



# AZTEC FOOTBALL

2018 NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

## 2018 Football Signees

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018

### ■ Andrew Alves

Linebacker

6-2, 225

San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine High)

Local product out of St. Augustine High School in San Diego, the same high school as incoming recruit JR Justice and current Aztec true freshman Tariq Thompson, who was named a USA Today Freshman All-American and a second-team all-Mountain West pick ... Earned four letters with the Saints, helping them to a 35-15 (.700) record since 2014 ... According to MaxPreps, totaled 265 tackles (179 solo), including 28 tackles for loss, 24.5 sacks, nine pass deflections, two forced fumbles and five fumble recoveries ... Is coming off a 2017 season with 100 tackles (69 solo), 12 tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries ... Also had two career touchdown catches as a fullback ... A three-year all-league selection and two-time all-CIF pick ... A scholar-athlete ... Was a two-year captain for the Saints and a team MVP ... A two-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Picked the Aztecs over official offers from Army West Point, Navy and Air Force, according to Rivals.

### ■ Matt Araiza

Kicker/Punter

6-2, 185

Rancho Bernardo, Calif. (Rancho Bernardo High)

Kicked and punted for three years at local Rancho Bernardo High School in Rancho Bernardo, Calif. ... According to MaxPreps, connected on 37 of his 48 field goal attempts for his career with a long of 53 yards ... Also averaged 41.7 yards per punt (120 punts for 5,001 yards) with a long of 71 yards ... Out of 221 kickoffs, 179 went for touchbacks ... Had a solid senior campaign in 2017, making 12 of his 16 field goal attempts with a long of 53 yards, while punting 39 times for 1,712 yards (43.9 avg.) and finishing with touchbacks on 49 of his 51 kickoffs ... Also played some time as a defensive back ... His 37 field goals were a San Diego Section record, breaking former Aztec Nate Tandberg's 34, set from 1993-95 at the same Rancho Bernardo HS ... Was a MaxPreps Sophomore First-Team All-American and a first-team California Medium Schools pick ... A three-time all-CIF San Diego Section Kicker of the Year and two-time Palomar League Kicker of the Year ... A two-star recruit by 247sports and the 19th-best kicker by the outlet ... Also competed in soccer and track and field at RBHS ... Also received scholarship offers from Massachusetts and Montana.

### ■ Carson Baker

Quarterback

6-3, 190

San Diego, Calif. (Helix High)

Played three seasons at nearby Helix High School in La Mesa, the same high school as incoming recruit Rashad Scott ... Helped the Highlanders to a 34-7 (.829) record over the three years, including a state championship appearance and 13-2 record in 2017 ... According to MaxPreps, was 368-for-546 (67.3 pct.) for 5,544 yards, throwing for 62 touchdowns against just eight interceptions ... Also ran 129 times for 590 yards and an additional seven scores ... Had a tremendous senior season in 2017, completing 162 of 235 attempts (68.9 pct.) for 33 touchdowns with just three interceptions, while rushing for 316 yards and four touchdowns ... Also plays basketball at Helix High School ... Picked the Aztecs over official offers from UC Davis, Columbia, Dartmouth and San Diego, according to Rivals.

### ■ Keshawn Banks

Defensive Line

6-4, 260

Rio Rancho, N.M. (Rio Rancho High)

Three-year letterwinner at Rio Rancho High School in Rio Rancho, N.M., in the Albuquerque area ... Led the Rams to a 13-0 record and state championship in 2016, and a 9-3 mark in 2017 ... Had 133 tackles over this three years according to MaxPreps, including 37 tackles for loss, 18 sacks, eight pass deflections, three forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and an interception ... Registered 55 tackles, 20 TFL, 10 sacks, four pass deflections, a forced fumble and two recoveries last year ... Played in the North-South all-star game ... Earned all-state, all-metro and all-district accolades, and was named the metro defensive player of the year ... A three-star recruit by 247sports and a two-star recruit from Rivals ... Rated as the third-best recruit in New Mexico by 247sports ... Also lettered for three years with the basketball team and twice on the track and field squad ... Picked the Aztecs over Colorado State, Wyoming, UNLV, New Mexico and New Mexico State.



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## ■ Luqman Barcoo

**Defensive Back**

**6-1, 170**

**Chula Vista, Calif. (Castle Park High/Grossmont College)**

Played two years at nearby Grossmont College in El Cajon, Calif. ... Played on both sides of the ball ... Last year caught 35 passes for 767 yards (21.9 avg.) and seven touchdowns ... Recorded three interceptions in his two seasons with the Griffins ... Was an all-conference selection ... Garnered three letters at Castle Park High School in Chula Vista, Calif. ... Did a little bit of everything with the Trojans, rushing 57 times for 472 yards (8.4 avg.) and six touchdowns over his final two seasons (according to MaxPreps), and catching 71 passes for 1,314 yards (18.5 avg.) and 15 touchdowns ... On defense, totaled 74 tackles (52 solo), four tackles for loss, five interceptions, nine pass breakups and a blocked field goal ... A three-star recruit by Rivals ... Also was recruited by Utah State and Northern Arizona.

## ■ Cedarius Barfield

**Defensive Back**

**5-11, 175**

**El Paso, Texas (El Dorado High)**

A three-year letterwinner at El Dorado High School in El Paso, Texas ... Played on four district championship teams ... Played a bit of everything at El Dorado HS, including quarterback, wide receiver, cornerback, kick returner, punt returner and punter ... According to MaxPreps, was 369-for-602 (61.3 pct.) over his three seasons at quarterback for 59 touchdowns against just eight interceptions, while rushing for 3,760 yards and 58 touchdowns on 358 attempts (10.5 avg.) ... Threw for 2,220 yards and 23 touchdowns in 2017, and rushed for 1,668 yards and 28 touchdowns on 166 carries (10.0 avg.) ... In 2016 threw for 3,069 yards and 33 touchdowns, and rushed for 1,582 yards and 22 scores on 134 attempts (11.8 avg.) ... Was a second-team all-state selection, a two-time 6A MVP and the El Paso Times MVP ... A three-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Also lettered on the basketball team and track and field team ... Made the all-defensive team in basketball ... Was all-region choir and an all-academic pick in both football and basketball ... Chose San Diego State over offers from New Mexico, Southern Miss, UTEP, Air Force, Navy, Army West Point, New Mexico State and North Dakota.

## ■ Daniel Bellinger

**Tight End**

**6-6, 220**

**Las Vegas, Nev. (Palo Verde High)**

Earned three letters at Palo Verde High School in Las Vegas, Nev. ... Is coming off a successful 2017 season where he totaled 21 catches for 371 yards (17.7 avg.) and three touchdowns in nine games on offense, according to MaxPreps ... On defense as a linebacker, he finished with 131 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, three sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery ... His 131 tackles were the most

on PVHS and 84 more tackles than No. 2 on the team ... Racked up numerous awards, including a first-team all-league selection on both offense and defense, and an all-city (Las Vegas) honoree ... Is a two-star recruit at linebacker by Rivals and a two-star tight end by 247sports ... Rated as the 14th-best recruit in Nevada by 247sports ... Also starred in both basketball and track and field at Palo Verde HS, earning second-team all-league honors in basketball and making the regional finals in track and field in the 400 meters and 4x400-meter relay ... Was a scholar-athlete ... Picked SDSU over other offers from California, Navy, UNLV and Weber State.

## ■ Josh Bornes

**Linebacker**

**6-0, 220**

**San Marcos, Calif. (San Marcos High)**

Lettered three years at nearby San Marcos High School in San Marcos, Calif. ... Led the Knights to a 9-3 record in 2017 ... According to MaxPreps, amassed 284 tackles, 25 tackles for loss, 12.5 sacks, one forced fumble and three fumble recoveries ... Also accumulated 1,184 rushing yards on 221 attempts (5.4 avg.) with 19 touchdowns, and 44 catches for 450 yards (10.2 avg.) and five touchdown reception ... In 2017 had 114 tackles and 12 tackles for loss on defense, while rushing for 785 yards and 13 touchdowns on 128 carries (6.1 avg.), and adding 28 receptions for 302 yards (10.8 avg.) and four touchdown catches ... Was a first-team all-CIF selection in 2017, as well as a first-team all-Avocado League pick and the Avocado League Defensive Player of the Year ... Is a two-star recruit by Rivals as a linebacker and a two-star recruit by 247sports as an athlete ... According to Rivals, also received offers from Hawai'i and San Jose State ... Also competes on the track and field team at San Marcos HS ... Older brother, Brandon, rushed for 1,553 yards and 13 touchdowns from 2004-07.

## ■ Jordan Byrd

**Running Back**

**5-9, 175**

**Albuquerque, N.M. (Manzano High)**

Was a three-year letterwinner at Manzano High School in Albuquerque, N.M. ... Led the Monarchs to a state championship in 2017 and perfect 13-0 record ... Manzano High School improved its record each of Byrd's three years, going from 7-5 in 2015, to 10-3 in 2016 to 13-0 in 2017 ... Played quarterback, running back and wide receiver at MHS, and also returned kicks and punts ... Over his three years (according to MaxPreps), was 112-for-177 (63.3 pct.) for 1,522 yards and 16 touchdowns against four interceptions, while rushing 344 times for 2,750 yards (8.0 avg.) and 37 touchdowns, and adding 41 catches for 669 yards (16.3 avg.) and four touchdowns ... Best season statistically was 2017, where he was 72-for-107 (67.4 pct.) for 1,011 yards and 10 touchdowns in the air, 1,235 yards and 21 touchdowns on the ground on 158 carries (7.8 avg.), and adding 25 catches for 381 yards (15.2 avg.) and three touchdowns ... Earned all-state and all-metro honors, and was the league MVP ... Was a three-time team MVP ... As an athlete, earned three stars from 247sports and two stars from Rivals ... Rated as the top recruit in New Mexico by 247sports ... Also competed on the track and field team



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... Twice earned the student of the month ... According to Rivals, also had scholarship offers from TCU, Arizona, Utah, Texas Tech, Utah State and New Mexico.

### ■ William Dunkle

**Offensive Line**

**6-5, 355**

**Chula Vista, Calif. (Eastlake High)**

A three-year letterwinner and two-time captain at nearby Eastlake High School in Chula Vista, Calif. ... Led the Titans to a 10-3 record in 2017 after finishing just 2-9 the previous year ... Team was the runner-up at CIFs in 2017 ... Was a three-time all-league selection and all-CIF ... Also was a three-star offensive lineman ... Was a three-star recruit by 247sports and a two-star recruit by Rivals ... According to Rivals, also received scholarship offers from UCF, Fresno State, Colorado State, Utah State, Illinois, UNLV, UTEP and South Dakota ... Nephew of Freddie Dunkle, who played at San Diego State from 2004-07.

### ■ Denaylan Fuimaono

**Athlete**

**6-0, 190**

**Long Beach, Calif. (Carson High)**

Lettered one year at Carson High School in Carson, Calif., after playing previously at Cabrillo High School in Long Beach, Calif. ... Led Carson HS to an appearance in the semifinals ... In just five games at Carson HS, (according to MaxPreps), rushed for 193 yards and four touchdowns on 18 carries (10.7 avg.) and had two interceptions on defense ... At Cabrillo HS, best year was his junior season in 2016 when he was 104-for-201 (51.7 pct.) for 1,139 yards and 11 touchdowns (according to MaxPreps), while rushing for 999 yards and 16 touchdowns on 90 carries (11.1 avg.) on offense and 41 tackles and two interceptions on defense ... Is a three-star recruit at safety by 247sports and a two-star recruit by Rivals ... Was a honor roll student ... Also played rugby and volleyball ... According to Rivals, picked the Aztecs over offers from Washington State, Army West Point, Navy, Utah State, Air Force, Nevada, New Mexico, Hawai'i, San Jose State and UC Davis.

### ■ JR Justice

**Wide Receiver**

**6-3, 300**

**San Diego, Calif. (St. Augustine High)**

Joins linebacker Andrew Alves as a signee from St. Augustine High School in San Diego, the same high school as current Aztec true freshman Tariq Thompson, who was named a USA Today Freshman All-American and a second-team all-Mountain West pick ... Played the last four years with the Saints, where they went 35-15 (.700) over his time there ... Saw time as a wide receiver and quarterback on offense, at cornerback on defense, and at punter, punt returner and occasionally kick returner on special teams ... According to MaxPreps, totaled 82 catches for

1,419 yards (17.3 avg.) and 18 touchdowns and 20 carries for 133 yards (6.7 avg.), while completing 11 of 20 attempts for 215 yards and three touchdowns ... Played in six games in 2017 with 28 catches for 398 yards (14.2 avg.) and six touchdowns, a year after making 46 catches for 932 yards (20.3 avg.) and 12 scores as a junior in 2016 ... Averaged 35.0 yards per punt over his career with a long of 61 yards ... A consensus three-star recruit - at athlete by Rivals and 247sports, and a wide receiver by ESPN ... Rated as the 53rd-best athlete by 247sports ... According to Rivals, picked San Diego State over offers from USC, Louisville, Tennessee, Virginia Tech, Boise State, Fresno State, Arizona, Boston College, Colorado State, Utah State, Indiana, Illinois, Nevada, Hawai'i, Brown, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton and Yale ... Is the son of three-time Major League Baseball all-star David Justice.

### ■ Elijah Kothe

**Wide Receiver**

**6-4, 185**

**Las Vegas, Nev. (Faith Lutheran High)**

Earned four letters at Faith Lutheran High School in Las Vegas, Nev. ... According to MaxPreps, registered 115 catches over the last three seasons for 1,806 yards (15.7 avg.) and 19 touchdowns ... Best year statistically was his junior campaign in 2016 when he had 55 catches for 1,053 yards (19.1 avg.) and 10 touchdowns ... Was a two-time all-state selection and a three-time all-league performer ... A two-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Rated as the 13th-best recruit in Nevada by 247sports ... Also a four-year letterwinner in basketball, twice earning all-league accolades ... A scholar-athlete who is a three-time academic all-state selection, posting a 4.0 GPA ... According to Rivals, picked the Aztecs over scholarship offers from Colorado, Fresno State, Navy, Air Force, UNLV, Hawai'i, Montana State, Northern Iowa, Cornell and Princeton.

### ■ Jalil Lecky

**Defensive Line**

**6-5, 215**

**Antioch, Calif. (Heritage High/College of San Mateo)**

Played two years at College of San Mateo ... Led the Bulldogs to an 18-5 (.783) record over the two seasons, including an 11-2 mark last year and spot in the California JuCo championship game ... Team was the NorCal champions and Bay 6 league champs ... Last year had 21 tackles (11 solo), three sacks, six tackles for loss, a forced fumble and a pass breakup ... Prior to CSM, earned two letters at Heritage High School in Brentwood, Calif. ... Also played basketball for the Patriots ... According to 247sports, also received offers from Arizona State, Arkansas State and Hawai'i.



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## ■ Nic McTear

**Tight End**

**6-5, 220**

**Frisco, Texas (Heritage High)**

Played three years at Heritage High School in Frisco, Texas ... Was a first-team all-district selection as a junior in 2016 ... A consensus three-star recruit by ESPN, Rivals and 247sports ... Ranked as the 15th-best tight end in the 2018 class by ESPN and 22nd by 247sports ... Earned a scout grade of 78 by ESPN ... According to Rivals, picked the Aztecs over offers from Auburn, Miami, LSU, Oklahoma State, Mississippi State, Colorado, Baylor, Houston, Toledo, Iowa State, Colorado State, North Texas, Tulsa and Louisiana-Monroe.

## ■ Allan Mwata

**Defensive Back**

**6-0, 180**

**Las Vegas, Nev. (Liberty High)**

A three-year letterwinner at Liberty High School in Las Vegas, Nev., the same school current true freshman wide receiver Ethan Dedeaux attended ... Led the Patriots to a 34-6 (.850) record over the three seasons, including back-to-back league titles in 2015 and 2016 ... Registered 110 tackles over the last three years (according to MaxPreps), with 11 interceptions for 247 yards and two touchdowns, and 21 pass deflections ... Was a two-time all-league selection and an all-state pick ... Named the team's defensive MVP ... A two-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Ranked as the 18th-best recruit in the state of Nevada by 247sports ... Picked San Diego State over other offers from Florida Atlantic, Brigham Young, UNLV and Northern Arizona.

## ■ Daniel Okpoko

**Defensive Line**

**6-5, 235**

**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (St. Joseph's High)**

Played at St. Joseph's High School in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada ... Will join current true freshman Ladji Bagayoko (Saint-Laurent, Quebec) as Aztec players from Canada ... A member of the Football Canada U18 National team ... Had 8.5 sacks during the 2016 season at St. Joseph's HS ... Was originally considering signing with North Dakota ... Also competed on the track and field team at St. Joseph's HS.

## ■ Joah Robinett

**Defensive Line**

**6-8, 260**

**San Diego, Calif. (San Marcos High/Oregon State)**

Played in two games at Oregon State in 2016 as a true freshman, starting both games ... Recorded five tackles in his debut against California, before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury in his second game vs. Utah ... Prior to signing with OSU out of high school in 2016, played at nearby San Marcos High School in San Marcos, Calif. ... Led the Knights to the state playoffs as a senior ... Had 92 tackles, 8.5 sacks, four forced fumbles and two blocked field goals over his career ... Was a second-team all-CIF honoree as a junior and a two-time all-league selection ... Played in the Blue-Grey All-America Bowl ... Also played basketball at SMHS ... Was a two-time all-academic selection ... Was a three-star recruit out of SMHS by Rivals, Scout and 247sports ... Picked OSU over San Diego State, Arizona and Nevada out of high school.

## ■ Rashad Scott

**Defensive Back**

**6-2, 180**

**San Diego, Calif. (Helix High)**

Lettered three years at nearby Helix High School in La Mesa, Calif. ... Helped the Highlanders to a 34-7 (.829) record over the three years, including a state championship appearance and 13-2 record in 2017 ... Had eight interceptions and 11 pass deflections in 2017 on defense ... A three-star recruit as an athlete by Rivals and a three-star recruit at wide receiver by 247sports ... According to Rivals, chose the Aztecs over other offers from Fresno State, Brigham Young, Wyoming, Utah State, UNLV, Hawai'i and San Jose State.

## ■ Kobe Smith

**Wide Receiver**

**6-2, 175**

**Compton, Calif. (Junipero Serra High)**

Played four seasons of varsity at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, Calif. ... According to MaxPreps, finished with 119 receptions over the last three years for 1,914 yards (16.1 avg.) and 17 touchdowns ... Over the last two seasons totaled 107 catches for 1,689 yards (15.8 avg.) and 13 touchdowns ... Earned all-league honors each of the last three seasons ... A consensus three-star recruit by Rivals, 247sports and ESPN ... Received an ESPN scout grade of 78 ... According to Rivals, picked the Aztecs over other offers from USC, Notre Dame, Oregon, Washington State, Nebraska, Arizona, Fresno State, Oregon State, Rutgers, Illinois and San Jose State.



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## ■ TJ Sullivan

**Wide Receiver**

**6-0, 180**

**San Diego, Calif. (Mt. Carmel High)**

Earned three letters at Mr. Carmel High School in San Diego ... According to MaxPreps, finished with 71 catches for 1,132 yards (15.9 avg.) and 12 touchdowns in just 19 games over his career ... Also had a pair of interceptions as a junior in 2015 and a 99-yard kick return for a touchdown as a senior ... Was a two-time all-league selection ... Was a three-star recruit by ESPN and 247sports, and a two-star recruit by Rivals and Scout in 2016 ... Received a grade of 81 by 247sports and a mark of 72 by ESPN ... Was a track and field star, twice earning first-team all-league accolades and becoming a five-time Palomar League champion (two-time long jump, two-time 4x100 relay and one-time 4x400 relay) ... Was the vice president of the student-athlete leadership team (SALT).

## ■ Cameron Thomas

**Defensive Line**

**6-5, 235**

**Carlsbad, Calif. (Carlsbad High)**

Played three years at local Carlsbad High School in Carlsbad, Calif. ... Will join the Aztecs, who already have four players from Carlsbad High School in his older brother, Zachary, an offensive lineman, quarterback Christian Chapman, linebacker Troy Cassidy and offensive lineman Garrison Young ... According to MaxPreps, recorded 88 tackles the last two years to go along with five tackles for loss, 9.5 sacks, a pass deflection and a fumble recovery ... On offense as a tight end has 22 receptions for 294 yards (13.4 avg.) and four touchdowns ... A three-star recruit by 247sports and a two-star recruit by Rivals ... Also received offers from Oregon State, Wyoming and Navy.

## ■ Zidane Thomas

**Running Back**

**5-11, 210**

**Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial High)**

Earned three letters at Centennial High School in Peoria, Ariz. ... Led the Coyotes to a 38-5 (.884) record over the three years ... Racked up incredible numbers (according to MaxPreps) over the last two years, rushing 377 times for 4,011 yards (10.6 avg.) with 44 touchdowns ... Ran for 2,123 yards and 26 touchdowns in 2017 and 1,888 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2016 ... A three-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Ranked as the 14th-best recruit in the state of Arizona by 247sports ... Picked the Aztecs over other offers from Louisville, Utah, Iowa State, Boise State, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Northern Arizona.

## ■ Alama Uluave

**Offensive Line**

**6-2, 315**

**Laie, Hawaii (Punahou High)**

Was a three-year letterwinner at Punahou High School in Laie, Hawaii, the same school as Aztec linebacker brothers Ronley Lakalaka and Seyddrick Lakalaka ... Was first-team ILH and played in the Nike Final 5 ... Was a three-star recruit by both Rivals and 247sports ... Ranked as the seventh-best recruit in Hawaii by 247 sports and the 23rd-best center by the outlet ... Also played basketball and baseball, and competed on the track and field team ... Was a state champion in the shot put and the discus throw for the Buffs' track and field team won a state championship ... According to Rivals, also received offers from Washington State, Boise State, Fresno State, Army West Point, Texas Tech, Colorado State, Syracuse, Air Force, UNLV, Hawai'i and Yale.