

# SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS

Mountain West



## SAN JOSE STATE BIO

National Championships - 0



Mountain West Championships: 1  
(Last: 2020)

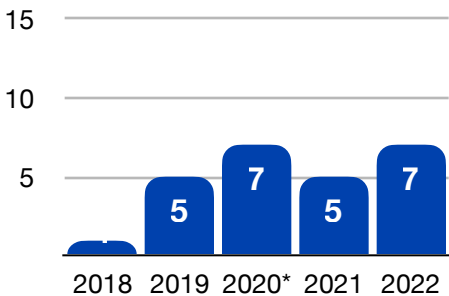
Location: **San Jose, CA**

All-Time Record: **355-441-14**

2022 Results: **7-5**  
**Lost in Potato Bowl**

Head Coach: **Brent Brennan**  
7th Year (27-42)

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



CEFCU Stadium (30,456)

## Brennan's Spartans Primed for Contention

San Jose State has appeared in just 12 bowl games in their 74 year program history. Head coach Brent Brennan is now responsible for two of those bowl appearances. He has also claimed the Spartans' lone Mountain West Championship as the school enters their 11th season in the conference. What started as an arduous rebuild and included a 3-22 record over 2017 and 2018 has turned into a consistent program that's right on the edge of annual contention in the Mountain West. Last year, Brennan's Spartans went a perfect 6-0 at home and gave Auburn a major run for their money in a one-possession loss. They ultimately came up short in the Potato Bowl against Eastern Michigan but there's a lot of momentum in San Jose and the Spartans have an excellent chance at back-to-back bowl appearances for the first time since 1986-1987.

Following the Mountain West Championship season in 2020, the offense sputtered in 2021 to the tune of just 20 points per game. The Spartans added quarterback **Chevan Cordeiro** from Hawaii and he provided a huge lift. He threw for 3,251 yards, 23 touchdowns, and just 6 interceptions and San Jose State's points per game jumped up to 27.4 and their passing yards topped 250 per game for the fourth time in five seasons. Although he loses three of his four best targets from last season including 1,000-yard receiver Elijah Cooks, Cordeiro is an experienced starter (35 career starts) and will find a way to keep the production rolling. **Justin Lockhart** added 36 catches for 578 yards and appears to be the clear cut top option at wide receiver. Tight end **Dominick Mazotti** added 21 catches for 216 yards and 3 touchdowns and will be another primary target. **Charles Ross** and **Isaac Jernagin** step into bigger roles at wide receiver.


While the passing game hummed along to the tune of 272.5 yards per game, the run game was in the bottom ten of the FBS in terms of yards and the Spartans averaged just 3.3 yards per carry. They were held to under 100 yards six times and four of those games resulted in losses. **Kailee Robinson** and Cordeiro combined for 295 of the Spartans' 343 carries last season. Robinson totalled 752 yards and 10 touchdowns and Cordeiro added 265 net yards although the Spartans did allow 42 sacks which skews his yardage statistic. **Quali Conley** joins the team from Utah Tech and **Jabari Bates** and **Viliani Tea** could see the field as freshmen. The run game should be more effective with all five offensive lineman back and Cordeiro could be even more effective without constant pressure in his face.

The Spartans sacked opposing quarterbacks 39 times but most of those sacks walked out the door with Viliani Fehoko (9 sacks), Cade Hall (7.5 sacks), and Alii Matau (5.5 sacks) all departing. Leading tackler Kyle Harmon (102 tackles, 4 sacks) is also gone. **Byrun Parham** returns at linebacker where he recorded 74 tackles and three sacks. The secondary caused problems for opposing offenses and safeties **Tre Jenkins** and **Chase Williams** each had two interceptions and so did cornerback **Michael Dansby**. It's a difficult task for the defense to help recreate last year's +11 turnover margin, but if Cordeiro keeps taking care of the ball (only six INTs in 427 passing attempts) the Spartans should be in the positives for the fourth time in the last five seasons.













**The Bottom Line:** Make no mistake, the non-conference slate is tough. The Spartans must stay healthy through the body blows they'll receive against USC and Oregon State in the first two games of the season and they must also travel to last year's MAC champions. They get Air Force and Boise State right off the bat in conference play but the rest of the schedule is more manageable from there. Emerging from the first six games of the season with a 3-3 record would be a huge success and would, in all likelihood, set up the Spartans to make a run for a Mountain West title game appearance although they would probably have to win every home conference game to do so. If the offensive line makes the need improvement the offense will be significantly more potent. The offense probably needs to be more effective to overcome the experience lost on defense and I don't see the Spartans allowing just 22 points per game this season.

## Projection: 7-5 (6th in Mountain West)

### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored <b>27.4</b> 72nd in FBS	Rush Yards <b>95.8</b> 123rd in FBS	Pass Yards <b>272.5</b> 25th in FBS	Turnover Margin <b>+11</b> T-6th in FBS
Points Allowed <b>22.0</b> 30th in FBS	Rush YDS Allowed <b>122.3</b> 29th in FBS	Pass YDS Allowed <b>217.7</b> 52nd in FBS	

## 2023 San Jose State Schedule

Week	Date	Team
0	Sat, Aug 26	 @ USC
1	Sun, Sept 3	 vs. Oregon State
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. Cal Poly
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ Toledo
4	Fri, Sept 22	 vs. Air Force
5	Bye Week	
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ <b>Boise State</b>
7	Sat, Oct 14	 @ <b>New Mexico</b>
8	Sat, Oct 21	 vs. Utah State
9	Sat, Oct 28	 @ Hawaii
10	Bye Week	
11	Sat, Nov 11	 vs. Fresno State
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. San Diego St.
13	Sat, Nov 25	 @ <b>UNLV</b>

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 16: @ Toledo** - The Spartans take a long road trip to visit the defending MAC champions. The quarterback battle between DeQuan Finn and Cordero should be an absolute treat. San Jose State may need a win here to avoid a 1-3 start.

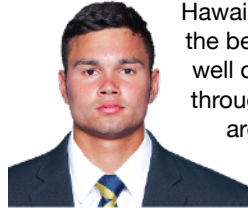
**Sat, Oct 21: vs. Utah State** - For whatever reason, the Aggies have had the Spartans' number since before San Jose State even joined the Mountain West and have won 10-straight dating back to 2009. Can the Spartans finally break the streak?

**Sat, Nov 18: vs. San Diego State** - The Aztecs are 9-1 against the Spartans since both teams joined the Mountain West. Will the Spartans have title hopes heading into the final home game of the season?

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Chevan Cordeiro - QB

Cordeiro is the most experienced quarterback in the conference and, after four seasons and 6,167 passing yards with Hawaii, he transferred to San Jose State and had the best season of his career in 2022. He threw for well over 3,000 yards and had 23 touchdowns through the air to just six interceptions. He's an all-around athlete and his legs are almost as dangerous as his arm and he added nearly 500 yards of rushing (ignoring sack yardage) for an additional nine touchdowns.



#### Kairee Robinson - RB

If the offensive line shows true improvement than Robinson could be poised for a breakout season. From 2019 to 2021 he saw limited action but had a yards per carry average of 7.3 or better in all three seasons. That average came down to 5.5 yards but his carries jumped up to 157 and he added 10 touchdowns. Could he reach 1,000 yards in 2023?



### 2022 RESULTS (7-5)

**Portland State (W 21-17)**

@ Auburn (L 16-24)

**Western Michigan (W 34-6)**

@ Wyoming (W 33-16)

**UNLV (W 40-7)**

@ Fresno State (L 10-17)

**Nevada (W 35-28)**

**Colorado State (W 28-16)**

@ San Diego State (L 27-43)

@ Utah State (L 31-35)

**Hawaii (W 27-14)**

Eastern Michigan (L 27-41)

# SAN JOSÉ STATE

### RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

# 109th

(Via 24/7 Sports)