



SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS MEDIA RELATIONS

5500 CAMPANILE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92182 | (619) 594-5547

GOAZTECS.COM | @GOAZTECS | @AZTECSPR | #GOAZTECS

Postgame Football Notes – New Mexico State at San Diego State

Sept. 4, 2021 | Dignity Health Sports Park | San Diego, Calif.

Final Score: San Diego State 28, New Mexico State 10

Records: San Diego State (1-0, 0-0 Mountain West); New Mexico State (0-2)

SDSU Next Game: Sat., Sept. 11, 2020; at Arizona, Tucson, Ariz., 7 p.m. PT; Pac-12 Networks; 101 KBG, XTRA 1360 San Diego

Team Notes

- Win streaks extended:
 - 12-game home non-conference win streak
 - 9-game win streak against New Mexico State (breaks a tie for the longest streak for the Aztecs against any current FBS opponent (Air Force, 8))
 - 12-game win streak against teams from the state of New Mexico (7-0 vs. the Lobos; 5-0 vs. the Aggies)
 - 7-game win streak in home season openers
- San Diego State is 10-2 at home with Brady Hoke's last 12 home games as head coach.
- San Diego State is 14-1 in all games played in September since the start of the 2016 campaign.
- SDSU improved to 48-2 the last 50 games it rushed for at least 200 yards.
- San Diego State outrushed New Mexico State, 248-48.
- After trailing, 10-0, at the half being outgained, 248-104, SDSU outscored the Aggies, 28-0, in the second half and outgained NMSU, 224-126.
- In the Division I era, San Diego State is 26-10 against teams that were classified as Independent at the time of the game.
- The Aztecs are 3-1 in their last four teams without a conference affiliation.
- **Greg Bell** ran for a career-high 161 yards and a touchdown, the sixth most in an Aztec opener.
- **Matt Araiza** set a school record with a 56.8 punt average on nine punts, besting a 54.8 average by Mike Saxon in six punts at Brigham Young on Oct. 22, 1983. Since 1996, an FBS play has had at least nine punts in a game 2,087 times. Araiza's 56.8 average on nine attempts is the second-highest average among (min. 9 punts) in the last 26 seasons, only trailing a 57.7 average by Wake Forest's Dom Maggio against Clemson on Nov. 16, 2019.

Series History

- San Diego State leads the series, 11-1-1.
- The Aztecs are 6-0 at "home" against the Aggies.

Trends

- San Diego did not start with the ball for just the 20th time over the last 119 games.
- The Aztecs held their opponent scoreless on their opening possession for the 56th time since 2015 (76 games).

- SDSU did not score in the first quarter for just the second time in the last 10 games.
- San Diego State has still outscored the opposition, 59-23, in the first quarter since the start of the 2020 season.
- The Aztecs were shut out in the first half for the first time since Dec. 19, 2018 vs. Ohio (L, 27-0).
- SDSU won its 14th straight game when leading after the third quarter.

Player Notes

*** Greg Bell, Sr., RB (21 att., 161 yds., 1 TD)**

- Eclipsed his previous high of 160 yards, set Nov. 14, 2020 against Hawai'i.
- Broke 100 yards for the sixth time of his career in just 12 games, including five times at San Diego State in eight games.
- Now has two career games with at least 150 rushing yards.
- The 161 yards was the sixth most in an Aztec season opener.
- Recorded his first rushing touchdown of the season and seventh of his career.
- Recorded his first overall touchdown of the year and eighth of his career.

*** Matt Araiza, Jr., K/P (9 P, 511 yds., 56.8 avg. (51.0 net avg.), 4 I20, 77 Long | 4-for-4 PATs)**

- Set a school record with a 56.8 punt average on nine punts, besting a 54.8 average by Mike Saxon in six punts at Brigham Young on Oct. 22, 1983.
- Since 1996, an FBS player has had at least nine punts in a game 2,087 times. Araiza's 56.8 average is the second-highest average (min. 9 punts) in the last 26 seasons, only trailing a 57.7 average by Wake Forest's Dom Maggio against Clemson on Nov. 16, 2019.
- Helped the Aztecs record a 51.0 net punt average, tied for their highest net average since at least 2006 and best since also averaging a 51.0 net mark at Air Force on just two attempts on Oct. 23, 2013.
- Had a 77-yard punt in the second quarter, the fifth-longest punt in program history and longest since Brian Stahovich's school-record 89 yarder at Wyoming on Oct. 30, 2010.

*** Jordan Byrd, Sr., RB (3 att., 48 yds., 1 TD | 2 PR, 9 yds.)**

- Scored on a 43-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, his first offensive touch of the season.
- Recorded his first rushing touchdown of the season and seventh of his career.
- Recorded his first overall touchdown of the year and eighth of his career.

*** Jordon Brookshire, Sr., QB (7-for-20, 115 yds., 0 TD, 1 INT | 7 att., 15 yds., 1 TD)**

- Scored on an 18-yard run which put the Aztecs in the lead for the first time with 3:01 left in the third quarter.
- It was his first career rushing touchdown.

*** Noah Tumblin, So., CB (8 tackles (8 solo), 4 PBU)**

- Had a career-high eight tackles after entering the game with just two tackles in his first career seven games.
- Led the team in tackles for the first time of his career.
- His four pass breakups were tied for the fifth most in a game in program history.
- An Aztec has only recorded games with at least four PBUs 15 times in program history.

*** Cameron Thomas, Jr., DE (6 tackles (4 solo), 3.5 TFL)**

- His 3.5 tackles for loss were tied for the 13th most in a game in program history.
- Over his last four games, he has totaled 33 tackles (22 solo), 11 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks.

*** Segun Olubi, ^Sr., LB (6 tackles (4 solo), 2 FF)**

- Had a career-high six tackles in his first career start after entering the game with 15 stops over his first career 15 games.
- The two forced fumbles tied a school record, which has now happened 14 times in program history (last Darren Hall at New Mexico State on Sept. 14, 2019).

*** Tayler Hawkins, ^Sr., CB (6 tackles (2 solo), 1 INT)**

- Recorded his second career interception and second in the last three games dating back to last season.

*** Andrew Aleki, ^Sr., LB (3 tackles (2 solo), 1 INT)**

- Recorded his first career interception and first touchdown.

Other Notes

- TE Daniel Bellinger, LB Caden McDonald and LT Zachary Thomas all started for the 18th consecutive game, the longest streak on the team (offense/defense).
- CB Tayler Hawkins played in his 45th straight game, the longest streak on the team.
- Hawkins also played in his 45th career game, the most on the team.
- The following players made their first career start: CB Noah Avinger, LB Segun Olubi and RT Brandon Crenshaw-Dickson. Additionally, S Cedarius Barfield (cornerback last year) and LT Zachary Thomas (right tackle last year) each made their first start at their position.
- The following players played in their first career Division I game: Noah Avinger, Jack Browning, Aaron Greene, Brionne Penny, Jacob Raab, Mekhi Shaw, Nassir Sims, Dylan Taylor, Kyle Trombley and Ryan Wintermeyer.
- LB Michael Shawcroft recorded his first career interception in the third quarter.
- Tonight's temperature: 73 degrees

-SDSU-