



# SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

## 2021 Volleyball Weekly Notes

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### 2021 AZTEC VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Day/Date	Opponent	Time
Friday, Aug. 27	vs. Houston Baptist <sup>^</sup>	L, 0-3
Friday, Aug. 27	at Sam Houston <sup>^</sup>	L, 0-3
Saturday, Aug. 28	at Sam Houston <sup>^</sup>	L, 2-3
Friday, Sept. 3	at UC Santa Barbara <sup>#</sup>	6 p.m. PT
Saturday, Sept. 4	vs. No. 21 Pepperdine <sup>#</sup>	10 a.m. PT
Saturday, Sept. 4	vs. Kansas State <sup>#</sup>	4:30 p.m. PT
<b>Friday, Sept. 10</b>	<b>UCLA+ (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
<b>Saturday, Sept. 11</b>	<b>San Diego+ (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
Tuesday, Sept. 14	at Long Beach State	7 p.m. PT
Friday, Sept. 17	vs. Texas Southern <sup>~</sup>	12:30 p.m. PT
Friday, Sept. 17	at Arizona <sup>~</sup>	6:30 p.m. PT
Saturday, Sept. 18	vs. UC Riverside <sup>~</sup>	11 a.m. PT
Thursday, Sept. 23	at Nevada* (MWN)	6 p.m. PT
Saturday, Sept. 25	at San José State* (MWN)	1 p.m. PT
<b>Thursday, Sept. 30</b>	<b>New Mexico* (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
<b>Saturday, Oct. 2</b>	<b>Air Force* (MWN)</b>	<b>1 p.m. PT</b>
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 5</b>	<b>UNLV* (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
<b>Thursday, Oct. 7</b>	<b>Fresno State* (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
Thursday, Oct. 14	at Boise State* (MWN)	7 p.m. MT
Saturday, Oct. 16	at Utah State* (MWN)	1 p.m. MT
<b>Thursday, Oct. 21</b>	<b>Colorado State* (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
Saturday, Oct. 23	at Wyoming* (MWN)	6:30 p.m. MT
<b>Thursday, Oct. 28</b>	<b>Utah State*</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
<b>Saturday, Oct. 30</b>	<b>Boise State* (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
Tuesday, Nov. 2	at UNLV* (MWN)	6:30 p.m. PT
Saturday, Nov. 6	at Fresno State* (MWN)	11 a.m. PT
Thursday, Nov. 11	at Air Force* (MWN)	6 p.m. MT
Saturday, Nov. 13	at New Mexico* (MWN)	1 p.m. MT
<b>Thursday, Nov. 18</b>	<b>Nevada* (MWN)</b>	<b>7 p.m. PT</b>
<b>Saturday, Nov. 20</b>	<b>San José State* (MWN)</b>	<b>1 p.m. PT</b>

<sup>^</sup> - Bearkat Invitational (Huntsville, Texas)  
<sup>#</sup> - Gaucho Invitational (Santa Barbara, Calif.)  
<sup>+</sup> - SDSU/USD Invitational (San Diego, Calif.)  
<sup>~</sup> - Wildcat Classic (Tucson, Ariz.)  
<sup>\*</sup> - Mountain West match  
 (MWN) - Mountain West Network match

#### Socially

Twitter: @AztecVB  
 Instagram: @Aztec\_WVB

Gaucho Invitational (The Thunderdome | Santa Barbara, Calif.)  
 Links to live stats on GoAztecs.com

San Diego State (0-3) at UC Santa Barbara (1-2)  
 Friday, Sept. 3 | 6 p.m. PT | Live Stream

San Diego State (0-3) vs. No. 21 Pepperdine (3-0)  
 Saturday, Sept. 4 | 10 a.m. PT

San Diego State (0-3) vs. Kansas State (1-1)  
 Saturday, Sept. 4 | 4:30 p.m. PT



#### GAUCHO INVITE ON TAP FOR AZTEC VOLLEYBALL

> San Diego State hits the road once again this weekend when it travels up the coast for the Gaucho Invitational in Santa Barbara, California. The Aztecs open tournament play on Friday, Sept. 3, they lock horns with host UC Santa Barbara in a prime-time match starting at 6 p.m. PT.  
 > On Saturday, Sept. 4, SDSU will square off against two additional opponents, battling 21st-ranked Pepperdine at 10 a.m. PT, followed by a clash with Kansas State at 4:30 p.m. The complete event schedule is listed below.

##### Friday, Sept. 3

Kansas State vs. Pepperdine 3 p.m. PT  
 San Diego State at UC Santa Barbara 6 p.m. PT

##### Saturday, Sept. 4

San Diego State vs. Pepperdine 10 a.m. PT  
 Kansas State at UC Santa Barbara Noon PT  
 San Diego State vs. Kansas State 4:30 p.m. PT  
 Pepperdine at UC Santa Barbara 7 p.m. PT

> Live stats will be available throughout the weekend, while SDSU's match at UC Santa Barbara will feature streaming video with a link available on GoAztecs.com. For ticket information about the Gaucho Invitational, visit [ucsbgauchos.com/tickets/index](http://ucsbgauchos.com/tickets/index)

#### SERIES RECORDS

> San Diego State owns a slight 23-20 advantage in 43 all-time meetings against UC Santa Barbara dating back to 1978. The Aztecs swept the Gauchos in their last encounter (25-21, 25-21, 27-25) on Aztec Court at Peterson Gym during the 2016 campaign as part of the joint SDSU/USD California Mixer tournament. The Aztecs last played at The Thunderdome in 2015, where they emerged triumphant in another highly competitive three-setter (25-19, 31-29, 29-27), which snapped the Gauchos' three-match winning streak against the Scarlet and Black from 2009-11. UCSB is one of three Big West schools San Diego State will face away from home this season, along with Long Beach State (Sept. 14) and UC Riverside (Sept. 18). The Aztecs are 164-110 in program history against current members of the Big West in program history.

> SDSU has also maintained a slim 21-19 edge against Pepperdine in a series that dates back to the Aztecs' first varsity season in 1976. However, the two sides have not met since the 2001 campaign, when the Scarlet and Black dropped a 3-0 decision to the No. 13 Waves (19-30, 26-30, 23-30) in Malibu. Pepperdine is just one of three present teams in the West Coast Conference that the Aztecs have a winning record against, joining San Francisco (6-2) and Gonzaga (2-1). The last time SDSU faced a ranked team, other than Colorado State, occurred on Sept. 12 at No. 17 San Diego.

> Saturday's clash with Kansas State will mark San Diego State's first meeting against the Wildcats. The Aztecs last faced a Big 12 Conference team in the 2019 season opener, when they rallied to defeat West Virginia in a five-set thriller at home (21-25, 16-25, 25-22, 25-16, 15-13). With the victory, SDSU has now played every current member of the Big 12 that sponsors women's volleyball, save for K-State, posting a 26-19 all-time record. The Aztecs have battled two other squads from the Sunflower State in their history, most recently dropping a 3-1 decision to Kansas (25-20, 20-25, 20-25, 18-25) in the opener of the 2011 DePaul Invitational in Chicago. SDSU has also faced Wichita State on three occasions, defeating the Shockers 3-0 at the 1997 Golden Flash Classic in Kent, Ohio, before falling in consecutive road and home tournaments in 2003-04.

#### CATCH AZTEC VOLLEYBALL ON THE MOUNTAIN WEST NETWORK

> As of Aug. 26, the Mountain West Network is scheduled to stream 19 Aztec volleyball matches during the 2021 fall season. A link to MWN matches will be available on GoAztecs.com.  
 > SDSU is slated to live stream 10 of 11 home matches, including the first two encounters vs. non-conference heavyweights UCLA and San Diego on consecutive nights, Sept. 10-11.  
 > In addition, all nine of the Aztecs' conference road matches are scheduled to be streamed live via the MWN.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Location ..... San Diego, Calif.  
 Founded ..... 1897  
 Enrollment ..... 33,870  
 Nickname ..... Aztecs  
 Colors ..... Scarlet and Black (Pantone 187)  
 Conference ..... Mountain West  
 Affiliation ..... Division I  
 President ..... Dr. Adela de la Torre  
 Director of Athletics ..... John David Wicker  
 Faculty Representative ..... Dr. Frank Harris III  
 Home Facility ..... Aztec Court at Peterson Gym (2,000)

**TEAM INFORMATION**

Head Coach ..... Brent Hilliard  
 Alma Mater ..... Long Beach State '93  
 Record at SDSU ..... 6-12 (second year)  
 Career Record ..... 60-23 (Third year)  
 E-Mail ..... bhilliard@sdsu.edu  
 Volleyball Office Phone ..... (619) 594-5064  
 Volleyball Office Fax ..... (619) 594-1674  
 Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator ..... Melanie Greene  
 Assistant Coach ..... Steve Timmons  
 Volleyball Operations Assistant ..... Kara Barkdoll  
 Spring 2021 Record ..... 6-9  
 Spring 2021 Conference Record ..... 6-9 (Eighth)  
 Spring 2021 Home Record ..... 5-4  
 Spring 2021 Road Record ..... 1-5  
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost ..... 8/7  
 Starters Returning/Lost ..... 4/2+Libero

**PROGRAM HISTORY**

First Year of Volleyball ..... 1976  
 Overall Record ..... 886-622 (.588)  
 NCAA Appearances ..... 14  
 Last Postseason Appearance ..... 2012  
 NCAA Postseason Record ..... 15-14

**MEDIA RELATIONS**

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**2021 AZTEC VOLLEYBALL  
 STATISTICAL LEADERS**

Hitting Percentage	.258	Jordyn Goldsmith
Kills	30	Zoi Faki
Kills per set	2.73	Zoi Faki
Assists	60	Ashley Vanderpan
Assists per set	5.45	Ashley Vanderpan
Digs	54	Natalie Smith
Digs per set	4.91	Natalie Smith
Blocks	10.0	Serena Hodson
Blocks per set	1.11	Serena Hodson
Service Aces	11	Sara Mukaj
Service Aces per set	0.56	Sara Mukaj

**2021 AZTEC VOLLEYBALL FALL ROSTER**

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Last School)
1	Zoi Faki	OH	6-1	Sr.	Athens, Greece (Pittsburgh)
2	Heipua Tautua'a	OH	6-2	So.	Wai'anae, Hawaii (Wai'anae HS)
3	Andrea Walker	MB	6-0	Sr.	Fairfield, Calif. (Vanden HS)
4	Kennedy Feuerborn	S	6-3	So.	Overland Park, Kan. (Johnson County CC)
5	Serena Hodson	MB	6-2	Jr.	Mission Viejo, Calif. (Trabuco Hills HS)
6	Jordyn Goldsmith	OPP	6-1	Fr.	Valleyford, Wash. (Freeman HS)
7	Ashley Vanderpan	S	6-1	Jr.	Elk Grove, Calif. (Syracuse)
8	Natalie Smith	DS/L	5-7	Sr.	Weatherford, Texas (Michigan)
9	Sara Mukaj	MB	6-3	Fr.	Modena, Italy (Istituto Scaruffi-Levi Tricolore)
10	Kalani Ruri	S/OPP	6-2	Fr.	Kawerau, New Zealand (Trident HS)
11	Brooklynn Hill	DS/L	5-8	Sr.	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Penn State)
13	Julia Haynie	MB	6-2	Jr.	Temecula, Calif. (Portland State)
14	Reagan Merk	OH	5-11	Fr.	Huntington Beach, Calif. (Mater Dei HS)
15	Mikela Labno	OH	6-2	Fr.	Hilmar, Calif. (Hilmar HS)
16	Carsyn Schuch	DS	5-6	Fr.	Phoenix, Ariz. (Deer Valley HS)
17	Nadia Barkclay	DS	5-2	So.	Foster City, Calif. (Hillsdale HS)
19	Noa Miller	S	5-10	Sr.	Douglasville, Ga. (Arizona State)
21	Victoria O'Sullivan	OH	6-0	Sr.	Albany, Calif. (Saint. Mary's HS)

**Head Coach:** Brent Hilliard (Long Beach State, 1993), Second season at SDSU  
**Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator:** Melanie Greene (San Diego State, 2007), 11th season at SDSU  
**Assistant Coach:** Steve Timmons (USC), Second season at SDSU  
**Volleyball Operations Assistant:** Kara Barkdoll (Cal State San Marcos, 2015), Fourth season at SDSU

**Pronunciations**

#1 ZOI FAKI	Zoey FAH-key
#2 HEIPUA TAUTUA'A	HEY-poo-ah taw-TOO-ah-ah
#9 Sara MUKAJ	MOO-kye
#4 Kennedy FEUERBORN	FEWER-born
#15 MIKELA Labno	ma-KAY-la
#16 CARSYN SCHUCH	Carson Shook



**OPPONENT COMPARISON**

2021 Spring Stats	SDSU	OPP	UCSB	OPP	PEPP	OPP	KSU	OPP
Hitting Percentage	.151	.249	.205	.182	.265	.214	.217	.199
Kills per set	11.27	12.00	12.71	12.07	13.00	11.08	13.38	12.38
Assists per set	10.18	10.82	11.71	11.00	10.67	9.25	12.00	11.38
Digs per set	14.64	14.55	13.93	13.36	11.42	11.92	14.38	12.88
Blocks per set	1.55	2.91	2.64	1.71	2.50	1.75	2.81	1.56
Service Aces per set	1.18	1.18	0.86	1.21	2.42	1.33	1.25	0.75

**SCOUTING THE OPPOSITION**

> **UC Santa Barbara** opened its season last weekend with a 1-2 record at the Panther Invitational in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, dropping a pair of five-set heart-breakers to Illinois and Valparaiso, respectively, before rebounding with a 3-1 triumph over tournament host Milwaukee to avoid an empty weekend. The Gauchos let a 2-1 lead slip away in their clash with the Fighting Illini, while the Crusaders roared back to take the final three sets in that contest. After three matches, UCSB has three players averaging over two kills per set, including sophomore outside hitter Tasia Farmer (3.10), freshman outside hitter Michelle Ohlwobete (2.30) and sophomore middle blocker Deni Wilson (2.21). In addition, Wilson leads the Gauchos with a .279 hitting percentage, while senior Rowan Ennis tops the squad with 20 total blocks (1.43/set), including four solo stops. UCSB has utilized three setters thus far, including junior Grace Kloss (74 assists, 5.29/set), fellow classmate Mehana Ma'a (38 assists, 3.80/set) and freshman Grace McIntosh, who dished out 31 assists in just her second collegiate match at Milwaukee. Entering the weekend, the Gauchos rank second in the Big West in blocks (2.56/set) and opponent blocks (1.33/set) while occupying the sixth spot in hitting percentage (.217), kills (13.0/set) and assists (11.78/set). UCSB was pegged for a third-place finish in the 2021 Big West preseason coaches poll after the conference canceled the 2020 campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Gauchos are led by head coach Nicole Lantagne Welch, who is entering her eighth season at UCSB, highlighted by a trio of postseason appearances in 2013, 2018 (NIVC) and 2019. A native of Encinitas, Lantagne Welch earned Big West Coach of the Year honors in her first season on the Isla Vista campus in 2013 after spending the previous 12 years at Miami (Fla.). Her career record stands at 347-217, including a 104-97 mark at UCSB. As a collegiate player, Lantagne Welch was a standout setter at Maryland from 1990-93, earning all-ACC recognition on three occasions.

> **Pepperdine** enters the weekend with a No. 21 national ranking after winning all three matches in its season-opening tournament at the Classic City Clash in Athens, Georgia. The Waves opened with a 3-1 triumph over Winthrop, before dispatching Morehead State in three sets, followed by a 3-2 nail-biter over host Georgia in the event finale. Pepperdine was predicted to finish third in the West Coast Conference preseason coaches poll behind Brigham Young and Loyola Marymount and landed four players on the preseason all-WCC team, including senior outside hitter Rachel Ahrens, senior libero Madison Shields, junior setter Isabella Zelaya and sophomore middle blocker Meg Brown. Ahrens leads the Waves with an average of 4.17 kills per set and has served up 15 aces already, which is tops in the nation as of Sept. 2. The 2020 WCC Libero of the Year, Shields has scooped up an average of 3.33 digs per set, while Zelaya has dished out 9.75 assists per frame (117 overall and has racked up a team-high 15 block assists. Not to be outdone, Brown tops the squad with a .323 hitting percentage, just ahead of Ahrens (.318), and has 13 block assists to her credit. As team, Pepperdine leads the WCC with 30 total blocks and 29 service aces while occupying the fourth and fifth spots, respectively,

**2021 MOUNTAIN WEST STANDINGS (AS OF SEPT. 1)**

Team	---Conference---			-----Overall-----			
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	Strk
New Mexico	0	0	.000	3	0	1.000	W3
Boise State	0	0	.000	2	1	.667	L1
San José State	0	0	.000	2	1	.667	L1
UNLV	0	0	.000	2	1	.667	L1
Utah State	0	0	.000	2	1	.667	L1
Wyoming	0	0	.000	2	2	.500	L1
Fresno State	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	--
Colorado State	0	0	.000	0	2	.000	L2
<b>San Diego State</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>L3</b>
Air Force	0	0	.000	0	3	.000	L3
Nevada	0	0	.000	0	3	.000	L3

**This Weekend in the MW**

**Sept 2-4 (Thursday-Friday-Saturday)**

**UNLV hosting Rebel Challenge (Las Vegas, Nev.)**

(Purdue, Washington State)

**Sept 3-4 (Friday-Saturday)**

**San Diego State at Gaucho Invitational (Santa Barbara, Calif.)**

(Kansas State, Pepperdine, UC Santa Barbara)

**Air Force at Gonzaga Invitational (Spokane, Wash.)**

(Gonzaga, Oklahoma, Seattle University)

**Boise State at UCI/Adidas Invitational (Irvine, Calif.)**

(George Mason, Southern Utah, UC Irvine)

**Fresno State hosting Fresno State Invitational (Fresno, Calif.)**

(Cal State Northridge, Loyola Marymount, UC Riverside)

**Nevada at UC Davis Tournament (Davis, Calif.)**

(San Francisco, Santa Clara, UC Davis)

**New Mexico at Wilcat Classic (Abilene, Texas)**

(Abilene Christian, Green Bay, Texas Southern)

**Utah State at Bobcat Invitational (Bozeman, Montana)**

(Arkansas, Montana State, Portland)

**Wyoming at CSU Volleybucs Invitational (Charleston, S.C.)**

(Charleston Southern, Jacksonville State)

**This Weekend's Non-Tournament Matches**

**Thursday, Sept. 2**

Sacramento State at San José State, 6 p.m. PT

**Friday, Sept. 3**

San José State at Saint Mary's, 6 p.m. PT

Colorado State at North Carolina, 7 p.m. ET

in hitting percentage (.265) and kills (13.00/set). Pepperdine alumnus Scott Wong is entering his seventh season in charge of the Waves, compiling a 103-70 overall record on the Malibu campus. During his tenure, Wong has guided Pepperdine to a pair of NCAA Tournament berths in 2018 and 2020, advancing to the second round in both appearances. Prior to his current position, Wong served as associate head coach at Hawai'i from 2010-14, doubling as the Rainbow Wahine's sand volleyball head coach. He also spent time as an assistant for the Pepperdine men's program (2005-09), contributing to the Waves' national championship run in 2005. As a player at Pepperdine, Wong garnered All-America accolades on three occasions between 1998 and 2001.

> **Kansas State** opened the 2021 campaign by splitting two matches at the Husker Invitational in Lincoln, Nebraska, defeating Colgate in four sets before suffering the opposite fate against No. 5 Nebraska. The Wildcats were also scheduled to face Tulsa in the tournament, but the Golden Hurricane dropped out due to COVID-19 issues within the program. K-State, which received 13 points in the AVCA preseason poll, returns four starters and 10 letterwinners from last season's squad that logged its highest conference standing since 2008 after finishing third in the Big 12 with a 10-6 record and a 13-8 mark overall. Highlighting the list of returners is outside hitter Aliyah Carter, who captured Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors after leading the Wildcats with 4.11 kills per set, which set a program record for freshmen. Carter has picked up right where she left off, averaging a team-high 4.38 kills per set while ranking second on the squad with 3.38 digs per frame after two matches. In addition, opposite Haley Warner leads K-State with a .421 hitting percentage, including a .556 efficiency against the Huskers. Rounding out the list of Wildcat leaders are libero Mackenzie Morris (3.63 digs/set) and setter Teana Adams-Kaonohi (9.88 assists per set, who also shares the top spot with 10 block assists, joining middles Kayde Fernholz and Kayley Hollywood. Collectively, K-State ranks second in the Big 12 with 14.38 digs/set while occupying the third spot in kills (13.38/set), assists (12.00/set), services aces (1.25/set) and blocks (2.81/set). The winningest coach in program history, Suzie Fritz is in her 21st year in charge of the K-State volleyball team, compiling a 364-237 record, highlighted by 12 NCAA Tournament appearances. A Kansas native, Fritz earned consecutive Big 12 Coach of the Year honors in 2002 and 2003. She played collegiately as a setter at Louisiana-Monroe (1992) and Florida Atlantic (1993) after a two-year run at Barton County Community College.

**BEARKAT INVITATIONAL WRAP**

> San Diego State came up empty in its season-opening road trip to the Bearkat Invitational last weekend in Huntsville, Texas, falling to Houston Baptist before dropping consecutive matches to tournament host Sam Houston.

> Against HBU, the Aztecs were out-hit .306 to .153, committing 10 more attack errors (19-9) while nine service attempts went awry. Conversely, the Huskies totaled more kills (42-36) and team blocks (10.0-2.0) to help fuel their 3-0 victory.

> Individually, SDSU was led by senior transfer Zoi Faki, who knocked down 11 kills in her Aztec debut, while Victoria O'Sullivan collected seven put-aways of her own.

> Natalie Smith, a senior transfer from Michigan, also impressed in her first match for the Scarlet and Black, anchoring the Aztec back row with a match-high 27 digs, while Ashley Vanderpan dished out 19 assists.

> In the second match of the weekend, SDSU experienced another whitewash, this time at the hands of Sam Houston, as the visitors were plagued by 26 attack errors, hitting just .029 overall. On the flip side, the Bearkats posted a .299 efficiency, holding a sizeable advantage in kills (38-29) and total blocks (15.0-3.0) while owning a slight edge in digs (41-39).

> The Aztecs were paced by O'Sullivan and Heipua Tautua'a, who blasted eight kills each, while Faki and freshman Jordyn Goldsmith finished with five non-returnables apiece. Vanderpan (15 assists) and Kennedy Feuerborn (11 assists) split the setting duties as usual, while Smith scooped up a team-high 11 digs.

> The SDSU cause was also advanced by freshmen Sara Mukaj (4) and Reagan Merk (2), who combined for six aces.

> A late schedule switch provided the Aztecs a rematch against Sam Houston the following day after Central Arkansas withdrew from the tournament for contact tracing.

> However, SDSU found victory elusive once again, as the Bearkats dealt the Scarlet and Black a five-set heart-breaker.

> Incredibly, the Aztecs maintained the statistical edge in most categories, including kills (59-52), hitting percentage (.230 to .179), aces (5-4), digs (70-68) and team blocks (12.0-7.0).

> After hitting at a brisk .351 clip over the first three sets with just eight attack errors, however, SDSU faltered in the final two frames, posting a combined .060 hitting percentage with 14 miscues to finish its venture to the Lone Star State with an 0-3 record.

> O'Sullivan (.324) and Faki led the Aztecs with 14 kills apiece, while Serena Hodson (.300) posted career-high numbers with nine put-aways of her own and eight total blocks, including two solo stops.

> In addition, Faki logged her first double-double in a Scarlet and Black uniform after logging 12 digs, while Vanderpan accomplished the feat for the first time this year with 26 assists and 10 digs.

> Mukaj also boosted the SDSU fortunes with a crisp .636 hitting percentage, recording seven kills on 11 attempts with no errors, while Tautua'a and Goldsmith also floored seven shots.

> Smith once again anchored the Aztec defense by tying for match-high honors with 16 digs, while Feuerborn came off the bench to hand out 18 assists.

**ALL-TOURNAMENT AZTECS**

> Outside hitter Victoria O'Sullivan and libero Natalie Smith were each named to the all-tournament team at the Bearkat Invitational last weekend in Huntsville, Texas.

> In three matches, O'Sullivan knocked down 29 kills (2.64/set) to go with 11 digs and seven block assists while adding one setting assist and one service ace.

> In SDSU's tough 3-2 loss to Sam Houston on Aug. 28, O'Sullivan hit .324 and tied for the team lead with 14 kills, including six in the opening set.

> Meanwhile, Smith played in all 11 sets as well, averaging 4.91 digs (54 overall) to go with six setting assists in her debut event for the Aztecs.

> In SDSU's 3-0 setback to Houston Baptist on Aug. 27, Smith posted a whopping 27 digs (9.0/set), falling just two short of tying her career-high of 29 scoops at Notre Dame on Sept. 18, 2019, as a member of the Michigan Wolverines.

> In addition, Smith tied for match-high honors with 16 digs in the weekend finale at Sam Houston.

**NEWCOMERS SHINE**

- > The Aztecs boast 10 newcomers on their 2021 fall roster, with several providing key contributions during the first weekend of play at the Bearkat Invitational.
- > In addition to Natalie Smith, who received all-tournament recognition on the Texas trip, Pitt transfer Zoi Faki led the Aztecs with 30 kills (2.73/set) last weekend and ranked second with 26 digs (2.36/set). In the weekend finale vs. Sam Houston, the SDSU outside hitter logged her first double-double in an Aztec uniform with 14 kills and 12 digs.
- > Freshman Jordyn Goldsmith came off the bench in the final two matches vs. Sam Houston and blasted 12 kills, tying for team's fourth-best total over the weekend. The Aztec opposite hit .258 for the tournament, including a .333 pace (5-1-12) in the first clash with Bearkats. She finished strong in the rematch, playing all five sets with seven kills, three digs and three block assists.
- > Another freshman, Sara Mukaj served up four aces and posted four digs in the first match against Sam Houston. The Modena, Italy, native returned the following day and led the Aztecs with a .636 hitting percentage, launching seven kills on 11 swings without an error to go with five digs and four block assists.
- > Former Portland State middle blocker Julia Haynie knocked down six kills and hit .444 in her Scarlet and Black debut vs. Houston Baptist, before returning with a pair of put-aways and two block assists in the nightcap against Sam Houston.
- > Freshman outside hitter Reagan Merk served up aces on her first two collegiate serves in the second set vs. the Bearkats on Aug. 27.
- > Freshman outside hitter Mikela Labno made her Aztec debut with appearances in the final two matches of the weekend, finishing with one kill and one dig, while fellow classmate Kalani Ruri played one set in the opener vs. Houston Baptist.

**WELCOME BACK**

- > Outside hitter Victoria O'Sullivan leads the group of eight Aztec letterwinners who return for the 2021 fall campaign.
- > O'Sullivan earned all-Mountain West honors for the first time in her career last spring after leading the Scarlet and Black with 3.25 kills per set, which ranked seventh in the league. Not to be outdone, the SDSU senior surpassed the double-digit kill plateau in 11 of 15 matches and ranked second on the squad with 32.0 total blocks.
- > O'Sullivan led or tied for the team lead in kills 11 times, including six straight to start the year. She has recorded 10 or more kills in 32 of her last 43 appearances dating back to the start of the 2019 campaign.
- > The Aztecs will also look for senior leadership from Andrea Walker after the SDSU middle blocker finished third on the team with an average of 2.09 kills per set and 24.0 total blocks. She helped the Aztecs snap a five-match losing streak last March with season highs of 11 kills and a .529 hitting percentage in a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Utah State.
- > In addition, San Diego State is expecting continued improvement from sophomore Heipua Tautua'a, who ranked second on the squad with 99 kills and 140 digs (2.86/set) during her first season on The Mesa last spring. The Aztec outside hitter turned in a superlative performance in SDSU's 3-2 upset at Boise State on March 20, finishing with 14 kills, nine digs and a career-high six block assists while hitting at a .462 clip, which marked the Scarlet and Black's highest individual hitting percentage of the year (min. 12 kills).
- > Tautua'a also posted her first collegiate double-double in the Aztecs' 3-2 thriller over Utah State with 11 kills and 11 digs on March 12, after recording a career-high 22 digs in the team's four-set triumph over New Mexico two weeks earlier on Feb. 20.

**2021 AZTEC SUPERLATIVES**

**Individual**

**HITTING PERCENTAGE (min. 12 kills)**

.324 (14-3-34) ..... Victoria O'Sullivan at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)

**KILLS**

14 ..... Victoria O'Sullivan and Zoi Faki at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 14 ..... Victoria O'Sullivan and Zoi Faki at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 11 ..... Zoi Faki vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**TOTAL ATTEMPTS**

43 ..... Zoi Faki at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 43 ..... Zoi Faki at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 33 ..... Zoi Faki vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**ASSISTS**

26 ..... Ashley Vanderpan at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 26 ..... Ashley Vanderpan at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 19 ..... Ashley Vanderpan vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**DIGS**

27 ..... Natalie Smith vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)  
 5 sets ..... 16 ..... Natalie Smith at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 27 ..... Natalie Smith vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**SERVICE ACES**

4 ..... Sara Mukaj at Sam Houston (Aug. 27)

**BLOCK SOLOS**

2 ..... Serena Hodson at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)

**BLOCK ASSISTS**

6 ..... Serena Hodson at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)

**TOTAL BLOCKS**

8 ..... Serena Hodson at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)

**Team**

**HITTING PERCENTAGE**

.228 (59-22-162) ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)

**KILLS**

59 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 59 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 36 ..... vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**TOTAL ATTEMPTS**

162 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 162 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 111 ..... vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**ASSISTS**

51 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 51 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 33 ..... vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**DIGS**

70 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 5 sets ..... 70 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)  
 4 sets ..... n/a .....  
 3 sets ..... 52 ..... vs. Houston Baptist (Aug. 27)

**SERVICE ACES**

7 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 27)

**TOTAL BLOCKS**

12.0 ..... at Sam Houston (Aug. 28)

- > Also back in the mix for the Scarlet and Black this fall are tandem setters Ashley Vanderpan and Kennedy Feuerborn, who combined for 601 kills last spring, which marked the first season of intercollegiate competition for both players.
- > Vanderpan, who sat out the 2019 campaign after transferring from Syracuse, ranked ninth in the MW with a team-high 6.53 assists per set (334 overall) in nine starts as a sophomore last spring. The Elk Grove, California, native also topped the squad with 11 service aces and three double-doubles (assists-digs) while ranking fourth with 78 digs (1.53/set).
- > Vanderpan surpassed the 30-assist plateau in her first four starts, as the Aztecs posted a 3-1 record during that stretch. In a home sweep over New Mexico last February, she combined for 78 assists, dishing out a career-high 40 helpers in the series finale.
- > Feuerborn, meanwhile, earned six starting assignments in 13 appearances during her rookie campaign, averaging 4.0 helpers per set (164 overall). She also finished with 31 kills (0.76/set), 19 digs (0.46/set) and 14 blocks (0.34/set) for the year. Feuerborn racked up double-digit assists on six occasions, including a career-high 27 helpers at UNLV in just her second match on Feb. 5.

**NEW KIDS IN TOWN**

- > San Diego State head coach Brent Hilliard continued to reshape the Aztec roster with the addition of 10 newcomers for the 2021 fall campaign.
- > SDSU's early signing class last November consisted of four incoming freshmen in outside hitter Mikela Labno (Hilmar, Calif.), middle blocker Sara Mukaj (Modena, Italy), setter/opposite Kalani Ruri (Kawerau, New Zealand) and defensive specialist Carsyn Schuch (Phoenix, Ariz.)
- > Over the spring and summer, the Aztecs signed six more players, including four Division I transfers in senior libero Natalie Smith (Michigan), senior outside hitter Zoi Faki (Pittsburgh), senior setter Noa Miller (Arizona State) and junior middle blocker Julia Haynie (Portland State).
- > Also eager to put their stamp on the Scarlet and Black this fall are former prep standouts Jordyn Goldsmith (opposite/Valleyford, Wash.) and Reagan Merk (outside hitter/Huntington Beach, Calif.)
- > Smith was a member of three consecutive NCAA Tournament teams at Michigan from 2017-19. In her last season of competition on the Ann Arbor campus in 2019, the Weatherford, Texas, native set career highs in digs (390), assists (102) and service aces (18). Smith also totaled double-digit digs in 21 matches that year, including 20 or more scoops on three occasions.
- > Faki also brings a winning pedigree with her to "America's Finest City" after playing on three NCAA Tournament teams herself at Pittsburgh from 2016-21. Last spring, she contributed to Pitt's longest postseason run in program history, with the Panthers reaching the Elite Eight as the final unseeded team in the field. Faki served up a career-high three aces in Pitt's upset of No. 3 Minnesota in the NCAA Round of 16 last April.
- > Miller will help bolster the Aztecs setter position after competing for Wofford College and Arizona State in 2018 and 2019, respectively. As a freshman at Wofford, she surpassed the 20-assist plateau on eight occasions before compiling six double-doubles (assist-digs) at ASU. An elite club player, Miller led to her Volley One Academy squad to a national championship in 2016, earning MVP honors for her performance.
- > Haynie is a Southern California product who prepped at Chaparral High School in Temecula before starting 44 of 46 matches in two years at Portland State. As a sophomore last spring, the middle blocker ranked 10th in the Big Sky Conference with a .261 hitting percentage and
- > Among the incoming freshmen, Labno was a multi-sport standout at Hilmar (Calif.) High School, where she garnered a trio of all-conference accolades after leading the Yellowjackets to three straight Trans Valley League championships, along with a pair of CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV titles. Labno, who also competed in basketball and track & field as a prep, recorded a .311 hitting percentage for her career with an average of 3.48 kills and 1.82 digs to go with 163 total blocks and 80 aces, according to MaxPreps.
- > Mukaj starred for elite clubs over the past five years in her native Italy, including Igor Volley Trecate Novara II and Exacer Montale, leading the latter to a second-place finish in the Italian Serie B1 Group C tournament in 2019. She also another one of her club teams to the 2016-17 Serie C championship and a third-place standing at the Italian national U16 championships. In addition, Mukaj was named MVP and voted best middle blocker in the U16 regional finals that year.
- > Likewise, Ruri was a standout performer for numerous prep and national teams at the junior and senior levels in her home country of New Zealand. A versatile player with five years of experience as a setter, opposite and right-side hitter, Ruri most recently collected most valuable player honors and earned a spot on the all-tournament team after leading her squad to a gold medal at the New Zealand U19 Inter Provincial Championships in June 2021.
- > Schuch adds depth to the Aztec back row after starring at Deer Valley High School in Phoenix, Arizona, where she garnered 4A West Valley Region Defensive Player of the Year accolades all four years as a prep, earning first-team all-region honors during that span as well. For her career, Schuch tallied 1,742 digs (4.2/sets) along with 176 service aces and 186 assists, according to MaxPreps.
- > Goldsmith also excelled at the prep level at Freeman High School in Rockford, Washington, where she helped her squad to three top-10 state finishes, including a fourth-place showing as a junior in 2019. This past spring, Goldsmith collected 1A Northeast League MVP honors after leading the Scotties to a conference title with an undefeated 9-0 record during an abbreviated 2021 spring season in which her team did not drop a set (36-0). In addition to volleyball, she also won three letters in both basketball and golf during high school, as well as one in tennis.
- > Rounding out the Aztec rookie class is Merk, who was a three-year letterwinner at prep powerhouse Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, California. During her high school career, Merk amassed 430 kills, 600 digs, 64 total blocks and 44 service aces, according to MaxPreps. She received all-state recognition as a senior in 2019 from Cal-Hi-Sports and earned Under Armour All-America honors.

**2021 SPRING REWIND**

- > San Diego State ushered in the Brent Hilliard era with a 6-9 record in 15 matches during its abbreviated spring season, all against Mountain West opponents, as the Aztecs finished eighth in the conference standings.
- > SDSU posted a 5-4 record at home and a 1-5 mark on the road. With the results, the Aztecs have fashioned a winning record at home in 10 of the last 12 seasons.
- > The 2021 spring campaign marked the first time in program history that San Diego State did not play at a neutral site. The Aztecs completed two neutral-site matches in 1976, 1987 and 1998.
- > SDSU logged a 3-6 record in three-set matches, a 1-3 mark in four-set affairs, and a 2-0 ledger in five-set affairs.
- > The Aztecs were 6-0 when recording more kills and posting a greater attack percentage than their opponents. SDSU also crafted a 6-0 mark when the opposition was limited to a .200 hitting percentage or lower.
- > In addition, the Aztecs went 4-0 when leading after two sets and were 3-0 when leading in team blocks.
- > SDSU went 4-3 during Saturday matches last spring, marking its lone winning day of the week. The Aztecs were 0-2 in Thursday matches and 2-4 in Friday contests.
- > San Diego State's opponents averaged the third-lowest kills (11.70/set) in the Mountain West last spring. However, the Aztecs yielded the highest

**2021 SITUATIONAL RECORDS**

**GENERAL**

Overall.....	0-3
Mountain West.....	0-3
Home.....	0-0
Away.....	0-2
Neutral.....	0-1
vs. Ranked Teams.....	0-0
vs. Unranked Teams.....	0-1
Matches Following a Win.....	0-0
Matches Following a Loss.....	0-2
Longest Winning Streak.....	n/a
Longest Losing Streak.....	3
Current Streak.....	Lost 3

**BY SETS**

3 Sets.....	0-2
4 Sets.....	0-0
5 Sets.....	0-1
Leading After Two.....	0-0
Trailing After Two.....	0-2
Tied After Two.....	0-1
Leading 2-1.....	0-1
Trailing 2-1.....	0-0

**BY MONTH**

August.....	0-3
September.....	0-0
October.....	0-0
November.....	0-0

**BY DAY**

Tuesday.....	0-0
Thursday.....	0-0
Friday.....	0-2
Saturday.....	0-1

**BY KILLS**

Leading in Kills.....	0-1
Trailing in Kills.....	0-2
Tied in Kills.....	0-0

**BY DIGS**

Leading in Digs.....	0-2
Trailing in Digs.....	0-1
Tied in Digs.....	0-1

**BY BLOCKS**

Leading in Blocks.....	0-1
Trailing in Blocks.....	0-2
Tied in Blocks.....	0-0

**BY ATTACK PERCENTAGE**

Greater Attack Percentage.....	0-1
Lower Attack Percentage.....	0-2
Equal Attack Percentage.....	0-0
Hitting above .300.....	0-0
Hitting between .200 and .300.....	0-1
Hitting between .100 and .200.....	0-1
Hitting below .100.....	0-1
Opponent Hitting above .300.....	0-1
Opponent Hitting between .200 and .300.....	0-1
Opponent Hitting between .100 and .200.....	0-1
Opponent Hitting below .100.....	0-1

**BY INDIVIDUAL KILLS**

3+ Double-Digit Individual Kill Totals.....	0-0
2 Double-Digit Individual Kill Totals.....	0-1
1 Double-Digit Individual Kill Totals.....	0-1
0 Double-Digit Individual Kill Totals.....	0-1

## 2021 MATCH-BY-MATCH LEADERS

Date	Opponent	Kills	Hitting Pct.*	Assists	Aces	Digs	Blocks
A.27	vs. Houston Baptist	Faki - 11	Faki (.242)	Vanderpan - 19	Vanderpan - 1	Smith - 27	Hodson - 2
A.27	at Sam Houston	O'Sullivan/Tautua'a - 8	Tautua'a (.111)	Vanderpan - 15	Mukaj - 4	Smith - 11	Haynie/O'Sullivan - 2
A.28	at Sam Houston	Faki/O'Sullivan - 14	Mukaj (.636)	Vanderpan - 26	Vanderpan - 2	Smith - 16	Hodson - 8
S.3	at UC Santa Barbara						
S.4	vs. Pepperdine						
S.4	vs. Kansas State						
S.10	UCLA						
S.11	San Diego						
S.14	at Long Beach State						
S.17	vs. Texas Southern						
S.17	at Arizona						
S.18	vs. UC Riverside						
S.23	at Nevada						
S.25	at San José State						
S.30	New Mexico						
O.2	Air Force						
O.5	UNLV						
O.7	Fresno State						
O.14	at Boise State						
O.16	at Utah State						
O.21	Colorado State						
O.23	at Wyoming						
O.28	Utah State						
O.30	Boise State						
N.2	at UNLV						
N.6	at Fresno State						
N.11	at Air Force						
N.13	at New Mexico						
N.18	Nevada						
N.20	San José State						

\* - min. 7 kills

team blocks in the conference (140.0, 2.64/set) and the second-most service aces (98, 1.85/set).

> Despite its modest record, SDSU proved itself a competitive bunch toward the end of last spring, punctuated by a resounding sweep of perennial Mountain West contender Colorado State (25-14, 25-20, 25-19) at home in the season finale on April 3.

> With the victory, the Aztecs snapped an 11-match losing streak to the Rams dating back to the 2014 campaign. In addition, the win was SDSU's first over CSU in San Diego since 2012.

> In that contest, Victoria O'Sullivan led all players with 16 kills and posted a season-best .371 hitting percentage, while former Aztec Erin Gillcrist tied for match-high honors with six block assists and scooped up a career-best six digs to garner MW Defensive Player of the Week accolades following her final collegiate match.

> As a team, SDSU recorded its highest hitting percentage of the year (.299) while limiting the Rams to their lowest clip of the season (.076) after CSU entered the match with the second-best mark (.232) in the Mountain West.

> Two weeks earlier on March 20, the Aztecs recorded a dramatic 3-2 upset at Boise State (25-20, 23-25, 25-21, 24-26, 15-13), defeating a Bronco squad that entered the match with four straight 3-0 sweeps under their belts.

> SDSU maintained the upper hand in team blocks, finishing with a 15.0-7.0 advantage while holding the statistical edge in kills (62-59), assists (60-53) and digs (73-62) to help fuel its win.

> Among the fall returners, O'Sullivan launched 15 kills in that contest, while Heipua Tautua'a blasted 14 put-aways of her own and finished with a season-high .462 hitting percentage. O'Sullivan, who had a pair of solo stops, also matched Tautua'a with six blocks on the day.

> Not to be outdone, former Aztec libero Lauren Lee finished with a career-high 36 digs, which was tied for the highest total in the Mountain West last spring and ranks fifth in school history. For her efforts, Lee earned MW Defensive Player of the Week honors.

> With back-to-back victories over New Mexico at home on Feb. 19-20, SDSU extended its winning streak to eight straight over the Lobos.

> Following the season, O'Sullivan received all-Mountain West recognition for the first time in her career, giving SDSU at least one all-MW honoree for the sixth year in a row.

> In addition, Lee was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) District 8 All-Academic Team.

### PRESEASON PROGNOSTICATIONS

> San Diego State was picked to finish sixth this year in the Mountain West preseason coaches poll released on Aug. 18.

> In the 21-year history of the Mountain West, SDSU has finished first (2012), second (2002, 2011), fourth (2000, 2001, 2003, 2013, 2017), fifth (2005, 2015, 2019), sixth (1999, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2016), seventh (2008) and eighth (2007, 2018, 2020) in the final league standings.

### 2021 Mountain West Preseason Poll

Rk.	Team (1st-place votes)	Pts.
1.	UNLV (8)	98
2.	Boise State (2)	90
3.	Colorado State (1)	80
4.	Wyoming	69
5.	Fresno State	61
6.	<b>San Diego State</b>	<b>53</b>
7.	Air Force	46
8.	San José State	41
9.	Utah State	29
10.	New Mexico	26
11.	Nevada	12

### ON THE HORIZON

Following the Gaucho Invitational, San Diego State will play its first two home matches of the season, when it welcomes No. 18 UCLA and No. 22 San Diego to Aztec Court at Peterson Gym on consecutive nights, Sept. 10-11, as part of the SDSU/USD Invitational. Both contests are slated for a 7 p.m. PT start and will be streamed live via the Mountain West Network.

### INTRODUCING SEASON TICKETS FOR AZTEC VOLLEYBALL

Season tickets for San Diego State volleyball 's fall schedule are on sale now at GoAztecs.com. For just \$40, fans can catch all 11 home matches on Aztec Court at Peterson Gym this season and gain access to premium seating.



# Brent HILLIARD

## Head Coach - Second Season at San Diego State

San Diego State Director of Athletics John David Wicker ushered in a new era for the Aztec volleyball team with the hiring of Brent Hilliard as the fifth head coach in program history on Jan. 31, 2020.

In his first year on The Mesa, Hilliard endured a challenging season fraught with COVID-19 protocols, an abbreviated schedule that was postponed until spring, along with injuries to key players.

However, Hilliard and the Aztecs persevered through the 2021 spring campaign, posting a 6-9 record, highlighted by thrilling victories over Boise State on the road and Colorado State at home in the season finale, respectively. Against the Broncos, SDSU defeated a Boise State team that entered the contest with four consecutive 3-0 sweeps. Two weeks later, the Aztecs snapped an 11-match to the Rams dating back to 2014 and logged their first win over CSU in San Diego since 2012.

Under Hilliard's guidance, Victoria O'Sullivan garnered all-Mountain West accolades for the first time in her career, as the SDSU outside hitter led the squad with 3.25 kills per set, which ranked seventh in the conference. In addition, seniors Lauren Lee and Erin Gillcrst received MW Defensive Player of the Week recognition following the team's aforementioned wins over Boise State and Colorado State, respectively.

Hilliard's Aztecs also excelled in the classroom, with 12 student-athlete earning a spot on the Mountain West all-academic team, including Lauren Lee, who also merited first-team all-District 8 academic honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

A 2018 inductee to the Southern California Indoor Volleyball Hall of Fame, Hilliard arrived at SDSU with a wealth of experience after achieving 19 years of unparalleled success as an assistant coach at the University of San Diego, where he served as the Toreros' associate head coach since 2007.

During his fruitful tenure, the Toreros qualified for the NCAA Tournament in all but one of his 19 seasons, advancing to the Sweet 16 in 2004, 2006, 2013 and 2018. In addition, Hilliard helped guide the Toreros to nine West Coast Conference championships while his players earned six All-America awards, 12 All-America honorable mentions, 44 all-WCC accolades and 15 freshman all-conference certificates.

Hilliard twice assumed the reins of the USD program on an interim basis while head coach Jennifer Petrie was absent on maternity leave. In 2006, Hilliard was honored as WCC Coach of the Year after guiding the Toreros to a conference championship and a Sweet 16 appearance in the NCAA Tournament. That season, he coached five all-conference honorees, including WCC Player of the Year Kristen Carlson, as USD finished 14th in the final USA Today/Coaches Poll.

The Toreros also flourished under Hilliard's guidance in 2011, racing to a 13-0 start en route a program-best 28-5 record, highlighted by a spot in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Throughout his stint, USD was consistently ranked among the nation's top 25, climbing to as high as No. 2 during the 2013 campaign and rising to No. 5 in 2016.

"I would like to thank John David Wicker, Jenny Bramer, Dr. Adela de la Torre and the rest of the SDSU search committee for making me feel so welcome during the interview process," Hilliard said upon his hiring. "To be the head coach of such a remarkable women's volleyball program in my family's hometown is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity."

"We are fully committed to work tirelessly to elevate this program back to an elite status on the college volleyball landscape, one that the student body, faculty, community, alumni and, of course, all future Aztecs will take great pride in."

Hilliard played collegiately at Long Beach State, earning All-America honors in each of his four years from 1990-93, including first-team recognition over his final three seasons. A right-side hitter for the 49ers, Hilliard was named the NCAA Men's Volleyball Player of the Year as a junior in 1992 after leading LBSU to a 31-1 record.

In 1991, Hilliard and the 49ers captured the NCAA Championship with a 3-1 victory over USC in the finals, avenging a loss to the Trojans in the title match the year before. He finished his career as the NCAA all-time leader with 3,034 kills.

Additionally, Hilliard was selected to play for Team USA in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, where he helped the Americans capture the bronze medal. The following year, he won a silver medal at the 1993 Pan American Games in Argentina and also owns a bronze medal from the 1991 World Cup.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in 1993 from Long Beach State in political science, Hilliard continued his volleyball career as a professional in Europe from 1995-98, playing two seasons in Belgium and another in the Netherlands. In 1996, Hilliard and the Masiek Volleyball Club captured the Belgian national championship and competed in the European Champions League.

In addition to his collegiate experience, which included a stint as head coach at nearby Cuyamaca College in 1999 and 2000, Hilliard has also coached for the past 11 years at Wave Volleyball Club in Del Mar, the premier volleyball club in San Diego County.

"Our priority at SDSU will be to engage, attract and secure exceptional student-athletes that strive for both academic and athletic excellence in their everyday lives," Hilliard added. "From day one, we will set expectations high and build from there. I am incredibly excited to get started and I look forward to the bright future ahead."

### HILLIARD'S COLLEGIATE COACHING LEDGER (As an Assistant at USD)

Year	Overall Record	WCC Record (Finish)	Postseason
2001	22-9	10-4 (3rd)	NCAA Second Round
2002	25-8	10-4 (3rd)	NCAA First Round
2003	17-13	6-8 (T-5th)	NCAA First Round
2004	24-5	14-0 (1st)	NCAA Sweet 16
2005	23-6	10-4 (T-2nd)	NCAA Second Round
2006*	26-6	13-1 (1st)	NCAA Sweet 16
2007	21-8	11-3 (1st)	NCAA First Round
2008	23-5	12-2 (1st)	NCAA First Round
2009	18-7	10-4 (2nd)	None
2010	24-8	13-1 (1st)	NCAA Second Round
2011*	28-5	12-4 (2nd)	NCAA Second Round
2012	21-7	13-3 (T-1st)	NCAA First Round
2013	26-4	16-2 (1st)	NCAA Sweet 16
2014	19-12	12-6 (T-3rd)	NCAA First Round
2015	22-10	14-4 (2nd)	NCAA Second Round
2016	24-6	15-3 (2nd)	NCAA First Round
2017	25-5	17-1 (T-1st)	NCAA Second Round
2018	18-13	13-5 (3rd)	NCAA Sweet 16
2019	25-6	17-1 (1st)	NCAA Second Round
<b>USD Total</b>		<b>431-143 (.751)</b>	
<b>WCC Total</b>		<b>238-60 (.799)</b>	

### As Head Coach at SDSU

Year	Overall Record	MW Record (Finish)	Postseason
2020	6-9	6-9 (8th)	
2021	0-3	0-0	
<b>SDSU Total</b>		<b>6-12 (.333)</b>	
<b>Career as Head Coach</b>		<b>60-23 (.723)</b>	
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>437-155 (.738)</b>	

#### Notes

- \* - Served as interim head coach during the 2006 and 2011 seasons at USD. Record reflected in career totals.
- > Qualified for the NCAA Tournament in 18 of his 19 seasons at USD
- > Reached the NCAA Sweet 16 four times in 2004, 2006, 2013 and 2018
- > Won nine West Coast Conference championships

# 2021 AZTEC PHOTO ROSTER



**Zoi FAKI**  
OH | 6-1 | Sr. **1**



**Heipua TAUTUA'A**  
OH | 6-2 | So. **2**



**Andrea WALKER**  
MB | 6-0 | Sr. **3**



**Kennedy FEUERBORN**  
S | 6-3 | So. **4**



**Serena HODSON**  
MB | 6-2 | Jr. **5**



**Jordyn GOLDSMITH**  
OPP | 6-1 | Fr. **6**



**Ashley VANDERPAN**  
S | 6-1 | Jr. **7**



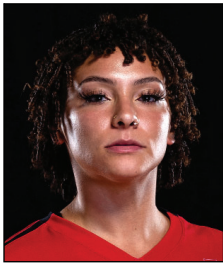
**Natalie SMITH**  
DS/L | 5-7 | Sr. **8**



**Sara MUKAJ**  
MB | 6-3 | Fr. **9**



**Kalani RURI**  
S/OPP | 6-2 | Fr. **10**



**Brooklyn HILL**  
DS/L | 5-8 | Sr. **11**



**Julia HAYNIE**  
MB | 6-1 | Jr. **13**



**Reagan MERK**  
OH | 5-11 | Fr. **14**



**Mikela LABNO**  
OH | 6-2 | Fr. **15**



**Carsyn SCHUCH**  
DS | 5-6 | Fr. **16**



**Nadia BARCKLAY**  
DS/L | 5-2 | So. **17**



**Noa MILLER**  
S | 5-10 | Sr. **19**



**Victoria O'SULLIVAN**  
OH | 6-0 | Sr. **21**



**Brent HILLIARD**  
Head Coach



**Melanie GREENE**  
Assistant Coach/  
Recruiting Coordinator



**STEVE TIMMONS**  
Assistant Coach



**Kara BARKDOLL**  
Volleyball Operations  
Assistant



2021 San Diego State Volleyball  
 San Diego State Overall Individual Statistics (as of Aug 28, 2021)  
 All matches

Overall record: 0-3 Conf: 0-0 Home: 0-0 Away: 0-2 Neutral: 0-1

##	Player	sp	mp-ms	Attack					Set		Serve				
				k	k/s	e	ta	pct	a	a/s	sa	sa/s	se	ta	pct
1	FAKI, Zoi	11	3-0	30	2.73	15	96	.156	1	0.09	1	0.09	5	37	.865
21	O'SULLIVAN, Victoria	11	3-0	29	2.64	18	89	.124	1	0.09	1	0.09	3	28	.893
2	TAUTUA'A, Heipua	11	3-0	21	1.91	14	83	.084	3	0.27	0	0.00	6	38	.842
6	GOLDSMITH, Jordyn	8	2-0	12	1.50	4	31	.258	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	.000
13	HAYNIE, Julia	6	2-0	8	1.33	5	18	.167	1	0.17	0	0.00	2	4	.500
5	HODSON, Serena	9	3-0	12	1.33	6	30	.200	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	.000
9	MUKAJ, Sara	9	3-0	8	0.89	3	20	.250	3	0.33	5	0.56	2	36	.944
15	LABNO, Mikela	2	2-0	1	0.50	1	2	.000	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	1.00
4	FEUERBORN, Kennedy	11	3-0	3	0.27	1	5	.400	37	3.36	0	0.00	0	0	.000
17	BARCKLAY, Nadia	2	1-0	0	0.00	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	2	1.00
7	VANDERPAN, Ashley	11	3-0	0	0.00	0	1	.000	60	5.45	4	0.36	2	34	.941
10	RURI, Kalani	1	1-0	0	0.00	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2	.500
14	MERK, Reagan	1	1-0	0	0.00	0	0	.000	0	0.00	2	2.00	0	3	1.00
8	SMITH, Natalie	11	3-0	0	0.00	0	2	.000	6	0.55	0	0.00	1	27	.963
SAN DIEGO STATE		11	3-3	124	11.2	67	377	.151	112	10.1	13	1.18	22	212	.896
Opponents		11	3-3	132	12.0	42	361	.249	119	10.8	13	1.18	26	238	.891

##	Player	sp	Recept			Dig		Blocking					
			re	ta	pct	dig	dig/s	bs	ba	total	blk/s	be	bhe
1	FAKI, Zoi	11	3	73	.959	26	2.36	0	2	2	0.18	1	0
21	O'SULLIVAN, Victoria	11	0	0	.000	11	1.00	0	7	7	0.64	2	2
2	TAUTUA'A, Heipua	11	0	66	1.000	23	2.09	0	2	2	0.18	2	0
6	GOLDSMITH, Jordyn	8	0	0	.000	4	0.50	0	3	3	0.38	1	0
5	HODSON, Serena	9	0	1	1.000	0	0.00	2	8	10	1.11	1	0
13	HAYNIE, Julia	6	0	1	1.000	2	0.33	0	2	2	0.33	0	0
9	MUKAJ, Sara	9	0	0	.000	9	1.00	0	5	5	0.56	0	1
15	LABNO, Mikela	2	0	5	1.000	1	0.50	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
4	FEUERBORN, Kennedy	11	0	1	1.000	8	0.73	0	1	1	0.09	0	0
17	BARCKLAY, Nadia	2	0	0	.000	1	0.50	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
7	VANDERPAN, Ashley	11	0	0	.000	21	1.91	0	0	0	0.00	0	4
14	MERK, Reagan	1	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
8	SMITH, Natalie	11	3	58	.948	54	4.91	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
10	RURI, Kalani	1	0	0	.000	1	1.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
-	TEAM	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SAN DIEGO STATE.....		11	13	212	.939	161	14.64	2	30	17.0	1.55	7	7
Opponents.....		11	13	190	.932	160	14.55	5	54	32.0	2.91	5	2

2021 San Diego State Volleyball  
 San Diego State Overall Team Statistics (as of Aug 28, 2021)  
 All matches

Overall record: 0-3 Conf: 0-0 Home: 0-0 Away: 0-2 Neutral: 0-1

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP
<b>ATTACK</b>		
Kills	124	132
Errors	67	42
Total Attacks	377	361
Attack Pct	.151	.249
Kills/Set	11.3	12.0
<b>SET</b>		
Assists	112	119
Assists/Set	10.2	10.8
<b>SERVE</b>		
Aces	13	13
Errors	22	26
Attempts	212	238
Serve Pct	.896	.891
Aces/Set	1.2	1.2
<b>SERVE RECEPTIONS</b>		
Errors	13	13
Errors/Set	1.2	1.2
Attempts	212	190
Reception Pct	.939	.932
<b>DEFENSE</b>		
Digs	161	160
Digs/Set	14.6	14.5
<b>BLOCKING</b>		
Block Solo	2	5
Block Assist	30	54
Total Blocks	17.0	32.0
Blocks/Set	1.5	2.9
Block Errors	7	5
Ball handling errors	7	2
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
Total	0	388
Dates/Avg Per Date	0/0	2/194
Neutral site #/Avg	1/151	
Current win streak	0	-
Home win streak	0	-

Match wins by #sets	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
San Diego State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opponents	0	0	2	0	1	3

Sets won by set	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
San Diego State	0	1	1	0	0	2
Opponents	3	2	2	1	1	9

Points by set	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
San Diego State	58	65	61	0	0	184
Opponents	75	63	64	25	15	242

2021 San Diego State Volleyball  
 San Diego State Match Results (as of Aug 28, 2021)  
 All matches

Date	Opponent	Score	Score-by-set	Overall	Conf	Time	Att.
08/27/21	vs Houston Baptist	L	0-3 17-25,22-25,16-25	0-1	0-0	1:19	151
08/27/21	at Sam Houston	L	0-3 18-25,18-25,20-25	0-2	0-0	1:19	228
08/28/21	at Sam Houston	L	2-3 23-25,25-13,25-14,0-25,0-15	0-3	0-0	2:3	160

Team Record	W-L-T	Attend	Dates	Total	Avg.
Overall:	0-3	Total:	3	539	180
Conference:	0-0	Home:	0	0	0
Home:	0-0	Away:	2	388	194
Away:	0-2	Neutral:	1	151	151
Neutral:	0-1				
3 sets:	0-2				
4 sets:	0-0				
5 sets:	0-1				