

SDCCU Stadium



NINE STRAIGHT BOWL GAME APPEARANCES ▶ 21 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On September 15, 1967, the San Diego State University football team first stepped onto the turf of what *Sports Illustrated* would later call the finest multi-purpose stadium in America - San Diego Stadium. That night, the Aztecs, led by head coach Don Coryell and players like Haven Moses, Fred Dryer, Tom Nettles and Nate Wright, defeated Tennessee State 16-8 in front of 45,822 fans.

In an effort to prepare the stadium for the next century, a \$66.4 million renovation project was undertaken in 1997, which increased seating to 71,400, added 31 luxury suites; created 7,600 club seats, and added a second Sony Jumbotron video board in the West end zone.

To help in financing the renovation project, Qualcomm, a local communications company, agreed to provide \$18 million for the naming rights of the Stadium, which expired after 20 years in June 2017.

The facility was renamed SDCCU Stadium in September 2017 after San Diego County Credit Union won the new naming rights bid for \$500,000, which will extend through December 2018.

SDCCU Stadium is located at the intersection of Interstates 8 and 15 in Mission Valley, less than five miles from the university. With the relocation of the National Football League's Chargers to Los Angeles, San Diego State is the facility's lone remaining charter tenant. In the 50 years since that opening night, some of the greatest names in Aztec football history have displayed their talents there - Dennis Shaw, Brian Sipe, Isaac Curtis, Willie Buchanon, Todd Santos, Webster Slaughter, Rob Awalt, Don Warren, Dan McGwire, Henry Allison, Claudie Minor, Jesse Freitas, Craig Penrose, David "Deacon" Turner, Darnay Scott, Kirk Morrison, Marshall Faulk and Donnell Pumphrey to name a few.

In addition to the Aztecs, the San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl has come to call it home. The Stadium has also been the site of such renowned events as the Super Bowl, the World Series and baseball's All-Star Game.

Constructed at a cost of \$27 million, San Diego Stadium opened August 20, 1967, with an exhibition game between the San Diego Chargers and Detroit Lions. Since that game, the facility has been the stage for some of the most memorable events in San Diego State football history. A then-record attendance of 53,611 was on hand November 8, 1975, when the unbeaten Aztecs were involved in one of the most dramatic games ever played in San Diego, but the Arizona Wildcats prevailed, 31-24.

In 1975, average attendance for six home games was 42,040. In '77, a crowd of 50,453 saw the Aztecs hammer 15th-ranked Florida State, 41-16. On January 6, 1981, the name of the facility was changed officially to San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. Murphy, a nationally-known columnist and the sports editor of the San Diego Union-Tribune, had led the campaign to have the stadium constructed. He had died in 1980.

In 1984, 49,220 fans nearly carried SDSU to an upset of UCLA, as the Bruins hung on to an 18-15 victory. The Aztecs clinched their first Western Athletic Conference championship and a berth in the Holiday Bowl with a 10-3 victory over Brigham Young on November 29, 1986, in front of a Stadium crowd of 45,062. SDSU then played host to Iowa in one of the most memorable Holiday Bowls ever. The hometown Aztecs fought the perennial Big Ten power to a standstill before losing 39-38 on a last second Hawkeye field goal. A crowd of 59,473 witnessed that game on December 30, 1986, which was the largest crowd ever to see SDSU in San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. State's large and vocal crowds have had much to cheer about through the years. As they await the 2017 season, the Aztecs' all time record in Mission Valley is 206-104-6 (.661).



The stadium underwent a major facelift in 1985. Built initially to seat 52,675 for football, the expansion project pushed capacity to 60,409, and current capacity is 70,561. Largely as a result, the National Football League voted to hold the 1988 Super Bowl game in San Diego where the Washington Redskins defeated the Denver Broncos, 42-10. That national spectacle returned in 1998 to witness the Denver Broncos defeat the Green Bay Packers, 31-24. The most recent Super Bowl hosted in Mission Valley was 2003, when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers routed the Oakland Raiders, 48-21.

Prior to the stadium's opening, the Aztecs played their games in Aztec Bowl - a 13,000-seat facility on campus - and the 34,500-seat Balboa Stadium downtown. The team's record crowd had been the 35,342 fans who jammed Balboa Stadium to see the Aztecs meet North Dakota State in 1966. North Dakota State was the No. 1 small college team in the nation at the time, but the Aztecs won the game 36-0. The victory served as a springboard for San Diego State's national small college championships in 1966, 1967 and 1969 and a move to Division I-A at the end of the 1968 season.

San Diego State moved to what is now SDCCU Stadium in 1967. From 1936-66, the Aztecs played most of their home games in Aztec Bowl on campus, where they had a record of 77-44-5 (.636).

From 1921-35, the team's home field alternated between Balboa Stadium (38-42-4) and Lane Field (12-12-4) with an occasional game played on the old Normal School campus at College Field (9-3-1). Two games were also played at Aztec Field, the old track and field stadium which was located north of the Aztec Center. Since 1973, nearly 75 percent of all Aztec football games have been played at night. The Aztecs played their first and San Diego's first night football game on Sept. 25, 1930, at Lane Field against the San Diego Marine JVs.

Naming of the Stadium

The original name of the stadium was San Diego Stadium. When Jack Murphy died on September 24, 1980, then Mayor Pete Wilson and the City Council voted to rename it

San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. The voters officially approved the name change later that year.

After the 1997 renovation, the name changed again. Qualcomm, a local telecommunication company, agreed to pay the City \$18 million to complete the expansion project. In return the name changed to Qualcomm Stadium. The naming rights deal expired in June 2017.

San Diego County Credit Union won the new naming rights bid for \$500,000 and the Mission Valley facility was renamed SDCCU Stadium in September 2018.

Media Information for SDCCU Stadium

▶ **Stadium Directions and a Seating Map can be found on page 231**

Credentialed members of the media, who have been approved, can obtain single-game media and photo passes at Gate H beginning two and a half hours prior to kickoff.

If media needs access to SDCCU Stadium prior to that time, they should make arrangements to obtain their credential in advance and enter the stadium through Guest Services at F1.

After the first quarter, credentials may be picked up at the San Diego State Ticket Office (located at Gate E).

Members must have a valid form of government issued identification to obtain a credential.

SDCCU Stadium is an open-press box facility. Please be aware that fall evenings in the San Diego area can be cool.

Complimentary soft drinks are available throughout the game.

Maps and Directions



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SDCCU Stadium

SDCCU Stadium is located at 9449 Friars Rd.

From Lindbergh Field, exit airport on Harbor Drive South. Turn left onto Grape St. and then right on to I-5 South. Exit Hwy 163 North to Friars Road and turn right (east). Go approximately two miles and stadium will be on your right.

From I-5 (Heading south), exit 805 south to Hwy 163 south. Go to Friars Road and head east for two miles and stadium will be on your right.

From I-15 (Heading south), exit Friars Road and turn right (west). Go to Stadium exit and turn left into stadium at top of off-ramp.

From I-8 (Heading west), exit I-15 north. Follow to Friars Road exit and head west to stadium exit. Turn left at top of off-ramp into stadium.



San Diego State University

San Diego State is located at 5500 Campanile Dr.

From Lindbergh Field, turn left onto N. Harbor Dr. Turn left onto W. Grape St. Merge onto I-5 South. Merge onto Hwy 163 North. Merge onto I-8 East. From I-8, take College Avenue exit and go south. San Diego State University will be on your right.

From I-5 (Heading South), merge onto I-8 East, take College Avenue exit and go south. San Diego State University will be on your right.

From I-15 (Heading South), merge onto I-8 East, take College Avenue exit and go south. San Diego State University will be on your right.

From I-8 (Heading West), take College Avenue exit and go south. San Diego State University will be on your right.

Proceed past Canyon Crest Drive (the first stoplight) then make an immediate right turn to the green information booth for parking information. Ask the parking guard for directions as to where you may park.

