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SACRAMENTO STATE FOOTBALL

Inaugural FBS Season • First Season in the MAC • 20 NFL Players
NCAA Playoff Appearances 1988, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 • 48 All-Americans



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Get an inside look at the 2026 Sacramento State Hornets with rosters, position breakdowns and more.



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Get to know each member of the 2026 Hornet football team. Bios include stats, hometown and high school info.



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



QUICK FACTS

2026 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
Aug. 29	Sat.	at Eastern Michigan*	ESPN+ 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	Sat.	MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	ESPN+ 7 p.m.
Sept. 12	Sat.	at Fresno State	CBS SPORTS NETWORK 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 19	Sat.	NORTH DAKOTA STATE	ESPN 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	Sat.	UMASS*	TBA TBA
Oct. 10	Sat.	at Bowling Green*	TBA TBA
Oct. 17	Sat.	OHIO*#	TBA TBA
Oct. 24	Sat.	at Ball State*	TBA TBA
Oct. 30	Fri.	KENT STATE*	ESPN 2 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Wed.	TOLEDO*	ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSN TBA
Nov. 11	Wed.	at Central Michigan*	ESPN2/ESPNU/CBSN TBA
Nov. 28	Sat.	at Hawaii	MW+ 8 p.m.
Dec. 5	Sat.	at MAC Championship (Detroit, Mich.)	9 a.m.

2025 FOOTBALL RESULTS

Date	Rank	Opponent	Result
Aug. 30	(15/14)	at South Dakota State (3/3)	ESPN+ L, 20-3
Sept. 6	(18/16)	at Nevada	NETWORK L, 20-17
Sept. 13	(21/21)	MERCYHURST	ESPN+ W, 49-28
Sept. 20	(24/22)	CENTRAL ARKANSAS	ESPN+ W, 45-16
Sept. 27	(21/21)	CAL POLY*	ESPN+ L, 32-24
Oct. 11		at Weber State*	ESPN+ W, 55-27
Oct. 18		NORTHERN COLORADO*#	ESPN+ W, 40-35
Oct. 24		MONTANA* (4/4)	ESPN 2 L, 49-35
Nov. 1		at Eastern Washington*	ESPN+ W, 35-13
Nov. 8		at Portland State*	ESPN+ W, 52-24
Nov. 15		IDAHO*	ESPN+ W, 23-20
Nov. 22		at UC Davis* (15/14)	ESPN+ L, 31-27

All Times Pacific | ALL CAPS and BOLD indicate home games

* Big Sky Conference games | # Homecoming

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location	Sacramento, Calif.
Founded	1947
Enrollment	31,477
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 Bowl Subdivision
Conference	Mid-American Conference
Stadium (Capacity)	Hornet Stadium (21,895)
Surface	SprinTurf
2025 Overall Record	7-5
2025 Big Sky Record/Finish	5-3/T-3rd
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	34/55
Starters Returning (O/D/ST)/Lost	6 (1/4/1)



All Sacramento State football games can be heard on ESPN 1320 with Jason Ross, Steve McElroy and Danny Sullivan.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach	Alonzo Carter
Alma Mater	Cal State East Bay, '16
Sacramento State Record	First year
Career Record	Same

Assistant Coaches

Eric Kiesau	Off. Coordinator
Adam Clark	Def. Coordinator
Milo Austin	Special Teams Coordinator
Angus McClure	Assoc. Head Coach/Recruiting Coord./Off. Line
Kenwick Thompson	Asst. Head Coach/Co-Def. Coord./Linebackers
Nick Alaimalo	Running Backs/Co-Special Teams Coord.
Brandon Blackmon	Safeties
Robert Conley	Tight Ends
Bobby Fresques	Quarterbacks/Passing Game Coordinator
Dakari Monroe	Cornerbacks
Kris Richardson	Off. Run Game Coord./Off. Line
Eric Scott	Co-Off. Coordinator/Wide Receivers
Manako Tuifua	Def. Line
Kaden Richardson	Off. Analyst (Quarterbacks)
Kason McCullough-Cooper	Asst. Def. Backs/Nickelbacks
Isaiah Lewis	Def. Analyst
Anthony Laws	Special Teams Analyst
Dom Fredrickson	Off. Assistant (Off. Line)
Jake Cruz	Off. Assistant (Running Backs)
Carl Joseph	Def. Assistant (Def. Line)
TJ Robertson	Special Teams Assistant
Garrett McClure	Off. Quality Control (Wide Receivers)
Christian Canidate	Def. Quality Control (Def. Line/Outside LBs)

Support Staff

Jon Osterhout	Assistant A.D./Chief of Staff
Chris Parry	General Manager
Otis Amey	Director of Player Development/Alumni Relations
Otis Yelverton	Director of Player Personnel
Ayden Meyer	Player Personnel Lead Analyst (Off.)
Montre Lambert	Player Personnel Lead Analyst (Def.)
Charles Gibson	Dir. of Football Operations
Angela Lalwani	Admin. Assistant/Dir. of On-Campus Recruiting
Marco Candido	Director of Sport Performance

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

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Web Site	hornetsports.com



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@sacstatefb



@sacstatefootball

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.
- 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.
- The 2026 season will see the Sacramento State student section moved to the east side of the stadium, the hospitality area flipped to the south end zone and the end zone seating moved to the north end.





ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

37	Hamish Adams	P
89	Davis Ambuehl	TE
88	Cedric Anton	TE
4	Dante Antonini	ILB
94	Austin Aten	DL
81	Matthew Auau	WR
55	Miles Bailey	DL
99	Devyn Blake	DL
55	Garrison Blank	OL
14	Curron Borders	RB
7	Kaden Briggs	DL
35	Jay Brockhaus	P
23	Elias Brown	RB
5	Raiden Brown	WR
9	Ajon Bryant	WR
31	Jackson Cahoon	ILB
52	Isiah Chala	DL
90	Austin Chambers	DL
50	Federico Cobarubio	DL
2	Matt Coleman	WR
20	Bryant Collins	RB
17	Carson Conklin	QB
1	Jamar Curtis	RB
44	Diego Davis	ILB
5	Nick Dimitris	DL
38	Tim Edwards, Jr.	CB
22	Isaiah Ene	RB
19	Guy "Tre" Fernandez III	WR
66	Hayden Frazier	OL
83	Jaxon Fresques	WR
14	Drey Garner	WR
25	Davion Godley	RB
17	Dylan Gooden	OLB
13	Diesel Gordon	S
63	Jamin Guilbert	OL
24	Kyle Gurganious	CB
15	Dezmyn Hardy	WR
86	Jack Hodge	TE
14	Joshua Holani	S
16	Leki Holani	ILB
10	Derek Houston	ILB
58	Jamel Howard	DL
85	Elijah Huddle	TE
8	Darson Jeanty	OLB
15	KJ Jefferson	ILB
98	Collin Kallhoff	DL
76	Alex Kenward	OL
54	Shontrail Key	OL
93	Malachi Kindle	DL
36	Noah King	S
27	Nikko Klemm	CB
82	Kyle Koontz	TE
65	Giovanni Kovacs	OL
72	Shaan Lathan	OL
40	Iosefa Lealofi	ILB
84	Jahlil Lindsey	TE
9	Saul Marks	K
73	Daniel Mataele	OL
68	Davis May	OL
32	Peyton McCutcheon	DL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown/Previous School
0	Daniel Swinney	RB	5-10	225	Jr.	JC	Louisville, Ky. / Iowa Western JC
0	Donovan Turner	S	6-0	190	Sr.	TR	Long Beach, Calif./Illinois
1	Jamar Curtis	RB	5-8	175	Sr.	RS	Waldorf, Md./Lafayette
1	Boogsie Silvera	S	5-11	200	Sr.	TR	Pembroke Pines, Fla./USF
2	Dionte Thornton	CB	6-4	183	Sr.	TR	Carson, Calif./Portland State
2	Matt Coleman	WR	6-0	173	Sr.	TR	Carson, Calif./San Jose State
3	Cincere Rhaney	RB	5-10	210	So.	TR	Los Angeles, Calif./San Diego State
3	Amari Wallace	S	5-10	185	R-Fr.	TR	Miami, Fla./Miami
4	Dante Antonini	ILB	6-1	226	Sr.	JC	Petaluma, Calif./Santa Rosa JC
4	Kenyon Shabazz	WR	6-4	185	Jr.	JC	Sacramento, Calif./San Mateo JC
5	Raiden Brown	WR	5-11	175	So.	TR	Long Beach, Calif./Idaho State
5	Nick Dimitris	DL	6-4	305	Sr.	TR	Watts, Calif./Florida A&M
6	Brian Salazar	QB	6-3	170	So.	JC	Monrovia, Calif./Citrus JC
6	Warren Smith, Jr.	S	6-2	189	Jr.	1V	Richmond, Calif./Washington State
7	Kaden Briggs	DL	6-3	285	Jr.	JC	Louisville, Ky./Holmes JC
7	Khai Taylor	WR	6-2	172	Jr.	JC	Pittsburg, Calif./Diablo Valley JC
8	Darson Jeanty	OLB	6-3	215	Sr.	TR	Hillside, N.J./Lafayette
8	Jackson Sharman	QB	6-1	195	Jr.	TR	Torrance, Calif./Idaho State
9	Malik Tullis	DL	5-11	283	Sr.	1V	Fairburn, Ga./Eastern Michigan
9	Saul Marks	K	6-0	160	Fr.	HS	San Francisco, Calif./Serra HS
9	Ajon Bryant	WR	5-6	162	So.	1V	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei HS
10	Derek Houston	ILB	6-1	223	Jr.	2V	Rocklin, Calif./Rocklin HS
10	Jace Wilson	WR	6-4	212	Sr.	1V	Denton, Texas/UTSA
11	Ivan Moore, Jr.	OLB	6-4	217	So.	TR	Chicago, Ill./Northern Illinois
11	Jaylen Patterson	QB	6-2	193	R-Fr.	TR	Los Angeles, Calif./New Mexico State
12	Malikai Nichols	CB	5-11	167	So.	TR	Baltimore, Md./Saint Francis
12	Onterio Smith, Jr.	WR	6-2	189	Jr.	2V	Sacramento, Calif./Folsom HS
13	Diesel Gordon	S	6-0	168	Jr.	1V	Arlington, Texas/Butler JC
13	Elijah Washington	WR	5-10	162	R-Fr.	TR	Oakland, Calif./Oregon State
14	Curron Borders	RB	5-7	191	So.	1V	Sacramento, Calif./Antelope HS
14	Drey Garner	WR	6-0	193	R-Fr.	RS	San Diego, Calif. / University City HS
14	Joshua Holani	S	5-10	180	Fr.	HS	Irvine, Calif./Santa Margarita HS
15	Dezmyn Hardy	WR	6-6	188	Fr.	HS	North Hills, Calif./Calabasas HS
15	KJ Jefferson	ILB	6-0	209	So.	1V	St. Louis, Mo./Lutheran North HS
16	Leki Holani	ILB	6-0	226	Fr.	HS	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif./Santa Margarita HS
16	Jordan Williams	TE	6-5	222	Sr.	1V	Riverside, Calif./Colorado State
17	Dylan Gooden	OLB	6-4	215	So.	RS	Columbia, Md./Maryland
17	Carson Conklin	QB	6-1	190	Jr.	TR	Yorba Linda, Calif./Fresno State
18	Fata Puloka	OLB	6-3	224	Jr.	2V	Sacramento, Calif./Monterey Trail HS
18	Liam Meeker	QB	6-2	210	Fr.	HS	Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa HS
19	Miles Tucker	S	6-0	188	Jr.	JC	Pleasanton, Calif./San Mateo JC
19	Guy "Tre" Fernandez III	WR	6-0	171	R-Fr.	RS	Sherman Oaks, Calif./Notre Dame HS
20	Bryant Collins	RB	6-0	191	Jr.	JC	Watts, Calif./West LA JC
20	Qualyn McQueen	S	5-9	182	Sr.	TR	Miami, Fla./Nebraska-Kearney
21	Kenneth Peevy	WR	5-9	160	Fr.	HS	Los Angeles, Calif./St. Pius X HS
21	Adam Taylor	CB	5-10	159	So.	1V	Stockton, Calif./St. Mary's HS
22	Isaiah Ene	RB	5-8	212	Fr.	HS	Roseville, Calif./Granite Bay HS
22	Elias Mullican	CB	6-1	180	Sr.	3V	Rocklin, Calif./Rocklin HS
23	Elias Brown	RB	6-0	226	Sr.	1V	Antelope, Calif./American River JC
23	Chakai Scott	S	5-9	172	Fr.	HS	Ocoee, Fla./West Orange HS
24	Kyle Gurganious	CB	5-11	180	So.	JC	Sacramento, Calif./American River JC
25	Davion Godley	RB	5-8	213	Jr.	TR	Richmond, Texas/Weber State
25	Naytel Mitchell	S	5-10	191	R-Fr.	RS	Pittsburgh, Pa./Penn Hills HS
26	Tim Thomas	ILB	6-1	236	Sr.	TR	Tracy, Calif./Fresno State
27	Nikko Klemm	CB	5-11	169	So.	TR	Gardena, Calif./Arizona State
28	Jiah Walls	ILB	6-1	212	Fr.	HS	Orlando, Fla./Evans HS
29	Caleb Reese	CB	5-11	187	R-Fr.	RS	Oceanside, Calif./San Marcos HS
31	Jackson Cahoon	ILB	6-0	219	R-Fr.	RS	Mountain View, Calif./St. Francis HS
32	Peyton McCutcheon	DL	6-3	225	Fr.	HS	Lakewood, Calif./Millikan HS
33	Alex Rocha	ILB	6-1	213	Sr.	3V	Bakersfield, Calif./Bakersfield HS



ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown/Previous School
34	Montrell Rice	RB	6-0	230	Fr.	HS	Hayward, Calif./Tennyson HS
35	Jay Brockhaus	P	6-1	198	Jr.	TR	Deltona, Fla./Southeastern
36	Noah King	S	6-3	209	R-Fr.	TR	Hamilton, Ohio/Colorado
37	Hamish Adams	P	6-2	202	R-Fr.	RS	Melbourne, Australia/Sandringham College
38	Tim Edwards, Jr.	CB	6-0	170	R-Fr.	RS	Pittsburg, Calif./Pittsburg HS
39	Keyon Mills	S	5-11	185	So.	TR	Pasadena, Calif./Pacific (Ore.)
40	Iosefa Lealofi	ILB	6-0	215	Fr.	HS	Barstow, Calif./Barstow HS
41	Pheta Tofaeono	ILB	6-1	225	Fr.	HS	Pittsburg, Calif./Pittsburg HS
44	Diego Davis	ILB	6-0	235	Sr.	1V	Napa, Calif./Santa Rosa JC
45	Xavier Williams	DL	6-2	251	Sr.	3V	Gustine, Calif./Atwater HS
46	Mike Melanson	P	5-11	182	Sr.	2V	Las Vegas, Nev./Sequoias JC
47	Caden Sim	LS	6-1	200	Fr.	HS	Buckeye, Ariz./Verrado HS
48	Kellan Sutton	LS	6-2	201	Jr.	JC	Orange, Calif./San Mateo JC
49	Grant Meadors	K	5-11	174	Jr.	1V	Bakersfield, Calif./Oregon
50	Federico Cobarubio	DL	6-2	303	Fr.	HS	San Jose, Calif./Valley Christian HS
52	Isiah Chala	DL	6-4	275	Jr.	TR	San Francisco, Calif./Fresno State
53	Elijah Ortiz	OL	6-1	305	Sr.	1V	Union City, Calif./Laney JC
54	Brodie Tagaloa	DL	6-5	294	Sr.	RS	Pittsburg, Calif./Nebraska
54	Shontrail Key	OL	6-5	290	Sr.	TR	Chicago, Ill./Incarnate Word
55	Miles Bailey	DL	6-4	297	Sr.	1V	Vallejo, Calif./Murray State
55	Garrison Blank	OL	6-7	328	R-Fr.	TR	Rocklin, Calif./UCLA
56	Jeremiah Ponce	OL	6-3	305	Fr.	HS	Garden Grove, Calif./Miami Edison HS
57	Luke Slater	OL	6-2	275	So.	1V	Bellevue, Wash./Newport HS
58	Jamel Howard	DL	6-2	307	Jr.	TR	Chicago, Ill./Wisconsin
63	Jamin Guilbert	OL	6-5	311	Jr.	JC	Eureka, Calif./American River JC
64	Brandon Sousa	OL	6-4	313	Sr.	3V	Pleasanton, Calif./Foothill HS
65	Giovanni Kovacs	OL	6-4	309	So.	1V	Pleasanton, Calif./Amador Valley HS
66	Hayden Frazier	OL	6-3	286	Jr.	JC	Cypress, Calif./Fullerton JC
68	Davis May	OL	6-4	339	Jr.	2V	Bakersfield, Calif./Garces Memorial HS
70	Jaxon Moore	OL	6-6	312	R-Fr.	RS	Roseville, Calif./West Park HS
71	Bryson Summers	OL	6-5	329	Sr.	2V	El Dorado Hills, Calif./Coastal Carolina
72	Shaan Lathan	OL	6-4	350	Jr.	JC	San Jose, Calif./San Jose City JC
73	Daniel Mataele	OL	6-6	360	Fr.	HS	Manteca, Calif./Patterson HS
74	Vae Soifua	OL	6-4	308	Sr.	TR	Orem, Utah/Weber State
75	DeAnthony Sheffield	OL	6-3	329	Jr.	RS	Los Angeles, Calif./LA Southwest JC
76	Alex Kenward	OL	6-4	270	So.	JC	Mason City, Iowa/Iowa Central CC
77	Jeremiah Stallworth	OL	6-7	325	So.	1V	Palo Alto, Calif./Palo Alto HS
78	Richard McKay	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	2V	Vallejo, Calif./Clayton Valley Charter HS
79	Dylan Spencer	OL	6-7	315	Jr.	JC	Boulder City, Nev./Fullerton JC
80	Carlton Perrilliat	WR	6-3	185	Fr.	HS	Oakland, Calif./Salesian Prep
81	Matthew Auau	WR	6-3	185	Fr.	HS	Santa Maria, Calif./Edison HS
82	Kyle Koontz	TE	6-4	224	So.	TR	Minden, Nev./Houston Christian
83	Jaxon Fresques	WR	5-7	167	So.	1V	Layton, Utah/Northridge HS
84	Jahlil Lindsey	TE	6-6	235	Fr.	HS	Oakland, Calif./Salesian Prep
85	Elijah Huddle	TE	6-3	220	So.	1V	Citrus Heights, Calif./Casa Roble HS
86	Jack Hodge	TE	6-4	210	Fr.	HS	Thornton, Colo./Riverdale Ridge HS
87	Luke Meeker	TE	6-2	210	Fr.	HS	Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa HS
88	Cedric Anton	TE	6-2	248	Jr.	TR	Poppenhausen, Germany/Tiffin
89	Davis Ambuehl	TE	6-9	248	Sr.	SQ	Los Angeles, Calif./UNLV
90	Austin Chambers	DL	6-2	270	So.	TR	Madison, Ala./Iowa Central CC
91	Maliek Richardson	DL	6-1	358	Jr.	JC	Los Angeles, Calif./West LA JC
93	Malachi Kindle	DL	6-0	308	So.	1V	Los Angeles, Calif./Cathedral HS
94	Austin Aten	DL	6-4	240	R-Fr.	JC	Sacramento, Calif./American River JC
95	Will Weber	DL	6-3	280	Jr.	TR	San Jose, Calif./UTEP
96	Jadakiss Vaokakala	DL	6-2	280	Jr.	JC	Seattle, Wash./Citrus JC
98	Collin Kallhoff	DL	6-4	268	Jr.	JC	Hampshire, Ill./Iowa Central CC
99	Devyn Blake	DL	6-1	300	Fr.	HS	Huntington Beach, Calif./Edison HS

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

78	Richard McKay	OL
20	Qualyn McQueen	S
49	Grant Meadors	K
18	Liam Meeker	QB
87	Luke Meeker	TE
46	Mike Melanson	P
39	Keyon Mills	S
25	Naytel Mitchell	S
70	Jaxon Moore	OL
11	Ivan Moore, Jr.	OLB
22	Elias Mullican	CB
12	Malikai Nichols	CB
53	Elijah Ortiz	OL
11	Jaylen Patterson	QB
21	Kenneth Peevy	WR
80	Carlton Perrilliat	WR
56	Jeremiah Ponce	OL
18	Fata Puloka	OLB
29	Caleb Reese	CB
3	Cincere Rhaney	RB
34	Montrell Rice	RB
91	Maliek Richardson	DL
33	Alex Rocha	ILB
6	Brian Salazar	QB
23	Chakai Scott	S
4	Kenyon Shabazz	WR
8	Jackson Sharman	QB
75	DeAnthony Sheffield	OL
1	Boogsie Silvera	S
47	Caden Sim	LS
57	Luke Slater	OL
12	Onterio Smith, Jr.	WR
6	Warren Smith, Jr.	S
74	Vae Soifua	OL
64	Brandon Sousa	OL
79	Dylan Spencer	OL
77	Jeremiah Stallworth	OL
71	Bryson Summers	OL
48	Kellan Sutton	LS
0	Daniel Swinney	RB
54	Brodie Tagaloa	DL
21	Adam Taylor	CB
7	Khai Taylor	WR
26	Tim Thomas	ILB
2	Dionte Thornton	CB
42	Pheta Tofaeono	ILB
19	Miles Tucker	S
9	Malik Tullis	DL
0	Donovan Turner	S
96	Jadakiss Vaokakala	DL
3	Amari Wallace	S
28	Jiah Walls	ILB
13	Elijah Washington	WR
95	Will Weber	DL
16	Jordan Williams	TE
45	Xavier Williams	DL
10	Jace Wilson	WR



ROSTER BREAKDOWN

SQUAD BREAKDOWN

True Freshmen.....	23
Redshirt Freshmen.....	14
Sophomores.....	22
Juniors.....	30
Seniors/Graduate.....	27

LETTERMEN RETURNING (28)

Offense (14)	
Davis Ambuehl.....	TE
Curron Borders.....	RB
Ajon Bryant.....	RB
Jaxon Fresques.....	WR
Elijah Huddle.....	TE
Davis May.....	OL
Richard McKay.....	OL
Elijah Ortiz.....	OL
Onterio Smith, Jr.....	WR
Luke Slater.....	OL
Brandon Sousa.....	OL
Bryson Summers.....	OL
Jordan Williams.....	TE
Jace Wilson.....	WR

Defense (12)	
Miles Bailey.....	DL
Diego Davis.....	ILB
Diesel Gordon.....	S
Derek Houston.....	LB
KJ Jefferson.....	S
Malachi Kindle.....	DL
Elias Mullican.....	CB
Fata Puloka.....	NB
Alex Rocha.....	LB
Warren Smith Jr.....	CB
Malik Tullis.....	DL
Xavier Williams.....	DL

Specialists (2)	
Grant Meadors.....	K
Mike Melanson.....	P

STARTERS RETURNING (6)

Minimum of six starts in 2025 or 12 career starts

Offense (1)	2025/Career
Jodan Williams, TE.....	9/9

Defense (4)	
Elias Mullican, CB.....	3/13
Fata Puloka, OLB.....	6/11
Alex Rocha, ILB.....	7/7
Xavier Williams, DE.....	11/11

Specialists (1)	
Grant Meadors, K.....	12/12

STARTERS LOST (19)

Offense (9)	2025/Career
Dean Abdullah, OL.....	12/12
Jordan Anderson, WR.....	9/9
Ernest Campbell, WR.....	6/6
Rodney Hammond, Jr., RB.....	10/10
Sawyer Hays, OL.....	7/19
Aidan Meek, OL.....	12/33
Kenndel Riley, OL.....	12/28
Jose Soto, OL.....	11/12
Cardell Williams, QB.....	10/10

Defense (8)	
Koa Akui, S.....	12/12
Dylan Hampsten, DE.....	11/11
Ricky Lee III, CB.....	8/8
Syncere Massey, DT.....	6/6
Anta'Veon McKenzie, S.....	9/15
Oscar Moore, OLB.....	7/7
Jason Oliver, CB.....	10/10
DeSean Watts, DT.....	11/11

Specialists (2)	
Adam Johnson, LS.....	12/14
Cal McGough, P.....	12/48

2025 REDSHIRTS (14)

Offense (7)	
Elias Brown.....	RB
Jamar Curtis.....	RB
Tre Fernandez.....	WR
Drey Garner.....	WR
Jaxon Moore.....	OL
DeAnthony Sheffield.....	OL
Jeremiah Stallworth.....	OL

Defense (6)	
Jackson Cahoon.....	ILB
Dylan Gooden.....	OLB
Naytel Mitchell.....	S
Caleb Reese.....	CB
Brodie Tagaloa.....	DL
Adam Taylor.....	CB

Specialists (1)	
Hamish Adams.....	P

NEWCOMERS (74)

Offense (35)	
Matthew Auau.....	WR
Cedric Anton.....	TE
Garrison Blank.....	OL
Raiden Brown.....	WR
Matt Coleman.....	WR
Bryant Collins.....	RB
Carson Conklin.....	QB
Isaiah Ene.....	RB
Hayden Frazier.....	OL
Davion Godley.....	RB
Jamin Guilbert.....	OL
Dezmyn Hardy.....	WR
Jack Hodge.....	TE
Alex Kenward.....	OL
Shontrail Key.....	OL
Kyle Koontz.....	TE
Shaan Lathan.....	OL
Jahlil Lindsey.....	TE

Daniel Mataele.....	OL
Liam Meeker.....	QB
Luke Meeker.....	TE
Jaylen Patterson.....	QB
Kenneth Peevy.....	WR
Carlton Perrillat.....	WR
Jeremiah Ponce.....	OL
Cincere Rhaney.....	RB
Montrell Rice.....	RB
Brian Salazar.....	QB
Kenyon Shabazz.....	WR
Jackson Sharman.....	QB
Vae Soifua.....	OL
Dylan Spencer.....	OL
Daniel Swinney.....	RB
Khai Taylor.....	WR
Elijah Washington.....	WR

Defense (35)	
Dante Antonini.....	LB
Austin Aten.....	DL
Devyn Blake.....	DL
Kaden Briggs.....	DL
Isiah Chala.....	DL
Austin Chambers.....	DL
Federico Cobarubio.....	DL
Nick Dimitris.....	DL
Tim Edwards, Jr.....	CB
Kyle Gurganious.....	CB
Joshua Holani.....	S
Leki Holani.....	ILB
Jamel Howard.....	DL
Darson Jeanty.....	LB
Collin Kallhoff.....	DL
Noah King.....	CB
Nikko Klemm.....	CB
Iosefa Lealofi.....	LB
Peyton McCutcheon.....	DL
Qualyn McQuenn.....	S
Keyon Mills.....	S
Ivan Moore, Jr.....	LB
Malikai Nichols.....	CB
Maliek Richardson.....	DL
Chakai Scott.....	S
Boogsie Silvera.....	S
Tim Thomas.....	LB
Dionte Thornton.....	DB
Pheta Tofaeono.....	LB
Miles Tucker.....	S
Donovan Turner.....	S
Jadakiss Vaokakala.....	DL
Amari Wallace.....	DB
Jiah Walls.....	ILB
Will Weber.....	DL

Specialists (4)	
Jay Brockhaus.....	P
Saul Marks.....	K
Caden Sim.....	LS
Kellan Sutton.....	LS



POSITIONAL BREAKDOWN

OFFENSE

Offensive Line

53	Elijah Ortiz (6-1, 305, Sr.)
54	Shontrail Key (6-5, 290, Sr.)
55	Garrison Blank (6-7, 328, RFr.)
56	Jeremiah Ponce (6-3, 305, Fr.)
57	Luke Slater (6-2, 275, So.)
58	Daniel Mataele (6-6, 360, Fr.)
63	Jamin Guilbert (6-5, 311, Jr.)
64	Brandon Sousa (6-4, 313, Sr.)
65	Giovanni Kovacs (6-4, 309, So.)
66	Hayden Frazier (6-3, 286, Jr.)
68	Davis May (6-4, 339, Jr.)
70	Jaxon Moore (6-6, 312, RFr.)
71	Bryson Summers (6-5, 329, Sr.)
72	Shaan Lathan (6-4, 350, Jr.)
74	Vae Soifua (6-4, 308, Sr.)
75	DeAnthony Sheffield (6-3, 329, Jr.)
76	Alex Kenward (6-4, 270, So.)
77	Jeremiah Stallworth (6-7, 325, So.)
78	Richard McKay (6-6, 300, Jr.)
79	Dylan Spencer (6-7, 315, Jr.)

Tight End

16	Jordan Williams (6-5, 222, Jr.)
82	Kyle Koontz (6-4, 224, So.)
84	Jahlil Lindsey (6-6, 235, Fr.)
85	Elijah Huddle (6-3, 220, So.)
86	Jack Hodge (6-4, 210, Fr.)
87	Luke Meeker (6-2, 210, Fr.)
88	Cedric Anton (6-2, 248, Jr.)
89	Davis Ambuehl (6-9, 248, Jr.)

Wide Receiver

2	Matt Coleman (6-0, 173, Sr.)
4	Kenyon Shabazz (6-4, 185, Jr.)
5	Raiden Brown (5-11, 175, So.)
7	Khai Taylor (6-2, 172, Jr.)
9	Ajon Bryant (5-6, 162, So.)
10	Jace Wilson (6-4, 212, Sr.)
12	Onterio Smith, Jr. (6-2, 189, Jr.)
13	Elijah Washington (5-10, 162, RFr.)
14	Drey Garner (6-0, 193, RFr.)
15	Dezmyn Hardy (6-6, 188, Fr.)
19	Tre Fernandez (6-0, 171, RFr.)
21	Kenneth Peevy (5-9, 160, Fr.)
80	Carlton Perrillat (6-3, 185, Fr.)
81	Matthew Auau (6-3, 185, Fr.)
83	Jaxon Fresques (5-7, 167, So.)

Running Back

0	Daniel Swinney (5-10, 225, Jr.)
1	Jamar Curtis (5-8, 175, Sr.)
3	Cincere Rhaney (5-10, 210, So.)
14	Curron Borders (5-7, 197, So.)
20	Bryant Collins (6-0, 191, Jr.)
22	Isaiah Ene (5-8, 212, Fr.)
23	Elias Brown (6-0, 226, Sr.)
25	Davion Godley (5-8, 213, Jr.)
34	Montrell Rice (6-0, 230, Fr.)

Quarterback

6	Brian Salazar (6-3, 170, Jr.)
8	Jackson Sharman (6-1, 195, Jr.)
11	Jaylen Patterson (6-2, 193, RFr.)
17	Carson Conklin (6-1, 190, Jr.)
18	Liam Meeker (6-2, 210, Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

Kicker

9	Saul Marks (6-0, 160, Fr.)
49	Grant Meadors (5-11, 174, Jr.)

Long Snapper

47	Caden Sim ((6-1, 200, Fr.)
48	Kellan Sutton (6-2, 215, Jr.)

DEFENSE

Defensive Line

5	Nick Dimitris (6-4, 305, Sr.)
7	Kaden Briggs (6-3, 285, Jr.)
9	Malik Tullis (6-0, 283, Sr.)
32	Peyton McCutcheon (6-3, 225, Fr.)
45	Xavier Williams (6-2, 251, Sr.)
50	Federico Cobarubio (6-2, 303, Fr.)
52	Isiah Chala (6-4, 275, Jr.)
54	Brodie Tagaloa (6-5, 294, Sr.)
55	Miles Bailey (6-4, 297, Sr.)
58	Jamel Howard (6-2, 307, Jr.)
90	Austin Chambers (6-2, 270, So.)
91	Maliek Richardson (6-1, 358, Jr.)
93	Malachi Kindle (6-0, 308, So.)
94	Austin Aten (6-4, 240, Fr.)
95	Will Weber (6-3, 280, Jr.)
96	Jadakiss Vaokakala (6-2, 280, Fr.)
98	Collin Kallhoff (6-4, 268, Jr.)
99	Devyn Blake (6-2, 289, Fr.)

Inside Linebackers

4	Dante Antonini (6-1, 226, Jr.)
10	Derek Houston (6-1, 223, Jr.)
15	KJ Jefferson (6-0, 209, Fr.)
16	Leki Holani (6-0, 226, Fr.)
26	Tim Thomas (6-1, 236, Sr.)
28	Jiah Walls (6-1, 212, Fr.)
31	Jackson Cahoon (6-0, 219, RFr.)
33	Alex Rocha (6-1, 213, Sr.)
40	Iosefa Lealofi (6-0, 215, Fr.)
41	Pheta Tofaeono (6-1, 225, Fr.)
44	Diego Davis (6-0, 235, Sr.)

Outside Linebackers

8	Dason Jeanty (6-3, 215, Sr.)
11	Ivan Moore, Jr. (6-4, 217, So.)
17	Dylan Gooden (6-4, 215, So.)
18	Fata Puloka (6-3, 224, So.)

Cornerbacks

2	Dionte Thornton (6-4, 183, Sr.)
12	Malikai Nichols (5-11, 167, So.)
21	Adam Taylor (5-10, 159, So.)
22	Elias Mullican (6-1, 180, Sr.)
24	Kyle Gurganious (5-11, 180, So.)
27	Nikko Klemm (5-11, 169, So.)
29	Caleb Reese (5-11, 187, RFr.)
38	Tim Edwards, Jr. (6-0, 170, Fr.)

Safeties

0	Donovan Turner (6-0, 190, Sr.)
1	Boogsie Silvera (5-11, 200, Sr.)
3	Amari Wallace (5-10, 185, RFr.)
6	Warren Smith, Jr. (6-2, 189, So.)
13	Diesel Gordon (6-0, 168, Jr.)
14	Joshua Holani (5-10, 180, Fr.)
19	Miles Tucker (6-0, 188, Jr.)
20	Qualyn McQueen (5-9, 182, Sr.)
23	Chakai Scott (5-9, 172, Fr.)
25	Naytel Mitchell (5-10, 191, RFr.)
36	Noah King (6-3, 209, RFr.)
39	Keyon Mills (5-11, 185, So.)

Punter

35	Jay Brockhaus (6-1, 198, Jr.)
37	Hamish Adams (6-2, 202, RFr.)
46	Mike Melanson (5-11, 182, Sr.)

START CHART

Offense	'25	Consecutive Starts	Career
Curron Borders	---	---	2
Jamar Curtis	1	---	1
Onterio Smith, Jr.	3	---	4
Jeremiah Stallworth	3	---	3
Bryson Summers	2	2	4
Jordan Williams	9	3	9
Jace Wilson	4	---	4

Defense	'25	Consecutive Starts	Career
Miles Bailey	1	---	1
Diego Davis	3	2	3
Diesel Gordon	1	---	1
Derek Houston	5	---	8
Elias Mullican	3	---	13
Fata Puloka	6	3	11
Alex Rocha	7	---	7
Warren Smith	1	---	1
Xavier Williams	11	---	11

Specialists	'25	Consecutive Starts	Career
Grant Meadors	12	12	12

Longest Active Starting Streaks

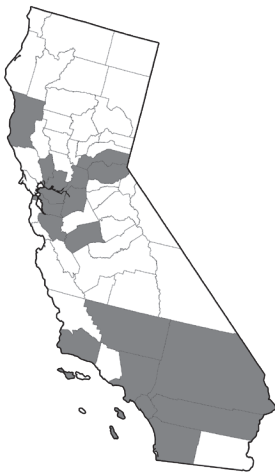
Jordan Williams	3
Fata Puloka	3
Bryson Summers	2
Diego Davis	2

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

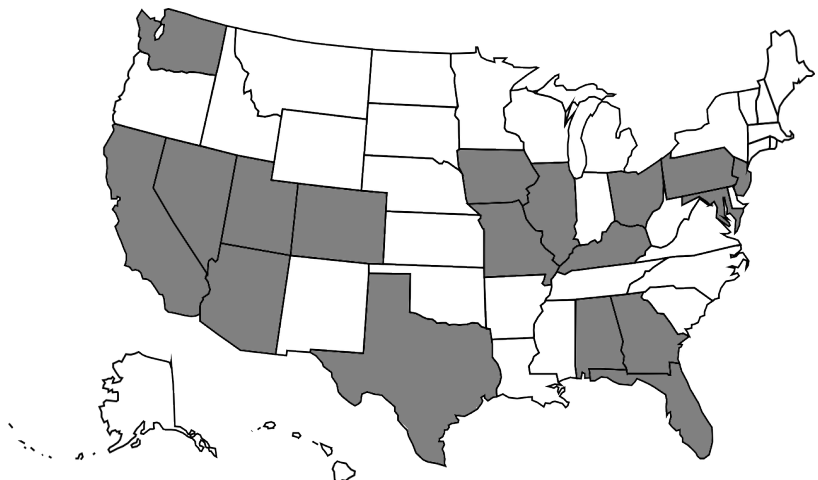
Davis Ambuehl	am-BYOOL
Austin Aten	AY-ten
Matthew Auau	ow-ow (rhymes with cow)
Jay Brockhaus	brock-HOUS
Ajon Bryant	AY-jon
Jackson Cahoon	cuh-HOON
Isiah Chala	CHA-lah
Federico Cobarubio	co-bu-ROO-be-o
Nick Dimitris	dih-MEE-tris
Isaiah Ene	IN-ee
Jaxon Fresques	fres-KISS
Jamin Guilbert	JAY-min GILL-bert
Kyle Gurganious	gur-GAY-nee-us
Leki Holani	leh-KEE
Nikko Klemm	NEE-ko
Shaan Lathan	shawn
Iosefa Lealofi	I-oh-sef-uh LEE-uh-lo-fee
Daniel Mataele	mah-tuh-ah-lee
Grant Meadors	MEH-dors
Carlton Perrilliat	per-ILL-ee-at
Jeremiah Ponce	last name one syllable
Fata Puloka	FAH-tuh POO-lo-kuh
Alex Rocha	ROW-chuh
Chakai Scott	chuh-KY
Kenyon Shabazz	shuh-BAZZ
Boogsie Silvera	sil-VAIR-uh
Vae Soifua	VY so-ih-foo-uh
Brodie Tagaloa	tag-uh-LO-uh
Pheta Tofaeono	FAY-tah to-FAY-oh-no
Malik Tullis	muh-LEEK
Jadakis Vaokakala	VOW-kah-kah-lah
Amari Wallace	uh-MAR-ee



GEOGRAPHICAL ROSTER



CALIFORNIA

Alameda County (8)**Hayward:** Montrell Rice**Oakland:** Jahlil Lindsay, Carlton Perrilliat, Elijah Washington**Pleasanton:** Giovanni Kovacs, Brandon Sousa, Miles Tucker**Union City:** Elijah Ortiz**Contra Costa County (5)****Pittsburg:** Tim Edwards, Jr., Khai Taylor, Brodie Tagaloa, Pheta Tofaeono**Richmond:** Warren Smith, Jr.**El Dorado County (1)****El Dorado Hills:** Bryson Summers**Humboldt County (1)****Eureka:** Jamin Guilbert**Kern County (3)****Bakersfield:** Davis May, Grant Meadors, Alex Rocha**Los Angeles County (22)****Carson:** Matt Coleman, Dionte Thornton**Gardena:** Nikko Klemm**Lakewood:** Peyton McCutcheon**Long Beach:** Raiden Brown, Donovan Turner**Los Angeles:** Davis Ambeuhl, Malachi Kindle, Jaylen Patterson, Kenneth Peevy, Cincere Rhaney, Maliek Richardson, DeAnthony Sheffield**Manhattan Beach:** Liam Meeker, Luke Meeker**Monrovia:** Brian Salazar**North Hills:** Dezmyrn Hardy**Pasadena:** Keyon Mills**Sherman Oaks:** Tre Fernandez**Torrance:** Jackson Sharman**Watts:** Bryant Collins, Nick Dimitris**Merced County (1)****Gustine:** Xavier Williams**Napa County (1)****Napa:** Diego Davis**Orange County (7)****Cypress:** Hayden Frazier**Garden Grove:** Jeremiah Ponce**Huntington Beach:** Devyn Blake**Irvine:** Joshua Holani**Orange:** Kellan Sutton**Santa Ana:** Ajon Bryant**Yorba Linda:** Carson Conklin**Placer County (5)****Rocklin:** Garrison Blank, Derek Houston, Elias Mullican**Roseville:** Isaiah Ene, Jaxon Moore**Riverside County (1)****Riverside:** Jordan Williams**Sacramento County (8)****Antelope:** Elias Brown**Citrus Heights:** Elijah Huddle**Sacramento:** Austin Aten, Curron Borders, Kyle Gurgani-ous, Fata Puloka, Kenyon Shabazz, Onterio Smith Jr.**San Bernardino County (2)****Barstow:** Iosefa Lealo'i**Rancho Cucamonga:** Leki Holani**San Diego County (2)****Oceanside:** Caleb Reese**San Diego:** Drey Garner**San Francisco County (2)****San Francisco:** Isiah Chala, Saul Marks**San Joaquin County (3)****Manteca:** Daniel Mataele**Stockton:** Adam Taylor**Tracy:** Tim Thomas**Santa Barbara County (1)****Santa Maria:** Matthew Auau**Santa Clara County (5)****Mountain View:** Jackson Cahoon**Palo Alto:** Jeremiah Stallworth**San Jose:** Federico Cobarubio, Shaan Lathan, Will Weber**Solano County (3)****Petaluma:** Dante Antonini**Vallejo:** Miles Bailey, Richard McKay**Florida (6)****Deltona:** Jay Brockhaus**Miami:** Qualyn McQueen, Amari Wallace**Ocoee:** Chakai Scott**Orlando:** Jiah Walls**Penbroke Pines:** Boogsie Silvera**Georgia (1)****Fairburn:** Malik Tullis**Illinois (4)****Chicago:** Jamel Howard, Shontrail Key, Ivan Moore**Hampshire:** Collin Kallhoff**Iowa (1)****Mason City:** Alex Kenward**Kentucky (3)****Louisville:** Kaden Briggs, Daniel Swinney**Maryland (3)****Baltimore:** Malikai Nichols**Columbia:** Dylan Gooden**Waldorf:** Jamar Curtis**Missouri (1)****St. Louis:** KJ Jefferson**Nevada (3)****Boulder City:** Dylan Spencer**Las Vegas:** Mike Melanson**Minden:** Kyle Koontz**New Jersey (1)****Hillside:** Darson Jeanty**Ohio (1)****Hamilton:** Noah King**Pennsylvania (1)****Pittsburgh:** Naytel Mitchell**Texas (3)****Arlington:** Diesel Gordon**Denton:** Jace Wilson**Richmond:** Davion Godley**Utah (2)****Layton:** Jaxon Fresques**Orem:** Vae Soifua**Washington (1)****Bellevue:** Luke Slater**Seattle:** Jadakiss Vaokakalo**Australia (1)****Melbourne:** Hamish Adams**Germany (1)****Poppenhausen:** Cedric Anton

OUT OF STATE

Alabama (1)**Madison:** Austin Chambers**Arizona (1)****Buckeye:** Caden Sim**Colorado (1)****Thornton:** Jack Hodge



SEASON OUTLOOK



QUARTERBACKS

- Sacramento State does not return a quarterback from last season's roster but the team will still have a familiar face under center in 2026. Carson Conklin returned to the program during the spring after spending the 2025 campaign at Fresno State. Conklin redshirted with the Hornets in 2023 and became the team's starter for the majority of the 2024 year. That year, he set school freshman records with 2,876 passing yards and 28 touchdowns on the way to finishing third in the Jerry Rice Award (the top FCS freshman). Conklin had four games with at least 300 passing yards, including 389 against UC Davis. He enters 2026 ranked 12th in school history with 3,620 passing yards and is tied for sixth with 34 TD passes.
- While at Fresno State, Conklin appeared in six games. He helped the Bulldogs to a win at Boise State which snapped the Broncos' national-leading 16-game home winning streak.
- Jackson Sharman comes to the Hornets after three seasons at Idaho State. The redshirt junior appeared in seven games with the Bengals where he completed 35-of-61 passes. A native Californian, Sharman prepped at Torrance West HS where he passes for 1,800 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior.
- Jalen Patterson joined the Sacramento State program in the spring following a redshirt season at New Mexico State. Patterson was three-star recruit out of San Jacinto HS and one of the top dual-threat QBs in the state. As a senior, he led the Mountain Pass League with 1,545 passing yards and also rushed for 650 yards and 12 touchdowns.
- The team will add a pair of additions in the fall. Brian Salazar earned second team all-conference honors at Citrus JC in Glendora, Calif. That season, he threw for a school-record 3,210 yards and 36 touchdowns while completing 63.4 percent of his passes. Salazar had at least one TD pass in all 11 of his games and had multiple passing touchdowns in 10 contests. He set his season high with 432 passing yards and six touchdowns against Santa Barbara City JC.
- Liam Meeker will be a true freshman in the fall and joins the team along with his twin brother, tight end Luke Meeker. Liam was a three-star recruit out of Mira Costa HS in Manhattan Beach, Calif. He earned all-conference honors after throwing for 1,809 yards and 16 touchdowns and also rushing for 501 yards and eight TDs.



RUNNING BACKS

- Last season Sacramento State set its school record and was second in the FCS by averaging 262.6 rushing yards per game. The team totaled 3,151 yards which ranked second in program history and scored 39 rushing touchdowns. However, the team returns just 4.8 percent of that production and has only two backs which were on the 2025 team back for this season.
- Jamar Curtis was injured for most of the year but returned healthy for the final game of the season against UC Davis where he rushed for 105 yards and touchdown. Curtis enters 2026 with 3,214 career rushing yards — the second highest total in all of NCAA Div. I (FBS/FCS). The Walford, Md., native has tallied 17 career 100-yard performances and has 11 games with multiple touchdown runs.
- Curron Borders rushed for 361 yards in 2024 and was poised for a breakout campaign last season before an injury sideline him for the entire season. Borders completed the rehab process and returned for a productive spring.
- The team will get a boost with a pair of four-year transfers. Davion Godley rushed for 1,142 yards and eight touchdowns in two seasons at Weber State. This past season, he led the team with 73.1 yards per game and set his career high with 193 rushing yards against Butler. Cincere Rhaney was a three-star recruit out of high school before committing to San Diego State. He amassed 4,603 yards and 50 touchdowns in his career while averaging 8.2 yards per carry.
- Junior college transfer Bryant Collins will add depth and experience to the room. Collins rushed for 936 yards and 12 touchdowns at West LA JC in 2025, was named first team all-state Region IV and was a unanimous first team all-league selection. As a freshman, he was league MVP with 1,117 yards and nine touchdowns in eight games.
- True freshmen Isaiah Ene and Montrell Rice join the program after decorated high school careers. Ene was a three-star recruit of nearby Granite Bay HS. He rushed for 4,788 yards and 71 touchdowns in four varsity seasons. As a senior, he was the Sacramento Bee Large School Player of the Year. Rice rushed for 1,740 yards and 18 touchdowns as a senior at Tennyson HS in Hayward, Calif. He set his season high with 306 yards and three touchdowns against Newark Memorial HS.



SEASON OUTLOOK



WIDE RECEIVERS

- With just four returning players who caught a combined eight passes for Sacramento State last season, the wide receiving corps will have a new look in 2026. The unit features 13 total players made up of five returners, a pair of four-year and JC transfers and four true freshmen.
- The returners are made up of senior Jace Wilson, junior Onterio Smith, Jr., sophomores Ajon Bryant and Jaxon Fresques and redshirt freshman Tre Fernandez. Wilson played in 11 games, starting four during his first year with the Hornets after transferring from UTSA. He finished the season with three receptions for 56 yards, including a 45-yarder against Central Arkansas. Smith caught two passes for 16 yards and also had an 18-yard rush last season. Bryant had a great start to the year as he averaged 23.0 yards per touch (two rushes/two receptions) before an injury ended his season. Fresques did a little of everything for the team, catching a pass, completing two, returning punts and kicks and making tackles on special teams.
- Matt Coleman and Raiden Brown are the two four-year transfers. Coleman spent the previous four years at San Jose State where he played in 36 games and had 66 receptions for 651 yards and three scores. He had at least 12 receptions in his three active seasons and set career highs with 12 catches for 119 yards against South Florida in The Hawaii Bowl following the 2024 season. Brown returns to his home state of California after three years at Idaho State. He caught 46 passes for 464 yards for the Bengals from 2024-25.
- Kenyon Shabazz and Khai Taylor are both natives of Northern California. Shabazz graduated from Grant HS in Sacramento and played 2025 at College of San Mateo where he had 17 catches for 178 yards and two TDs. Taylor posted 44 receptions for 766 yards and 10 TDs at Diablo Valley JC and was named first team all-region and all-league. He was a three-star recruit out of Pittsburg HS who began his collegiate career at Boise State.
- Dezmyrn Hardy is the lone freshman who joined the program in the spring. Hardy was a three-star recruit at Calabasas HS and finished his senior season with 1,006 all-purpose yards and 15 touchdowns. Carlton Perrilliat was a first team all-league selection at Salesian Prep who led the team with 49 receptions for 944 yards and 19 touchdowns. Matthew Auau posted 48 grabs for 636 yards and six touchdowns at Edison HS in Southern California while Kenneth Peevy amassed 733 yards and four scores while averaging 17.5 yards per reception at St. Pius X-St. Matthias Academy.



OFF. LINE/TIGHT ENDS

- The Hornets feature four players who have started Div. I games on the offensive line, making the unit one of the most experienced on the team. Returners Bryson Summers and Jeremiah Stallworth and transfers Vae Soifua and Shontrail Key will look to lead a group of 20 offensive linemen during the year.
- Summers is the most experienced Hornet having played in 23 games over the past two seasons. The senior is capable of playing all five positions on the line and has started a pair of games at guard and tackle during his Sacramento State career. Stallworth played in six games as a true freshman, starting three when the team used a sixth offensive lineman.
- Soifua is no stranger to the Hornets, having faced Sacramento State while playing for Weber State. Soifua was a three-star recruit out of high school who redshirted at BYU in 2022 before playing in 16 games for Weber State over the next three years. Key also had a winding path the Capital City as he spent 2021 and 2022 at Arizona, 2023 at Grambling State and 2024 and 2025 at Incarnate Word. He has played in 21 games over the last three years.
- The team also returns senior Elijah Ortiz and Brandon Sousa, juniors Davis May, DeAnthony Sheffield and Richard McKay, sophomores Luke Slater and Giovanni Kovacs and redshirt freshman Jaxon Moore.
- Sacramento State bolstered its depth with the addition of UCLA transfer Garrison Blank who was a three-star recruit at Rocklin HS. The team also added five junior college players comprised of Jamin Guilbert (American River), Hayden Frazier and Dylan Spencer (Fullerton JC), Alex Kenward (Iowa Central) and Shaan Lathan (San Jose City).
- The freshman class is made up of Jeremiah Ponce and three-star recruit Daniel Mataele.
- Tight end Jordan Williams is the leading returning receiver on the team. Williams played in all 12 games a year ago and finished the season with 15 catches for 170 yards and a touchdown.
- Kyle Koontz returns to the program after playing 2025 at Houston Christian where he had 10 receptions for 75 yards and a touchdown. Elijah Huddle and Davis Ambeuhl will also be back for their second year with the program.
- Newcomers to the group are comprised of freshmen Jahlil Lindsey, Jack Hodge and Luke Meeker and four-year transfer Cedric Anton.



SEASON OUTLOOK



DEFENSIVE LINE

- Seniors Xavier Williams, Malik Tullis and Miles Bailey will guide a defensive front which features 17 players for the Hornets in 2026. Williams returns for his seventh year with the program and is coming off a 2025 campaign which saw him credited with 32 total tackles, including 8.5 for loss and six sacks. Williams has played in 37 games during his career but has also seen his 2020 season canceled and missed all of 2021 and 2024 due to injuries.
- Tullis appeared in nine games during his first year with the Hornets after transferring from Eastern Michigan. That total included four TFLs and a sack. Bailey played in all 12 games a year ago and finished the season with 17 total tackles.
- Brodie Tagaloa and Malachi Kindle also return to the unit. Tagaloa started the season opener but was injured in the game, costing him the remainder of the year. Kindle appeared in seven games as a true freshman and concluded the year with five tackles.
- Four four-year transfers and four junior college transfers will add depth to the defensive line. Nick Dimitris comes from Florida A&M where he had 19 total tackles, three for loss, and a sack in two seasons with the Rattlers. Isiah Chala played in five games at Fresno State in 2025 and had a pair of tackles against Southern. Jamel Howard spent the three previous seasons at Wisconsin where he redshirted in 2023. Will Weber returns to California after playing the 2025 season at UTEP. Prior to that, Weber was an all-conference player at San Jose City JC.
- The JC transfers are comprised of Kaden Briggs, Austin Chambers, Austin Aten, Collin Kallhoff and Jadakiss Vaokakala. Briggs was a three-star prospect out of Holmes CC in Goodman, Miss. Chambers and Kallhoff played together at Iowa Central CC. Chambers had 21 tackles, including three for loss while Kallhoff finished the year with 12 stops. Aten is a local product who attended American River JC but did not compete in football in 2025. A graduate of McClatchy HS in Sacramento, he had 79 tackles with 13 TFLs in two varsity seasons. Vaokakala posted 59 tackles in two years at Citrus JC.
- True freshmen Peyton McCutcheon, Federico Cobarubio and Devyn Blake will make the transition to the college game after all three were three-star prospects by 247Sports. Blake enrolled early at Sacramento State after recording 126 tackles in three varsity seasons. Cobarubio was also with the Hornets during the spring, gaining valuable reps. McCutcheon was the Moore League Co-Defensive Player of the Year.



LINEBACKERS

- The 2025 season for Sacramento State linebackers could be summed up as "what if". The Hornets only had their projected top two linebackers on the field together for one half during the year. Despite that, the group managed to produce two of the top three tacklers on the team, three of the top five and four of the top 10.
- Derek Houston and Alex Rocha are the top returners at the interior positions and both are hoping for a healthy 2026. Houston finished the season with 32 total tackles in just six games (5.3 per game). Rocha owns the highest-returning total on the team with 49 stops in eight games, including 4.5 for loss.
- The depth at inside linebacker is arguably the best on the team with returners Diego Davis and KJ Jefferson returning to the unit. Davis played in all 12 games and tallied 27 total tackles, with two for loss. Jefferson appeared in seven games as a true freshman, splitting time between safety and linebacker.
- The quartet will be joined by redshirt freshman Jackson Cahoon, Fresno State transfer Tim Thomas and junior college transfer Dante Antonini. Thomas spent four years with the Bulldogs and recorded 16 tackles. He was a three-star recruit out of Lincoln HS in Stockton, Calif. Antonini recorded 146 stops in two seasons at Santa Rosa JC.
- Four freshmen will also attempt to work their way into the rotation. Leki Holani was a three-star prospect at Santa Margarita HS and had 91 tackles as a senior. Jiah Walls comes from Orlando, Fla., where he had 139 tackles in 2026 for Evans HS. Iosefa Lealofi was the Victorville Daily Press Football Athlete of the Year following 120 tackles, including 26.5 for loss. Pheta Tofaeono had 187 career tackles and 97 as a senior at Pittsburg HS.
- Fata Puloka is the only outside linebacker on the team who has seen time on the field for the Hornets. Puloka played in all 12 games a year ago and was credited with 43 tackles which ranked fifth on the team. He has already appeared for Sacramento State in 28 career games and has 74 career tackles.
- After transferring from Maryland, Dylan Gooden missed all of last season with an injury and is expected to be healthy prior to camp beginning. Darson Jeanty comes from Lafayette where he posted 56 tackles in three seasons with 33 coming in 2025. Ivan Moore, Jr., will enter 2026 as a sophomore following two seasons at Northern Illinois.



SEASON OUTLOOK



DEFENSIVE BACKS

- A new-look secondary will feature nine cornerbacks and 12 safeties in 2026. Of that group only six players were on the Sacramento State roster a year ago and just one started more than one game.
- Elias Mullican is the longest tenured Hornet in the defensive backfield. Mullican has made 13 starts at cornerback, including three a year ago. He recorded 13 tackles in 2026 and had 28 the year prior. The junior also has a pair of interceptions and nine PBUs in his career.
- Sophomore Adam Taylor and redshirt freshman Caleb Reese also return at cornerback. Taylor redshirted in 2024 and was poised for a large role with the team in 2025 before an injury ended his season after just three games. Reese played in the final four games of the year as a true freshman.
- The Hornets turned to the transfer portal to add some depth at the position with Dionte Thornton coming from Portland State, Malikai Nichols from Saint Francis and Nikko Klemm from Arizona State. Thornton, who stands 6-4, played in all 12 games for PSU and finished the year with 34 tackles and five PBUs.
- Junior college transfer Kyle Gurganious and freshman Tim Edwards, Jr., will also be part of the unit. Gurganious prepped at Sacramento's Inderkum HS and then played one season at American River JC where he had 23 tackles in 10 games. Edwards was a member of the Hornet track team, earning all-conference honors in the 400.
- Junior Diesel Gordon, sophomore Warren Smith, Jr., and redshirt freshman Naytel Mitchell make up the returners at safety. Gordon started one of his nine games and tallied six tackles and three PBUs. Smith moved from cornerback in the spring and had 10 stops in 2026.
- Boogsie Silvera brings collegiate experience after stops at Charleston Southern, McNeese and South Florida where he combined for 179 career tackles. Donovan Turner transferred from Illinois while Amari Wallace was part of the Miami (FL) team which played in the FBS National Championship.
- Others looking to compete for a spot at safety include transfers Qualyn McQueen (Nebraska-Kearney), Noah King (Colorado) and Keyon Mills (Pacific (OR)), JC transfer Miles Tucker (San Mateo) and true freshman Chakai Scott and Joshua Holani.



SPECIALISTS

- The Hornets will only bring back one starting specialist from 2025 but do have the luxury in it being the team's leading scorer Grant Meadors. The kicker finished the year with 87 total points after making 12-of-15 field goal attempts and 51-of-53 PATs. Meadors earned Big Sky Special Teams Player of the Week honors during the year after making four field goals, including a season-long 42-yarder, against Northern Colorado. He concluded the year ranked fourth in school single-season history in extra points and was just one field goal shy of moving into a tie for ninth in program history.
- Meadors will compete with true freshman Saul Marks who was an all-state selection at Serra HS. Marks made three field goals of at least 50 yards and added 58 touchbacks on kickoffs.
- For the first time in three years, Sacramento State will be looking for a new punter following the graduation of Cal McGough. Senior Mike Melanson and redshirt freshman Hamish Adams were both with the team in 2025 but did not appear in a game. Transfer Jay Brockhaus comes from Southeastern (FL) where he was an all-conference selection as a freshman. Brockhaus boasts a career-long 73-yard punt which came in 2023.
- JC transfer Kellan Sutton and true freshman Caden Sim are the two long snappers on the roster. Sutton won a pair of California state titles while a member of College of San Mateo. Sim prepped at Verrado HS in Buckeye, Ariz., and was ranked a 4.5 star long snapper by Kohl's Kicking.
- Jaxon Fresques and Ajon Bryant are the only returning players with experience returning punts and kicks for the Hornets. Fresques was the team's primary punt return in 2025 as he had five attempts with a long of 23 yards. He also returned five kickoffs with a long of 18. Bryant had six kick returns in 2024 with a best of 39 yards.
- Jamar Curtis did return kickoffs at Lafayette as a freshman and had a long of 68 yards.