



# Aztec Football 2026 Preseason Honors

as of Aug. 3

## ► Team Honors

### ► Predicted Order of Finish

2nd in Pac-12 (*Athlon Sports*)

2nd in Pac-12 (*Lindy's Sports*)

3rd in Pac-12 (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

### ► Games to Watch

"Second-Most Under the Radar Game" - SDSU vs. JMU (Sept. 19) - *Lindy's Sports*

San Diego State vs. James Madison (Sept. 19) - *Athlon Sports*

San Diego State vs. Texas State (Oct. 3) - *Lindy's Sports*

San Diego State at Fresno State (Oct. 17) - *Athlon Sports*

San Diego State at Fresno State (Oct. 17) - *Lindy's Sports*

San Diego State vs. Washington State (Oct. 31) - *Lindy's Sports*

San Diego State at Boise State (Nov. 21) - *Athlon Sports*

San Diego State at Boise State (Nov. 21) - *Lindy's Sports*

### ► Unit Rankings

Linebackers - first in Pac-12; 35th nationally (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

Running Backs - second in Pac-12; 40th nationally (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

Wide Receivers - second in Pac-12; 41st nationally (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

Defensive Backs - second in Pac-12; 50th nationally (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

Quarterbacks - third in Pac-12 (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

Offensive Line - third in Pac-12 (*Phil Steele Magazine*)

### ► Miscellaneous

"11th-Most Improved Offensive Passing" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

## ► Individual Honors

### Joseph Borjon | Sr. | La Puente, Calif. | Offensive Line

All-Pac-12 first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

### Donovan Brown | Sr. | Montgomery Village, Md. | Wide Receiver

All-Pac-12 third team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Josiah Cox | Sr. | San Diego, Calif. | Safety

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Athlon Sports*

### Jayden Denegal | Sr. | Apple Valley, Calif. | Quarterback

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Athlon Sports*

"Pac-12's Strongest Arm" - *Lindy's Sports*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Kalan Ellis | Sr. | Waimanalo, Hawaii | Offensive Line

All-Pac-12 third team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

### Malachi Finau | Sr. | Los Angeles, Calif. | Defensive Line

All-Pac-12 second team - *Athlon Sports*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Jackson Ford | Jr. | Melissa, Texas | Tight End

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Sione Hala | Sr. | Los Angeles, Calif. (Weber State) | Linebacker

All-Pac-12 second team - *Athlon Sports*

### Javion Kinnard | So. | Nashville, Tenn. (Colorado State) | RB/Returner

All-Pac-12 second team (PR) - *Athlon Sports*

### Evan Lawrence | So. | Danville, Ind. (Indiana) | Offensive Line

"Top Newcomer" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

### Tano Letuli | Sr. | San Diego, Calif. | Linebacker

All-Pac-12 first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Pac-12 first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 first team - *Lindy's Sports*

"No. 60 Draft-Eligible Linebacker" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Gavriel Lightfoot | Sr. | Moreno Valley, Calif. (Colorado) | Defensive Line

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

### Jordan Napier | Jr. | Fontana, Calif. | Wide Receiver/Returner

All-Pac-12 first team (WR) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Pac-12 first team (PR) - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Pac-12 first team (WR) - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 first team (WR) - *Lindy's Sports*

"No. 17 Draft-Eligible Punt Returner" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"No. 42 Draft-Eligible Wide Receiver" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"Pac-12's Most Dangerous Deep Threat" - *Lindy's Sports*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Brady Nassar | Sr. | Pleasanton, Calif. | EDGE

All-Pac-12 third team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Pac-12 third team - *Athlon Sports*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

### Caleb Ricks | So. | Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Idaho) | Cornerback

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*



# Aztec Football 2026 Preseason Honors

as of Aug. 3

**Dalesean Staley | Sr. | Kansas City, Mo. | Safety**

All-Pac-12 first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 second team - *Lindy's Sports*

**Jamison Starks | So. | Mountain House, Calif. (Foothill College) | CB**

All-Pac-12 third team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

**Lucky Sutton | Sr. | San Diego, Calif. | Running Back**

Maxwell Award Watch List (college player of the year)

All-Pac-12 first team - *Phil Steele Magazine*

All-Pac-12 first team - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 first team - *Lindy's Sports*

"No. 22 Draft-Eligible Running Back" - *Phil Steele Magazine*

"Pac-12's No. 6 NFL Talent" - *Lindy's Sports*

"Pac-12's Toughest to Bring Down" - *Lindy's Sports*

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

**Jalen Thomeson | Jr. | Greenwood, Ind. (Ohio) | Safety**

"Player to Watch" - *Lindy's Sports*

**Christian Washington | Sr. | San Diego, Calif. | Running Back/Returner**

All-Pac-12 fourth team (RB/All-Purpose) - *Athlon Sports*

All-Pac-12 fourth team (KR) - *Athlon Sports*

**Luke Williams | Sr. | Chino Hills, Calif. | Long Snapper**

All-Pac-12 fourth team - *Phil Steele Magazine*