



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS
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Postgame Football Notes – San Diego State vs. UNLV

Nov. 19, 2021 | Allegiant Stadium | Las Vegas, Nev.

Records: No. 19 San Diego State (10-1, 6-1 Mountain West); UNLV (2-9, 2-5 Mountain West)

Next Game: Friday, Nov. 26 | vs. Boise State | Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif. | 9 a.m. PT | CBS | 101.5 KGB, XTRA 1360

Top Notes

- San Diego State improved to 10-1 overall, matching its best 11-game start since starting 11-0 in 1969.
- The Aztecs have now started 10-1 or better four times in their Division I history (since 1969): 11-0 in 1969; 10-1 in 1976, 1977 and 2021.
- SDSU went onto win its league title in one of those seasons (1969) and was independent in the other two (1976 and 1977).
- San Diego State reached double-digits in victories for the fifth time in the last seven seasons (and fifth time in the last six seasons it played at least 10 games). The Aztecs finished 11-3 in 2015, 11-3 in 2016, 10-3 in 2017, 10-3 in 2019 and are now 10-1 in 2021.
- SDSU is one of only six schools who currently have had at least five double-digit winning seasons over its last seven years (also Clemson, Georgia, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Oklahoma). Appalachian State (currently 8-2), Boise State (currently 6-4) and Wisconsin (currently 7-3) could all join that list by season's end.
- San Diego State is one of five schools in the country currently with 10 wins (also Cincinnati, Georgia, Houston and UTSA).
- The Aztecs finished their regular season with a 5-0 road record. It is the sixth time in their Division I history (since 1969) they finished a regular season unbeaten on the road but just the second with a minimum of five road games played (also 5-0 on the road in 2017). SDSU's other unbeaten road seasons in its DI history came in 1969 (4-0), 1970 (3-0), 1973 (3-0-1), 1976 (3-0) and 2017 (5-0).

The Series

- San Diego State improved to 21-10 all-time against UNLV.
- The Aztecs are now 9-6 all-time against the Rebels in Las Vegas.
- SDSU has won three straight games in the series, seven of its last eight and 17 of the 23 games played in Mountain West history.

Team Notes

- San Diego State scored its ninth non-offensive touchdown since 2020 with Andrew Aleki's interception return. The nine non-offensive scores are tied for third in FBS play over that span.
- The Aleki score was SDSU's 15th interception return for a touchdown since 2014.
- San Diego State allowed one first down rushing for the second straight game.
- The Aztecs improved to 6-0 on the season in games decided by one score.
- SDSU improved to 25-10 in the Brady Hoke era when scoring just 20 or more points.
- The Aztecs improved to 20-2 in the Brady Hoke era when starting on at least their own 30-yard line.
- San Diego State improved to 12-1 in the Brady Hoke era when holding its opponent to an average starting position of 25 or less (7-0 this year).
- The Aztecs improved to 22-2 in the Brady Hoke era when having better field position than their opponent (8-0 this year).

- The Aztecs owned a +18 in field position. That is tied for the 10th-largest average field position margin in recorded history. SDSU is 31-4 when AFP is +13 or better in recorded history. Two of the top 14 widest margin in AFP (SDSU is 13-1 in those games) have occurred this season.
- SDSU improved to 26-2 in the Brady Hoke era when allowing 24 or less points (9-0 this season).
- The Aztecs improved to 8-0 on the season and 20-3 in the Brady Hoke era when rushing for more yards than their opponent.
- SDSU won its 15th straight game when forcing at least two turnovers.
- San Diego State has won 10 straight games when owning an advantage in turnover margin.
- San Diego State was outgained by 104 yards in the game against UNLV. This was the 19th-largest deficit in total yardage in an Aztec victory in Division I history.
- UNLV had a passer rating of 161.32. That is the eighth-highest passing rating by an opponent in an SDSU history in the Division I era. The last time the Aztecs won a game against a team with a passer rating that high was Oct. 10, 2013 (Air Force, 182.50).
- SDSU entered Saturday with a 3-26 record on the road since 1997 against teams with a passing efficiency of 160 or higher.

Trends

- The Aztecs lost the coin toss for the sixth time this season in 11 games.
- SDSU did not start with the ball for just the 26th time over the last 129 games.
- San Diego State had held its opponent scoreless on its opening possession in 10 straight games prior to tonight, including eight, three-and-outs or less.
- San Diego State improved to 5-0 on the season and 16-8 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after the first quarter.
- SDSU improved to 8-0 this season and 24-5 in the Brady Hoke era when leading at the half, including wins in nine straight games.
- The Aztecs won their 23rd straight game when leading after three quarters. SDSU also improved to 25-3 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after three quarters.

Player Notes

* **Jesse Matthews, Jr., WR (9 rec., 75 yds., 3 TD)**

Caught a career-high three touchdown passes. . . Became the first Aztec since Colin Lockett in the 2011 New Orleans Bowl to record three touchdown catches in a game. . . All five of his touchdown catches this season have come from Lucas Johnson. . . Now has eight touchdown catches for his career. . . The nine catches were a career high.

* **Lucas Johnson, Sr., QB (18-for-24, 192 yds., 3 TD, 1 INT)**

Improved to 6-1 as the starting quarterback this season. . . His three touchdown passes were a career high. . . Threw his seventh, eighth and ninth passing touchdowns of the season. . . He now has 10 touchdown passes as an Aztec and 12 for his career. . . Over Johnson's last three games, he is 51-for-74 (68.9 pct.) for 467 yards and four touchdowns with one interception, owning a 137.06 pass efficiency rating.

* **Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (4-for-4 PAT | 6 P, 47.5 avg., 5 I20, 59 LG | 5 KO, 65.0 avg., 5 TB)**

Had two punts of at least 50 yards and now has 36 for the season, which extends his NCAA FBS record. . . Tied a career-high with five punts inside the 20-yard line (had another punt blocked, which goes down as a team punt and landed inside the 20). . . Off his six punts, UNLV started on its own 13-yard line. . . Also kicked off five times with all going for touchbacks.

* **Elijah Kothe, Sr., WR (5 rec., 84 yds.)**

Led the team in receiving yards. . . Now has 17 receptions for 276 yards over the last four games.

* **Greg Bell, Sr., RB (17 att., 58 yds.)**

Now has 1,535 rushing yards at SDSU in just 17 games, which ranks 21st in program history.

* **Patrick McMorris, Jr., AZT (12 tackles (6 solo), 1 PBU)**

Tied a career high with 12 tackles. . . Led the team in tackles for the fourth time this season.

*** Andrew Aleki, Sr., LB (5 tackles (3 solo), 0.6 TFL, 1 INT returned for TD)**

Recorded his second interception returned for a touchdown this season... Both of his career interceptions have now been returned for a touchdown.

*** Seyddrick Lakalaka, Sr., LB (4 tackles (2 solo), 2.0 TFL, 1 INT)**

Had a season-high two tackles for loss... Recorded his first interception of the season and second of his career.

Other Notes

- TE Daniel Bellinger and LB Caden McDonald each started for the 28th consecutive game, the longest streaks on the team (offense/defense).
- LB Caden McDonald played for the 45th straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- S Trenton Thompson and CB Tayler Hawkins each played in their 54th game of their career, the most played among current Aztecs.
- San Diego State started two true freshmen in CB Noah Avinger and S CJ Baskerville.
- DE Cameron Thomas had 1.5 tackles for loss and a sack, and now has 18 tackles for loss and 10.5 sacks on the season.
- DE Keshawn Banks a sack, his third of the season and now has 7.5 for his career.
- Tonight's attendance was 16,713.

-SDSU-