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EARLY EDITION Postgame Football Notes – San Diego State at Air Force **Oct. 23, 2021 | Falcon Stadium | Colorado Springs, Colo.**

Records: No. 22/21 San Diego State (7-0, 3-0 Mountain West); No. rv/rv Air Force (6-2; 3-2 Mountain West)

Next Game: Sat., Oct. 30 | Fresno State | Dignity Health Sports Park | Carson, Calif. | 7:30 p.m. PT | CBSSN | 101.5 KGB, XTRA 1360

The Big Notes

- San Diego State improved to 7-0 for the first time since 1975 (Gerald Ford was President and “Bad Blood” by Neil Sadaka was the No. 1 song).
- This marks the fourth 7-0 start for the Aztecs in the Division I era (1969, 1970, 1975 and 2021).
- This is the second 7-0 start as a head coach for Brady Hoke (2008 Ball State started 12-0).
- San Diego State’s seven-game win streak is its longest since an eight-game win streak in the 2016-17 seasons (final two games of 2016 and first six games of 2017).
- This marks the first time San Diego State has won seven consecutive games inside a single season since the Aztecs won their final seven games of the 1977 campaign. SDSU was an independent at that time.
- San Diego State defeated Air Force for the ninth consecutive time. That matches the longest win streak for either team in the series (37 total games).
- San Diego State entered the day as one of only 10 unbeaten teams in the nation.
- San Diego State has won consecutive games as a nationally ranked team for the first time since 2017.
- The Aztecs have won their last four road games as a nationally ranked team (two in 2017 and two in 2021). In all games since 1996, that is tied for the eight-longest active streak in the country.

The Series

- San Diego State closes the all-time series deficit to 19-18.
- This is the closest the Aztecs-Falcons series has been since the Academy led, 2-1, following the 1982 meeting.
- The Aztecs won for the fourth consecutive time at Falcon Stadium. Prior to the start of this stretch, San Diego State was 4-11 lifetime at Air Force.
- San Diego State is 2-0 all-time vs. Air Force when nationally ranked. In both games (2017 and 2021), the Aztecs were ranked No. 22 in the AP Top 25 Poll entering the game.

Team Notes

- The Aztecs held their 29th straight opponent to fewer than 450 yards of total offense. That is the longest active streak in the nation.
- San Diego State is 3-0 outright as an underdog this season. The Aztecs are 12-6 straight-up as an underdog since Oct. 17, 2015
- San Diego State is 17-7 in road games since claiming the Mountain West championship at Wyoming in 2016. That is the eighth-best record nationally over that span.
- San Diego State is 9-1 in its last 10 games on exactly eight days between games (the Aztecs last game was Fri., Oct. 15 at San José State).
- Streaks extended with the win:
 - 7-game overall winning streak

- 9-game winning streak against Air Force
- 4-game Mountain West win streak
- 3-game road winning streak
- San Diego State improved to 3-0 in Mountain West play, its best start to a league campaign since the 2018 squad opened 3-0.
- San Diego State improved to 15-2 in its last 17 games played against a team from the state of Colorado.
- San Diego State improved to 7-1 in its last eight games played inside the state of Colorado.
- San Diego State improved to 11-2 in its last 13 games played in the Mountain Time Zone.
- San Diego State snapped Air Force's four-game win streak. The Aztecs improved to 8-3 since 2011 when facing teams that entered the game with at least a four-game winning streak.
- The last time the Aztecs won a road game against an opponent that carried a four-game winning streak or longer into the contest was Nov. 9, 2013, when the Aztecs won at San Jose State, 34-30.
- San Diego State has forced at least one turnover in 20 consecutive games.
- The Aztecs allowed a rushing touchdown with 3:59 left in the fourth quarter, the first one given up by SDSU this season in regulation. San Diego State had gone 33 quarters without allowing a rushing touchdown until that score.
- The Aztecs won their 20th straight game when leading after three quarters and are now 22-3 under head coach Brady Hoke when leading after three quarters.
- SDSU has won 11 consecutive games when the opposition passer rating is below 100.
- Since Brady Hoke returned as head coach, San Diego State has outscored the opposition, 243-128, in the nine Mountain West games.
- The Aztecs didn't have a turnover for the second time this season. SDSU is 2-0 when not committing a turnover and 7-0 in the Brady Hoke era.
- San Diego State won its seventh straight game when committing fewer turnovers than its opponent. SDSU is 11-2 in the Brady Hoke era when committing fewer turnovers.

Trends

- The Aztecs won the coin toss for the fourth time this season in seven games.
- SDSU did not start with the ball for just the 24th time over the last 125 games.
- San Diego State held its opponent scoreless on its opening possession for the seventh straight game (six, three-and-outs or less) and the 62nd time since 2015 (82 games).
- The Aztecs improved to 4-0 this season and 15-4 in the Brady Hoke era when scoring first.
- SDSU improved to 5-0 on the season and 21-5 in the Brady Hoke era when leading at the half.
- SDSU improved to 45-1 the last 46 times it has led by at least 14 points in a game.
- The Aztecs improved to 52-8 the last 60 times they have scored at least 20 points in a game.
- The Aztecs improved to 23-2 in the Brady Hoke era when allowing 24 points or less (6-0 this season).
- San Diego State improved to 53-5 the last 58 times it held its opponent to a third-down conversion percentage of 33.3 or less.
- The Aztecs improved to 3-0 this season in games decided by seven or less points.

Player Notes

* **Chance Bell, Sr., RB (8 att., 50 yds., 1 TD)**

Scored his third rushing touchdown of the season and eighth of his career ... Now has three overall touchdowns this year and eight for his career.

* **Kaegun Williams, Sr., RB (10 att., 34 yds., 1 TD)**

Scored his second rushing touchdown of the season and third of his career ... Now has two overall touchdowns this year and four for his career.

* **Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (2-for-2 FG, 51 LG | 2-for-2 PAT | 5 P, 54.8 avg., 4 I20, 81 LG | 5 KO, 65.0 avg., 5 TB)**

Made a pair of field goals and now has multiple field goals in 14 of his 28 career games ... Kicked a 51-yard field goal in the second quarter, tied for the second longest of his career ... Is now 3-for-5 on 50-yard attempts this season ... Had an 81-yard punt, which was his second straight game with an 80-yard punt ... Finished with two 60-yard punts and now has 14 on the season, which is tied with Texas A&M Braden Mann (2018) for the most in a season in FBS history ... Tied a career high with four punts inside the 20-yard line.

*** Lucas Johnson, Sr., QB (11-for-13, 72 yds., 0 TD, 0 INT)**

Improved to 3-0 as the starting quarterback this season ... Posted a 84.6 completion percentage, the highest mark of his career (min. 12 attempts).

*** Patrick McMorris, Jr., S (7 tackles)**

Tied for the team lead with seven tackles.

*** Michael Shawcroft, Jr., LB (7 tackles, 1.0 TFL)**

Tied for the team lead with seven tackles ... Now has 15 tackles and four tackles for loss over his last two games.

Other Notes

- TE Daniel Bellinger and LB Caden McDonald each started for the 24th consecutive game, the longest streaks on the team (offense/defense).
- LB Caden McDonald played for the 41st straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- S Trenton Thompson and CB Tayler Hawkins each played in their 50th game of their career, the most played among current Aztecs.
- LT Desmond Bessent, LB Vai Kaho and CB Dallas Branch all made their first career start today.
- CB Branch recorded his first career interception in the first quarter.
- S Trenton Thompson recorded his second career forced fumble and first since Nov. 24, 2018 against Hawai'i.
- CB Noah Avinger recovered his first career fumble.
- Tonight's attendance was 23,887.

-SDSU-