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Spartan Player Feature...Nate Velichko

Nate Velichko Maximizes His Student-Athlete Experience

Offensive linemen. What is the first thing you think of when hearing that? Big, burly guys in the trenches. Mean guys on the field yet some of the nicest men you know away from football. San José State starting offensive lineman Nate Velichko fits this mold and maybe even breaks the mold when it comes to quality men away from the game.

Velichko, a kinesiology major, is an outstanding student and representative of the football team. He is a three-time Mountain West Scholar Athlete, three-time Academic All-MW honoree and a two-time San José State Dean’s Scholar.

Home-schooled until he was in sixth grade, Velichko learned the importance of academics from his mother, Liz. She is a registered nurse, but put her career on hold for a few years to teach her children at home.

“My mom was a great teacher. The experience was exactly like going to school, only it was at home. I had all the homework and tests like I was going to school. She instilled the importance of academics. I did not have a hard transition to high school at King’s Academy.

“I understand the importance of academics. Football only lasts so long. I was never the most talented kid, but if I had good grades, I knew I would be successful.”

Velichko was never really interested in football until the eighth grade. He did not even watch it.

“I didn’t like football early on, basketball was what I played. In junior high, I had lots of fouls and was aggressive on the court. My friends suggested I play flag football. My eighth grade year, I fell in love with it and have played every since.”

SERVICE STARTS AT HOME

Family has been a big influence in Velichko’s life, from his mother teaching him to his parents instilling the idea of service. Community service is in his blood. His dad, Ben, was always his coach growing up. His parents also served on Sundays at church with the junior high ministry.

“My parents wanted to be a part of everything in my life. They’ve only missed one game, home or away, since I came to San José State. Seeing the way they want to give back has been an inspiration to me.”

Football has opened up the community service avenue for Velichko to travel. He appreciates the opportunities given and hopes to be a positive role model for the kids he works with and talks to at the places he visits.

“You are in a position, at a Division I school, where kids look up to you. I was given the opportunity to play football, but it’s not just about that. If we are here just to play football, then that’s a waste of time. We can influence younger generations to play football and hopefully get them to love academics and give back to the community.”

Throughout his time at SJSU, he has participated in many service projects with the team. One special project was the hospital visit he and six players made in Florida during the team’s stay in Orlando for the 2015 AutoNation Cure Bowl.

In addition to his work on the field and in the community, Nate Velichko is a three-time Mountain West Scholar-Athlete and a three-time Academic All-Mountain West honoree.

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Spartan Gameday

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The hospital visit was one of the coolest experiences I had. I was extremely excited to go and was one of the first people to sign up.

“I found a little guy sitting in the corner doing his own thing, but after talking to him for a bit, we built a dinosaur together. We ended up painting it twice because he couldn’t decide on a color, first green, then pink. By the end, he was having a great time and hanging on to me. It was nice to see how we have an affect on others and can bring joy to their lives.”

Back in San Jose, the team visited Washington Elementary School as part of their community service last spring. He spent time playing football and soccer, reading books and talking about the importance of academics with the kids. At the school’s end-of-the-year softball game, Velichko and two SJSU softball players were part of the team that faced the fifth grade.

“It is amazing that spending even five to 10 minutes with the kids means so much to them. During one of our last visits, one of the boys gave me his wristband so that I would come back to see him. It was a meaningful gesture to him and meant a lot to me.

“A lot of these kids are high risk and have worries at home. Knowing they forget about all that when they are playing football with us means the world to me.”

Velichko spent time this summer visiting with various groups during what would be most student-athlete’s “down time.” One young man made an impression on him.

“This young man was in a wheel chair and had a breathing tube. I brought one of my personal hats to give him, and he lit up when he received it. I played baseball with him, he hit it really far, and threw the football around, too. I couldn’t communicate real well with him verbally, but I knew he was having a good time.”

For all of the community service he has done and impact he has made at San José State, Velichko is one of 108 players from the Football Bowl Subdivision named to the Wuerffel Trophy watch list. The Wuerffel Trophy bills itself as “College Football’s Premier Award for Community Service.” One FBS player is honored annually for their exemplary community service along with athletic and academic achievements.

CONTINUING HIS EXCELLENCE AFTER GRADUATION

Velichko will graduate this December. The kinesiology major concentrated his studies in rehab sciences and would like to work in the athletic training or the strength and conditioning area.

“I had good athletic trainers in high school that got me interested in how the body works and heals itself. I want to help people recover and be the best athlete they can. I had a diverse education in kinesiology, which means I can do many different things after graduation – physical therapy, athletic training and strength and conditioning. I will have my CSCS (strength and conditioning) certification at graduation.”

He would like to continue playing football after graduation, but knows that the brotherhood of San José State will always be with him.

“We have built a brotherhood with the offensive line. We have been through a lot together over the past five years with coaching changes and wins and losses. We have developed lifelong friendships that won’t go away.

“Here at San José State, we have built a brotherhood with the entire team, not something that happens at every program. The coaches genuinely care for you and will push to be the best you can be, whether in academics, football, your position group or life after football. There are lots of opportunities for any player to be successful.”

--Amy Villa is the SJSU Associate Athletics Media Relations Director.

Schedule & Results

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* -Mountain West game
Game times are local to the site.
Games can be heard on KLIV (1590 AM, San Jose), KION (1460 AM & 101.1 FM, Salinas), KTRB (860 AM, San Francisco)
Live broadcasts are also available on www.sjsuspartans.com

Spartan Gameday

Contributors: Lawrence Fan, Steve Gracio, Brock Hart, Richard Stern, Dominic Urrutia, Amy Villa
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Head Coach Brent Brennan

Brent Brennan returned to San José State University on December 8, 2016, as the Spartans’ new head football coach.

The 44-year old Brennan was an assistant coach with the Spartans during the 2005 through 2010 seasons under head coaches Dick Tomey and Mike MacIntyre.

From 2011 through 2016, he coached receivers at Oregon State. The Beavers played Texas in the 2012 Alamo Bowl and won the 2013 Hawaii Bowl over Boise State. Oregon State had one of the best passing offenses in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) ranking in the top-20 in 2011 (19th), 2012 (20th) and 2013 (3rd).

At Oregon State, he coached All-American wide receivers Brandin Cooks and Markus Wheaton and former school career pass receiving leader James Rodgers. Cooks, the 2013 Biletnikoff Award winner signifying the nation’s top wide receivers, completed three prolific seasons with the New Orleans Saints and signed with the New England Patriots during player free agency.

Brennan first joined the Spartans in January 2005 after being named San Diego State’s quarterbacks coach. He had a variety of duties at San Jose State. Brennan coached wide receivers, tight ends and offensive tackles, was a special teams coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

“Brent has high energy, cares about young men, is an excellent recruiter and has great football knowledge. San José State got the right coach.”

Former San José State and current University of Colorado head football coach Mike MacIntyre

Five wide receivers he recruited or coached are among the Spartans’ top-10 career pass receiving leaders with 146 or more receptions. Brennan coached San Jose State’s only two players with at least 200 career receptions and 3,000 career receiving yards, Noel Grigsby and Chandler Jones. He also coached Ryan Otten, the Spartans’ career leader for receptions, receiving yards and touchdown catches by a tight end.

As the special teams coordinator, the 2008 Spartans were 20th nationally in kickoff returns and the 2007 team was ninth in punt returns.
Head Coach Brent Brennan

A native of San Jose, Brennan began his coaching career at Woodside (Calif.) High School in 1996. He served as a graduate assistant at the University of Hawaii in 1998, at the University of Washington in 1999 and at the University of Arizona in 2000. From 2001 through 2004, he was the receivers coach and recruiting coordinator at Cal Poly.

“Brent is an excellent choice as head football coach for the Spartans. He prepared well for this opportunity and will bring rare energy and ability to connect to the job. His Spartan roots through his deceased dad, Steve, and mom, Beth, run deep and swell with pride at this moment!!”

Former San José State head football coach Dick Tomey

As a college player, Brennan was a wide receiver for the 1991 through 1995 UCLA teams and lettered on the Bruins’ 1993 Rose Bowl Squad. He majored in history and graduated from UCLA in 1996.

Brennan is a second-generation Spartan. His dad, the late Steve Brennan, was an end who lettered in the 1967 season. Brent and his wife, Courtney, have two daughters, Blake and Casey, and a son, Scott.

Coach Brennan and his wife Courtney with their children, from left to right, daughter Blake, son Scott, and daughter Casey.
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MONTEL AARON  
Quarterback

ETHAN AGUAYO  
Linebacker

NICO AIMONETTI  
Defensive Line

JERRELL ALBERTY  
Running Back

CAMERON ALEXANDER  
Defensive End

SAM ALLEN  
Quarterback

SINJUN ASTANI  
Defensive End

ANTWAUN AYERS  
Wide Receiver

JOHNNY BALDERAS  
Cornerback

TREVON BIERRIA  
Safety

JaQUAN BLACKWELL  
Wide Receiver

CHRISS BRADBERRY  
Offensive Line

BRYSON BRIDGES  
Defensive Line

JACKSON BURRILL  
Linebacker

DEVON CALLOWAY  
Linebacker

MICHAEL CARRILLO  
Quarterback

MICHAEL CARRIZOSA  
Punter

TERRELL CARTER  
Quarterback

ANDRE CHACHERE  
Cornerback

JESSE CHAMBERLAIN  
 Offensive Guard

GURDEEP CHOPRA  
Defensive End

JAKE COLMAN  
Offensive Line

THAI COTTRELL  
Wide Receiver

ROBERT CRANDALL  
Offensive Line

BRYCE CRAWFORD  
Kicker
The Spartans

HADARI DARDEN
Linebacker

JALEND DINWIDDIE
Safety

BRANDON EZELL
Cornerback

NOAH FAILAUGA
Linebacker

BRETT FOLEY
Linebacker

DOMINIC FREDERICKSON
Offensive Guard

BAILEY GAITHER
Wide Receiver

CHRIS GALLETA
Offensive Line

FRANK GINDA
Linebacker

CHRIS GONZALEZ
Offensive Guard

JAMAAR HARDY
Defensive End

TRE HARTLEY
Wide Receiver

CHANDLER HAWKINS
Safety

MALIK HAYES
Linebacker

HARRISON HOFFMAN
Long Snapper

JUSTIN HOLMES
Wide Receiver

KYLE HOPPE
Center

STEVEN HOUSTON
Wide Receiver

BILLY HUMPHREYS
Tight End

RYAN JENKINS
Defensive Back

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON
Defensive End

RAHSHEA JOHNSON
Wide Receiver

RYAN JOHNSON
Quarterback

JEREMY KELLY
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Punter

JUSTIN PARCELLS
Linebacker

TYSYN PARKER
Linebacker

JACKSON PARKS
Tight End

SEAN PINSON
Running Back

SAGE RITCHIE
Running Back

TREVOR ROBBINS
Center

MALIKE ROBERSON
Running Back

OWEN ROBERTS
Defensive Line

JAMAL SCOTT
Linebacker

FRANCOISE SIMS, II
Running Back

CAMERON SMITH
Cornerback

JACKSON SNYDER
Offensive Tackle

TYLER STEVENS
Offensive Guard

RAY SURRY
Wide Receiver

DAVID TAYLOR
Defensive Back

Je’VON TAYLOR
Defensive End

KEONI TAYLOR
Center

RICO TOLEFREE
Linebacker

JOHN TOUSSAINT
Cornerback

TERRELL TOWNSEND
Defensive End

NATE VELICHKO
Offensive Tackle

TRE WALKER
Wide Receiver

TRE WEBB
Cornerback

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The terms, “leaders and professionals,” describe not just the types of graduates who earn their degrees, but also the roles they assume in their communities and in their fields of endeavor.

San José State University's place in history is well-established. Founded in 1857, it was the first public institution of higher education on the West Coast. From its humble beginnings as a normal school to train teachers for the developing frontier, it has matured into a master's university offering 191 bachelor's and master's degrees.

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Senior safety Maurice McKnight arrived at San José State four years ago with an armful of high school awards and accolades for his stellar play, but as with many freshmen, he quickly found out that he had a lot to learn.

“There were two things that made my decision to come here easy,” said the native of San Bernardino, Calif. “I fell in love with the coaching style of (then defensive backs) coach Danté Williams and my cousin Damon Ogburn, Jr. (2010-13) was playing here.

“It was an easy transition because Damon guided me through the process. He shared what to do and what not to do and that, along with Coach Williams, a young person who had done it at a high level, made it easy for me.”

THE FIRST LESSON

From the day Maurice took the field in the spring of 2013, he was learning from Coach Williams the difference between playing football in high school and at a Division I level.

“The difference was night and day,” said McKnight who played quarterback and defensive back at Arroyo Valley High School. “He taught me how to be a man and how to play football. That may sound strange, but in high school I could rely on my physical abilities. I was better than guys I was playing against so I really didn’t have to work on techniques. I really didn’t know football; I was just trying to score touchdowns.

“I got here and he taught me everything...how to play the position, back pedaling, how to play man and zone. Learning that allowed me to improve every day, every year and it motivated me to go to his office to learn more.

Obviously we are all physically talented enough to play at this level, but the longer it takes to forget what we did in high school, buy-in to the system and start studying, the longer it will take them to help the team.

“Studying and knowing what you are doing on a football field is the difference between success and failure. If you study and know what you are supposed to do, your talent will be elevated. An average player who knows his play book will be more successful than someone who just relies on physical gifts.”

THE SECOND LESSON

When I first got here I was really concentrating on my schoolwork. But then I started getting playing time and just got comfortable. Like a lot of guys, I thought I had achieved what I wanted just by getting to college. I found I was just going through the motions. Don’t get me wrong I was passing all my classes, but I wasn’t trying to excel to the best of my ability.

When Coach Brennan and his staff, especially (defensive coordinator Derrick) Odum arrived and began working with us, I realized I had to rededicate myself in school. To be a success, you have to excel in every aspect of your life. When I got back to that mentality and really applied myself in the classroom, football got easier.

PASSING ON LESSONS LEARNED

Like many college football players, Maurice would like to continue playing football after school, but when his playing career comes to an end, he wants to pass on the lessons he has learned to others.

“I’d like to go into counseling and help kids and even adults, who are making bad decision in their lives. I had a high school counselor, James Soward, who mentored and motivated me. I’d like to do the same thing for others when I’m done playing.

“He took time to help the kids (at Arroyo Valley High School) who needed it and in the area I grew up in, there wasn’t a lot of that going on.”

--Richard Stern is a SJSU Assistant Athletics Media Relations Director.
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**Head Coach:** Brent Brennan  
**Assistant Coaches:** Joe Bernardi, Alonzo Carter, Kevin Cummings, Bojay Filimoematu, Ryan Gunderson, Will Harris, Derrick Odum, Joe Seumalo, Andrew Sowder  
**Graduate Assistants:** Matt Adkins, Josh Irvin, Jamar Johnson, Chandler Jones  
**Quality Control Coach:** Fred Guidici
San José State Spartans
Possible Starters

OFFENSE
WR  9  Justin Holmes
LT  79  Troy Kowalski
LG  62  Jeremiah Kolone
C   68  Keoni Taylor
RG  74  Chris Gonzalez
RT  75  Nate Velichko
TE  89  Josh Oliver
QB  12  Josh Love
RB  20  Malike Roberson
SR  84  Bailey Gaither
WR  15  Tre Hartley

DEFENSE
DE  8   Owen Roberts
NT  96  Sailosi Latu
DE  9   Bryson Bridges
LB  11  William Ossai
LB  5   Frank Ginda
LB  31  Ethan Aguayo
LB  42  Jamal Scott
CB  21  Andre Chachere
CB  3   Jermaine Kelly
SS  23  Trevon Bierria
FS  10  Maurice McKnight

Numerical Roster

1  Jeremy Kelly, WR
2  Terrell Carter, QB
3  John Toussaint, CB
4  Jermaine Kelly, CB
5  Antwaun Ayers, WR
6  Frank Ginda, LB
7  Johnny Balderas, CB
8  Montel Aaron, QB
9  David Williams, LB
10  Rashhead Johnson, WR
11  Owen Roberts, DL
12  Bryson Bridges, DL
13  Justus Holmes, WR
14  Maurice McKnight, S
15  Tre Walker, WR
16  JaQuan Blackwell, WR
17  William Ossai, LB
18  Brandon Ezell, CB
19  Josh Love, QB
20  Sam Allen, QB
21  Michael Carrillo, QB
22  Tre Hartley, WR
23  Chad Miller, S
24  Ryan Johnson, QB
25  Rico Tolefree, LB
26  Michael Carrizosa, P
27  Austin Liles, WR
28  Dakari Monroe, CB
29  Malike Roberson, RB
30  Tre White, CB
31  Andre Chachere, CB
32  Thai Cottrell, WR
33  Ryan Jenkins, DB
34  Trevon Bierria, S
35  Tyler Nevens, RB
36  Jerrell Alberty, RB
37  Chandler Hawkins, S
38  Tre Webb, CB
39  Jonathan Lenard, Jr., S
40  Tysyn Parker, LB
41  Cameron Smith, CB
42  Jackson Burrell, RB
43  Ethan Aguayo, LB
44  Brandon Monroe, RB
45  Jesse Osuna, LB
46  Jamar Williams, RB
47  Jalend Dinwiddie, S
48  Zamore Zigler, RB
49  Jake Lanski, PK
50  Delson Packer, RB
51  Malik Hayes, LB
52  David Martinez, WR
53  Isaiah Ossai, LB
54  Bryce Crawford, PK
55  Mato Pacheco, CB
56  Francolis Sims, II, RB
57  David Taylor, DB
58  Sage Ritchie, RB
59  Hadari Darden, LB
60  Steven Houston, WR
61  Jamal Scott, LB
62  Justin Parcellis, LB
63  Noah Failauga, LB
64  Sean Pinson, RB
65  Cameron Woodard, DE
66  Gardeep Chopra, DE
67  Brendan Manigo, RB
68  Brian Papazian, P
69  Harrison Hoffman, LS
70  Devon Calloway, LB
71  Ali Matau, LB
72  Charles Nelson, OL
73  Brett Foley, LB
74  Jackson Snyder, OT
75  Kyle Hoppé, C
76  Trevor Robbins, C
77  Chris Galleta, OL
78  Jeremiah Kolone, OG
79  Chris Bradberry, OL
80  Robert Crandall, OL
81  Dominick Fredrickson, OG
82  Nico Aimonetti, DL
83  Keoni Taylor, C
84  Tyler Stevens, OG
85  Jake Colman, OL
86  Chris Gonzalez, OG
87  Nate Velichko, OT
88  Jamaar Hardy, DE
89  Jesse Chamberlain, OG
90  Deano Motes, NT
91  Troy Kowalski, OT
92  Ray Surry, WR
93  Billy Humphreys, TE
94  Brandon Mitchell, WR
95  Emoni Karriem, WR
96  Bailey Gaither, WR
97  Jackson Parks, TE
98  Josh Oliver, TE
99  Je’Von Taylor, DE
100  Ricky Leung-Wai, NT
101  Sinjun Astani, DE
102  Cameron Alexander, DE
103  Sailosi Latu, NT
104  Christian Johnson, DE
105  Terrell Townsend, DE
200 N. Almaden Blvd., Suite 100
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<td>P</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>SR</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 Derek Hintze</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>6- 5</td>
<td>230</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 Ryan Hintze</td>
<td>TE</td>
<td>6- 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Ronnie Hoggins</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>JR</td>
<td>Coconut Creek, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Vincent Jackson</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>6- 3</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>Tampa, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 D'Ernest Johnson</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>5-10</td>
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<td>91 Frank Johnson</td>
<td>DE</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 Keirston Johnson</td>
<td>LB</td>
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<td>29 Devone Jones-Stewart</td>
<td>LB</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>203</td>
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<td>7 Brett Kean</td>
<td>QB</td>
<td>6- 1</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>JR</td>
<td>Lakewood, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 Kevin Kegler</td>
<td>DT</td>
<td>6- 2</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Madison, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Mehki LaPointe</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>6- 2</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Seffner, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>72 Brooks Larkin</td>
<td>DL</td>
<td>6- 3</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>JR</td>
<td>Bradenton, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>69 Erik Listoe</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>6- 6</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>JR</td>
<td>Naples, Fla.</td>
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<tr>
<td>94 Kirk Livingstone</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>JR</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale, Fla.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USF Bulls Alphabetical Roster**

**Head Coach:** Charlie Strong  
**Assistant Coaches:** Blue Adams, Justin Burke, Damon Cogdell, Sean Cronin, Sterling Gilbert, Brian Jean-Mary, Sean King, Matt Mattox, Charlie Williams  
**Graduate Assistant:** Jamey McClendon
South Florida

CHARLIE STRONG
Head Coach

DEVIN ABRAHAM
Safety

CHRIS BARR
Wide Receiver

STANLEY CLERVEAUX
Wide Receiver

QUINTON FLOWERS
Quarterback

JEREMI HALL
Offensive Guard

BRUCE HECTOR
Defensive Tackle

JONATHAN HERNANDEZ
Punter

RONNIE HOGGINS
Cornerback

D’ERNEST JOHNSON
Halfback

BROOKS LARKIN
Offensive Guard

MIKE LOVE
Defensive End

ERIC MAYES
Offensive Tackle

EMILIO NADELMAN
Kicker

DEATRICK NICHOLS
Nickel Back

MARCUS NORMAN
Offensive Tackle

GREG REAVES
Defensive End

CAMERON RUFF
Center

AUGGIE SANCHEZ
Linebacker

NICO SAWTELLE
Linebacker

DEADRIN SENAT
Defensive Tackle

JAYMON THOMAS
Safety

MARQUEZ VALDES-SCANTLING
Wide Receiver

MITCHELL WILCOX
Tight End

MAZZI WILKINS
Cornerback
## Standings

### Mountain Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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### West Division

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## Schedule

**Saturday, August 26**
- Oregon State at Colorado State - 11:30 p.m. (CBS Sports)
- South Florida at San José State - 4:30 p.m. (CBS Sports)
- Hawai’i at Massachusetts - 6:00 p.m.

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Clyf Jarrard
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James & Lillian Junker
Cindy Kato
Joseph & Jill Lipari

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Ben N. Amorosi
Howard "Lefty" & Laura K.
Blethen
John Bradley
Maltbie-Brandenburg
Robert Bronzan
Dan J. Caputo
Hug Stewart Center
Coates Family
Orion Conner
Dudley S. DeGroot
Friends of Rod Drizd/Boys Athletes Leadership

Jerry Doggett
Carl Ekern
Ike Head 100
Robert W. Foy
Arm & Pat Hansz
Greg William Hind - Men's Water Polo
Brett Hoefiedt
Moses Gatlin Howard
Jull Inkster
Don W. Kassing - Football
James E. Kerr
Billie Jean King & Friends
Tony Kovac
Matthew P. & Christina B. La Monico - Women's Golf
Kevin Van-Lurie-Maltbie - Men's Golf
Al Luedke - Women's Gymnastics
Lee Massey
Julie Menendez
Blythe Nielsen
Don Nunes
Chris Panopoulos
John R. Ralston
B. F. Reichmuth
Eugene A. Rocchi
Gordon & Donna Lenz Rooney
Paul Ruhlman
Schott - Women's Golf
Simpkins Family in Memory of Robert Forward
Simpkins Family Donor Advised
Gerald M. Stank Family
Voka Stepovich
Lou Tully - Water Polo
Jack & Betty Tuthill
Venturi-Winter
Jerry Vroom - Men's Golf
Doree & Lorraine Zidnak/NCPGA Golf Scholarship
Mary Zimmerman - Walk for Women of Sparta

SCHOLARSHIPS

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Women of Sparta
Athletes Leadership
Men's Water Polo
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Charles & Betty Slater

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Mark & Kathy Loveless
Ken Lutz
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- Keith Smith, Dallas
- Wes Schweitzer, Atlanta
- David Quessenberry, Houston
- Bené Benwikere, Cincinnati
- David Fales, Miami
- Tyler Ervin, Houston
- Shane Smith, New York Giants
- Akeem King, Atlanta
- Dwight Lowery, San Diego
Spartans in the NFL (as of August 1, 2017)

James Saxon, Pittsburgh

Al Saunders, Cleveland

Gill Byrd, Buffalo

Isiah Irving, Chicago

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---First Team---

Lloyd Thomas
E, 1938

Leeroy Zimmerman
FB, 1939

Dave Chaney
LB, 1971

Charles Pauley
KQR, 2003

Dwight Lowery
DB, 2006 & 2007

SECOND TEAM

Louie Wright, CB, 1974
Ken Thomas, DB, 1981
Eric Richardson, WR, 1983
Guy Liggins, WR, 1987
Brian Roche, TE, 1995
Michael Carrizosa, P, 2015
Tyler Ervin, RB, 2015

THIRD TEAM

Frank Manumaleuga, LB, 1978
Travis Johnson, DE, 2012

HONORABLE MENTION

John Aimonetti, OT, 1986
Johnny Allen, E, 1939
Lynn Aplanalp, QB, 1952
Stacey Bailey, WR, 1980
Mike Barnard, OT, 1987
Keith Birlem, QB, 1938
Bill Brown, LB, 1971
Bob Bronzan, T, 1939
Gill Byrd, CB, 1980 & 1982
Jim Cadile, T, 1960
Sheldon Canley, RB, 1989
Jim Carter, OG, 1987
Dave Chaney, LB, 1970
K.C. Clark, CB, 1986
Sherman Cocroft, S, 1983
Kenny Cook, G, 1939

FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICANS

FIRST TEAM

Vic Rakhshani, TE, 1976
Brian Lundy, WR, 1992
Keith Smith, LB, 2010
Austin Lopez, PK, 2012

SECOND TEAM

Noel Grigsby, WR, 2010
Harrison Waid, P, 2010

THIRD TEAM

Joe Nedney, PK, 1991
Vince Buhagiar, LB, 2010
Tyler Winston, WR, 2013

HONORABLE MENTION

Jared Strubeck, PK, 2005
Justin Cole, DE, 2006
Jabari Carr, WR, 2011
Billy Freeman, TE, 2013
Jarrod Lawson, RB, 2013
Christian Tago, LB, 2013
San José State Athletics Administration

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Athletics Director

STEVE O’BRIEN
Deputy Director of Athletics

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Senior Associate AD/ SWA

BLAKE SASAKI
Senior Associate AD

MIKE WALLER
Senior Associate AD

JACQUELYN DUYSEN
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Serving all of the San Francisco Bay Area
From its inception in 1999, the Mountain West (MW) has been committed to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, while promoting the academic missions of its member institutions. Progressive in its approach, the MW continues to cultivate opportunities for student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while fostering academic achievement and sportsmanship. Now in its 19th year, the MW has been assertive in its involvement in the NCAA governance structure and has taken a leadership role in the overall administration of intercollegiate athletics.

The Mountain West has marked several achievements during its first 18 years, most notably becoming the first to establish a sports television network dedicated solely to an intercollegiate athletic conference (The Mtn.). The Mountain West also was the first to experiment with the coaches’ challenge in the college football instant replay system, and was the first non-automatic-qualifying BCS conference to participate in four BCS bowl games, winning three. In the inaugural year of the new College Football Playoff system, Boise State earned the automatic slot into a New Year’s Six bowl game as the highest-ranked champion from the Group of Five 5 conferences. The Mountain West was among the first conferences to implement a league-wide state-of-the-art basketball instant replay system.

Additionally, the Mountain West was the first conference to have a member institution with No. 1 overall picks in both the NFL and NBA drafts in the same year (Utah’s Alex Smith and Andrew Bogut, respectively in 2005). With UNLV’s Anthony Bennett claiming the No. 1 pick in the 2013 NBA Draft, the Mountain West is one of three conferences to have multiple No. 1 NBA draft selections since 2000. Also, with San Diego State’s Stephen Strasburg earning the No. 1 pick in the 2009 MLB Draft, the Mountain West is one of two conferences to have the No. 1 selection in each of the NFL, NBA and MLB drafts since the MW was founded in 1999.

The Mountain West is noted for its geographic diversity. Some of the most beautiful terrain and landscapes in the nation can be found within Mountain West boundaries, including the majestic Rocky Mountain range, which borders five MW institutions (Air Force, Boise State, Colorado State, New Mexico and Utah State). The high plains of Wyoming contrast with the desert cities of Las Vegas and Reno, home to UNLV and Nevada, respectively, while Fresno State, San Diego State and San José State add a West Coast influence with their locations. The inclusion of the Hawai‘i football program extends the Mountain West footprint to the beautiful islands in the Pacific Ocean.

ACADEMICS

From the outset, Mountain West member institutions have been committed to creating strong academic relationships, as well as athletic competition. To that end, the chief academic officers of each institution have explored academic exchange programs, library crossovers and shared research. In addition, the faculty athletics representatives routinely provide academic assistance and test-taking services for student-athletes visiting from fellow member institutions for competition.

OPPORTUNITY

The Mountain West provides a first-class athletic and academic experience for more than 5,100 student-athletes each year. Over the past 18 years, 42 Mountain West student-athletes have earned NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships.
Since the league’s inception in 1999, an additional 32 student-athletes have been named MW Scholar-Athlete of the Year and awarded league-sponsored postgraduate scholarships. Four Mountain West student-athletes have earned distinction as Rhodes Scholars.

Conference student-athletes are also given a voice regarding pertinent issues within the MW and NCAA governance structure through representation on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). The Mountain West SAAC consists of 23 representatives: two from each full member institution and one faculty athletics representative. The committee reviews and reacts to legislation and to other topics referred by the Conference constituent group or committees related to the student-athlete experience.

ACHIEVEMENT

The MW has produced 1,059 All-America selections among its 18 sponsored sports (men’s swimming was discontinued as a Conference sport following the 2010-11 season) in the last 18 years, including a league-record 103 All-America honorees in 2016-17. A total of 190 MW student-athletes have also earned Academic All-America accolades in that span. The Mountain West has sent at least 25 teams to NCAA postseason event in each of the past 18 years, capturing four team national championships in women’s cross country and producing 43 individual national championships in the sports of men’s golf, men’s cross country, women’s diving and men’s and women’s indoor track & field and outdoor track & field.

Mountain West members have participated in 84 bowl games under the league umbrella, including four appearances in BCS games and one CFP game. The MW has earned 80 postseason bids in men’s basketball, with five Sweet 16 appearances among 44 NCAA Tournament appearances and three NIT Final Four berths. MW women’s basketball has tallied 75 postseason slots, including 36 NCAA bids, five Sweet 16 appearances and one Elite Eight berth since 2000.

Wyoming won the MW’s first WNIT championship in 2007 with a win over Wisconsin. In women’s volleyball, the MW has had 42 NCAA bids with nine Sweet 16 berths and one Elite Eight appearance. Women’s soccer has earned 31 NCAA bids since 1999, with two Sweet 16 berths and one Elite Eight appearance. MW men’s golf has had at least three representatives in NCAA Men’s Golf Regionals in each of its 17 years, while women’s golf has had at least three teams participate in NCAA Regionals 15 of the last 18 years.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Named for Sports Ethics Fellow by the Institute for International Sport in 1998, Commissioner Craig Thompson has been a driving force for sportsmanship within intercollegiate athletics. As part of its continuing growth and development, the Mountain West implemented an extensive Sportsmanship Initiative, endorsed by both the MW Joint Council and MW Board of Directors. The program is made up of several elements, which are both practical and philosophical in nature. While the MW has significant penalties in place to deal with violations, the Sportsmanship Initiative is primarily promotional and educational in nature. The goal is to develop an environment that fosters appropriate behavior from all Conference constituencies.

Since San José State joined the Mountain West in the 2013-14 school year, Spartan student-athletes have earned...

454 Academic All-Mountain West honors
(3.0 or higher Grade Point Average)

195 Mountain West Scholar-Athlete honors
(3.5 or higher Grade Point Average)

Darcie Anderson, women’s swimming & diving
2013-14 Mountain West Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Mountain West NCAA Woman of the Year nominee

Ta’Rea Cunnigan, women’s basketball
2014-15 Mountain West Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Mountain West NCAA Woman of the Year nominee
When new San José State University assistant football coach Alonzo Carter became an internet sensation with the April 2017 viral video of him showing off some of his dance moves from his days touring with MC Hammer, that was a first glimpse into the personality of the coaching staff hired by new head coach Brent Brennan.

Carter is one of seven new assistant coaches on Brennan’s staff. Defensive backs coach Will Harris is the only holdover from the 2016 team. Defensive line coach Joe Seumalo is back at San José State after an 11-year journey to Oregon State, UNLV and Arizona State.

Anytime you bring nine people together for the first time, you’ll find some surprises. That’s the case with these Spartans. They’re passionate, will work hard and find time to have fun and be creative.

TRAVELING MEN

An assistant football coach’s life is likely to include a lot of stops in a career. Among the nine assistant coaches, the San José State coaching opportunity averages out to the fourth career coaching opportunity.

For quarterbacks coach Ryan Gunderson, who got married less than two months ago, he is accustomed to traveling.

“I lived in Singapore for year and a half when I was in grade school,” said the Portland, Ore., native, whose dad worked for a high tech company. He has visited Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan in his lifetime. “It was fun, different, a culture shock.”

Harris’ travels are a little closer to home but may be just as exotic. His path to coaching wound through the Canadian Rockies.

“I never thought I would go into coaching. Before all this happened, I was working on an oil rig as a roughneck up in Canada, in Fort McMurray in Alberta which is about 18 hours north of Montana’s border,” said Harris.

Then, I worked on a railroad. After that, I said ‘I can’t do this.’ And came back and started training kids. The next thing you know, Snoop Dogg gives me a call. I start training his son and started working at the high school there and that’s how I got into coaching.”

PASSION & EXCITEMENT

Linebackers coach Bojay Filimoeatu is a bundle of energy wrapped up into a football coach. That clearly was the case when he had one of Utah State’s 13 quarterback sacks in a 2012 win over the Spartans.

“The best thing is I get to work with kids from many different parts of the Bay Area and I’m working with a coaching staff that is energetic the whole time. We bond so well together and you can tell how our kids feeds off on that. It’s great to be around them. It’s great to be around this team and these players,” said Filimoeatu, who played one season for the Oakland Raiders.

Carter is just as passionate about his role molding boys into men.

“Working with young men and watching them grow into men is a natural passion. Being a father, myself, coming from a fatherless upbringing, it’s important for me to be a father figure to these young men. I’m very passionate about that,” says the Spartans’ running backs coach, who spent part of the summer with the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL’s Diversity Coaching Fellowship program.

(ASSISTANT COACHES continued on page 48)
Simplex TrueAlert ES—the next step forward in addressable fire alarm system technology—delivers a scalable, cost-effective notification solution that can make code compliance a snap. Constant electronic supervision of the notification system and revolutionary self-testing capability help ensure that appliances will work when needed and virtually eliminate tedious after-hours manual testing on your campus. And it’s all backed by SimplexGrinnell and eServices, our suite of remote diagnostics and life-safety system management tools that’s helping us advance safety and security.

NCAA rules for Alumni, Fans & Friends of SJSU Athletics...Boosters!

ARE YOU A BOOSTER?
You are considered a representative of SJSU's athletics interests, more commonly known as a "booster", if you:

1. Have ever made any type of financial or in-kind contribution to the SJSU Athletics Department, to a specific sport program, or to an athletics booster organization, including purchasing season tickets to athletics events.
2. Are or have been a member of any organization or agency promoting SJSU athletics.
3. Have ever assisted in any manner in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes.
4. Have ever provided benefits to enrolled student-athletes or their families.
5. Have otherwise promoted the institution's athletics program.

ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A BOOSTER OF SJSU ATHLETICS, YOU WILL RETAIN THAT IDENTITY FOREVER

Student-Athlete – Is a student whose enrollment was solicited by a member of the athletics staff or other representative of athletics interests with a view toward the student’s ultimate participation in intercollegiate athletics. Any other student becomes a student-athlete only when the student reports for an intercollegiate squad that is under the jurisdiction of the athletics department.

Prospective Student-Athlete (“prospect”) – Is an individual who has started classes for the 9th grade. A student who has not started classes for the 9th grade becomes a prospect if SJSU provides the individual any benefits that SJSU does not provide to all prospective students in general. An individual remains a prospect until he/she:

- Officially registers, enrolls full-time, and attends classes during the regular academic year at SJSU;
- Participates in a regular squad practice or competition at SJSU that occurs before the beginning of any term; or
- Officially registers and enrolls and attends classes during SJU's summer term prior to initial full-time enrollment.

TOP TEN NCAA RULES FOR BOOSTERS

10. DON'T RECRUIT! Only authorized SJSU coaches and staff members are permitted to contact prospects regarding the athletics program. Boosters CANNOT make recruiting contact with prospects or their relatives, including phone calls, letters, emails, as well as face-to-face contact on- or off-campus.

9. NO SOCIAL MEDIA! Boosters CANNOT communicate with prospects via social networking sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).

8. NO PUBLICITY! Boosters are PROHIBITED from contact with a prospect during his/her visit to the SJSU campus and CANNOT publicize a prospect’s visit to campus in any way.

7. NO INDUCEMENTS! Boosters are PROHIBITED from providing benefits of any kind (e.g., clothing, special discounts, lodging, meals, transportation, tickets, loans, etc.) to prospects or their relatives.

6. SORRY ADIDAS! Student-athletes CANNOT be involved in the advertisement, recommendation or promotion of commercial products or services. However, there are certain instances when student-athletes are permitted to be involved in charitable, educational or non-profit promotional activities.

All such promotional activities must receive prior approval from the Compliance Office via a Promotional Activities Request Form.

5. HOME MEALS! Boosters MAY provide enrolled student-athletes with an occasional home meal, provided the meal takes place at your home or on campus and NOT at a local restaurant establishment. The meal may be catered and must be restricted to infrequent or special occasions. All occasional meals provided to student-athletes must be approved by the Compliance Office via an Occasional Meal Approval Form BEFORE the meal takes place.

4. NO LOANS! Boosters are PROHIBITED from providing or co-signing for any type of loan for a student-athlete or their family/friends.

3. NO BENEFITS! Boosters CANNOT provide any type of special arrangement, discount or extra benefit to a student-athlete or their relatives/friends. This includes, but is not limited to the use of a car, house, phone, boat, or the provision of tickets, entertainment, cash, gifts, services, etc.

2. NO SPECIAL SEATING! Boosters CANNOT allow student-athletes or prospects to sit in special seating areas such as box seats or reserved seating during SJSU athletics contests.

1. EMPLOYMENT! Boosters MAY employ current student-athletes provided compensation is for work actually performed and commensurate with the going rate in the locale for similar services. All such employment arrangements must be approved by the Compliance Office BEFORE employment begins.

HE BASIC RULE OF THUMB!
Always check with the Athletics Compliance Office before you make arrangements for any activity that involves a prospect or an enrolled student-athlete, their families or friends. PLEASE, ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

Find FAQs and additional important information at www.sjsuspartans.com/Compliance
"I know the importance of having a positive role model and a male figure in your life. Not having that made me want to give that back. That’s what made me be the successful coach and father that I am today."

GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND

Of 180-plus assistant football coaches all-time at San José State, Seumalo is just the eighth assistant to return for a second stint with the Spartans. Actually, this is the fifth time he and Coach Brennan are on the same staff. They worked together at the University of Hawai’i, Cal Poly, San José State in 2005 and Oregon State.

"I spent four years at Cal Poly with Rich Ellerson and Brent Brennan back in the day. Coach Tomey was the person who gave me my first Division I job. It’s ironic, because I played for Coach Tomey at the University of Hawai’i," said Seumalo who played professionally for Calgary, Ottawa and Edmonton in the Canadian Football League before embarking on a coaching career.

"It was a great time, but it was only one year," he said about being at San José State in 2005. "It was good, because at the time there was huge excitement with the hiring of Coach Tomey and the new administration with Tom Bowen. It was a very exciting time for Spartans football. I’m grateful I was a part of that."

SOCIAL MEDIA MAVEN

Wide receivers coach Kevin Cummings is part of today’s generation who are very active on social media. Instagram is one of his favorites.

"My fiancée, Nellie, and I have a dog. A boxer named Bentley. On Instagram, he has over 10,000 followers....he’s Instagram famous. He takes great pictures and writes great captions. His Instagram name is BentleyTheBoxer11," says Cummings.

THE “SO CAL” BASEBALL TIE

Defensive coordinator Derrick Odum and offensive line coach Joe Bernardi are big baseball fans. Odum remembers his days living in Orange County turning on his radio and listening to Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully call the play-by-play for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I’m a big baseball fan. I love baseball. I watched the game. I love how the game teaches you how to persevere. An all-star is a guy who is 30 percent (successful) at what he does. There is no other sport where you can be 30 percent of something and be an all-star. That’s what I love about the sport. It’s a grind and you have to be mentally tough to play the game," said Odum who first rooted for the Kansas City Royals.

Bernardi describes himself as a die-hard Dodgers fan who also loves playing golf and going to movies.

"They are my two getaways from reality," says the son of former San José State offensive line coach Gary Bernardi, who coached for the Spartans during the 2010 through 2012 seasons.

“It means a great deal to be the offensive line coach at a Division I program at 30-years old. It’s very uncommon because of the importance of the position, coaching five guys on the field, and the importance of what goes on with that unit. Traditionally, that is a more seasoned person on the staff. To have the trust of the head coach for this position is something I am incredibly appreciative of, incredibly grateful for and it is something I take very, very seriously."

A PERFECT FIT

For offensive coordinator Andrew Sowder, his career outdoors is a stark contrast from that of his dad, State of Texas 99th District Court judge William C. Sowder. The indoor nature of trial law is at the opposite end of the spectrum from the fresh air of an outdoor practice and game day.

"For two years, I worked in the file room of a courthouse. There was a library of files and when I was in high school, I would sort them in order. I never wanted to be a lawyer. I knew from an early age that I didn’t want to sit behind a desk. Coaching fit that pretty perfectly," said the 29-year old Sowder, one of the youngest offensive coordinators in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

The new San José State football coaching staff makes its debut today versus South Florida. Look for their passion, excitement, and camaraderie as they unite and embark on the next era of Spartan football.

--Lawrence Fan is the SJSU Athletics Media Relations Director.
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