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SEASON OUTLOOK

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THE PLAYERS

Get to know each member of the 2023 Hornet football team. Bios include stats, hometown and high school info.



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RECORD BOOK

The complete source for Sacramento State football history. Find records, results, awards and other accolades.



QUICK FACTS

2022 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Aug. 31	Sat.	at Nicholls	4 p.m.
Sept. 9	Sat.	TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE	7 p.m.
Sept. 16	Sat.	at Stanford	5 p.m.
Sept. 23	Sat.	at Idaho*	1 p.m.
Sept. 30	Sat.	NORTHERN ARIZONA*	6 p.m.
Oct. 14	Sat.	at Northern Colorado*	TBA
Oct. 21	Sat.	MONTANA STATE*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	Sat.	IDAHO STATE**	6 p.m.
Nov. 4	Sat.	at Montana*	TBA
Nov. 11	Sat.	CAL POLY*	2 p.m.
Nov. 18	Sat.	at UC Davis*	TBA

2021 FOOTBALL RESULTS

Date	Rank	Opponent	Result
Sept. 3	(7/7)	UTAH TECH	W, 56-33
Sept. 17	(8/7)	at UNI	W, 37-21
Sept. 24	(7/6)	at Colorado State	W, 41-10
Oct. 1	(5/5)	at Cal Poly*	W, 49-21
Oct. 8	(5/4)	NORTHERN COLORADO*	W, 55-7
Oct. 15	(5/5)	at Eastern Washington*	W, 52-28
Oct. 22	(2/3)	MONTANA* (7/7)	W, 31-24 (ot)
Oct. 29	(2/3)	IDAHO*^ (14/23)	W, 31-28
Nov. 5	(2/3)	at Weber State* (5/6)	W, 33-30
Nov. 11	(2/2)	at Portland State*	W, 45-17
Nov. 19	(2/2)	UC DAVIS* (24/RV)	W, 27-21
Dec. 3	(2 seed)	RICHMOND^ (13 seed)	W, 38-31
Dec. 9	(2 seed)	INCARNATE WORD^ (7 seed)	L, 66-63

All Times Pacific | ALL CAPS and BOLD indicate home games

* Big Sky Conference games | # Homecoming | ^ NCAA FCS Playoffs

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location	Sacramento, Calif.
Founded	1947
Enrollment	30,883
Nickname	Hornets
Colors	Green & Gold (PMS 343, 4525)
President	Dr. J. Luke Wood
Director of Athletics	Mark Orr
Faculty Athletic Representative	Dr. Maureen Smith

FOOTBALL INFORMATION

Classification	NCAA Football Championship Subdivision
Conference	Big Sky Conference
Stadium (Capacity)	Hornet Stadium (21,195)
Surface	SprinkTurf
2022 Overall Record	12-1
2022 Big Sky Record/Finish	8-0/T1st
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	63/25
Starters Returning (O/D/ST)/Lost	17 ret. (8/8/1)/11 lost (5/5/1)

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach	Andy Thompson
Alma Mater	Montana, '04
Sacramento State Record	First year
Career Record	Same

Assistant Coaches

Kris Richardson	Associate Head Coach/Off. Line
Bobby Fresques	Associated Head Coach/Quarterbacks
Jeremy LaPan	Special Teams Coordinator/Tight Ends
AJ Cooper	Linebackers
Kraig Paulson	Def. Line
Allen Perryman	Safeties
Tyson Prince	Wide Receivers
Donnel Pumphrey	Running Backs
Jason Slowey	Edge Rushers
Cherokee Valeria	Def. Passing Game Coordinator/Cornerbacks
Nathan Morris	Director of Strength & Conditioning
Jeff Goldsmith	Director of Football Operations
Chris Parry	Director of Recruiting/Def. Assistant
Kenny Macklin	Football Operations Assistant
Justin Lantz	Video Coordinator/Def. Analyst
Justin Houlihan	Offensive Graduate Assistant
Cody Oleski	Defensive Graduate Assistant
Colton Behrendt	Student Manager - Defense
Jaden Diamond	On-Campus Recruiting
Greg Fong	Student Manager - Recruiting/Offense
Wesley Williams	Offensive Intern
Carson Smith	Defensive Student Assistant

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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E-Mail	jason.spencer@csus.edu
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Department Fax	916.278.5429
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	Athletics Center Room 1210
	Sacramento, CA 95819-6099



@sachornetsfb



@sacstatefb



@sacstatefootball

Follow the Hornets by listening to all games on EPSN 1320 AM, watching home games and selected road games on CW31 or stream all Big Sky contests on ESPN+.

STADIUM/GAMEDAY

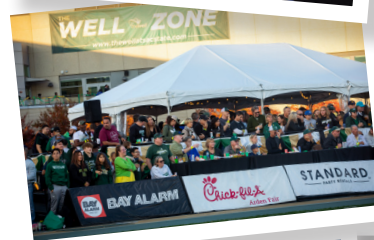


HORNET STADIUM

- Originally built in 1969, Hornet Stadium is the home for Sacramento State football. The facility has a capacity of 21,195 — the second largest in the Big Sky Conference.
- A new playing surface was installed prior to the 2021 season. The Sprinturf surface features the yardage numbers in Sacramento State's font, the Big Sky Conference logos stitched into the field and new gold end zones. The surface also has a shock pad beneath it and an infill which is designed to reduce heat.
- Hornet Stadium has served as the home of several professional football teams including the Sacramento Surge of the World League, the Sacramento Gold Miners of the Canadian Football League and Sacramento Mountain Lions of the United Football League.
- The stadium has also hosted the 2000 and 2004 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials and four NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track and Field Championships (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007).
- The stadium is surrounded by The Well to the north and the Broad Athletic Fieldhouse to the south. The Well is Sacramento State's student recreation and health center. It opened in 2010 (expanded in 2021) and features a large weight room, indoor spaces for basketball, volleyball, racquetball and soccer, a rock climbing wall and an elevated running track.
- The Broad Athletic Fieldhouse is the home to Hornet football and track and field. Built in 2008, it includes coaches offices, meeting spaces, locker rooms, training rooms and weight rooms for the teams.

GAMEDAY

- The celebration of Hornet football begins well before kickoff with a lively tailgate party outside of Hornet Stadium. Fans then greet the team for Hornet Walk which includes the Sacramento State marching band, cheer and dance teams.
- Once inside, Sacramento State students sit directly behind the Hornet bench at midfield. A new VIP fan section was added in the north end zone during the 2019 season.





BY THE NUMBERS



20
Hornet football players who earned academic all-Big Sky honors following the 2021 season. The honor goes to student-athletes who have a 3.2+ GPA and play in at least 50% of games.



3
Round in which Marte Mapu was selected by the New England Patriots in the 2023 NFL Draft. Mapu became the highest draft pick in school history.



45
Uniform combinations available to the team. Sacramento State has five helmets designs, three jerseys and three pants. In 2019, the team wore a different combination for every game.



111
Sacramento State players who have signed professional football contracts in the major North American football leagues. Among those is QB Ricky Ray won four Grey Cups in the CFL.



18
Hornets who have played in an NFL game. Wide receiver DeAndre Carter (pictured) played for the Los Angeles Chargers in 2022 and signed as a free agent with the Las Vegas Raiders for 2023.



14,338
Average attendance for home games last season for Sacramento State. That number set a school single-season record and ranked 11th nationally.



BY THE NUMBERS



4

Sacramento State was ranked as the fourth most diverse University in the west by US News and World Report and as the ninth most transformative by Money Magazine.



32

Players who have earned FCS All-America honors for the Hornets since 1998. Sacramento State had seven All-Americans in 2022 including tight end Marshal Martin for the second year in a row.



6,553

Career rushing yards for Charles Roberts. Roberts also owns the school records for single-season (2,260) and single-game (409) rushing yards as well as single-season (22) and career (56) TDs.



55

Majors offered at Sacramento State. The University's criminal justice, construction management and business programs are ranked among the best in the country.



2

Teams which have been seeded among the top eight for the past three fall FCS Playoffs. Only Sacramento State and North Dakota State have earned the honor.



2.5M

The population of the Sacramento metro area. The region has amazing outdoor recreation spaces, professional sports teams and is within a few hours drive of Lake Tahoe and the coast.



ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

94	Ben Ahio	DL
29	Koa Akui	S
26	Daizon Allen	CB
4	Armon Bailey	LB
61	Matt Bautista	OL
1	Kaiden Bennett	QB
35	Hunter Boeddeker	LB
14	Currion Borders	RB
95	Mason Brosseau	DL
7	Cameron Broussard	S
13	Zeke Burnett	RB
83	Mekhei Byrd	WR
7	Carson Camp	QB
60	AJ Campos	LS
40	Josh Cashiola	DL
37	Xander Chisolm	S
11	Parker Clayton	WR
46	Nick Clegg	K/P
17	Carson Conklin	QB
10	Joey Cook	QB
57	Zach Corbitt	LB
66	Franklin Daniels	OL
70	Justin Davis	OL
27	Gavin Davis-Smith	S
51	David Dean	OL
2	Patrick Dean	CB
99	Leke Fashola	DL
50	Oge Feo	LB
47	Jayden Flaig	TE
9	Marcus Fulcher	RB
31	Elijah Gable	RB
85	Darren Gandy	WR
5	Devin Gandy	WR
52	Ivan Garza	OL
8	Jared Gipson	WR
80	Ashar Granger	WR
65	Cade Gretlein	OL
26	Anderson Grover	WR
93	Tyler Hardeman	DL
63	Maximillian Haro	OL
13	Jeremy Harris	LB
90	Pate Haunga	DL
72	Sawyer Hays	OL
75	Tyler Henry	DL
54	Riley Hernandez	DL
16	Kaleb Higgins	S
0	Carlos Hill	WR
39	Derek Houston	LB
38	DJ Houston	CB
32	Nakian Jackson	LB
89	Austin Jarrard	TE
49	Elliott Johnson	DL
23	Michael Johnson	RB
23	Lamont Johnson-Burrell	CB
48	Dylan Jorge	LB
3	Dillon Juniel	CB
36	Nova Kebeli	RB
92	Evan Kiely	K
56	Brandon Knott	DL
82	Coleman Kuntz	TE
41	DeShawn Lynch	DL
67	Kinnick Manley	LS
16	Marshel Martin IV	TE
18	Xavier Mason	WR
10	Brock Mather	LB

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Carlos Hill	WR	5-11	173	Sr.	1V	Miami, Fla. / Antelope Valley JC
0	Eian Moore	S	6-0	189	Sr.	1V	Sacramento, Calif. / Sierra JC
1	Kaiden Bennett	QB	6-0	193	Jr.	2V	Sparks, Nev. / Nevada
1	Caleb Nelson	CB	6-1	192	Sr.	1V	Roseville, Calif. / North Dakota
2	Patrick Dean	CB	5-11	174	Jr.	2V	Ontario, Calif. / Colony HS
3	Dillon Juniel	CB	5-9	167	Sr.	1V	Sacramento, Calif. / San Mateo JC
3	Chris Miller	WR	6-2	179	Jr.	2V	Los Angeles, Calif. / Culver City HS
4	Armon Bailey	LB	6-1	231	Sr.	3V	Vallejo, Calif. / Vanden HS
5	Devin Gandy	WR	6-1	170	So.	1V	Victorville, Calif. / Silverado HS
6	Ezra Moleni	RB	6-0	193	Jr.	JC	Midvale, Utah / San Mateo JC
6	Jace O'Hara	NB	5-11	199	Jr.	2V	Rolling Meadows, Ill. / Dupage JC
7	Cameron Broussard	S	6-3	200	Jr.	2V	Folsom, Calif. / Folsom HS
7	Carson Camp	QB	6-3	213	Jr.	TR	Bloomington-Normal, Ill. / South Dakota
8	Jared Gipson	WR	6-1	206	Jr.	2V	Stockton, Calif. / St. Mary's HS
9	Marcus Fulcher	RB	5-9	215	Sr.	3V	Fresno, Calif. / Bullard HS
10	Joey Cook	QB	6-1	202	Fr.	HS	Novato, Calif. / Marin Catholic HS
10	Brock Mather	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	1V	Ridgecrest, Calif. / Bakersfield JC
11	Parker Clayton	WR	6-0	186	Sr.	3V	Folsom, Calif. / Folsom HS
12	Jason Oliver	CB	6-0	172	So.	TR	Bakersfield, Calif. / Colorado
12	Onterio Smith, Jr.	WR	6-2	190	Fr.	HS	Folsom, Calif. / Folsom HS
13	Zeke Burnett	RB	5-10	196	Fr.	RS	Sacramento, Calif. / Elk Grove HS
13	Jeremy Harris	LB	6-0	223	Sr.	3V	Simi Valley, Calif. / Moorpark HS
14	Currion Borders	RB	5-7	189	Fr.	HS	Sacramento, Calif. / Antelope HS
14	Darian Pollard	NB	6-1	212	So.	1V	Stockton, Calif. / Lincoln HS
15	Sawyer Merrill	WR	6-0	188	Jr.	1V	El Dorado Hills, Calif. / American River JC
16	Kaleb Higgins	S	6-2	190	So.	TR	Austin, Texas / Cal
16	Marshel Martin IV	TE	6-2	230	Sr.	3V	Vallejo, Calif. / St. Patrick-St. Vincent HS
17	Carson Conklin	QB	6-1	194	Fr.	HS	Yorba Linda, Calif. / Centennial HS
17	Anta'Veon McKenzie	S	6-1	200	Fr.	HS	Stockton, Calif. / Edison HS
18	Xavier Mason	WR	6-0	207	Jr.	2V	Tacoma, Wash. / Stadium HS
18	Fata Puloka	NB	6-3	219	Fr.	HS	Elk Grove, Calif. / Monterey Trail HS
19	Zelmar Vedder	CB	6-3	181	So.	RS	Manteca, Calif. / Modesto JC
19	Jayden Weber	WR	5-9	160	Fr.	HS	San Mateo, Calif. / Serra HS
20	Jalin Speed	CB	6-0	181	So.	1V	Lancaster, Calif. / Bishop Alemany HS
21	Kylen Ross	S	6-0	178	Sr.	1V	Los Angeles, Calif. / Riverside JC
22	Elias Mullican	CB	6-1	170	Fr.	RS	Rocklin, Calif. / Rocklin HS
23	Michael Johnson	RB	5-7	189	So.	1V	Oxnard, Calif. / Pacifica HS
23	Lamont Johnson-Burrell	CB	6-3	179	Fr.	RS	Sacramento, Calif. / Sacramento HS
24	Davion Ross	S	5-11	196	Jr.	2V	Sacramento, Calif. / Inderkum HS
25	Elijah Tau-Tolliver	RB	6-1	200	So.	1V	Sparks, Nev. / Reed HS
26	Daizon Allen	CB	6-1	177	Fr.	RS	Fresno, Calif. / Bullard HS
26	Anderson Grover	WR	6-3	190	Jr.	TR	Modesto, Calif. / Washington State
27	Gavin Davis-Smith	S	5-11	192	Jr.	2V	Folsom, Calif. / Folsom HS
28	Kameron Rocha	S	6-0	177	Jr.	2V	San Jacinto, Calif. / San Jacinto HS
29	Koa Akui	S	5-10	180	Fr.	RS	Hilo, Hawaii / Hilo HS
30	Mitchell Wolfe	LB	6-3	232	So.	1V	Sumner, Wash. / Sumner HS
31	Elijah Gable	RB	5-5	146	Jr.	2V	Sylmar, Calif. / Sierra Canyon HS
32	Nakian Jackson	LB	6-1	226	Fr.	RS	Stockton, Calif. / Edison HS
33	Alex Rocha	LB	6-2	218	Fr.	RS	Bakersfield, Calif. / Bakersfield HS
34	Cobe Weeks	DL	6-3	229	So.	1V	Roseville, Calif. / Granite Bay HS
35	Hunter Boeddeker	LB	6-0	218	Fr.	RS	Santa Barbara, Calif. / Bishop Diego HS
36	Nova Kebeli	RB	5-10	214	Fr.	RS	Laguna Niguel, Calif. /
37	Xander Chisolm	S	6-2	186	Fr.	HS	Bakersfield, Calif. / Liberty HS
38	DJ Houston	CB	5-10	189	Jr.	2V	Compton, Calif. / Hawthorne HS
39	Derek Houston	LB	6-1	221	Fr.	HS	Rocklin, Calif. / Rocklin HS
40	Josh Cashiola	DL	6-3	224	Jr.	JC	Dallas, Texas / Fresno City JC
41	DeShawn Lynch	DL	6-5	283	So.	1V	Folsom, Calif. / Folsom HS
42	Ashton Moultrie	S	6-1	190	Sr.	TR	Fresno, Calif. / Greenville
43	In Memory of John Bloomfield						
44	Carter Sullivan	DL	6-3	231	So.	1V	Antelope, Calif. / Antelope HS
45	Xavier Williams	DL	6-4	271	So.	1V	Gustine, Calif. / Atwater HS
46	Nick Clegg	K/P	6-1	195	Fr.	HS	Gilbert, Ariz. / Williams Field HS
47	Jayden Flaig	TE	6-4	205	Fr.	HS	Placentia, Calif. / Yorba Linda HS
48	Dylan Jorge	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	2V	Folsom, Calif. / Folsom HS
49	Elliott Johnson	DL	6-1	285	Jr.	JC	Modesto, Calif. / CCSF



No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown/Previous School
50	Oge Feo	LB	6-1	230	So.	1V	Waianae, Hawaii / Bethel HS
51	David Dean	OL	6-3	300	Jr.	JC	Lake Washington, Wash. / Fresno City JC
52	Ivan Garza	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	2V	Delano, Calif. / Robert F. Kennedy HS
53	Jordan Stanley	OL	6-4	288	Sr.	1V	Brentwood, Calif. / Heritage HS
54	Riley Hernandez	DL	6-2	229	Fr.	RS	Bakersfield, Calif. / Liberty HS
55	Jett Stanley	DL	6-4	284	Sr.	3V	Brentwood, Calif. / Heritage HS
56	Brandon Knott	DL	6-3	275	Jr.	2V	Sacramento, Calif. / Inderkum HS
57	Zach Corbitt	LB	6-2	230	So.	1V	Folsom, Calif. / Vista Del Lago HS
58	DeSean Watts	DL	6-2	280	Fr.	HS	Fresno, Calif. / Clovis West HS
59	Nathan Mejia	OL	6-3	299	So.	1V	Arcadia, Calif. / Cathedral HS
60	AJ Campos	LS	6-2	213	So.	1V	Upland, Calif. / Upland HS
61	Matt Bautista	OL	6-1	252	Jr.	JC	Williams, Calif. / Feather River JC
62	Kenndel Riley	OL	6-3	336	So.	1V	Lincoln, Calif. / Capital Christian HS
63	Maximillian Haro	OL	6-3	305	Fr.	RS	San Pablo, Calif. / Salesian HS
64	Brandon Sousa	OL	6-4	295	Fr.	RS	Pleasanton, Calif. / Foothill HS
65	Cade Gretlein	OL	6-4	282	Fr.	HS	Bakersfield, Calif. / Liberty HS
66	Franklin Daniels	OL	6-3	315	Jr.	JC	Oakland, Calif. / Contra Costa JC
67	Kinnick Manley	LS	6-3	216	So.	JC	Firestone, Colo. / Dodge City JC
68	Davis May	OL	6-4	310	Fr.	HS	Bakersfield, Calif. / Garces Memorial HS
70	Justin Davis	OL	6-6	375	Fr.	RS	Camarillo, Calif. / Oaks Christian HS
71	Troy Stiefel	OL	6-5	298	Sr.	3V	Yorba Linda, Calif. / Yorba Linda HS
72	Sawyer Hays	OL	6-6	282	So.	1V	Sacramento, Calif. / Christian Brothers HS
73	Jose Soto	OL	6-3	283	Fr.	HS	Tulare, Calif. / Tulare Western HS
74	Aidan Meek	OL	6-5	290	So.	1V	Bakersfield, Calif. / Garces Memorial HS
75	Tyler Henry	DL	6-3	312	Fr.	RS	Vallejo, Calif. / De La Salle HS
76	Jackson Slater	OL	6-4	306	Jr.	2V	Bellevue, Wash. / Newport HS
77	Tyler Perez	OL	6-5	299	So.	1V	Chino Hills, Calif. / Chino Hills HS
78	Richard McKay	OL	6-6	295	Fr.	HS	Vallejo, Calif. / Clayton Valley Charter HS
79	Kaden Richardson	OL	6-3	280	Jr.	2V	Folsom, Calif. / UC Davis
80	Ashar Granger	WR	6-1	204	Fr.	RS	Riverside, Calif. / JW North HS
81	Tao McClinton	WR	6-4	203	Sr.	3V	Seattle, Wash. / Sammamish HS
82	Coleman Kuntz	TE	6-3	228	So.	1V	Beaumont, Calif. / Etiwanda HS
83	Mekhei Byrd	WR	5-11	170	Fr.	HS	Vallejo, Calif. / Natomas HS
84	Danny Scudero	WR	5-9	150	Fr.	HS	San Jose, Calif. / Archbishop Mitty HS
85	Darren Gandy	WR	5-10	140	Fr.	HS	Victorville, Calif. / Silverado HS
86	Ty Smith	WR	6-1	182	So.	1V	Apple Valley, Calif. / Apple Valley HS
87	Will Schalde	TE	6-5	230	So.	1V	Lemoore, Calif. / Lemoore HS
88	Charlie McBride	TE	6-3	258	Sr.	3V	Rocklin, Calif. / Rocklin HS
89	Austin Jarrard	TE	6-3	235	Jr.	1V	El Dorado Hills, Calif. / Oklahoma State
90	Pate Haunga	DL	6-2	270	Jr.	JC	Sacramento, Calif. / Chabot JC
91	Cal McGough	P	6-2	180	So.	1V	Geelong, Australia / St. Joseph's College
92	Evan Kiely	K	6-4	215	Fr.	HS	Turlock, Calif. / Pitman HS
93	Tyler Hardeman	DL	6-3	280	Sr.	3V	Cameron Park, Calif. / Folsom HS
94	Ben Ahio	DL	6-4	257	Jr.	RS	Fresno, Calif. / Fresno City JC
95	Mason Brosseau	DL	6-3	272	So.	1V	Hanford, Calif. / Hanford HS
96	Connor Stutz	P	6-2	216	So.	1V	Seattle, Wash. / Bishop Blanchet HS
97	Zach Schreiner	K	6-0	170	Jr.	JC	Rocklin, Calif. / American River JC
98	Kyle Stahlecker	DL	6-6	272	Fr.	HS	Citrus Heights, Calif. / Oakmont HS
99	Leke Fashola	DL	6-4	258	Jr.	2V	Concord, Calif. / Clayton Valley Charter HS

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

68	Davis May	OL
88	Charlie McBride	TE
81	Tao McClinton	WR
91	Cal McGough	P
78	Richard McKay	OL
17	Anta'Veon McKenzie	S
74	Aidan Meek	OL
59	Nathan Mejia	OL
15	Sawyer Merrill	WR
3	Chris Miller	WR
6	Ezra Moleni	RB
0	Eian Moore	S
42	Ashton Moultrie	S
22	Elias Mullican	CB
1	Caleb Nelson	CB
6	Jace O'Hara	NB
12	Jason Oliver	CB
77	Tyler Perez	OL
14	Darian Pollard	NB
18	Fata Puloka	NB
79	Kaden Richardson	OL
62	Kenndel Riley	OL
33	Alex Rocha	LB
28	Kameron Rocha	S
24	Davion Ross	S
21	Kylen Ross	S
87	Will Schalde	TE
97	Zach Schreiner	K
84	Danny Scudero	WR
76	Jackson Slater	OL
12	Onterio Smith, Jr.	WR
86	Ty Smith	WR
73	Jose Soto	OL
64	Brandon Sousa	OL
20	Jalin Speed	CB
98	Kyle Stahlecker	DL
55	Jett Stanley	DL
53	Jordan Stanley	OL
71	Troy Stiefel	OL
96	Connor Stutz	P
44	Carter Sullivan	DL
25	Elijah Tau-Tolliver	RB
19	Zelmar Vedder	CB
58	DeSean Watts	DL
19	Jayden Weber	WR
34	Cobe Weeks	DL
45	Xavier Williams	DL
30	Mitchell Wolfe	LB

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Ben Ahio	AH-he-o	Pate Haunga	pah-TAY ha-UN-guh	Sawyer Merrill	MAIR-ill
Daizon Allen	DAY-zon	Nakian Jackson	nuh-KEE-in	Ezra Moleni	mo-lee-nee
Armon Bailey	R-mawn	Dylan Jorge	GEORGE	Eian Moore	E-in
Hunter Boeddeker	BO-deck-er	Dillon Juniel	JOO-nell	Fata Puloka	FAH-tuh POO-lo-kuh
Mason Brosseau	BRO-so	Coleman Kuntz	KOONTS	Kenndel Riley	ken-DELL
Cameron Broussard	BRU-sard	Marshel Martin	mar-SHELL	Alex/Kameron Rocha	ROW-chuh
Curron Borders	cur-RON	Brock Mather	MATH-er	Will Schalde	SKALL-dee
Mekhei Byrd	meh-KY	Cal McGough	Mc-GUFF	Troy Stiefel	STEE-fell
Leke Fashola	lay-KAY fuh-SHOW-lah	Tao McClinton	TAY-o		
Oge Feo	O-G FAY-oh	Anta'Veon McKenzie	an-TAY-vee-on		
Maximillian Haro	HARR-o	Nathan Mejia	muh-HEE-uh		



ROSTER BREAKDOWN

SQUAD BREAKDOWN

True Freshmen.....	18
Redshirt Freshmen.....	15
Sophomores.....	28
Juniors.....	31
Seniors.....	19

LETTERMEN RETURNING (62)

Offense (29)

Kaiden Bennett	QB
Parker Clayton	WR
Marcus Fulcher	RB
Elijah Gable	RB
Devin Gandy	WR
Ivan Garza	OL
Jared Gipson	WR
Sawyer Hays	OL
Carlos Hill.....	WR
Austin Jarrard.....	TE
Michael Johnson.....	RB
Coleman Kuntz.....	TE
Marshel Martin	TE
Xavier Mason	WR
Charlie McBride	TE
Tao McClinton	WR
Aiden Meek.....	OL
Nathan Mejia.....	OL
Sawyer Merrill	WR
Chris Miller	WR
Tyler Perez	OL
Kaden Richardson	OL
Kenndel Riley	OL
Will Schalde	TE
Jackson Slater	OL
Ty Smith	WR
Jordan Stanley	OL
Troy Stiefel	OL
Elijah Tao-Tolliver	RB

Defense (29)

Armon Bailey	LB
Mason Brosseau	DL
Cameron Broussard	S
Zach Corbitt.....	LB
Gavin Davis-Smith	S
Patrick Dean	CB
Leke Fashola	DL
Oge Feo.....	LB
Tyler Hardeman	DL
Jeremy Harris	LB
DeVaughn Houston	CB
Dylan Jorge	LB
Dilon Juniel.....	CB
Brandon Knott	DL
DeShawn Lynch	DL
Brock Mather.....	LB
Eian Moore	S
Caleb Nelson	DB
Jace O'Hara	NB
Darian Pollard	NB
Kameron Rocha	S
Davion Ross	S
Kylen Ross	S
Jalin Speed	CB
Jett Stanley	DL
Carter Sullivan	DL
Xavier Williams	DL

Cobe Weeks	DE
Mitchell Wolfe	LB

Specialists (4)

Connor Stutz	P
AJ Campos	LS
Cal McGough	P

STARTERS RETURNING (17)

Minimum of six starts in 2022 or 12 career starts

Offense (8)	2022/Career
Parker Clayton, WR.....	6/19
Devin Gandy, WR.....	6/6
Ivan Garza, OL.....	13/23
Jared Gipson, WR.....	11/15
Marshel Martin, TE.....	11/34
Nathan Mejia, OL.....	13/14
Jackson Slater, OL.....	13/22
Troy Stiefel, OL.....	11/26

Defense (8)

Armon Bailey, LB.....	13/14
Cameron Broussard, S.....	7/8
Gavin Davis-Smith, S.....	11/11
Tyler Hardeman, DT.....	13/25
Brock Mather, LB.....	13/13
Eian Moore, S.....	6/6
Caleb Nelson, CB.....	12/12
Jett Stanley, DT.....	13/25

Specialists (1)

Cal McGough, P.....	12/12
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STARTERS LOST (11)

Offense (5)	2022/Career
Jake Dunniway, QB.....	8/18
Asher O'Hara, QB.....	6/9
Cameron Skattebo, RB.....	11/15
Brandon Weldon, OL.....	13/38
Pierre Williams, WR.....	13/41

Defense (5)

Marte Mapu, NB.....	13/27
Ariel Ngata, DL.....	10/10
Abel Ordaz, S.....	2/12
Killian Rosko, DL.....	13/18
Prince Washington.....	6/13

Specialists (1)

Kyle Sentkowski, K.....	13/25
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2022 REDSHIRTS (17)

Offense (7)

Zeke Burnett.....	RB
Justin Davis.....	OL
Ashar Granger.....	WR
Maximillian Haro.....	OL
Tyler Henry.....	OL
Nova Kebelli.....	RB
Brandon Sousa	OL

Defense (10)

Ben Ahio	DL
Koa Akui.....	S
Daizon Allen	DB
Hunter Boeddeker.....	LB
Riley Hernandez.....	LB
Nakian Jackson.....	LB
Lamont Johnson-Burrell	CB
Elias Mullican.....	CB
Alex Rocha	LB
Zelmar Vedder	CB

Specialists (0)

None

NEWCOMERS (34)

Offense (18)

Matt Bautista.....	OL
Curron Borders	RB
Mekhei Byrd.....	WR
Carson Camp.....	QB
Carson Conklin	QB
Joey Cook.....	QB
David Dean	OL
Franklin Daniels.....	OL
Darren Gandy.....	WR
Cade Gretlein	OL
Anderson Grover	WR
Davis May	OL
Richard McKay	OL
Ezra Moleni	RB
Danny Scudero.....	WR
Onterio Smith, Jr.....	WR
Jose Soto	OL
Jayden Weber	WR

Defense (12)

Josh Cashiola.....	DL
Xander Chisolm.....	S
Pate Haunga	DL
Kaleb Higgins.....	S
Derek Houston	LB
Anta'Veon McKenzie	S
Ashton Moultrie.....	S
Jason Oliver	CB
Fata Puloka.....	NB
Kyle Stahlecker	DL
DeSean Watts.....	OL

Specialists (4)

Nick Clegg.....	K
Evan Kiely	K
Kinnick Manley	LS
Zach Schreiner.....	K



POSITIONAL BREAKDOWN

OFFENSE

Offensive Line

51	David Dean (6-3, 300, Jr.)
52	Ivan Garza (6-5, 295, So.)
53	Jordan Stanley (6-4, 288, Sr.)
59	Nathan Mejia (6-3, 299, Fr.)
61	Matt Bautista (6-1, 252, Jr.)
62	Kenndel Riley (6-4, 336, So.)
63	Maximillian Haro (6-3, 305, Fr.)
64	Brandon Sousa (6-4, 295, Fr.)
65	Cade Gretlein (6-4, 282, Fr.)
66	Franklin Daniels (6-3, 315, Jr.)
68	Davis May (6-4, 310, Fr.)
70	Justin Davis (6-6, 375, Fr.)
71	Troy Stiefel (6-5, 298, Sr.)
72	Sawyer Hays (6-6, 282, So.)
73	Jose Soto (6-3, 283, Fr.)
74	Aidan Meek (6-5, 282, Fr.)
76	Jackson Slater (6-4, 306, Jr.)
77	Tyler Perez (6-5, 299, So.)
78	Richard McKay (6-6, 295, Fr.)
79	Kaden Richardson (6-2, 280, Jr.)

Tight End

16	Marshel Martin IV (6-2, 230, Sr.)
47	Jordan Flaig (6-4, 205, Fr.)
82	Coleman Kuntz (6-3, 228, So.)
87	Will Schalde (6-5, 230, So.)
88	Charlie McBride (6-3, 258, Sr.)
89	Austin Jarrard (6-3, 235, Jr.)

Wide Receiver

0	Carlos Hill (5-11, 161735, Sr.)
3	Chris Miller (6-2, 179, Jr.)
5	Devin Gandy (6-1, 170, So.)
8	Jared Gipson (6-1, 206, Jr.)
11	Parker Clayton (6-0, 186, Sr.)
12	Onterio Smith, Jr. (6-2, 190, Fr.)
15	Sawyer Merrill (6-0, 188, Jr.)
18	Xavier Mason (6-0, 207, Jr.)
19	Jayden Weber (5-9, 160, Fr.)
26	Anderson Grover (6-3, 204, Jr.)
80	Ashar Granger (6-1, 204, Fr.)
81	Tao McClinton (6-4, 203, Sr.)
83	Mekhei Byrd (5-11, 170, Fr.)
84	Danny Scudero (5-9, 150, Fr.)
85	Darren Gandy (5-10, 140, Fr.)
86	Ty Smith (6-1, 182, So.)

Running Back

6	Ezra Moleni (6-0, 193, Jr.)
9	Marcus Fulcher (5-9, 215, Sr.)
13	Zeke Burnett (5-10, 196, Fr.)
14	Curron Borders (5-7, 189, Fr.)
23	Michael Johnson (5-7, 189, So.)
25	Elijah Tau-Tolliver (6-1, 200, Jr.)
31	EJ Gable (5-5, 146, Jr.)
36	Nova Kebeli (5-10, 195, Fr.)

Quarterback

1	Kaiden Bennett (6-0, 193, Jr.)
7	Carson Camp (6-3, 213, Jr.)
10	Joey Cook (6-1, 202, Fr.)
17	Carson Conklin (6-1, 194, Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

Kicker

46	Nick Clegg (6-1, 195, Fr.)
92	Evan Kiely (6-4, 215, Fr.)
97	Zach Schreiner (6-0, 170, Jr.)

Long Snapper

60	AJ Campos (6-2, 213, So.)
67	Kinnick Manley (6-3, 216, So.)

Punter

91	Cal McGough (6-2, 180, So.)
96	Connor Stutz (6-2, 216, So.)

DEFENSE

Defensive Line

34	Cobe Weeks (6-3, 229, Fr.)
40	Josh Cashiola (6-2, 224, Jr.)
41	DeShawn Lynch (6-5, 283, So.)
44	Carter Sullivan (6-3, 231, Jr.)
45	Xavier Williams (6-2, 271, So.)
54	Riley Hernandez (6-2, 229, Fr.)
55	Jett Stanley (6-4, 284, Sr.)
56	Brandon Knott (6-3, 275, Jr.)
58	DeSean Watts (6-2, 280, Fr.)
75	Tyler Henry (6-3, 312, Fr.)
90	Pate Haunga (6-2, 270, Jr.)
93	Tyler Hardeman (6-3, 280, Sr.)
94	Ben Ahio (6-4, 257, Jr.)
95	Mason Brosseau (6-3, 272, So.)
98	Kyle Stahlecker (6-6, 272, Fr.)
99	Leke Fashola (6-4, 258, Jr.)

Linebacker

4	Armon Bailey (6-1, 231, Sr.)
10	Brock Mather (6-0, 230, Sr.)
13	Jeremy Harris (6-0, 223, Sr.)
30	Mitchell Wolfe (6-3, 232, So.)
32	Nakian Jackson (6-1, 226, Fr.)
33	Alex Rocha (6-2, 218, Fr.)
35	Hunter Boeddeker (6-0, 218, Fr.)
39	Derek Houston (6-1, 221, Fr.)
48	Dylan Jorge (6-0, 225, Jr.)
50	Oge Feo (6-1, 230, So.)
57	Zach Corbitt (6-2, 230, So.)

Cornerbacks

1	Caleb Nelson (6-1, 192, Jr.)
2	Patrick Dean (5-11, 174, Jr.)
3	Dillon Juniel (5-9, 167, Sr.)
12	Jason Oliver (6-0, 172, So.)
19	Zelmar Vedder (6-3, 181, So.)
20	Jalin Speed (6-0, 181, So.)
22	Elias Mulican (6-1, 170, Fr.)
23	Lamont Johnson-Burrell (6-3, 179, Fr.)
26	Daizon Allen (6-1, 177, Fr.)
38	DJ Houston (5-10, 189, Jr.)

Safeties

0	Eian Moore (6-0, 189, Sr.)
7	Cameron Broussard (6-0, 200, Jr.)
16	Kaleb Higgins (6-2, 190, So.)
17	Anta'Veon McKenzie (6-1, 200, Fr.)
21	Kylen Ross (6-0, 178, Sr.)
27	Gavin Davis-Smith (5-11, 192, Jr.)
28	Koa Akui (5-10, 180, Fr.)
28	Kameron Rocha (6-0, 177, Jr.)
37	Xander Chisolm (6-2, 186, Fr.)
42	Ashton Moultrie (6-1, 190, Sr.)

Nickelbacks

6	Jace O'Hara (5-11, 199, Jr.)
18	Fata Puloka (6-3, 219, Fr.)
24	Davion Ross (5-11, 196, Jr.)
47	Darian Pollard (6-1, 212, So.)

START CHART

Offense	'22	Consecutive	
		Starts	Career
Parker Clayton	6	1	19
Marcus Fulcher	2	---	4
Devin Gandy	---	---	6
Ivan Garza	13	23	23
Jared Gipson	11	2	15
Carlos Hill	2	---	2
Coleman Kuntz	1	---	1
Charlie McBride	1	---	3
Marshel Martin	11	5	34
Nathan Mejia	13	13	14
Chris Miller	4	---	7
Kenndel Riley	2	2	2
Jackson Slater	13	22	22
Troy Stiefel	11	---	26

Defense	'22	Consecutive	
		Starts	Career
Armon Bailey	13	13	14
Cameron Broussard	7	2	8
Gavin Davis-Smith	11	11	11
Patrick Dean	1	---	2
Tyler Hardeman	13	25	25
Jeremy Harris	---	---	8
Dillon Juniel	6	2	6
Brock Mather	13	13	13
Eian Moore	6	---	6
Caleb Nelson	12	4	12
Jace O'Hara	---	---	1
Davion Ross	---	---	5
Jett Stanley	13	25	25

Specialists	'22	Consecutive	
		Starts	Career
Cal McGough	12	12	12
Connor Stutz	1	---	1

Players Who Started Every Game in '22

Offense (3): Ivan Garza, Nathan Mejia, Jackson Slater

Defense (4): Armon Bailey, Tyler Hardeman, Brock Mather, Jett Stanley

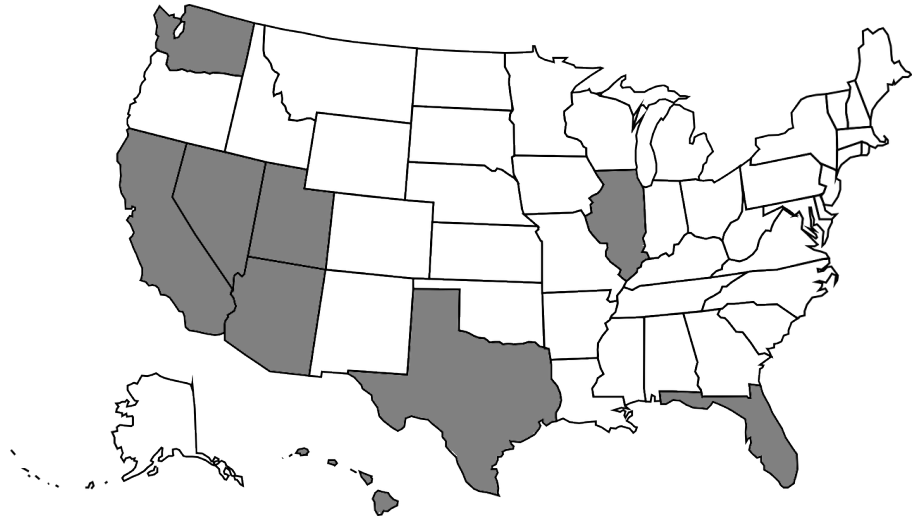
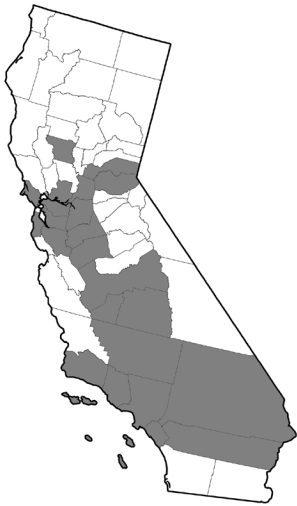
Specialists (0): None

Longest Active Starting Streaks

Tyler Hardeman	25
Jett Stanley	25
Ivan Garza	23
Jackson Slater	22



GEOGRAPHICAL ROSTER



CALIFORNIA

Alameda County (2)

Oakland: Franklin Daniels

Pleasanton: Brandon Sousa

Colusa County (1)

Williams: Matt Bautista

Contra Costa County (4)

Brentwood: Jett Stanley, Jordan Stanley

Concord: Leke Fashola

San Pablo: Maximillian Haro

El Dorado County (3)

Cameron Park: Tyler Hardeman

El Dorado Hills: Austin Jarrard, Sawyer Merrill

Fresno County (5)Fresno: Ben Ahio, Daizon Allen, Marcus Fulcher,
Ashton Moultrie, DeSean Watts**Kern County (9)**Bakersfield: Xander Chisolm, Cade Gretlein,
Riley Hernandez, Davis May, Aidan Meek, Jason
Oliver, Alex Rocha

Delano: Ivan Garza

Ridgecrest: Brock Mather

Kings County (2)

Hanford: Mason Brosseau

Lemoore: Will Schalde

Los Angeles County (6)

Arcadia: Nathan Mejia

Compton: DeVaughn Houston

Lancaster: Jalin Speed

Los Angeles: Chris Miller, Kylen Ross

Sylmar: Elijah Gable

Marin County (1)

Novato: Joey Cook

Merced County (1)

Gustine: Xavier Williams

Orange County (3)

Laguna Niguel: Nova Kebeli

Yorba Linda: Carson Conklin, Troy Stiefel

Placer County (7)

Lincoln: Kennel Riley

Rocklin: Derek Houston, Charlie McBride,

Elias Mullican, Zach Schreiner

Roseville: Caleb Nelson Cobe Weeks

Riverside County (3)

Beaumont: Coleman Kuntz

Riverside: Ashar Granger

San Jacinto: Kameron Rocha

Sacramento County (20)

Antelope: Carter Sullivan

Citrus Heights: Kyle Stahlecker

Elk Grove: Fata Puloka

Folsom: Cameron Broussard, Parker Clayton,
Zach Corbitt, Gavin Davis-Smith, Dylan Jorge,
DeShawn Lynch, Kaden Richardson,
Onterio Smith Jr.Sacramento: Currion Borders, Zeke Burnett,
Sawyer Hays, Lamont Johnson-Burrell, Pate Haunga,
Dillon Juniel, Brandon Knott, Eian Moore,
Davion Ross**San Bernardino County (6)**

Apple Valley: Ty Smith

Chino Hills: Tyler Perez

Ontario: Patrick Dean

Upland: AJ Campos

Victorville: Darren Gandy, Devin Gandy

San Joaquin County (5)

Manteca: Zelmar Vedder

Stockton: Jared Gipson, Anta'Veon McKenzie,
Nakian Jackson, Darian Pollard**San Mateo County (1)**

San Mateo: Jayden Weber

Santa Barbara County (1)

Santa Barbara: Hunter Boeddeker

Santa Clara County (1)

San Jose: Danny Scudero

Solano County (5)Vallejo: Armon Bailey, Mekhei Byrd, Tyler Henry,
Marshel Martin, Richard McKay**Stanislaus County (2)**

Modesto: Anderson Grover

Turlock: Evan Kiely

Tulare County (1)

Tulare: Jose Soto

Ventura County (3)

Camarillo: Justin Davis

Oxnard: Michael Johnson

Simi Valley: Jeremy Harris

OUT OF STATE

Arizona (1)

Gilbert: Nick Clegg

Colorado (1)

Firestone: Kinnick Manley

Florida (1)

Miami: Carlos Hill

Hawaii (2)

Hilo: Koa Akui

Waianae: Oge Feo

Illinois (2)

Bloomington-Normal: Carson Camp

Rolling Meadows: Jace O'Hara

Nevada (2)

Sparks: Kaiden Bennett, Elijah Tao-Tolliver

Texas (2)

Austin: Kaleb Higgins

Dallas: Josh Cashiola

Utah (1)

Midvale: Ezra Moleni

Washington (6)

Bellevue: Jackson Slater

Lake Washington: David Dean

Seattle: Connor Stutz, Tao McClinton

Sumner: Mitchell Wolfe

Tacoma: Xavier Mason

Australia (1)

Geelong: Cal McGough

SEASON OUTLOOK



QUARTERBACKS

- Sacramento State will have the challenge of replacing not one, but two starting quarterbacks for the 2023 season. The Hornets used a two-quarterback system the past two years with Jake Dunniway and Asher O'Hara seamlessly splitting snaps while leading the team to an undefeated 16-0 Big Sky Conference record. Last season, the pair combined to throw for 3,290 yards and 30 touchdowns while also rushing 930 yards and 19 touchdowns.
- The candidates to replace the pair include a redshirt junior, an FCS transfer and a pair of true freshmen. Three of the four took part in spring practice and will enter fall camp with the starting job wide open.
- Kaiden Bennett is the only member of the trio to have competed in a game for the Hornets. Bennett played in six games last season where he completed 4-of-7 passes for 26 yards. He also rushed for 72 yards on 12 carries. Bennett enjoyed an amazing prep career at nearby Folsom HS where he threw for 3,993 yards and 60 touchdowns as a senior. He concluded his high school career with a 30-1 overall record.
- Carson Camp came to Sacramento State during the spring after playing three seasons at South Dakota. Camp will have two years of eligibility remaining with the Hornets. With the Coyotes, Camp threw for 4,123 yards and 24 touchdowns and also rushed for three scores. He was named to the Missouri Valley Football Conference all-newcomer team as a true freshman in the spring of 2021 after becoming the first true freshman to start at quarterback in South Dakota history.
- Carson Conklin graduated from powerhouse Centennial HS in Corona, Calif., early and joined the Hornets during spring practice. Conklin played three varsity seasons for the Huskies where he threw for 2,036 yards and 25 touchdowns while splitting time.



RUNNING BACKS

- The Hornets return three running backs who have scored touchdowns during their career led by Marcus Fulcher who was a third-team all-Big Sky selection as both a back and punt return. Fulcher rushed for 465 yards and eighth touchdowns during the year, averaging 6.3 yards per carry. He capped his year with a big performance against Incarnate Word in the quarterfinals of the FCS Playoffs where he rushed for 108 yards on just nine carries. That effort included a 35-yard touchdown. The senior also showed his versatility in the passing game, catching 36 passes for 252 yards and two touchdowns.
- Elijah Tau-Tolliver added 192 rushing yards on 22 carries a year ago. The redshirt sophomore showed his big play ability with three carries over 18 yards. His biggest play of the year came in the second round of the FCS Playoffs where he returned the second half kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown against Richmond. That score was the fifth-longest kickoff return for a touchdown in school history. As a senior at Reed HS in Sparks, Nev., Tau-Tolliver was named the Gatorade Nevada Player of the Year.
- Elijah Gable has appeared in 11 games over the last two seasons, combining for 133 yards on 27 carries (4.9 yards per carry). The junior had 53 all-purpose yards against Utah Tech last season and found the end zone with a 33-yard carry against Portland State a year earlier.
- Michael Johnson and Zeke Burnett also return to the unit. Johnson made his debut last season and had three carries for 25 yards against Northern Colorado. Burnett redshirted during the year after a high school career where he rushed for 1,534 yards and 27 touchdowns as a senior at Elk Grove HS.
- Ezra Moleni came to the Hornets in the spring as the reigning JC Athletic Bureau Region I Offensive Player of the Year. Last season at San Mateo JC, Moleni set the school record with 1,400 rushing yards and scored 18 touchdowns. He helped lead the team to the California state title and rushed for over 100 yards in six games. Moleni scored at least one touchdown in 11 games and added 13 receptions for 158 yards.
- A local product from Antelope HS, Curron Borders will be true freshman in the fall. Borders was a three-star recruit after rushing for 3,574 yards and 50 touchdowns in three varsity seasons for the Titans. As a senior, he tallied 1,368 yards and 18 touchdowns in just 11 games. The year prior, he amassed 2,039 yards and 32 touchdowns while rushing for over 300 yards three times.



SEASON OUTLOOK



WIDE RECEIVERS

- With 16 wide receivers on the roster, there will be plenty of targets for Sacramento State quarterbacks to find during the 2023 season. The unit is comprised nine returners, a redshirt freshman, an FBS transfer and five true freshmen.
- Junior Jared Gipson leads the returners from last season, having caught 33 passes for 385 yards and two touchdowns. Gipson appeared in every game and had at least one reception in all but one contest. He had five receptions in the nationally-televised game against Montana, including a pivotal reception late in the game to set up the game-tying touchdown.
- Parker Clayton has been a key component to the team's offense for the last three seasons. Clayton enters 2023 with 63 career receptions for 897 yards and six touchdowns. He has two TD grabs each season and has averaged 14.2 yards per catch.
- Chris Miller has appeared in 24 games over the last two seasons where he has caught 33 passes for 503 yards and three touchdowns. The junior averaged 12.6 yards per reception last season and scored his touchdown in the thrilling win over Idaho.
- Devin Gandy will return for a full season after redshirting in 2022. Gandy suffered a knee injury prior to the year beginning but returned for the team's two playoff games where he had five receptions for 72 yards. As a freshman in 20121, he had 19 receptions for 285 yards.
- Seniors Carlos Hill and Tao McClinton, junior Xavier Mason, sophomore Ty Smith and redshirt freshman Ashar Granger complete the returners. Hill caught five passes for 73 yards in 2022 to lead the group. McClinton has seen time at both wide receiver and tight end during his career. He has 15 receptions for 171 yards and a TD during his career.
- Anderson Grover joined the team during the spring and will have two seasons remaining after transferring from Washington State. Grover had five catches for 51 yards and a touchdown last season for WSU.
- Onterrio Smith, Jr., Jayden Weber, Mekhei Byrd, Danny Scudero and Darren Gandy (Devin's younger brother) make up the true freshmen on the roster. Smith and Byrd are both local products having prepped at Folsom HS and Natomas HS, respectively. Weber (Serra HS) and Scudero (Archbishop Mitty HS) both come from high caliber programs in the Bay Area.



OFF. LINE/TIGHT ENDS

- Do-it-all tight end Marshal Martin brings a bevy of awards with him for his senior season. Martin has been named All-America the past two seasons and has been a three-time all-Big Sky selection. The senior has 157 career receptions for 2,078 yards and 25 touchdowns. Last year, he led the team with 65 grabs and 879 yards and finished the year with 14 total touchdowns (12 receiving, one rushing, one kick return).
- Senior Charlie McBride has yet to miss a game during his career and has been a fixture on special teams. Austin Jarrard came to the team from Oklahoma State last season and played on special teams and at tight end. Sophomore Coleman Kuntz caught five passes for 71 yards during his first collegiate season. Sophomore Will Schalde also returns to the unit.
- Sacramento State features 19 offensive linemen on its roster, including six who have started games in the past. Last season, the unit helped the team rush for a school record 3,358 yards and average 5.4 yards per carry.
- Troy Stiefel is the veteran of the group, returning for his seventh year with the Hornets. Last season, Stiefel was named second team all-Big Sky after starting all 11 regular season games at left tackle.
- Ivan Garza has manned the right tackle position for the majority of the last two seasons. The junior has started 23 consecutive games at the position.
- Jackson Slater and Kenndel Riley have both started games at guard. Slater was named to the all-Big Sky first team and also garnered third team All-America honors from the Associated Press and fourth team from Phil Steele. He started all 11 regular season games at left guard before moving to left tackle for the two FCS playoff games. Riley appeared in eight games last season as a redshirt freshman. He started two playoff games at right guard.
- Nathan Mejia started all 13 games at center during his redshirt freshman season. Mejia was named second team all-Big Sky and was a Freshman All-American by Stats Perform and HERO Sports.
- Jordan Stanley returns after not playing since 2019. That year, Stanley appeared in 12 of the team's 13 games, including a start against Austin Peay in the second round of the FCS Playoffs.
- Junior Kaden Richardson, sophomores Sawyer Hays and Tyler Perez and redshirt freshmen Maximilian Haro, Brandon Sousa, Justin Davis and Aidan Meek also return to the unit. The newcomers include JC transfer David Dean and true freshman Cade Gretlein, Davis May, Jose Soto and Richard McKay.

SEASON OUTLOOK



DEFENSIVE LINE

- The interior of the defensive line will be one of the deepest in the FCS as the Sacramento State returns four players who all were key members of the rotation.
- Senior Jett Stanley was named second team all-Big Sky last season. Stanley started every game and finished the year with 50 tackles, including 2.5 for loss. He played a large role in the team's win over Montana on ESPN2 as he had a career high 10 tackles.
- Tyler Hardeman started next to Stanley in each game last season. Hardeman tallied 43 total tackles with two for loss and a sack. He had at least one tackle in each of the final 12 games of the year and will enter 2023 with a 25-game start streak.
- Brandon Knott and Xavier Williams rotate in behind the duo. Knott has played in every game over the last two years and set a career best last season with 32 total tackles. He set his season high with four tackles against Richmond and Incarnate Word in the FCS Playoffs. Williams played in each game during his first season active season with the team and was credited with five tackles.
- Leke Fashola and DeShawn Lynch are the most experienced members of the edge rushers. Fashola appeared in each game in 2022 and totaled 16 total tackles. That mark included 1.5 for loss and one sack. Lynch finished the year with 10 tackles in eight games.
- Other returners to the unit are senior Ben Ahio, junior Carter Sullivan, sophomore Mason Brosseau and redshirt freshmen Riley Hernandez and Tyler Henry. Ahio, Brosseau and Hernandez all saw limited action last season. Sullivan missed the entire season due to an injury but played in 11 games as a freshman in 2021. Cobe Weeks also transitioned from tight end to defensive end during the spring.
- The newcomers will be comprised of Josh Cashiola and Kyle Stahlecker. Cashiola originally began his collegiate career at San Diego most recently played at Fresno City JC. He has played at all three levels of the defense during his career. Stahlecker is a true freshman who prepped at Oakmont HS in Roseville, Calif.



LINEBACKERS

- The Hornets return their top three tacklers at linebacker from a year ago and three other players who saw extensive playing time at the position. That group combined with six underclassmen gives the team great depth at the position.
- Armon Bailey led Sacramento State 88 tackles in 2023 and earned first team all-Big Sky honors. Bailey had at least four tackles in all 13 games and was credited with double digit tackles in five contests. He ended the season with a team-best 12.5 tackles-for-loss, including six sacks. Half of that sack total came against Idaho including a late strip sack which secured the team's victory.
- Brock Mather started all 13 games at middle linebacker during his first season with the team. Mather had 68 total tackles during the season, including 32 solos and 2.5 TFLs. He had steady production throughout the season, recording at least two tackles in every game and had five or more stops in seven games. His season was highlighted by a 22-yard interception return for a touchdown at Eastern Washington.
- Jeremy Harris has played in 38 games during his career at Sacramento State and has 148 career tackles. Harris had 50 stops last season with 4.5 for loss and two sacks. Both of his sacks came in the postseason as he had one against Richmond and Incarnate Word. Harris also proved to be disruptive as he forced a fumble against the Spiders and recovered a fumble at Colorado State.
- Dylan Jorge, Oge Feo and Mitchell Wolfe both also played at the position and on special teams last season. Jorge had 10 tackles during the year while Feo added six. Jorge also intercepted a pass at Cal Poly and returned it 80 yards. Wolfe appeared in seven games where he had three tackles.
- Sophomore Zach Corbitt and redshirt freshmen Nakian Jackson, Alex Rocha and Hunter Boeddeker complete the returners.
- Derek Houston from nearby Rocklin HS is the only newcomer to the unit. Houston played three varsity seasons for the Thunder and finished his career with 164 tackles, including 7.5 sacks.



SEASON OUTLOOK



DEFENSIVE BACKS

- Eight players return to the Sacramento State secondary who have started games for the Hornets. However, one glaring absence will come at nickelback where the team is forced to replace Marte Mapu who was the Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year and a third round draft choice of the New England Patriots.
- Caleb Nelson headlines the cornerbacks after being named second team all-Big Sky last season. Nelson, who transferred from North Dakota prior to last season, tallied 37 total tackles while starting 12 games at cornerback. He led the team with 12 pass breakups and started the season with a 98-yard interception return for a touchdown against Utah Tech. Nelson also blocked a field goal attempt in the team's win over Montana on ESPN2.
- Dillon Juniel is the leading candidate to start opposite of Nelson at cornerback. Juniel started five games and played in all 13 last season. He finished the year with 32 total tackles and had nine PBUs. He had interceptions against Utah Tech and UC Davis to tie for the team lead.
- There is significant experience behind the pair as Patrick Dean, Jalin Speed and DeV Vaughn Houston have all seen time at the position. Dean has played in 20 games during his season and had one of the best plays of last season with a diving interception at Weber State.
- Jason Oliver, a transfer from Colorado, could also challenge for a spot in the rotation. Oliver appeared in 12 games for the Buffaloes last season and was a three-star recruit out of high school in 2021.
- Eian Moore, Cameron Broussard, Kylen Ross, Gavin Davis-Smith and Davion Ross (no relation) each have starts at safety during their careers. Davis-Smith (11 starts) and Broussard (10) earned the majority of the starts a year ago. Broussard had 69 tackles and tied for the team lead with two interceptions. Davis-Smith finished with 46 tackles in his 13 games. Moore started four games and was credited with 39 tackles last season.
- Kaleb Higgins transferred from Cal and will provide added depth at safety. Higgins graduated from Folsom HS and will have three seasons of eligibility remaining.
- Jace O'Hara will likely take over for Mapu at nickelback. O'Hara has played in every game the last two seasons and has totaled 35 tackles in that span. Sophomore Darian Pollard and true freshman Fata Puloka will also play the position.



SPECIALISTS

- The Hornets return a pair of all-Big Sky selections on special teams but will have the challenge of replacing an All-American.
- Cal McGough garnered third team all-Big Sky honors after his freshman season last year after averaging 40.9 yards per punt. The Australian was instrumental in flipping the field, landing 13 punts inside the 20 and having just one touchback during the year. He added a pair of punts of at least 50 yards and provided one of the biggest plays of the year with a 20-yard gain on a fake punt in the Causeway Classic.
- Connor Stutz also returns to the position. Stutz had two punts last season and averaged 45.0 yards per attempt. He also served as the team's holder on PATs and field goals.
- Marcus Fulcher and Elijah Tau-Tolliver were the team's primary punt and kick returners a year ago. Fulcher was named third team all-Big Sky as a punt returner, averaging 9.3 yards per return on 15 attempts. He had three returns of at least 20 yards, including a 44-yarder at Colorado State.
- Tau-Tolliver averaged 26.6 yards per kick return on 24 attempts. His big play came at the start of the second half against Richmond in the FCS Playoffs where he had a 95-yard touchdown return. That score is the fifth-longest kick return for a TD in school history. He also had three other returns of at least 40 yards during the year.
- AJ Campos appeared in all 13 games as the team's long snapper during his true freshman season. Campos will be joined newcomer Kinnick Manley at the position.
- With the graduation of All-American Kyle Sentkowski, Sacramento State will be in search of a new kicker for the first time in two seasons. Sentkowski left the Hornets ranked second in career extra points (115) and field goals (38) and fifth in career points (229). JC transfer Zach Schreiner and freshmen Evan Keily and Nick Clegg will all compete for starting job in 2023.
- Schreiner was the only of the three with the Hornets during the spring. At American River JC last season, he made 8-of-11 field goals and was a perfect 23-of-23 on extra points. He made a 50-yard field goal as well as a 48-yarder during the season.
- Clegg was the top ranked kicker and punter in Arizona during his senior season at Williams HS in Gilbert, Ariz. He made 6-of-7 field goals with a long of 49 yards and added 31 PATs as a senior.