

SAN DIEGO STATE FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES ♦ SAN DIEGO STATE 23, NEVADA 21 ♦ Sat., Nov. 13, 2021 ♦ Dignity Health Sports Park (Carson, Calif.)



FINAL SCORE	23	21
Time Spent in the Lead (<i>Tied 16:38</i>)	34:46	8:36
Total Plays-Yards	73-362	63-358
Plus Territory: Plays-Yards	34-131	12-92
Drives with Plays in Plus Territory	8 of 12	4 of 11
First Down Plays-Yards	30-118	28-214
Average on First Down	3.9	7.6
Rushes-Yards (Avg.)	17-78 (4.6)	5-12 (2.4)
Passes-Yards (Avg.)	12-40 (3.3)	21-202 (9.6)
First Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	1-(-1)	2-(-11)
First Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	1-14	0-0
First Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	0-0	1-15
First Downs Made	2	7
First Down Turnovers	0	0
First Down Touchdowns	1	1
Third Down Efficiency (Pct.)	3-15 (20.0)	4-13 (30.8)
Rushing (Pct.)	2-6 (33.3)	0-3 (0.00)
Passing (Pct.)	1-9 (11.1)	4-10 (40.0)
Third Down Sacked (goes down as a rush)	0	0
Conversion by Penalties	0	0
Third Down Penalties by Opponents-Yards	0-0	0-0
Third Down Penalties by Offense-Yards	0-0	2-10
Average Yards to Go (All)	6.4	7.7
Yards Gained	40	33
Average Yards Gained/Att.	2.7	2.5
3rd & Long (9 or more)	0-4	0-5
3rd & Short (4 or less)	3-6	1-4
Third Down Turnovers	0	0
Third Down Touchdowns	0	0
Fourth Down Efficiency (Yards)	2-2 (15)	1-2 (3)
Total Possessions/Average Field Position	12/SD30	11/NV24
First Half	5/SD21	4/NV22
Second Half	7/SD37	7/NV25
Drives Started Inside/At Own 25	5 (3/2)	9 (5/4)
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	10 (1/1)	21 (3/0)
Drives Started in Plus Territory/Attempted to Score	2/1	0/0
Points Scored (Touchdowns/Field Goals)	3 (0/3)	0
Three and Outs or Less (must not have earned 1st D or scored)	3	2
Opponent Turnovers (Points)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Scores-Times in the Red Zone (Points)	3-3 (17)	1-1 (7)
Plays-Yards	10-35	2-5
Third Down Efficiency	0-2	0-0
Scores-Times in the Goal to Go (Points)	1-1 (7)	1-1 (7)
Plays-Yards	4-10	2-5
Explosive Plays (20-plus Yards)	2	3
Rushing	0	0
Passing	2	3
Yards by Quarter:		
First	99	76
Second	100	67
Third	91	98
Fourth	72	117

BIG NOTES

- San Diego State improved to 9-1 overall, matching its best 10-game start since starting 10-0 in 1969.
- The Aztecs have now started 9-1 or better six times in their Division I history (since 1969): 10-0 in 1969; 9-1 in 1970, 1976, 1977, 2016 and 2021.
- SDSU went onto win its league title in three of those seasons (1969, 1970 and 2016) and was independent in the other two (1976 and 1977).
- San Diego State overcame a fourth-quarter deficit to win for the first time since Oct. 12, 2019 against Wyoming.
- The Aztecs held Nevada to just eight rushing yards, their lowest output since Sept. 6, 2004 at Louisiana Tech.
- The eight rushing yards allowed by SDSU are its fewest in a game since giving up zero at Kansas on Sept. 25, 1999.
- San Diego State now has at least nine wins in five of the last seven seasons and seven times since 2010 (second season of Brady Hoke's first stint with the Aztecs).
- SDSU improved to 8-2 all-time at Dignity Health Sports Park, including a 5-1 record in 2021.
- Matt Araiza set an NCAA record with his 33rd punt of 50 yards or more this season. He entered the game with 30 punts of at least 50 yards and already owned the record for the most 60-yard punts (15) in a season coming into tonight.
- Greg Bell broke 100 rushing yards for the fifth time this season, ninth time as an Aztec (in 17 games) and 10th time of his career (in 21 games).

THE SERIES

- San Diego State improved to 8-6 all-time against Nevada.
- SDSU snapped the Wolf Pack's longest winning streak (3) in the series. Nevada won the three previous games by a combined 13 points.
- The Aztecs are now 6-3 against the Wolf Pack at home.

TEAM NOTES

- San Diego State converted on both of its fourth down chances and are now 6-for-9 on the season on fourth down.
- The Aztecs scored on a 99-yard drive in the first quarter, their longest since a 99-yarder at Utah State on Oct. 31, 2020.
- SDSU has 22 rushing touchdowns this season and has given up four.
- San Diego State did not force a turnover, ending its streak of 22 consecutive games forcing one.
- San Diego State allowed one first down rushing. It marked the fewest first downs allowed by the run since Oct. 29, 2017 when allowing one rushing first down at Hawai'i (W, 28-7).
- Nevada had a passing efficiency rating of 152.71. That is the highest rating for an opposing team in an Aztec win in the Brady Hoke era (both stints). San Diego State had lost six consecutive games prior to tonight when the passer rating was that high.
- The Aztecs improved to 5-0 on the season in games decided by seven points or less and 2-0 in games decide by three points or less.
- SDSU improved to 24-10 in the Brady Hoke era when scoring just 20 or more points.
- San Diego State is now 8-0 in the Brady Hoke era when not committing a turnover (3-0 this year).
- This was just the seventh game in SDSU's Division I era (since 1969) that there was not a turnover for either team. The Aztecs are 4-3 in those games. It was the first turnover free game since Nov. 17, 2018, when Fresno State defeated the Aztecs 23-14.
- The Aztecs improved to 19-2 in the Brady Hoke era when starting on at least their own 30-yard line.
- San Diego State improved to 11-1 in the Brady Hoke era when holding its opponent to an average starting position of 25 or less (6-0 this year).
- The Aztecs improved to 21-2 in the Brady Hoke era when having better field position than their opponent (7-0 this year).
- SDSU improved to 25-2 in the Brady Hoke era when allowing 24 or less points (8-0 this season).
- San Diego State won its 13th straight game when totaling 20 or less penalty yards. SDSU's 20 penalty yards allowed were its fewest on a game since Nov. 30, 2019 (20 yards vs. Brigham Young).

- The Aztecs improved to 7-0 on the season and 19-3 in the Brady Hoke era when rushing for more yards than their opponent.
- SDSU improved to 15-2 in the Brady Hoke era when having more first downs and time of possession.
- San Diego State held Nevada to 358 yards of total offense, its second-lowest output of the season (at Kansas State, 331). Two of the last three times Nevada has been held to 358 yards or total offense, San Diego State has been the opponent.

TRENDS

- The Aztecs lost the coin toss for the fifth time this season in 10 games.
- SDSU started with the ball for the 103rd time in the last 128 games.
- San Diego State held its opponent scoreless on its opening possession for the 10th straight game (eight, three-and-outs or less).
- The Aztecs won their eighth straight game when scoring first. SDSU is now 6-0 this season and 17-4 in the Brady Hoke era when scoring first.
- San Diego State improved to 4-0 on the season and 15-8 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after the first quarter.
- SDSU improved to 7-0 this season and 23-5 in the Brady Hoke era when leading at the half, including wins in eight straight games.
- The Aztecs won their 22nd straight game when leading after three quarters. SDSU also improved to 24-3 in the Brady Hoke era when leading after three quarters.

PLAYER NOTES

* Lucas Johnson, Sr., QB (21-for-34, 176 yds., 1 TD, 0 INT | 6 att., 14 yds.)

Became the first Aztec quarterback to lead a game-winning drive since Ryan Agnew against Wyoming on Oct. 12, 2019 ... Improved to 5-1 as the starting quarterback this season ... Threw his sixth touchdown pass of the season, seventh as an Aztec and eighth of his career.

* Greg Bell, Sr., RB (16 att., 104 yds.)

Broke 100 rushing yards for the first time since Oct. 9 against New Mexico, the fifth time this season (in 10 games), ninth time as an Aztec (in 17 games) and 10th time of his career (in 21 games) ... The nine 100-yard rushing games as an Aztec are tied with Chris Hardy (1983-86) for the 11th most in program history ... Had a 50-yard run in the first quarter, his longest since a 55-yarder at Arizona on Sept. 11 and the team's longest since Chance Bell had a 61-yarder against Towson on Sept. 25 ... Now has 1,486 rushing yards at SDSU in just 17 games, which ranks 21st in program history.

* Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (3-for-4 FG, 48 LG | 2-for-2 PAT | 5 P, 55.6 avg., 2 I20, 62 LG | 6 KO, 65.0 avg., 4 TB)

Had four punts of at least 50 yards and now has 34 for the season, which set a NCAA FBS record ... Also extended his NCAA FBS record of 60-yard punts to 17 with two tonight ... Punted once inside Nevada's territory, averaging 59.0 yards per boot in the other four attempts ... Made his first career game-winning field goal, a 35-yarder with 1:21 left in the fourth quarter ... The three field goals tied a career high (third time) ... Recorded multiple field goals for the 15th time of his career (in 31 games).

* Chance Bell, Sr., RB (12 att., 55 yds., 1 TD | 1 rec., 4 yds.)

Scored his fourth rushing touchdown of the season, which is a new high for a season ... Now has nine career rushing scores.

* Daniel Bellinger, Sr., TE (5 att., 26 yds., 1 TD)

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

* Elijah Kothe, Sr., WR (6 att., 71 yds.)

Had a career high six catches ... Now has 12 receptions for 192 yards over the last three games.

* Cameron Thomas, Jr., DE (10 tackles (5 solo), 2.0 sacks, 3.5 TFL, 1 FF)

Had a season-high 10 tackles, the second most of his career ... His two sacks were a career high, while his 3.5 tackles for loss tied a career best (Sept. 4, 2021 at New Mexico State) ... Now has at least one sack in five straight games and at least 0.5 in seven straight games ... Over the last 13 games (typical regular season plus bowl game), he has 84 tackles (44 solo), 24 tackles for loss and 11 sacks ... The forced fumble was the first of his career.

OTHER NOTES

- **TE Daniel Bellinger** and **LB Caden McDonald** each started for the 27th consecutive game, the longest streaks on the team (offense/defense).
- **LB Caden McDonald** played for the 44th straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- **S Trenton Thompson** and **CB Tayler Hawkins** each played in their 53rd game of their career, the most played among current Aztecs.
- **DE Jaiil Lecky** recorded a sack, his first of the season, and now has 3.5 for his career.
- Tonight's temperature was 65 degrees.
- Tonight's Honor Warrior was OL Dave DesRochers (1986-87).