saxophone.

TE ♦ Since 2010, eight SDSU TEs have appeared on the John Mackey Award Watch List.

TIGHT END (Y)

81 Mark Redman
6-6 ♦ 255 ♦ Sr.-1L CGP: 40; CGS: 24
Newport Beach, CA (Corona del Mar HS/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Vs. Ohio became the 3rd Aztec TE since at least 1996 w/ 2 TD catches (Gavin Escobar, 3 times from 2011-12; Kahale Warring at Nevada in '18).

2023 Stats:
GP GS Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD
11 11 34 368 10.8 29 3

Mackey Award Watch List (outstanding TE)... Preseason All-MW... 1st Aztec TE w/ 2 TDs in a season opener vs. Ohio... 2nd-team TE in 1st year at SDSU in 2022 (21 rec., 233 yds., 2 TD)... 2020-21: 16 GP, 1 GS at Washington (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

86 Cameron Harpole
6-4 ♦ 250 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 19; CGS: 4
Prosper, Texas (Prosper High)

2023 Stats:
GP GS Att. Yds. Avg. Long TD
10 4 4 23 5.8 8 0

Young, athletic tight end... Made first career start against Boise State... Career: 4 rec., 23 yds... 2022: Played 9 games, mostly on special teams... 2021: Redshirted... An all-district selection in 2018 at Prosper HS... Ranked 39th-best tight end of 2021 class by ESPN... Likes to fish.

ALSO: No. 89 Logan Tanner (6-3, 235, Fr.-RS) ... CFP: 7; CGS: 1.

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); Donnel Pumphrey in 2016 (10th) and Rashaad Penny in 2017 (5th)).

RB (T)

23 Kenan Christon
5-10 ♦ 190 ♦ Sr.-1L CGP: 37; CGS: 13
San Diego, Calif. (Madison High/USC)

TOP NOTE: Has two career 100-yard rushing games and one 100-yard receiving game.

2023 Stats:
GP GS Att. Yds. Avg. Long TD
11 10 87 350 4.3 39 0

Was chosen as a captain by teammates... Has incredible speed... Great pass catcher... Also has 22.8 KR avg... Scored his first TD of the season against Utah State... 2022: 71 att., 261 yds., 1 TD & 9 rec., 207 yds., 2 TD in ... 10 att., 102 yds., 1 TD at UNM... 2 rec., 111 yds., 1 TD vs MTSU... Career: 236 att., 1,082 yds., 3 TD; 27 rec., 510 yds., 6 TD... 443 rush yds & 2 TD at USC (2019-21)... 3,042 yds & 36 TDs at Madison HS.

BACKUP

2 Jaylon Armstead
5-11 ♦ 215 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 30; CGS: 3
Los Angeles, Calif. (Serra High)

2023 Stats:
GP GS Att. Yds. Avg. Long TD
11 1 88 407 4.6 48 7

Big, bruising running back... Became 83rd Aztec with a 100-yard rushing game at San Jose State (21 carries, 134 yards)... Recorded first multi-TD game with 2 rushing TDs vs. Boise State... Ran for 313 yards with two touchdowns on 52 carries in 2022 (6.0 avg. (5th in MW))... 2021: 24 att., 75 yds... 2020: 1 att., 5 yds... Career: 165 att., 800 yds. (4.84 avg.), 9 TD... Prepped at Serra HS.

RB (F)

29 Cam Davis
5-8 ♦ 180 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 26; CGS: 1
Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff High)

Has a quick first step and can find the holes... Has 44 carries for 185 yds & 16 rec. for 53 yds... Career-game at CSU w/ 67 rush yds., 7.44 avg. 3 rec., 18 yds... 2022: 46 att., 151 yds. & a TD... Played two games on special teams in 2021... Ran for 2,932 yds and 35 TDs at South Oak Cliff HS

BACKUP

13 Martin Blake
5-6 ♦ 205 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 23; CGS: 2
Las Vegas, Nev. (Canyon Springs High)

Former walk-on, who earned a scholarship on 5/28/23... Versatile back w/ good hands... Has 28 carries for 103 yds. & 10 rec. for 115 yds... 133 AP yds., 1st TD vs. ISU... 2022: 9 att., 33 yds., in 12 GP (2 GS)... Prepped at the same HS (Canyon Springs HS) as former Aztec/all-time leading rusher Donnel Pumphrey.

BACKUP

7 Lucky Sutton
6-1 ♦ 215 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 6; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic High)

Highly recruited, local product... Scored first career TD on third career rush in 2 TD game at Hawai'i... 62-yd run against Utah State, longest by an Aztec since N/14/20... 2022: Redshirted, made collegiate debut at UNM... Ran for 3,581 yds and 44 TDs at Cathedral Catholic HS.

QB ♦ Prior to Hayden, the last SDSU QB to earn all-MW honors was Ryan Lindley (2nd team, '10).

QUARTERBACK

18 Jalen Hayden
6-3 ♦ 220 ♦ ^Sr.-1L CGP: 28; CGS: 19
Garland, Texas (Sachse High/Mississippi State)

TOP NOTE: Ran for 132 yards and two touchdowns vs. Idaho State, the most rushing yards by an Aztec quarterback in program history.

2023 Stats:
GP GS Cmp. Att. Pct. Int. TD Yds. Rtg.
11 11 182 288 63.2 9 9 1,842 120.98

Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Watch List (off. Texas ties)... HM all-MW in 2022... Team's Off. PotY... Switched back to QB from S on 0/3/22... Since moving to QB, is 2nd in MW in yds per comp. (12.03) & 3rd in yds (3,874 yds)... Career: 3,931 yds., 22 TD, 19 INT, 61.7 comp. %; 731 rush yds., 7 TD... Moved to S in the spring 2022... Was 5-for-6 for 50 yds & TD vs. USU late in 2021 MW title game (also 36 rush yds on 4 att)... In 3 gms at MSU from 2018-19, was 1 of 2 for 9 yds & 32 rush yds on 7 att... Totaled 9,472 yds & 114 TD at Sachse HS in Texas... Was a 4-star recruit.

BACKUP

10 Tobin O'Dell
6-2 ♦ 205 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 2; CGS: 0
La Puente, Calif. (Bishop Amat High)

Is on the depth chart for the first time of career (was 5th after spring camp)... Threw an interception on a Hail Mary to end first half vs. Idaho St... 1-for-1, 0 yds. vs. UCLA... RS in 2022... Was Mission League Off. PotY at Bishop Amat HS... Nephew of former NFL head coach Norv Turner.

WR ♦ SDSU's wideouts have combined for just 27 starts with Brionne Penny, Josh Nicholson and true freshman Baylin Brooks each making their first career starts this season. ♦ Shaw has 13 of the 27 career starts in the receiver room. ♦ Brooks (117) and Shaw (126) have recorded 100+ rec. yard games this season.

WR (Z)

11 Brionne Penny
6-3 ♦ 200 ♦ Sr.-1L CGP: 27; CGS: 4
Norwalk, Calif. (Norbonne High)

TOP NOTE: Older brother, Rashaad, ran for an Aztec-record 2,248 yds & 2,974 all-purpose yds in 2017, finishing 5th in the Heisman Trophy voting.

2023 Stats:
GP GS Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD
10 4 24 290 12.1 36 1

First career TD against Utah State, a 27-yd catch... Career: 41 rec., 517 yds., 1 TD... 2022: 12 rec., 166 yds... 2021: 5 rec., 61 yds... 2020: DNP... 2019: RS... Oldest brother, Elijah, played in NFL (AZ & NYG).

BACKUP

14 Phillipe Wesley
6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ So.-RS CGP: 11; CGS: 3
Grandview, Mo. (St. Bernard High)

Made a big leap in fall, but has battled injuries... 10 rec., 110 yds. this season... Career: 11 rec., 119 yds... 2022: 1 rec., 9 yds... Redshirted in 2021... Prepped at St. Bernard High... Graduated early, joined SDSU spring

WR (F)

83 Mekhi Shaw
5-10 ♦ 190 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 13
San Diego, Calif. (Scripps Ranch High)

TOP NOTE: Recorded 2nd 100+ rec. yd game at Hawai'i w/ career-high 7 rec., career-high 126 yds, 1 TD in 1st game back from injury on Oct. 14.

2023 Stats:
GP GS Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD
9 7 27 359 13.3 69 2

Most veteran wideout on the team... Earned scholarship on N/21/22... 2022: 29 rec., 349 yds, 3 TD in 13 GP (5 GS) as SDSU's 3rd WR... 2021: 4 rec., 42 yds. in 12 Gs... RS in 2020... Prepped at nearby Scripps Ranch

BACKUP

40 Mikey Welsh
5-10 ♦ 170 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 7; CGS: 0
Servite, Calif. (Servite High)

Good route runner w/ dependable hands... In the 2-deep for the 1st time this season... Played 1st snaps on special teams vs. Idaho State... RS in 2022... Played at powerhouse Servite HS... 1st-tm all-league as a senior.

WR (X)

80 Baylin Brooks
6-2 ♦ 195 ♦ Fr.-HS CGP: 11; CGS: 4
Pasadena, Calif. (Pasadena High)

TOP NOTE: Became first Aztec true freshman with 100+ rec. yards in a game since 1994 (fourth overall: Az Hakim, Darnay Scott, Marshall Faulk).

2023 Stats:
GP GS Rec. Yds. Avg. Long TD
10 4 13 227 17.5 37 1

Against Ohio, became 1st Aztec true freshman WR to start since 2018... 6 rec., 117 yds, first career TD vs. Boise State... First 100-yard receiver since Mekhi Shaw on Nov. 18, 2022... Prepped at Pasadena High School.

BACKUP

85 Joshua Nicholson
6-0 ♦ 175 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 17; CGS: 3
Grand Prairie, Texas (South Grand Prairie High)

Speedster, who is coming off an injury in fall camp... Caught first TD of season at Air Force, season-long 21 yd catch... 2022: 4 rec., 44 yds., 1 TD in 6 games... RS in 2021... Also ran track at South Grand Prairie HS (TX).

SPECIALISTS



PUNTER (P)

13	Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.**	37	24
49	Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS	7	0

PLACEKICKER (PK)

13	Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, ^Sr.**	35	22
46	Gabriel Plascencia, 6-1, 210, Jr.-TR	4	2

KICKOFFS (KO)

13	Jack Browning, 5-11, 190, Sr.*	36	20
46	Gabriel Plascencia, 6-1, 210, Jr.-TR	4	2

HOLDER (H)

49	Zechariah Ramirez, 5-10, 170, Fr.-RS	11	11
83	Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.**	30	0

LONG SNAPPER (LS)

50	Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.**	38	38
64	Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS	0	0

SHORT SNAPPER (SS)

50	Ryan Wintermeyer, 6-1, 220, Jr.**	38	24
64	Tyson Chavez, 6-2, 235, Fr.-RS	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS (KOR)

23	Kenan Christon, 5-10, 190, Sr.*	35	8
29	Cam Davis, 5-18, 180, So.*	22	0
20	Sheldon Canley II, 5-10, 175, Fr.	3	3

PUNT RETURNS (PR)

83	Mekhi Shaw, 5-10, 190, Jr.**	34	9
4	Dez Malone, 6-2, 200, Jr.**	30	2



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 11th year working with Brady Hoke
- ♦ Has 11 years of experience as a defensive coord.
- ♦ Has twice been a Broyles Award nominee (2020-21) for the top assistant coach

DEFENSIVE END

90 Daniel Okpoko /oh-poke-oh/

6-5 ♦ 275 ♦ Sr.-2L CGP: 36; CGS: 11
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (St. Joseph's HS)

TOP NOTE: In his third consecutive (and career) start vs. UCLA, recorded his first two tackles for loss this season, including a sack.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**
Stuck around for a sixth season, utilizing his COVID year after backing up a 2022 defensive line where all three players were in NFL camps this fall... Lanky, defensive end who can move... Is up to his biggest playing weight of his career (275 pounds)... Has started all 11 games this season (the first of his career) and recorded 23 tackles (nine solo) along with five quarterback hurries, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack... **Career:** 35 tackles, 5.0 TFL, 2.0 sacks, 4 PBUs... Had nine tackles, 1.5 TFL and a sack in 12 games last year in 120 snaps... Registered three assisted tackles in 33 snaps in 2021... Played only one game each in 2020 and 2019... Red-shirted in 2018... A member of the Football Canada U18 National Team... Also on basketball and track & field teams.

BACKUP

96 Ryan Henderson

6-3 ♦ 255 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 8; CGS: 0
Las Vegas, Nev. (Goodyear High)

Is on the 2-deep for the 1st time of his career... Came up with 3 big tackles at Hawai'i, including a sack & then a FF (and FR) in 19 defensive snaps... Has seven tackles in 106 snaps overall... **Redshirted in 2022 (DNP)... Was an all-state selection at Canyon Springs High in Las Vegas.**

ALSO: No. 30 Dominic Oliver (6-3, 250, So.-1L) ... CGP: 22, GS: 0.

LINEBACKER (SAM)

55 Cooper McDonald

6-3 ♦ 245 ♦ Sr.-1L CGP: 38; CGS: 27
Haslet, Texas (Northwest High/Washington)

TOP NOTE: Older brother, Caden, was a three-time first-team all-Mountain West selection from 2020-22.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

An excellent pash rusher... Transferred from Washington in the spring 2022 along with his roommate and tight end Mark Redman... Has 39 tackles (17 solo), 1.5 sacks, 4.0 tackles for loss and eight quarterback hurries in 11 starts this season... Is seventh in the MW in QB pressures (30 per PFF)... **Career:** 108 tackles (61 solo), 14.5 TFL, 5.0 sacks, 2 FR, 6 PBU... Had 41 tackles (26 solo) in six starts and 12 games played last year with two sacks, five tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries (T-3rd in MW)... Had 28 tackles (1.5 sacks) at UW (2020-21), playing 15 of 16 games (10 starts)... Won the discus throw at the 5A state championships in 2019... **Oldest brother, Colton, played at North Texas, older brother, Caden, played at SDSU (2018-22) & dad, Mike, played at Arkansas State.**

BACKUP

47 Trey White

6-1 ♦ 240 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 14; CGS: 0
San Diego, Calif. (Eastlake High)

Is on the depth chart for the first season... Has 11 tackles, an interception, a pass breakup, and a fumble recovery... **Played in three games in 2022, being named SDSU's special teams scout team player of the year... Was a three-time first-team all-league selection at nearby Eastlake High.**

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

99 Tupu Alualu /too-poo/ /ah-loo-ah-loo/

6-1 ♦ 275 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 11; CGS: 11
Honolulu, Hawaii (Moanalua HS/Mt. SAC)

TOP NOTE: Has started each of his first 11 Division I games after coming from Mt. SAC.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Polynesian College Football PotY Watch List... Joined the Aztecs in the spring from Mt. SAC... Has 28 total tacks (12 solo), including three sacks for 10 yards... Has also logged four QBH... Had three tackles, including 1.5 sacks vs. Idaho State (Sept. 2)... Made four tackles (one solo) in 42 snaps against UCLA on Sept. 9... Recorded career-high two TFLs against Utah State... **Played at Mt. SAC in 2021, totaling 46 tackles and 5.5 sacks... Also played a season at New Mexico Military Institute in 2019, logging 27 tackles with a fumble recovery in eight games... Prepped at Moanalua High School in Honolulu for current Aztec tight end coach Savai'i Eselu... Also played two seasons at powerhouse St. Louis High School.**

BACKUP

45 Wyatt Draeger

6-4 ♦ 270 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 42; CGS: 0
Reno, Nev. (Reno High)

Has 14 total tackles, a TFL, a PBU and a QBH this season... **Had 2 tackles in 12 games in 2022 (57 snaps)... 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. 94 Samuelua Tuihalamaka (6-1, 290, Sr.-TR) ... CGP: 42, GS: 3.

LINEBACKER (MIKE)

6 Zyrus Fiaseu /fee-uh-say-oo/

6-0 ♦ 220 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 26; CGS: 17
Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty High)

TOP NOTE: Had a Pro Football Focus grade of 90.5 vs. UCLA (Sept. 9), highest in the country among linebackers and third highest overall.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Hard-hitting linebacker... High energy guy... Leads the team in tackles (66), TFL (11.5), SCK (5.5), FF (3) & FR (3)... Had a monster game against UCLA w/ 12 tackles, 2 FF (14th time in program history), 1 FR, 1 sack & 1 PBU... Another FF & FR at Hawai'i... **Had 24 tackles (1.5 TFL, 0.5 sacks) in 2022 in 244 defensive snaps... Came up with four tackles at No. 14/15 Utah in just six snaps... First start came against Hawai'i on Oct. 8... Played in two games in 2021 on special teams without recording a stat... Prepped at Liberty High School in Las Vegas... Was an all-state selection and three-time all-league pick... Picked SDSU over numerous offers, including Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska and Boise State... Brother, Austin, played linebacker at UNLV... Is majoring in kinesiology.**

BACKUP

44 Vai Kaho /vye/ /kaw-ho/

6-1 ♦ 230 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 40; CGS: 5
Reno, Nev. (Bishop Manogue High)

Hard-hitting linebacker who has bided his time working behind veterans... Excellent against the run... Has 22 tackles & 4 QBH in 10 GP (4 GS)... **2022: 10 TCK in 11 GP... 2021: 4 TCK in 3 GP... 2020: 7 GP on special teams... Full name is Kahomavaihi Kaho.**

DEFENSIVE END

39 Garret Fountain



6-4 ♦ 260 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 47; CGS: 11
Turlock, Calif. (Turlock High)

TOP NOTE: Earned the most votes for team captain as voted on by the team.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Most veteran player on an inexperienced defensive line... Has great intensity and a high motor... Always seems to be around the ball... Moved to defensive end from linebacker in the spring 2022... **Earned his first career start in the opener vs. Ohio in his 37th career game played... Has 39 tackles (20 solo), including 5.0 TFL and a sack... Career: 101 tackles (59 solo), 17.0 TFL, 7.0 sacks, 1 FF, 2 FR, 4 PBUs... Had 41 tackles, 6.0 TFL and 3.0 sacks in just 369 snaps (of 874, 42.2 pct.) in 2022... Had 19 tackles in 2021, with 5.0 TFL, 3.0 SCK, 1 FR and 1 PBU... Had a forced fumble late vs. UNLV in 2020... Played 1st 4 gms of 2019 on ST... 2019 ST Scout Tm PotY... Led Turlock HS to undefeated league title in 2018... Also played baseball... Has thrown the football over 70 yards in practice.**

BACKUP

93 Brady Nassar

6-4 ♦ 240 ♦ Fr.-HS CGP: 8; CGS: 0
Pleasanton, Calif. (Amador Valley High)

Has recently moved up into the two-deep as a true freshman... Has four tackles (three solo) and a quarterback hurry in nine games... Has played 126 snaps... **Prepped at Amador Valley High... Picked SDSU over offers Pac-12 schools Washington, OSU, WSU, Colorado, ASU and Cal.**

ALSO: No. 91 Keion Mitchell (6-4, 260, So.-SQ) ... CGP: 10, GS: 0.

LINEBACKER (WILL)

42 Brady Anderson

6-2 ♦ 230 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 25; CGS: 0
Bakersfield, Calif. (Liberty High)

TOP NOTE: Made the first start of his career at San Jose State last week with just 61 career snaps previously.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Young, strong linebacker... Has mostly played on special teams throughout his career... **Made his first career start last week at San Jose State with just 61 defensive snaps to his credit heading into the game (all this season)... His defensive snaps by game prior to the start: 8 vs. Ohio (Aug. 26), 1 vs. Idaho State (Sept. 2), 17 vs. Boise State (Sept. 22), 34 at Air Force (Sept. 30) and 1 vs. Utah State (Nov. 4)... Played 29 snaps at SJSU... Has 13 tackles (five solo)... Redshirted his second season in 2022 with an injury early in fall camp... Had one tackle in 12 games on special teams as a true freshman in 2021... Helped Liberty High to a pair of league titles, going 22-4 overall over his final two years... Also was team's baseball MVP at second base.**

BACKUP

58 Cody Moon

6-3 ♦ 210 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 35; CGS: 14
Albuquerque, N.M. (Volcano Vista HS/New Mexico)

Was on Nagurski Watch List (best def. player)... Preseason all-MW... Has 65 tackles in 11 GP (5 GS)... Career: 214 tackles, 12 TFL, 5 sacks, 7 PBU, 1 FF, 2 FR & 1 INT... HM all-MW at UNM in 2022 w/ 105 tackles, 9.5 tackles for loss & 4.5 sacks... Former walk-on.

CORNERBACK

10 Noah Tumblin

6-2 ♦ 185 ♦ Sr.-3L CGP: 45; CGS: 23
San Diego, Calif. (Mira Mesa High)

TOP NOTE: Has played in 45 consecutive games, the longest active streak on the team.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Athletic CB, who was a dual-sport star at nearby Mira Mesa HS... **MW ranks: 1st in passes defended (INT + PBU) (12), PBUs (10) & passes defended per game (1.09)... Has 30 tackles (25 solo), 10 PBUs & 2 INT... Career: 75 tackles (65 solo), 3 INT, 19 PBU... 2022: 11 TCK, 1 INT, 2 PBU in 13 GP (5 GS)... 2021: 32 TCK & 7 PBUs in 14 GP (8 GS)... 8 TCK, 3 PBU vs. NMSU... 2020: 7 GP, mostly on special teams (2 TCK)... RS in 2019... Threw for 4,589 yds & 40 TDs at nearby Mira Mesa HS, & ran for 1,891 yds & 23 TDs as a dual-threat QB... Also was a star PG on hoops team.**

BACKUP

21 Chris Johnson

6-0 ♦ 180 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 23; CGS: 0
Eastvale, Calif. (Eleanor Roosevelt HS)

Young CB who has impressed the coaching staff... Made 1st career interception at SJSU, w/ 44-yd return... Has 24 tackles in last 8 games (9 over his 1st career 15 games)... **Was named SDSU's outstanding freshman award (defense) in 2022... Had 6 tackles in 12 games, playing 72 defensive snaps overall... Was 1st-team all-league at Eleanor Roosevelt HS as a Sr. excelling as a CB, WR, KR, PR and P.**

FIELD WARRIOR

24 Josh Hunter

5-9 ♦ 180 ♦ Fr.-RS CGP: 12; CGS: 4
Temecula, Calif. (Mater Dei High)

TOP NOTE: His 15 tackles at CSU on Nov. 11 were most by an Aztec since 11/17/18 (Kyahva Tezino, 15 at FS).

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

An excellent tackler... Has started four straight games, making 4 tackles vs. Nevada, 6 vs. Utah State, 15 at Colorado State and 4 at San Jose State... The 15 stops at CSU match the most by an Aztec since the 2017 Armed Forces Bowl... Has 36 tackles in nine games and 250 snaps (over last four starts: 29 tackles and 218 snaps)... **Played in 1st 3 games of 2022 on special teams but ended up redshirting... Helped Mater Dei HS to 2 CIF open championships, 2 state titles & 3 league championships, where it was a combined 43-2 (.956)... Father, Brian, spent nine years in Major League Baseball.**

BACKUP

17 Deshawn McQuin

6-0 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-TR CGP: 32; CGS: 3
Jacksonville, Texas (TCU)

Played in seven games (two starts) ... Has 13 tackles (9 solo), 1.5 TFL & 1 INT (70 yds for a TD) ... **Had 18 tackles in his 3-plus year career at TCU... Played 25 gms (one start) with the Horned Frogs, the 2022 CFP National Championship game... Rated as the No. 86 safety in the nation & No. 131 overall player in Texas coming out of HS... Was listed as a 3-star recruit by 247Sports.**

ALSO: No. 31 Dav Vaughn Celestine (6-0, 190, Sr.-2L) ... CGP: 35, GS: 16.

AZTEC

32 Marcus Ratcliffe

6-2 ♦ 210 ♦ Fr.-HS CGP: 11; CGS: 10
Chula Vista, CA (Cathedral Catholic HS)

TOP NOTE: Is first SDSU true frosh to start at signature Aztec position in the 3-3-5 defense (started in 2009).

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Hard-hitting safety who joined the Aztecs for the spring season... Not afraid of contact... Started the openers. Ohio, becoming the first true freshman to start at the signature Aztec position since the 3-3-5 defense started here in 2009... Only 5th true freshman overall to start in the defense... Started first 8 games and 10 overall... Has 43 tackles (29 solo) totaling 596 snaps, third-most on the team... **Prepped at nearby power Cathedral Catholic HS... Was a three-time first-team all-league pick on defense and once on offense.**

BACKUP

33 JD Coffey III

6-0 ♦ 190 ♦ Jr.-TR CGP: 22; CGS: 1
Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale HS/Texas)

Transfer from Texas who joined the Aztecs for spring ball... Has 10 tackles and a PBU in 131 snaps, earning first career start vs. Utah State... **Played 2 seasons at Texas, totaling 11 tackles in 12 appearances... Played in six games in 2022 (six tackles) and six in 2021 (five tackles) as a true frosh... Picked Texas out of high school out of numerous offers, including eight P5 programs.**

BOUNDARY WARRIOR

3 Cedarius Barfield



5-11 ♦ 195 ♦ Sr.-4L CGP: 49; CGS: 31
El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)

TOP NOTE: The most veteran player on defense with 31 starts and 49 games played.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Smart player who is in his sixth season at SDSU... Is tied for 1st in MW (T-9th in FBS) with 4 INT... **Career: 153 tackles, 9.5 TFL, 5 INT, 9 PBU, 3 FF, 1 FR... Made 49 tackles last year in 12 GP (7 GS) with 4 TFL, 1 INT, 2 PBU, 2 FF, 1 FR & 1 blocked kick... Had 38 tackles (24 solo) & 3 PBU in 1st 10 games in 2021 (9 GS) before injury... 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 yds & 59 TD, & ran for 3,760 yds & 58 TD.**

BACKUP

34 Eric Butler

6-1 ♦ 185 ♦ So.-1L CGP: 22; CGS: 0
Corona, Calif. (Centennial High)

Has 21 tackles, 2.5 TFL & a sack... **Tied for second-most blocked punts in SDSU single-season history (2)... Mainly played on special teams in 2022 with 7 tackles (three solo) as a true freshman... Logged 30 defensive snaps overall... Played in the final 12 games... Prepped at Centennial High School in Corona, Calif... Led the Huskies to the state semi... Centennial HS ranked 3rd in the state.**

CORNERBACK

4 Dez Malone

6-2 ♦ 200 ♦ Jr.-2L CGP: 34; CGS: 22
Fresno, Calif. (Edison High)

TOP NOTE: Was a honorable-mention all-Mountain West selection last year in his first season as a starter.

Notes: **Current; Career; Personal**

Started his career out at safety but has thrived at cornerback... Has 42 tackles (30 solo), 2 TFL, 1 INT, 1 FF & 6 PBU... **Longest active start streak (21 games) on the team... Earned HM all-MW accolades in 2022 with 43 tackles (34 solo), 3interceptions & 5 PBUs... Saw action in 8 games in 2021 on special teams... Moved from safety to cornerback in 2021 fall camp... Played 2 games on special teams in 2020 before redshirting... A three-star recruit out of Edison HS in Fresno... Was a two-time first-team all-league pick and a team captain.**

BACKUP

35 Jelani Whitmore

6-0 ♦ 175 ♦ Jr.-SQ CGP: 11; CGS: 0
Rialto, Calif. (Carter High)

Is on the two-deep for the first time of his career... Moved back to cornerback in fall camp after spending the last year trying out wide receiver... Has played in 11 games, all on special teams... **Played in the 2022 Hawai'i Bowl vs. Middle Tennessee State for first collegiate appearance... DNP in 2021... RS in 2020... Played both sides at Carter High...Also ran track & field.**

Positions in gold notes returning starter

indicates player is on a national award watch list