

SAN DIEGO STATE FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES ♦ San Diego State 45, Texas A&M-Commerce 14 ♦ Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024 ♦ Snapdragon Stadium (San Diego, Calif.)



FINAL SCORE	45	14
Time Spent in the Lead (<i>Tied 14:32</i>)	41:05	4:23
Total Plays-Yards	73-468	59-180
Plus Territory: Plays-Yards	42-249	26-167
Drives with Plays in Plus Territory	8 of 11	4 of 13
First Down Plays-Yards	30-215	25-97
Average on First Down	7.17	3.88
Rushes-Yards (Avg.)	17-127 (7.5)	12-35 (2.9)
Passes-Yards (Avg.)	13-88 (6.8)	11-62 (5.6)
First Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	0-0	2(-7)
First Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	2-17	5-44
First Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	5-40	6-40
First Downs Made	7	5
First Down Turnovers	0	2
First Down Touchdowns	2	3
Third Down Efficiency (Pct.)	6-15 (40.0)	4-12 (33.3)
Rushing (Pct.)	2-4 (50.0)	3-5 (60.0)
Passing (Pct.)	4-10 (40.0)	1-6 (16.7)
Third Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	1-(-14)	1-(-5)
Conversion by Penalties	2	1
Third Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	2-22	1-15
Third Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	3-20	0-0
Average Yards to Go (All)	8.9	7.1
Yards Gained	152	52
Average Yards Gained/Att.	9.11	4.33
3rd & Long (9 or more)	0-6	0-4
3rd & Short (4 or less)	4-4	4-6
Third Down Turnovers	0	0
Third Down Touchdowns	1	0
Fourth Down Efficiency (Yards)	2-4 (10)	1-2 (3)
Total Possessions/Average Field Position	11/SD28	13/TA29
First Half	6/SD27	5/TA32
Second Half	5/SD30	8/TA28
Drives Started Inside/At Own 25	4/1	2/5
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	17 (2/1)	6 (1/0)
Drives Started in Plus Territory/Attempted to Score	0/0	0/0
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	0 (0/0)	0 (0/0)
Three and Outs or Less (must not have earned 1st D or scored)	1	7
Opponent Turnovers (Points)	3 (14)	0 (0)
Scores-Times in the Red Zone (Points)	2-3 (14)	2-2 (14)
Plays-Yards	6-11	4-28
Third Down Efficiency	0-1	0-0
Scores-Times in the Goal to Go (Points)	2-2 (14)	1-1 (7)
Plays-Yards	3-18	1-1
Explosive Plays (20-plus Yards)	8	2
Rushing	4	0
Passing	4	2
Yards by Quarter:		
First	44	47
Second	103	75
Third	216	47
Fourth	105	11

BIG NOTES

- Tonight was the first victory as San Diego State's head coach by Sean Lewis.
- **Danny O'Neil** became the first true freshman quarterback in SDSU's Division I era (since 1969) to earn a start in a season-opener.
- **Danny O'Neil** is the third true freshman quarterback in San Diego State's DI era to earn a start and is the second to pick up a win in his first start (also Spencer Brinton on Oct. 25, 1997 - SDSU 10, Hawai'i 3).
- The Aztecs scored 45 points tonight. In SDSU's two previous games that it started a true freshman quarterback for the first time, San Diego State combined for 23 points (10 vs. Hawai'i on Oct. 25, 1997 and 13 at Fresno State on Oct. 3, 2014).
- **Marquez Cooper** rushed for 223 yards, the first 200-yard game since Rashaad Penny had 221 vs. Army West Point in the 2017 Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 23.
- The 223 rushing yards were the most by an Aztec since Penny had a career-high 234 at San Jose State on Nov. 4, 2017.
- San Diego State's 45 points were its most in a game since scoring 48 vs. Towson on Sept. 25, 2021.
- The Aztecs' 45 points were their most in a game played in San Diego since scoring 55 vs. Hawai'i on Nov. 5, 2016 (also a Snapdragon Stadium record).
- SDSU improved to 57-2 the last 59 times it has rushed for at least 200 yards and is 54-1 in its last 55 regular-season games when rushing for 200-plus yards.
- SDSU had two defensive touchdowns in the same game for the first time since Nov. 5, 2016 vs. Hawai'i.
- San Diego State won its 34th straight game when forcing at least three turnovers.
- The Aztecs won their 11th consecutive game when not committing a turnover.
- The Aztecs are now 77-38 (.670) since the start of the 2015 campaign.

SEASON-OPENING NOTES

- San Diego State improved to 55-42-5 all-time in season openers.
- The Aztecs improved to 47-17-4 in home season openers.
- SDSU improved to 27-8 when opening up its season at home in its Division I era.
- San Diego State has won nine of its last 10 home season openers.
- SDSU's 45 points were its most in a season opener since scoring 49 vs. Cal Poly on Sept. 3, 2011.
- San Diego State's 42 points in the second half was its most in any half in a season opener in its Division I history.
- The 21 points in the fourth quarter were the Aztecs' most in a season opener in their DI history.

SERIES NOTES

- San Diego State improved to 1-0 all-time against Texas A&M-Commerce.
- The Aztecs are now 2-0 all-time against teams from the Southland Conference.

TEAM NOTES

- The Aztecs have not allowed a first-quarter touchdown in nine of the last 10 games.
- SDSU has gone 16 straight games without allowing more than seven points in the first quarter and has allowed seven or fewer points in 24 of the last 25 first quarters.
- San Diego State scored its 12th and 13th non-offensive touchdowns since 2021 and 16th and 17th since 2022.
- San Diego State improved to 66-16 since 2015 when scoring just 20 or more points.
- The Aztecs improved to 51-5 the last 56 times they have scored 30 points.
- SDSU won its 21st straight game when scoring at least 40 points.
- San Diego State improved to 72-5 since 2011 when holding its opponent to 17 points or less.
- The Aztecs have won 24 of their last 28 games when forcing two or more turnovers.
- SDSU is now 77-6 in its Division I history (since 1969) when owning a plus-3 turnover margin.
- San Diego State improved to 51-3 in its last 54 games when owning a turnover advantage.
- The Aztecs now have 17 non-offensive touchdowns since the start of the 2020 season.
- SDSU's 21 points in the fourth quarter are tied for its second most in a fourth quarter since at least 2000.
- San Diego State 21 points in the third quarter and fourth quarter were each the most in Snapdragon Stadium history.

TRENDS

- The Aztecs lost the coin toss for the first time this season.
- SDSU started with ball for the 114th time over the last 158 games.
- San Diego State held its opponent scoreless on its opening possession for the 17th time in 26 games since 2022, 29th time in 39 games since 2021 and 83rd time since 2015 (115 games).
- The Aztecs improved to 37-2 over their last 39 games when leading after three quarters.

PLAYER NOTES

* **Danny O'Neil, TR-Fr., QB (22-for-33, 214 yds., 2 TD, 0 INT)**

Became the first true freshman to start a season opener in SDSU's Division I history (since 1969) ... Also became the third true freshman quarterback in San Diego State's DI era to earn a start and is the second to pick up a win in his first start (also Spencer Brinton on Oct. 25, 1997 - SDSU 10, Hawai'i 3) ... The Aztecs scored 45 points tonight. In SDSU's two previous games that it started a true freshman quarterback for the first time, San Diego State combined for 23 points (10 vs. Hawai'i on Oct. 25, 1997 and 13 at Fresno State on Oct. 3, 2014) ... Threw his first two touchdown passes ... In the second half, he was 11-for-12 for 130 yards and two touchdowns for a 237.67 pass efficiency rating.

* **Marquez Cooper, Sr., RB (27 att., 223 yds., 2 TD | 3 rec., 10 yds.)**

Broke 100 yards rushing for the first time this season and 18th time of his career ... Is the 84th different Aztec with a 100-yard rushing game ... It was the 17th time in SDSU's Division I history that an Aztec broke 100 rushing yards in a season opener ... Rushed for 223 yards, the first 200-yard game since Rashaad Penny had 221 vs. Army West Point in the 2017 Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 23, and the most since Penny had a career-high 234 at San Jose State on Nov. 4, 2017 ... His 223 yards were a Snapdragon Stadium history, while his two touchdowns matched a stadium record ... His 27 attempts and 233 all-purpose yards were the most by an Aztec at Snapdragon Stadium ... Scored his first and second touchdowns of the season, and now has 35 for his career ... Logged his 11th career multi-touchdown game.

* **Louis Brown IV, Jr., WR (3 rec., 91 yds., 1 TD)**

Scored his first touchdown of the season and sixth of his career.

* **Jordan Napier, RS-Fr., WR (3 rec., 40 yds., 1 TD)**

Set a career high with three receptions and 40 yards ... Also had his first career touchdown catch.

* **Tano Letuli, So., LB (7 tackles, 0.5 TFL, 1 FR, 1 TD)**

Scored his first career touchdown after recovering a fumble in the end zone ... It was his first career fumble recovery ... Tied for the team lead in tackles, the first time of his career ... The seven tackles were a career high.

* **Eric Butler, Jr., S (7 tackles (7 solo), 1 PBU)**

Tied for the team lead in tackles, the first time of his career ... The seven tackles were a career high.

OTHER NOTES

- RB **Marquez Cooper** started for the 33rd consecutive game, the longest streak among the Aztec offensive and defensive players.
- **Cooper's** 43 career starts are the most among any current Aztec offensive or defensive player.
- P **Tyler Pastula** played in his 46th consecutive game and 46th game overall, both the longest and most among any current Aztec.
- The following players earned their first career Division I start tonight (4 on offense, 10 on defense): QB Danny O'Neil, WR Nate Bennett, TE Jude Wolfe, C Brayden Bryant, DL Sam Benjamin, DL Krishna Clay, DL Brady Nassar, DL Teivis Tuioti, LB Owen Chambliss, LB Tano Letuli, CB Chris Johnson, CB Bryce Phillips, S Eric Butler, S Dalesean Staley
- The following players earned their first San Diego State tonight (8 on offense, 10 on defense): QB Danny O'Neil, WR Nate Bennett, WR Ja'Shaun Poke, RB Marquez Cooper, TE Jude Wolfe, LT Joe Borjon, C Brayden Bryant, RT Nate Williams, DL Sam Benjamin, DL Krishna Clay, DL Brady Nassar, DL Teivis Tuioti, LB Owen Chambliss, LB Tano Letuli, CB Chris Johnson, CB Bryce Phillips, S Eric Butler, S Dalesean Staley
- CB **Chris Johnson** and DE **Trey White** each forced their first career fumble.
- DL **Krishna Clay** and LB **Tano Letuli** each recovered their first career fumble.
- K **Gabe Plascencia** tied a career long with a 50-yard field goal. It matched the longest field goal in Snapdragon Stadium history.
- Tonight's temperature was 79 degrees.
- Tonight's attendance was 25,180.
- Tonight's Aztec Honor Warrior was Lynell Hamilton (2003, 2005-07)

- The Aztec shield was carried out tonight by EDGE **Trey White**.