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Postgame Football Notes – No. 24/--/-- San Diego State vs. No. --/24/25 UTSA Tropical Smoothie Cafe Frisco Bowl | Dec. 21, 2021 | Toyota Stadium | Frisco, Texas

Records: San Diego State (12-2); UTSA (12-2)

Big Notes

- San Diego State set a school record with its 12th victory of the season. The Aztecs went their first 98 seasons of play without a 12-win season.
- The 12 wins breaks SDSU's previous record of 11, set in 1969, 2015 and 2016.
- San Diego State is tied for the third-most victories in the nation this season and one of seven schools with at least 12 wins. Only Cincinnati and Louisiana have more (each with 13). The other four schools with 12 wins are Alabama, Georgia, Michigan and UTSA.
- The Aztecs won their second consecutive bowl game (also: 2019 New Mexico Bowl) and are now 10-9 all-time in bowl games.
- SDSU improved to 2-0 in bowl games under Brady Hoke.
- Hoke tied a personal record with his 12th win as head coach (also 12-1 at Ball State in 2008).
- San Diego State played its 23rd straight game outside of its own market (last home game played in San Diego was Nov. 30, 2019 against Brigham Young (W, 13-3)). The Aztecs played their 2020 and 2021 home games in Carson, California. That streak will come to an end when SDSU opens the 2022 season against Arizona at Snapdragon Stadium in Mission Valley on Sept. 3.
- San Diego State finished 6-0 in official road/neutral games. The road/neutral victories are the Aztecs' most without a loss in program history.
- SDSU, currently ranked 28th in both the AP and coaches polls, has an excellent chance of ending up in the top 25 in the final poll. San Diego State has been ranked in the final AP poll twice (1977 and 2016) and in the final coaches poll twice (1986 and 2016). Only once did the Aztecs end their season ranked in both of those polls (2016).
- SDSU had a 300-yard passer (Lucas Johnson), 100-yard rusher (Greg Bell) and 100-yard receiver (Jesse Matthews) for the first time since Nov. 21, 2014 against Air Force (Quinn Kaehler, Donnel Pumphrey and Ezell Ruffin).

The Series

- SDSU improved to 1-0 all-time against UTSA.
- San Diego State is also now 27-6 all-time against the current configuration of Conference USA.

Team Notes

- San Diego State recorded 31 first downs, its most in a bowl game in program history and the most since logging 31 at Utah State on Oct. 21, 2020.
- The Aztecs had a season-high 489 total yards of offense.
- SDSU gave up a pair of touchdowns in the first quarter for the first time since Oct. 14, 2017 when Boise State also scored 14 first-quarter points.
- San Diego State rallied to win from a first-quarter deficit for the fourth time this season.
- The Aztecs won their 10th straight game (9-0 this season) when leading at the half and are 25-5 in the Brady Hoke era when leading at the half.

- SDSU scored a touchdown on its opening drive of the second half for the seventh time this season (in 14 games).
- San Diego State won its 17th straight game when leading by at least 11 points at any point during the game.
- The Aztecs won their 25th straight game when leading after three quarters. SDSU also improved to 27-3 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after three quarters.
- San Diego State won its 10th straight game and improved to 44-4 the last 48 times it has scored at least 30 points in a game, including a 18-2 mark in the Brady Hoke era.
- The Aztecs won their eighth straight game (5-0 this year) when not committing a turnover, including a 10-0 mark in the Brady Hoke era.
- SDSU won its 12th straight game (11-0 this year) when holding its opponent to 24 or less points, including a 28-2 mark in the Brady Hoke era.
- San Diego State improved to 10-1 this season and 22-4 in the Brady Hoke era when outrushing its opponent.
- The Aztecs won their 11th straight game (8-0 this season) when committing fewer opponents than their opponent, including a 15-2 mark in the Brady Hoke era.

Trends

- The Aztecs won the coin toss for the seventh time this season in 14 games.
- SDSU did not start with the ball for just the 28th time in the last 132 games.
- San Diego State allowed a touchdown on the opening possession for the first time since the 2020 finale at Brigham Young (Dec. 12).

Player Notes

*** Jesse Matthews, Jr., WR (11 rec., 175 yds., 2 TD)**

Was named Frisco Bowl offensive most valuable player ... Set career highs in receiving yards (175) and receptions (11) ... The 11 receptions were the most by an Aztec since DeMarco Sampson had 12 vs. Utah on Nov. 20, 2010 ... The 175 yards were the most by an Aztec since Fred Trevillion had 189 at Fresno State on Nov. 17, 2018 ... Caught his sixth touchdown and seventh touchdowns over the past four games, eighth and ninth of the season and 11th and 12th of his career ... His nine touchdown catches on the season are the most by an Aztec since Vincent Brown had 10 in 2010 ... Has at least one touchdown catch in four straight games ... Over the last four games, he has 37 catches for 465 yards and seven touchdowns ... In two career bowl games, he has totaled 14 catches for 286 yards and four touchdowns, winning the offensive MVP in both games (shared the award with Jordan Byrd at the 2019 New Mexico Bowl).

*** Lucas Johnson, Sr., QB (24-for-36, 333 yds., 3 TD, 0 INT | 5 att., 15 yds., 1 TD)**

Set a career high with 222 passing yards in the first half and finished with 333 overall ... Became the first Aztec with a 300-yard passing game since Ryan Agnew threw for 323 against Fresno State on Nov. 15, 2019 ... The 333 passing yards were the most by a SDSU player since Quinn Kaehler threw for 341 at North Carolina on Sept. 6, 2014 ... Matched his career high with three touchdown passes ... Threw multiple touchdown passes for the third time this season ... Now has 12 touchdown passes for the season, 13 for his Aztec career and 14 overall ... The rushing touchdown was his first of the season and second of his career ... Became just the third Aztec since at least 1996 to throw for at least 325 yards, three touchdowns, zero interceptions and a 66.7 completion percentage, joining Jack Hawley (Sept. 25, 1999 vs. Kansas) and Ryan Lindley (Oct. 24, 2009 at Colorado State and Nov. 27, 2010 vs. UNLV) .. Became the first Aztec to account for four touchdowns in a game since Rashaad Penny ran for four scores vs. Army West Point in the 2017 Armed Forces Bowl (Dec. 23).

*** Greg Bell, Sr., RB (26 att., 101 yds., 1 TD)**

Broke 1,000 yards for the season on his fifth carry of the game and 224th of the season ... He became the 18th 1,000-yard rusher in program history and first since Rashaad Penny's school-record 2,248 rushing yards in 2017 ... An Aztec has now broken 1,000 yards 26 times in program history ... Broke 100 yards rushing for the first time since rushing for 111 against New Mexico on Oct. 9 ... It was his fifth 100-yard rushing game of the season and 10th of his career ... Scored his ninth rushing touchdown of the season and 15th of his career ... He now has 16 overall touchdowns for his career ... Finished the season with 1,091 rushing yards, which rank 19th in SDSU single-season history ... Finished his Aztec career with 1,728 yards, which rank 19th in program history in just 21 career games ... Totaled 1,901 yards for his overall career (including the 173 he ran for at Nebraska in four games in 2018).

*** Tyrell Shavers, Jr., WR (2 rec., 29 yds., 1 TD)**

Caught his second touchdown pass of the season and third of his career.

*** Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (5-for-5 PAT | 1-for-1 FG, 33 LG | 3 P, 46.7 avg., 49 LG, 1 I20 | 6 KO, 65.0 avg., 6 TB)**

Became the NCAA all-time leader in punt average (51.19), just ahead of Texas A&M's Braden Mann's 50.98 average in 2018 ... Also ended up with NCAA records in 50-yard punts (39) and 60-yard punts (18) ... Recorded his 18th field goal of the season (T-4th in SDSU single-season history) and 50th of his career (T-2nd in SDSU history) ... Also kicked off six times with all six going for touchbacks.

*** CJ Baskerville, TR-Fr., S (9 tackles (5 solo), 1 INT)**

Was named the game's defensive MVP ... Led the team in tackles for the second straight game and second time of his career in just his fourth career start ... The nine tackles were a career high ... Recorded his first career interception.

*** Jonah Tavai, Sr., DT (6 tackles (3 solo), 1.0 sack, 2.0 TFL)**

Now has 8.5 sacks for the season (13.5 for his career) and 14 tackles for loss for the year (22 for his career)... Over the last three games, he has recorded five sacks and seven tackles for loss.

*** Keshawn Banks, Sr., DE (2 tackles (1 solo), 1.0 sack, 1.0 TFL)**

Now has five sacks for the season (9.5 for his career) and 11 tackles for loss for the year (30.5 for his career).

Other Notes

- LB Caden McDonald started for the 31st consecutive game, the longest streak on the team (offense/defense).
- LB Caden McDonald played for the 48th straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- S Trenton Thompson and CB Tayler Hawkins each played in their 57th game of their career, the most played among current Aztecs.
- WR BJ Busbee had a career-high 51 receiving yards and tied a career high with three receptions.
- Tonight's attendance was 15,801.

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