



# SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

## 2017 Volleyball Weekly Notes

**Jim Solien (Primary Contact)**  
 Assistant Media Relations Director  
**Office Phone Number:** (619) 594-2576  
**E-Mail Address:** jsolien@mail.sdsu.edu  
**News Release Date:** Sept. 14, 2017

**SDSU Official Athletics Website:** goaztecs.com  
**SDSU Official Athletics Twitter:** @GoAztecs  
**SDSU Official Athletics Instagram:** @GoAztecs  
**SDSU Official Athletics Facebook:** facebook.com/goaztecs  
**SDSU Official Athletics YouTube:** youtube.com/goaztecscom

### 2017 AZTEC VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Friday, Aug. 25	Eastern Kentucky <sup>^</sup>	L, 1-3
Saturday, Aug. 26	Portland State <sup>^</sup>	W, 3-0
Saturday, Aug. 26	CSUN <sup>^</sup>	L, 0-3
Friday, Sept. 1	at No. 23 Michigan State+	L, 0-3
Friday, Sept. 1	vs. Texas A&M-CC+	W, 3-0
Saturday, Sept. 2	vs. Marshall+	L, 0-3
Friday, Sept. 8	Loyola Marymount~	L, 0-3
Saturday, Sept. 9	Long Beach State~	W, 3-2
Saturday, Sept. 9	Pacific~	W, 3-0
Tuesday, Sept. 12	at No. 17 San Diego	L, 0-3
Friday, Sept. 15	vs. UC Riverside#	3 p.m. MT
Saturday, Sept. 16	vs. Gonzaga#	10 a.m. MT
Saturday, Sept. 16	at Denver#	7 p.m. MT
Thursday, Sept. 21	at Utah State*	7 p.m. MT
Saturday, Sept. 23	at Boise State*	2 p.m. MT
Thursday, Sept. 28	San José State*	6 p.m. PT
Saturday, Sept. 30	Nevada*	1 p.m. PT
Tuesday, Oct. 3	at Fresno State*	7 p.m. PT
Saturday, Oct. 7	Air Force*	6 p.m. PT
Thursday, Oct. 12	at New Mexico*	7 p.m. MT
Saturday, Oct. 14	at UNLV*	3 p.m. PT
Thursday, Oct. 19	Boise State*	6 p.m. PT
Saturday, Oct. 21	Utah State*	1 p.m. PT
Thursday, Oct. 26	at Nevada*	6:30 p.m. PT
Saturday, Oct. 28	at San José State*	2 p.m. PT
Tuesday, Oct. 31	Fresno State*	6 p.m. PT
Sunday, Nov. 5	at Air Force*	1 p.m. MT
Thursday, Nov. 9	UNLV*	6 p.m. MT
Saturday, Nov. 11	New Mexico*	1 p.m. PT
Wednesday, Nov. 15	at Wyoming*	6:30 p.m. MT
Saturday, Nov. 18	Colorado State*	1 p.m. PT

<sup>^</sup> - Aztec Invitational (San Diego, Calif.)  
<sup>+</sup> - Spartan Invitational (East Lansing, Mich.)  
<sup>~</sup> - JLABS Challenge (San Diego, Calif.)  
<sup>#</sup> - Denver Invitational (Denver, Colo.)  
<sup>\*</sup> - Mountain West match

#### Socially

Twitter: @SDSUVolleyball  
 Instagram: @SDSUVolleyball

### Denver Invitational Preview

San Diego State (4-6) vs. UC Riverside (7-2)  
 Friday, Sept. 15 | 3 p.m. MT/ 2 p.m. PT | Hamilton Gym | Denver, Colo.



San Diego State (4-6) vs. Gonzaga (4-5)  
 Saturday, Sept. 16 | 10 a.m. MT/ 9 a.m. PT | Hamilton Gym | Denver, Colo.



San Diego State (4-6) at Denver (7-2)  
 Saturday, Sept. 16 | 7 p.m. MT/ 6 p.m. PT | Hamilton Gym | Denver, Colo.

#### AZTECS TRAVEL TO THE ROCKIES FOR DENVER INVITATIONAL THIS WEEKEND

> San Diego State closes out the non-conference portion of its 2017 regular-season schedule this weekend when it ventures to the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains for the Denver Invitational, Sept. 15-16, in Denver, Colorado. The Aztecs open the tournament on Friday when they battle UC Riverside inside Hamilton Gymnasium, starting at 3 p.m. MT/ 2 p.m. PT.  
 > On Saturday, Sept. 16, the Aztecs will square off against two additional opponents, locking horns with Gonzaga at 10 a.m. MT/ 9 a.m. PT, followed by a clash with the host Pioneers at 7 p.m. PT/ 6 p.m. PT. The complete event schedule is listed below.

#### Friday, Sept. 15

San Diego State vs. UC Riverside 3 p.m. MT/ 2 p.m. PT  
 Gonzaga at Denver 6 p.m. MT/ 5 p.m. PT

#### Saturday, Sept. 16

Gonzaga vs. San Diego State 10 a.m. MT/ 9 a.m. PT  
 UC Riverside at Denver 12:30 p.m. MT/ 11:30 a.m. PT  
 UC Riverside vs. Gonzaga 4 p.m. MT/ 3 p.m. PT  
 San Diego State at Denver 7 p.m. MT/ 6 p.m. PT

> Gametracker stats will be available throughout the weekend, while SDSU's match at Denver will air live on Altitude Sports 2 (National: Dish Network - channel 440; DirecTV - channel 681-1)

#### SERIES RECORDS

> San Diego State owns a 12-1 record against UC Riverside, including a 3-1 triumph on the road in the last encounter between the two squads in 2011. The Aztecs and Highlanders have met at a neutral site on two previous occasions, with the Scarlet and Black emerging victorious at the UCLA Invitational in 1976 and the Titan Invitational at Cal State Fullerton in 1985. SDSU 149-105 against current members of the Big West.  
 > The Aztecs have split their two previous encounters with Gonzaga, both on the Zags' home floor. In 1993, SDSU rallied from a 2-1 deficit in sets to escape with a 3-2 decision, while GU won in four sets at the Gonzaga Invitational in 2008. The Aztecs have faced three West Coast Conference opponents already this season (1-2) and are 76-87 all-time against current schools in that league.  
 > San Diego State and Denver will be battling one another for just the fourth time ever on Saturday. SDSU is 1-2 against the Pioneers overall, including a tough 3-2 defeat in the 2016 Aztec Invitational. In that match, Alexandra Psoma tied for team-high honors with 12 kills, while Deja Harris hit .500 on eight kills to go with five blocks. In addition, Indigo Thompson got into the act with a double-double, posting 27 assists and 11 digs. SDSU won the first meeting between the two squads with a four-set victory in 2001 in Tempe, Arizona. The Aztecs have faced just one other school currently aligned with the Summit League, splitting two matches with Oral Roberts in 2003 and 2004.

#### HEAD COACH DEITRE COLLINS-PARKER

> San Diego State head coach Deitre Collins-Parker is in her ninth season with the Aztecs after becoming the fourth head coach in program history prior to the 2009 campaign. Her record at San Diego State stands at 134-118 (.532).  
 > Collins-Parker previously served as head coach at UNLV for eight seasons (1996-2003) and at Cornell for five years (2004-2008). Her career record stands at 296-309 (.489).  
 > A three-time All-American as a collegiate player at the University of Hawai'i, Collins-Parker guided the Rainbow Wahine to consecutive national titles (1983-84) and was twice named the national player of the year.  
 > Collins-Parker was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team and competed at the Goodwill Games and Pan Am Games prior to playing professionally in Europe for four years.  
 > Collins-Parker is one of six players named to the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball 25th Anniversary Team in October 2005 and was inducted into the AVCA Hall of Fame in the fall of 2008.  
 > This past summer, Collins-Parker was head coach of the Mountain West All-Star volleyball team that competed in the European Global Challenge. Current Aztecs Baylee Little and Indigo Thompson were also named to that squad.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Location ..... San Diego, Calif.  
 Founded ..... 1897  
 Enrollment ..... 33,726  
 Nickname ..... Aztecs  
 Colors ..... Scarlet and Black (Pantone 187)  
 Conference ..... Mountain West  
 Affiliation ..... Division I  
 President ..... Sally Roush  
 Director of Athletics ..... John David Wicker  
 Faculty Representative ..... Patrick Papin  
 Home Facility ..... Aztec Court at Peterson Gym (2,000)

**TEAM INFORMATION**

Head Coach ..... Deitre Collins-Parker  
 Alma Mater ..... Hawai'i '95  
 Record at SDSU ..... 134-118 (9th year)  
 Career Record ..... 296-309 (22nd year)  
 E-Mail ..... dcollins33@mail.sdsu.edu  
 Volleyball Office Phone ..... (619) 594-5064  
 Volleyball Office Fax ..... (619) 594-1674  
 Assistant Coach ..... Melanie Greene  
 Assistant Coach ..... Ken Murczek  
 Volleyball Operations Assistant ..... Makayla Westphal  
 2016 Record ..... 17-15  
 2016 Conference Record ..... 9-9 (Sixth)  
 2016 Home Record ..... 11-6  
 2016 Road Record ..... 3-8  
 2016 Neutral Record ..... 3-1  
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost ..... 9/5  
 Starters Returning/Lost ..... 4 + Libero/2

**PROGRAM HISTORY**

First Year of Volleyball ..... 1976  
 Overall Record ..... 842-564 (.599)  
 NCAA Appearances ..... 14  
 Last Postseason Appearance ..... 2012  
 NCAA Postseason Record ..... 15-14

**MEDIA RELATIONS**

Assistant Media Relations Director ..... Jim Solien  
 E-Mail ..... jsolien@mail.sdsu.edu  
 SID Office Phone ..... (619) 594-2576  
 SID Office Fax ..... (619) 582-6541  
 Official Athletic Website ..... www.GoAztecs.com

**2017 AZTEC VOLLEYBALL  
 STATISTICAL LEADERS**

Hitting Percentage	401	Deja Harris
Kills	100	Deja Harris
Kills per set	3.03	Deja Harris
Assists	205	Indigo Thompson
Assists per set	7.88	Indigo Thompson
Digs	125	Devyn Pritchard
Digs per set	3.91	Devyn Pritchard
Blocks	36	Deja Harris
Blocks per set	1.09	Deja Harris
Service Aces	9	Devin Pritchard
Service Aces per set	0.28	Devyn Pritchard

**2017 AZTEC VOLLEYBALL ROSTER**

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Last School)
1	Alexandra Psoma	OH	5-10	Jr.	Athens, Greece
2	Tammy Byrne	OH	5-10	Fr.	Belmont, Calif. (Notre Dame HS)
3	Andrea Walker	MB	6-0	Fr.	Fairfield, Calif. (Vanden HS)
4	Alexis Harris	OH/DS	5-10	So.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Calvary Chapel HS)
5	Charlee Thomas	MB	6-1	RS-Fr.	Newport Beach, Calif. (Mater Dei HS)
6	Ashlynn Dunbar	OH	6-0	So.	Seabrook, Texas (Clear Falls HS)
7	Hannah Turnlund	OH	5-9	So.	Morgan Hill, Calif. (Presentation HS)
8	Loren Teter	DS	5-7	RS-Fr.	Redondo Beach, Calif. (Notre Dame HS)
9	Tamia Reeves	MB	6-1	So.	Carrllton, Texas (Hebron HS)
11	Gabi Peoples	S	5-10	Fr.	Beaverton, Ore. (Beaverton HS)
12	Erin Gillcrst	MB	6-1	Fr.	Lakewood, Colo. (Lakewood HS)
13	Devyn Pritchard	DS/L	5-8	Sr.	Temecula, Calif. (Temescal Canyon HS)
14	Indigo Thompson	S	5-6	Jr.	Plymouth, Minn. (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.)
15	Deja Harris	MB	6-2	Jr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Calvary Chapel HS)
16	Baylee Little	MB	6-0	So.	Gilbert, Ariz. (Highland HS)
17	Sam McGrath	DS/L	5-4	RS-Fr.	Oakland, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd HS)
18	Alexis Cage	OH	6-2	Sr.	Newport Beach, Calif. (Corona del Mar HS)

**Head Coach:** Deitre Collins-Parker (Hawai'i, 1995), Ninth season at SDSU  
**Assistant Coach:** Melanie Greene (San Diego State, 2007), Seventh season at SDSU  
**Assistant Coach:** Ken Murczek (San Diego State, 1998), First season at SDSU  
**Volleyball Operations Assistant:** Makayla Westphal (Nebraska Wesleyan, 2015), First season at SDSU

**Pronunciations**

#1 Alexandra PSOMA	puh-SO-muh
#8 Loren TETER	TEE-ter
#9 TAMIA Reeves	tah-MEE-ah
#11 GABI Peoples	gabby
#13 DEVYN Pritchard	DEV-in
#15 DEJA Harris	DAY-zha



**OPPONENT COMPARISON**

2017 Overall Stats	SDSU	OPP	UCR	OPP	GU	OPP	DU	OPP
Hitting Percentage	.231	.252	.232	.150	.167	.223	.238	.178
Kills per set	13.2	12.4	14.2	12.2	12.0	12.5	13.3	11.9
Assists per set	12.5	11.3	13.7	11.5	11.6	11.8	12.4	11.1
Digs per set	12.2	11.5	18.1	15.4	13.1	13.4	16.0	15.3
Blocks per set	1.7	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	2.6	2.3	1.9
Service Aces per set	1.2	1.3	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.5	1.0

**SCOUTING THE OPPOSITION**

> **UC Riverside (7-2)** posted a 2-1 mark at the Texas Tech Tournament last weekend, logging a pair of victories over Texas-Rio Grande Valley (3-1) and Lamar (3-0), sandwiched around a three-set loss to the host Red Raiders. The Highlanders are just one win shy of matching their victory total from a year ago when they compiled an 8-20 record. UCR has been led thus far by junior outside hitter Kaiulani Ahuna, a transfer from Eastern Washington who is averaging 3.35 kills per set, which ranks ninth in the Big West. In addition, the Highlanders have received a boost from junior setter Chelsea Doyle, a 2015 Big West all-freshman honoree who occupies the second spot in the league with 11.77 assists per frame, while freshman libero Nicole Rodriguez ranks fourth with 4.47 digs per set. Not to be outdone freshmen middle blockers Kat Lowery (5th, 1.00/set) and Yuliya Ushakova (7th, 0.89/set) also find themselves among the conference leaders in blocks. Head coach Michelle Patton-Coleman is in her fifth season at UCR after spending five years at San Francisco State, where she led the Gators to a pair of NCAA Division II regional appearances in 2009 and 2012.

> **Gonzaga (4-5)** is also coming off a 2-1 performance last weekend at the GCU Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona, where it defeated Fordham (3-1) and the host Antelopes (3-0) after opening with a three-set defeat at the hands of Idaho. The Zags return nine letterwinners and two starters from last year's team that amassed a 17-11 overall record and tied for third in West Coast Conference. Gonzaga has been paced so far this season by junior outside hitter Kaylie Loewen, who has posted a .310 attack percentage and an average of 2.73 kills per set. Junior Faith Smith (5.61 apts) and sophomore Jenna Kuehn (4.33 apts) have split the setter responsibilities, while junior libero Marit Thorkildsen anchors the Zags' back row with 3.73 digs per frame. Diane Nelson enters her second season as head coach of the Gonzaga program and seventh overall at her alma mater. As a player, she is one of 14 Zags to record 1,000 career kills, finishing with 1,094 and ranks on the school's all-time list with 95 service aces.

> **Denver (7-2)** dropped two of three matches last weekend at the American Campus Classic in Austin, Texas, falling to top-ranked Minnesota and host Texas in consecutive sweeps before salvaging its trip with a 3-1 victory over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The Pioneers return nine letterwinners, two starters and the libero from last year's team that went 23-9, captured the Summit League championship and advanced to the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Offensively, DU is led by junior outside hitter Becca Latham, who occupies the second spot in the conference with a .320 hitting percentage and ranks sixth in kills (3.16/set). The Pioneers also boast junior middle blocker Emma Willis, a two-time all-Summit League selection at middle blocker who tops the conference in blocks (1.16/set), while senior libero Cassidy Rooke occupies the sixth position in digs (3.69/set). Denver also utilizes a two setter rotation, with senior Piyusha Boteju (5.68/set) and freshman Ellie Anderson (4.85/set), who rank seventh and 10th, respectively in the Summit League this week in assists. Head coach Tom Hogan is in second season at the helm of the Pioneer program after spending two years as the team's associate head coach in 2014 and 2015.

**2017 MOUNTAIN WEST STANDINGS (As of Sept. 13)**

Team	-----Conference-----				-----Overall-----		
	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct.
Colorado State	0	0	.000	--	8	1	.889
San José State	0	0	.000	--	7	1	.875
Boise State	0	0	.000	--	6	3	.667
New Mexico	0	0	.000	--	6	3	.667
Utah State	0	0	.000	--	6	4	.600
Air Force	0	0	.000	--	6	5	.545
San Diego State	0	0	.000	--	4	6	.400
Fresno State	0	0	.000	--	4	6	.400
UNLV	0	0	.000	--	4	6	.400
Wyoming	0	0	.000	--	3	6	.333
Nevada	0	0	.000	--	2	7	.222

**This Weekend in the MW**

**Sept. 14-16 (Thursday-Friday-Saturday)**

**Nevada hosts Wolf Pack Tournament (Reno, Nev.)**  
(Missouri, Pepperdine Sacramento State)

**Sept. 15-16 (Friday-Saturday)**

**SDSU at Denver Invitational (Denver, Colo.)**  
(Denver, Gonzaga, UC Riverside)

**Air Force at Northern Colorado Classic (Greeley, Colo.)**

(Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Northern Colorado, South Dakota)

**Boise State hosts Boise State Classic (Boise, Idaho)**

(Idaho State, Minnesota, Oregon State)

**Colorado State hosts CSU Tournament #2 (Fort Collins, Colo.)**

(Albany, Colorado, Xavier)

**New Mexico at Blue/Gold Invitational (Toledo, Ohio)**

(Tennessee Tech, Toledo, Youngstown State)

**San José State co-hosts SCU/SJSU Tournament (San Jose/Santa Clara, Calif.)**

(Idaho, Kansas, Santa Clara)

**UNLV at Hoosier Classic (Bloomington, Ind.)**

(Florida Gulf Coast, Indiana, Samford)

**Wyoming at Oral Roberts Invitational (Tulsa, Okla.)**

(Central Arkansas, Oral Roberts, Tulsa)

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

**Thursday, Sept. 14**

Fresno State at UC Irvine

**Friday, Sept. 15**

Utah State at Southern Utah

**AZTECS-TOREROS CAPSULE**

- > San Diego State is coming off a three-set loss (23-25, 18-25, 16-25) at No. 17 San Diego in the annual city showdown on Tuesday night at Jenny Craig Pavilion.
- > With the loss, the Aztecs had their two-match winning streak snapped.
- > SDSU dropped its second outing of the year against a ranked opponent. The Aztecs also came up short to No. 23 Michigan State by a 3-0 count on Sept. 1.
- > USD outhit the Scarlet and Black .305-.121, limiting the visitors to a .078 clip over the final two set.
- > Deja Harris, Alexandra Psoma and Alexis Cage launched seven kills apiece to lead SDSU.
- > In addition, Devyn Pritchard posted double-digit digs for the seventh time this year, finishing with 10 scoops for the match.

**JLABS CHALLENGE REWIND**

- > San Diego State played host to its second home tournament last weekend, posting a 2-1 record at the JLABS Challenge.
- > After opening with a three-defeat at the hands of Loyola Marymount on Sept. 8, the Aztecs recorded two victories the following day, defeating Long Beach State in five sets, before sweeping Pacific for their first winning streak of the season.
- > Against the 49ers, SDSU overcame a 2-1 deficit in sets, capping the rally with a dominating 15-3 performance in the final frame.
- > In the clinching set, the Aztecs received four kills from Deja Harris and three from Alexandra Psoma, as the Scarlet and Black outhit its adversary .786(-.056).
- > For the match, Harris hit .379 with a season-high 15 kills to go with six block assists.
- > In addition, Devyn Pritchard notched a season-high 22 digs, while Ashlynn Dunbar's 11 scoops marked a career best.
- > Against Pacific, Hannah Turnlund registered a season-high 13 kills and a .409 attack percentage, while Harris (11 kills) continued her hot hitting with a .562 clip.
- > Freshman setter Gabi Peoples matched her season high with 37 assists to go with eight digs and a service ace in her second career start.
- > As a team, SDSU maintained a sizeable advantage in kills (42-28) and digs (45-27), employing timely runs to seize control of the match despite getting outblocked by the Tigers 8.0-4.0.

**ALL-TOURNAMENT AZTECS--PART III**

- > Following the JLABS Challenge, Alexis Cage was named to the four-player all-tournament team, joining LBSU's Megan Kruidhof, UOP's Emily Baptista and LMU's Savannah Slattery.
- > For the weekend, Cage knocked down 29 kills (2.64/set) and posted 26 digs (2.36/set).
- > Against Long Beach State, Cage logged San Diego State's first double-double of the year, recording season highs of 15 kills and 13 digs while hitting .324.
- > In the victory over Pacific, Cage turned in another solid all-round performance with nine kills, four digs and three block assists.

**AZTECS AMONG MOUNTAIN WEST LEADERS**

- > Entering the fourth weekend of the season, Deja Harris and Devyn Pritchard are among the Mountain West leaders in various categories.
- > Harris ranks third in the conference with a .401 hitting percentage and occupies the ninth spot with 1.09 blocks per set.
- > Pritchard also landed in the ninth position this week with 3.91 digs per set.
- > As a team, SDSU ranks among the top half of the conference in hitting percentage (4th, .231), kills (4th, 13.24/set) and assists (4th, 12.48/set).

**SPARTAN INVITATIONAL RECAP**

- > San Diego State posted a 1-2 record at the Spartan Invitational, Sept. 1-2, in East Lansing, Michigan.
- > After falling to host and 23rd-ranked Michigan State by a 3-0 count in the opener, the Aztecs turned the tables with a sweep of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.
- > Against the Islanders, SDSU hit .344 for the match and served up eight aces - both season bests.
- > In addition, the Aztecs recorded three-set highs for the year in kills (48), assists (46) and digs (39).
- > SDSU concluded the tournament with a tough 3-0 loss to Marshall.
- > Despite the sweep, the finale against the Thundering Herd was a see-saw affair, with the two sides combining for 21 ties and 10 lead changes in the last two sets.

**ALL-TOURNAMENT AZTECS--PART II**

- > Following the Spartan Invitational, middle blocker Deja Harris and outside hitter Ashlynn Dunbar were named to the seven-player all-tournament team.
- > Harris hit .432 for the weekend and served up five aces to go with six blocks.
- > Against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, the Aztec junior recorded her second-highest attack percentage of the year at .643, blasting 10 kills with just one error in 14 attempts.
- > Harris also posted a career-high three service aces against Michigan State and finished with a .562 hitting percentage (11-2-16) vs. Marshall.
- > Meanwhile, Dunbar compiled a .361 attack percentage in three matches while adding four assists and two blocks.
- > Against Marshall, the SDSU sophomore hit .474 on 12 kills - both season highs.
- > In addition, Dunbar added tied her career best with two assists against TAMU-CC and came up with a pair of blocks.

**NOTHIN' LIKE HOME COOKIN'**

- > In 38 seasons of Aztec volleyball, San Diego State has compiled a 373-187 record (.666) at home, which represents the second-best home winning percentage among current Mountain West members.
- > Last season, the Scarlet and Black posted an 11-6 mark on Aztec Court at Peterson Gym compared to a 3-8 ledger in true road matches. In addition, SDSU went 3-1 in neutral-site encounters during the 2016 campaign.
- > In head coach Deitre Collins-Parker's tenure, the Aztecs have amassed a 70-32 record (.686) at home, including a 14-0 mark during the 2012 season when SDSU captured the Mountain West championship.

**AZTEC INVITATIONAL REDUX**

- > San Diego State recorded its first victory of the season on Aug. 26, when it swept Portland State 3-0 (25-19, 25-22, 25-17).
- > The Aztec victory was sandwiched between setbacks to Eastern Kentucky (3-1) and CSUN (3-0).
- > Despite finishing with a 1-2 record, SDSU posted equal or higher statistical averages than its opponents during the tournament.
- > The Aztecs logged a .240 hitting percentage in three matches compared to their opponents .229 clip.
- > SDSU averaged more kills (13.9/11.1) and assists (12.7/10.4) per set than their adversaries.
- > The Aztecs matched their opposition in both digs (11.1) and blocks (2.1) per set.

**HARRIS NAMED AZTEC INVITE MVP**

- > Middle blocker Deja Harris earned Most Valuable Player honors at the season-opening Aztec Invitational.
- > In three matches, the SDSU junior led all regulars in the tournament field with a .434 hitting percentage, averaging 3.00 kills in 10 sets played.
- > In SDSU's sweep of Portland State, Harris hit a season-high .733 on a team-best 11 kills with no errors in 15 swings.
- > She also recorded double-digit kills vs. CSUN, launching 10 put-aways with just three errors on 16 attacks for a .433 hitting percentage.
- > Harris excelled on defense as well, averaging 1.30 blocks for the tourney.
- > In the Aztecs' aforementioned victory over PSU, she came up with match-high six block assists, including two during a decisive 13-0 run in the opening set.

**AZTEC NEWCOMERS MAKE DEBUT**

- > Three SDSU players made their initial collegiate appearances at the Aztec Invite - Gabi Peoples, Loren Teter and Sam McGrath.
- > A freshman setter, Peoples played in eight of 10 sets over three matches, averaging 3.62 assists and 1.00 digs.
- > A native of Beaverton, Oregon, Peoples logged season highs of 16 assists and four digs in San Diego State's 3-0 victory over Portland State.
- > In addition, defensive specialists Teter (five sets) and Sam McGrath (one set) saw limited action in the tournament.

**BIG RETURN FOR LITTLE**

- > After sitting out the 2016 campaign with an injury, senior middle blocker Baylee Little returned to the lineup at the Aztec Invitational, averaging 1.70 kills and 0.70 blocks per set.
- > Little recorded her best performance of the tournament against CSUN, finishing with eight kills and two block assists.
- > The Gilbert, Arizona, native also hit .273 with five kills in SDSU's blanking of Portland State.

**WELCOME BACK**

- > SDSU returns four starters and the libero from a team that compiled a 17-15 overall record and a 9-9 mark in Mountain West play (6th).
- > Those starters include outside hitter Alexandra Psoma (3.27 kps, 1.27 dps), middle blocker Deja Harris (2.76 kps, 1.04 bps), outside hitter Alexis Cage (2.09 kps, 1.64 dps), setter Indigo Thompson (9.10 aps, 1.91 dps), along with libero Devyn Pritchard (3.24 dps).
- > Harris and Psoma were both named to the 2016 Mountain West all-conference team.

**2017 AZTEC SUPERLATIVES**

**Individual**

**HITTING PERCENTAGE (min. 10 kills)**

.733 (11-0-15) ..... Deja Harris, vs. Portland State (Aug. 26)

**KILLS**

15 ..... Four times, last: Alexis Cage and Deja Harris, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 5 sets ..... 15 ..... Alexis Cage and Deja Harris, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 4 sets ..... 15 ..... Alexandra Psoma, vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 15 ..... Alexandra Psoma, vs. Loyola Marymount (Sept. 8)

**TOTAL ATTEMPTS**

37 ..... Twice, last: Alexis Cage, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 5 sets ..... 37 ..... Alexis Cage, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 4 sets ..... 37 ..... Alexandra Psoma, vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 35 ..... Alexandra Psoma, vs. Loyola Marymount (Sept. 8)

**ASSISTS**

44 ..... Indigo Thompson, vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 5 sets ..... 37 ..... Gabi Peoples, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 8)  
 4 sets ..... 44 ..... Indigo Thompson, vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 37 ..... Gabi Peoples, vs. Pacific (Sept. 9)

**DIGS**

22 ..... Devyn Pritchard, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 8)  
 5 sets ..... 22 ..... Devyn Pritchard, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 8)  
 4 sets ..... 15 ..... Devyn Pritchard, vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 16 ..... Devyn Pritchard, vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Sept. 1)

**SERVICE ACES**

3 ..... Three times, last: Devin Pritchard, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)

**BLOCK SOLOS**

2 ..... Deja Harris and Alexandra Psoma, vs. CSUN (Aug. 26)

**BLOCK ASSISTS**

6 ..... Twice, last: Deja Harris, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)

**TOTAL BLOCKS**

7 ..... Deja Harris, vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)

**Team**

**HITTING PERCENTAGE**

.344 (48-15-96) ..... vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Sept. 1)

**KILLS**

63 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 5 sets ..... 63 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 4 sets ..... 55 ..... vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 48 ..... vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Sept. 1)

**TOTAL ATTEMPTS**

150 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 5 sets ..... 150 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 4 sets ..... 142 ..... vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 109 ..... vs. Marshall (Sept. 2)

**ASSISTS**

55 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 5 sets ..... 55 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 4 sets ..... 51 ..... vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 46 ..... Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Sept. 1)

**DIGS**

67 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 5 sets ..... 67 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)  
 4 sets ..... 54 ..... vs. Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 25)  
 3 sets ..... 39 ..... Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Sept. 1)

**SERVICE ACES**

8 ..... Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (Sept. 1)

**TOTAL BLOCKS**

9.0 ..... vs. Long Beach State (Sept. 9)

- > Other returnees who saw significant playing time in 2016 include outside hitters Ashlynn Dunbar (1.84 kps, 0.90 dps), Hannah Turnlund (1.80 kps, 0.55 dps) and middle blocker Tamia Reeves (1.51 kps, 0.80 bps). In addition, the Aztecs welcome back middle blocker Baylee Little (2015 - 2.29 kps, 0.55 bps), a 2015 all-MW selection who sat out last season with an injury.
- > Also in the mix are redshirt freshmen Sam McGrath, Loren Teter and Charlee Thomas, all of whom did not compete during the 2016 campaign.

**MEET THE NEWCOMERS**

- > San Diego State welcomes three true freshmen for the 2017 campaign.
- > Setter Gabi Peoples spent her first three years of high school in Santa Barbara, California (San Marcos HS) before moving to Beaverton, Oregon (Beaverton HS) for her senior season.
- > While at San Marcos High, Peoples garnered all-city accolades as a sophomore and was an all-Channel League selection in 2015 and 2016. She was named to the AVCA Phenom List the past three years and received PrepVolleyball.com "Soph 79" honorable mention in 2015.
- > Middle blocker Erin Gillcrest hails from a volleyball family as both of her sisters played Division I volleyball -- Marie is currently at Rhode Island while Rachel played at Saint Mary's (CA). In addition, her mother and aunts played collegiately at the University of Tennessee.
- > A native of Lakewood, Colorado (Lakewood HS), Gillcrest averaged 4.7 kills per set during her senior season to go with a .547 kills percentage and a .350 hitting mark. She also averaged 0.9 blocks, 0.5 aces and 1.9 digs per set over 25 matches.
- > Middle blocker Andrea Walker graduated from Vanden High School in Fairfield, California, where she collected all-Solano County Athletic Conference honors following the 2016 season. During her prep career, Walker spent time playing as a right-side hitter after entering the game as a setter.
- > As a senior, Walker averaged 1.6 kills per set to go with a .459 kill percentage and a .204 hitting mark.

**STAFF ADDITIONS**

- > The Aztecs have added a new assistant coach and volleyball operations assistant to their 2017 staff.
- > Ken Murczek, a 1998 San Diego State graduate, joins the SDSU program after spending the past season as head coach of the men's volleyball team at the University of Charleston in West Virginia.
- > Prior to his stint in the Mountain West, Murczek served as head coach of the women's teams at North Texas (2010-12) and Wake Forest (2013-15). He also had previous stops as an assistant coach at Virginia (2007) and Kansas (2008-09).
- > Murczek played two seasons for the SDSU men's volleyball team, helping the Scarlet and Black to a top-15 ranking as a senior in 1998.
- > In his current role with the Aztecs, Murczek will be responsible for offensive development and will train the setters and defensive specialists.
- > Last spring, Makayla Westphal was hired as volleyball operations assistant after serving as an intern for the director of operations at the University of Nebraska.
- > As a player, Westphal was a four-year starter as an outside hitter/defensive specialist at Nebraska Wesleyan, where she was a member of the AD31 All-Academic Team and was twice named a Pflieger-Olson Scholar-Athlete.
- > Westphal led the Prairie Wolves in service aces as a senior, helping the team to a 22-7 record.
- > Westphal also coached at the Volleyball Club Nebraska (VCN) girls' club in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she was an assistant for the 15 and 17 Black teams and head coach for the 14 Black squad. She also served as an evaluator for the girls' National Junior and High Performance Team tryouts conducted by USA Volleyball in Omaha.

**PRESEASON PROGNOSTICATIONS**

- > San Diego State was picked to finish third this year in the Mountain West preseason coaches poll released Aug. 16.
- > In the 18-year history of the Mountain West, SDSU has finished first (2012), second (2002, 2011), fourth (2000, 2001, 2003, 2013), fifth (2005, 2015), sixth (1999, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2016), seventh (2008) and eighth (2007) in the final league standings.
- > Last year, Colorado State had their streak of seven consecutive conference titles snapped by Boise State, which advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. However, the Rams still received an at-large berth for their 22nd straight postseason appearance.
- > Middle blocker Deja Harris was the only player on the seven-member all-Mountain West preseason team not to represent either Colorado State or Boise State. In 2016, the Las Vegas, Nevada, native garnered all-conference honors for the second year in a row.

**2017 SITUATIONAL RECORDS**

**GENERAL**

Overall.....	4-6
Mountain West.....	0-0
Home.....	3-3
Away.....	0-2
Neutral.....	1-1
vs. Ranked Teams.....	0-2
vs. Unranked Teams.....	4-4
Matches Following a Win.....	1-3
Matches Following a Loss.....	2-3
Longest Winning Streak.....	2
Longest Losing Streak.....	2, twice
Current Streak.....	Last 1

**BY SETS**

3 Sets.....	3-5
4 Sets.....	0-1
5 Sets.....	1-0
Leading After Two.....	3-0
Trailing After Two.....	0-6
Tied After Two.....	1-0
Leading 2-1.....	0-0
Trailing 2-1.....	1-1

**BY MONTH**

August.....	1-2
September.....	3-4
October.....	0-0
November.....	0-0

**BY KILLS**

Leading in Kills.....	4-2
Trailing in Kills.....	0-4
Tied in Kills.....	0-0

**BY DIGS**

Leading in Digs.....	4-1
Trailing in Digs.....	0-5
Tied in Digs.....	0-0

**BY BLOCKS**

Leading in Blocks.....	1-0
Trailing in Blocks.....	3-6
Tied in Blocks.....	0-0

**BY ATTACK PERCENTAGE**

Greater Attack Percentage.....	4-0
Lower Attack Percentage.....	0-6
Equal Attack Percentage.....	0-0
Hitting above .300.....	2-0
Hitting between .200 and .300.....	2-3
Hitting between .100 and .200.....	0-2
Hitting below .100.....	0-1
Opponent Hitting above .300.....	0-3
Opponent Hitting between .200 and .300.....	2-3
Opponent Hitting between .100 and .200.....	2-0
Opponent Hitting below .100.....	0-0

**BY INDIVIDUAL KILLS**

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

**2017 Mountain West Preseason Poll**

Rk.	Team (1st-place votes)	Pts.
1.	Colorado State (8)	98
2.	Boise State (3)	93
3.	San Diego State	79
4.	Wyoming	67
5.	Nevada	57
6.	Utah State	51
7.	UNLV	42
8.	San José State	38
9.	New Mexico	37
10.	Fresno State	29
11.	Air Force	14

**2017 Preseason All-Mountain West Team**

- Deja Harris, Jr., MB, San Diego State**  
 Sierra Noble, Sr., OH, Boise State  
*(Preseason Player of the Year)*  
 Maddi Osburn, Sr., L, Boise State  
 Sanja Cizmic, Sr., OH, Colorado State  
 Kirstie Hillyer, R-So., MB, Colorado State  
 Katie Oleksak, So., S, Colorado State  
 Alexandra Poletto, Sr., MB, Colorado State

**AZTEC VOLLEYBALL EARNS PUBLIC RECOGNITION AWARD FROM NCAA**

- > Last spring, the San Diego State volleyball program was publicly recognized by the NCAA for outstanding academic achievements, along with the Aztec women's golf team.
- > The recognition comes on the heels of their most recent multiyear Academic Progress Rates (APR), which were both in the top 10 percent of their sport.
- > Both SDSU squads turned in perfect 1,000 multiyear APR scores. The APR is an annual scorecard of academic achievement calculated for all Division I sports teams. The most recent APRs are multiyear rates based on scores from the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years.
- > This marks the 12th and 13th time a San Diego State team has earned the NCAA's Public Recognition Award.

**ON THE HORIZON**

Following the Denver Invitational, San Diego State opens Mountain West play next week when it battles Utah State and Boise State in a pair of road tests. The Aztecs face the Aggies on Thursday, Sept. 21, starting at 7 p.m. MT/6 p.m. PT, before engaging the Broncos on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 2 p.m. MT/1 p.m. PT.

2017 San Diego State Volleyball  
 San Diego State Combined Team Statistics (as of Sep 12, 2017)  
 All matches

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	4-6	3-3	0-2	1-1
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	4-6	3-3	0-2	1-1

#	Player	sp	Attack				Set		Serve			Dig			Blocking					points		
			k	k/s	e	ta	pct	a	a/s	sa	se	sa/s	re	dig	dig/s	bs	ba	total	blk/s		be	bhe
15	HARRIS, Deja	33	100	3.03	27	182	.401	0	0.00	7	7	0.21	0	17	0.52	5	31	36	1.09	11	1	127.5
1	PSOMA, Alexandra	32	88	2.75	55	264	.125	2	0.06	5	16	0.16	10	50	1.56	2	11	13	0.41	1	0	100.5
7	TURNLUND, Hannah	28	74	2.64	37	194	.191	1	0.04	1	4	0.04	2	15	0.54	0	9	9	0.32	4	0	79.5
18	CAGE, Alexis	33	71	2.15	23	202	.238	2	0.06	4	5	0.12	9	74	2.24	1	10	11	0.33	3	0	81.0
6	DUNBAR, Ashlynn	24	46	1.92	21	106	.236	5	0.21	3	5	0.12	3	23	0.96	0	11	11	0.46	3	0	54.5
16	LITTLE, Baylee	33	48	1.45	19	110	.264	1	0.03	0	0	0.00	0	8	0.24	0	19	19	0.58	4	0	57.5
9	REEVES, Tamia	1	1	1.00	0	2	.500	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	1.0
11	PEOPLES, Gabi	27	6	0.22	3	12	.250	167	6.19	4	9	0.15	0	34	1.26	0	3	3	0.11	0	4	11.5
14	THOMPSON, Indigo	26	3	0.12	2	9	.111	205	7.88	4	3	0.15	0	25	0.96	0	4	4	0.15	1	3	9.0
17	MCGRATH, Sam	13	0	0.00	0	0	.000	1	0.08	2	4	0.15	3	18	1.38	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	2.0
8	TETER, Loren	13	0	0.00	0	0	.000	2	0.15	2	4	0.15	1	14	1.08	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	2.0
13	PRITCHARD, Devyn	32	0	0.00	0	0	.000	26	0.81	9	14	0.28	8	125	3.91	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	9.0
	TEAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SAN DIEGO STATE	33	437	13.24	187	1081	.231	412	12.48	41	71	1.24	43	403	12.21	8	98	57.0	1.73	27	8	535.0
	Opponents	33	410	12.42	147	1042	.252	374	11.33	43	57	1.30	41	381	11.55	15	140	85.0	2.58	16	11	538.0

Team Statistics	SDSU	OPP	Date	Opponent	Score	Score by set	Att.	
<b>ATTACK</b>								
Kills	437	410	Aug 25	EASTERN KENTUCKY	L 1-3	20-25,21-25,25-15,17-25	562	
Errors	187	147	Aug 26	PORTLAND STATE	w 3-0	25-19,25-22,25-17	342	
Total Attacks	1081	1042	Aug 26	CSUN	L 0-3	15-25,17-25,24-26	395	
Attack Pct	.231	.252	&Sep 01	at #23 Michigan State	L 0-3	17-25,14-25,17-25	389	
Kills/Set	13.2	12.4	&Sep 01	vs Corpus Christi	w 3-0	25-19,25-18,25-18	1708	
<b>SET</b>								
Assists	412	374	&Sep 02	vs Marshall	L 0-3	18-25,23-25,28-30	1586	
Attempts	1008	935	^Sep 08	LOYOLA MARYMOUNT	L 0-3	19-25,23-25,22-25	316	
Assist Pct	.409	.400	^Sep 09	LONG BEACH STATE	w 3-2	14-25,25-21,20-25,25-20,15-3	217	
Assists/Set	12.5	11.3	^Sep 09	PACIFIC	w 3-0	25-19,25-17,25-22	322	
<b>SERVE</b>								
Aces	41	43	Sep 12	at #17 San Diego	L 0-3	23-25,18-25,16-25	1252	
Errors	71	57	Record in 3-set matches: 3-5					
Attempts	709	729	Record in 4-set matches: 0-1					
Serve Pct	.900	.922	Record in 5-set matches: 1-0					
Aces/Set	1.2	1.3						
<b>SERVE RECEPTIONS</b>								
Errors	43	41						
Errors/Set	1.3	1.2						
Attempts	672	635						
Reception Pct	.936	.935						
<b>DEFENSE</b>								
Digs	403	381						
Digs/Set	12.2	11.5						
<b>BLOCKING</b>								
Block Solo	8	15						
Block Assist	98	140						
Total Blocks	57.0	85.0						
Blocks/Set	1.7	2.6						
Block Errors	27	16						
Ball handling errors	8	11						
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>								
Total	2154	1641						
Dates/Avg Per Date	6/359	2/820						
Neutral site #/Avg	2/1647							
Current win streak	0	-						
Home win streak	2	-						

# 2017 AZTEC PHOTO ROSTER



**Alexandra PSOMA**  
OH | 5-11 | Jr. **1**



**Tammy BYRNE**  
OH | 5-10 | Fr. **2**



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



**Alexis HARRIS**  
DS | 5-10 | Fr. **4**



**Charlee THOMAS**  
MB | 6-1 | RS-Fr. **5**



**Ashlynn DUNBAR**  
OH | 6-0 | So. **6**



**Hannah TURNLUND**  
OH | 5-10 | So. **7**



**Loren TETER**  
DS | 5-7 | RS-Fr. **8**



**Tamia REEVES**  
MB | 6-1 | So. **9**



**Gabi PEOPLES**  
S | 5-10 | Fr. **11**



**Erin GILLCRIST**  
MB | 6-1 | Fr. **12**



**Devyn PRITCHARD**  
DS | 5-7 | Sr. **13**



**Indigo THOMPSON**  
S | 5-6 | Jr. **14**



**Deja HARRIS**  
MB | 6-2 | Jr. **15**



**Baylee LITTLE**  
MB | 6-0 | Sr. **16**



**Sam McGRATH**  
DS | 5-4 | RS-Fr. **17**



**Alexis CAGE**  
OH | 6-2 | Sr. **18**



**Deitre COLLINS-PARKER**  
Head Coach



**Melanie GREENE**  
Assistant Coach/  
Recruiting Coordinator



**Ken MURCZEK**  
Assistant Coach



**Makayla WESTPHAL**  
Volleyball Operations  
Assistant