



### FRESNO STATE BIO

National Championships - 0



Mountain West Championships: 4  
(Last: 2022)

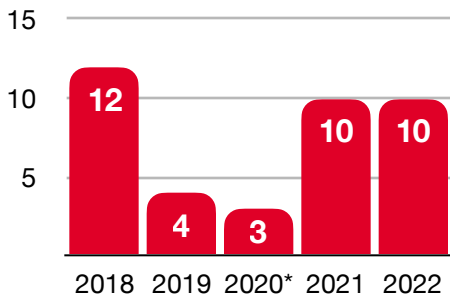
Location: **Fresno, CA**

All-Time Record: **380-266-4**

2022 Results: **10-4**  
**Won MWC Championship**  
**Won LA Bowl**

Head Coach: **Jeff Tedford**  
5th Year (36-18)

### 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Bulldog Stadium (40,727)

## Will Bulldogs Reload or Rebuild?

When Karen Debar left after the 2021 season to take the Washington head coaching job and star quarterback Jake Haener entered the portal to join him, Fresno State fans were understandably upset (although some took their frustrations a little too far). However, when Jeff Tedford announced he would come back to the school where he coached from 2017 to 2019 (and then had to step away due to health concerns), Haener rejoined the team and expectations were suddenly sky high in Fresno. Unfortunately, that optimism didn't last long. The Bulldogs lost a heartbreaker to Oregon State and the following week against USC Haener was injured and missed the next four games. Fresno State lost two more games and was staring at a 1-4 record. But, the gritty Haener eventually came back and Fresno State finished the season on an absolute tear, winning their final nine games including a Mountain West Championship victory over Boise State and an LA Bowl victory over Washington State. Those two games served as a satisfactory finish to the season as the Bulldogs avenged their loss in the regular season to Boise State and erased a four-game losing streak to PAC-12 opponents.

Tedford has now claimed two Mountain West titles and instantaneously turned the program around in his first stint when he took a 1-11 team and transformed them into a 10-4 team. He faces a slightly less difficult but equally important challenge in 2023 as he must replace several key players on the offense side of the ball who have been making plays for years. Haener is one of those players and the fourth all-time leading passer in school history is now a member of the New Orleans Saints. Running back Jordan Mims was incredibly dominant last season with 1,370 yards and 18 touchdowns and is gone. So too are the Bulldogs' top three pass catchers from last season including 1,000-yard wideout Jalen Moreno-Cropper. Nikko Remigio had 852 yards on 74 catches and was also dynamic on special teams with two punt returns for touchdowns. Tedford and offensive coordinator Pat McMann have their work cut out for them.

When Haener went down with injury, redshirt freshman quarterback **Logan Fife** stepped in. Fife was accurate from a percentage perspective including 11 of 12 against USC but 6 of his 36 incompletions went for interceptions including two in a close loss to UConn. It's possible he'll get another opportunity in 2023 but UCF transfer **Mikey Keene** might have something to say about that. The competition between Fife and Keene was open heading into fall camp. Keene has the advantage of experience after starting the final four games for UCF last season and posting a 3-1 record. He was remarkably accurate (72.3%) and threw six touchdowns and just a single interception in 83 attempts. Since the Knights had such a strong running game, he was never asked to air out the football like he will be in Fresno. So, perhaps Fife's best advantage is being familiar with the offensive system.

**Eric Brooks** is the only returning receiver with more than 20 receptions and could be the top target after 37 catches for 391 yards last season. **Mikel Barkley** transfers from Toledo and **Jaelen Gill** joins the Bulldogs from Boston College. At running back **Malik Sherrod** served as Mims' backup and ran for 428 yards on 80 carries. Transfer **Damien Moore** brings in 10 career starts from his time at California. The offensive line represents almost all of the four returning starters on defense and **Mose Davao** was second-team All-Mountain-West at right guard last season. The only non-returner is **Kingsley Ugwu** who transfers from Kansas State.

The Fresno State defense has been a distinct strength in the last two seasons. Even though only six returners came back in 2022 the Bulldogs allowed just 19.4 points per game. Fresno State loses David Perales and his 11.5 sacks but the defensive front should still be strong with **Devo Bridges** and **Johnny Hudson** back. **Level Bailey** leads a linebacker corps that represents three of the top four tacklers from last year's team. The secondary is led by **Cameron Lockridge** who had five picks at corner last season.













**The Bottom Line:** Just by the sheer number of losses (especially on offense) it seems as if Fresno State is due for a step back. That step might be small, however, knowing what Tedford has done in his four total seasons with this program and the Bulldogs will have every opportunity to compete for their third Mountain West title in just six seasons. Avoiding Air Force and hosting Boise State only helps.

### Projection: 9-3 (3rd in Mountain West)

#### 2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
<b>30.6</b>	<b>132.2</b>	<b>270.6</b>	<b>+4</b>
51st in FBS	92nd in FBS	27th in FBS	45th in FBS
Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed	
<b>19.4</b>	<b>149.6</b>	<b>189.4</b>	
14th in FBS	67th in FBS	18th in FBS	

## 2023 Fresno State Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	 @ Purdue
2	Sat, Sept 9	 vs. E. Washington
3	Sat, Sept 16	 @ Arizona State
4	Sat, Sept 23	 vs. Kent State
5	Sat, Sept 30	 vs. Nevada
6	Sat, Oct 7	 @ Wyoming
7	Fri, Oct 13	 @ Utah State
8	Bye Week	
9	Sat, Oct 28	 vs. UNLV
10	Sat, Nov 4	 vs. Boise State
11	Sat, Nov 11	 @ San Jose State
12	Sat, Nov 18	 vs. New Mexico
13	Sat, Nov 25	 @ San Diego St.

Conference Games in Bold

### KEY GAMES

**Sat, Sept 2: @ Purdue** - Like the Bulldogs, Purdue must replace several key personnel offensively and are also breaking in a head coach. Could Fresno State get a big win in week one and prove that they aren't going anywhere?

**Sat, Nov 4: vs. Boise State** - These teams met twice in Boise last season. The Broncos claimed the regular season matchup 40-20 but the Bulldogs claimed the meeting that had the Mountain West Championship attached to it 28-16. There won't be any love lost between these two schools.

**Sat, Nov 11: @ San Jose State** - The Spartans have been a fringe bowl team over the last decade and a Valley Trophy win could make them legit contenders.

### KEY PLAYERS

#### Johnny Hudson Jr. - DT



Hudson didn't get his season started until October last season but he made an impact when he hit the field. Both Gavriel Lightfoot (315 pounds) and Hudson (309 pounds) give the Bulldogs great size up front on the defensive line. The unit as a whole will have to make up for the loss of David Perales and I expect to see Hudson top his 1.5 sacks and five tackles for loss from last season.

#### Levelle Bailey - LB

Bailey has improved in each of his first four seasons with the Bulldogs and will look to round out his impressive career with his best season yet. With 34 starters and 194 total tackles in his career, Bailey is a veteran leader and his group of linebackers is arguably the strength of the defense. He compiled 88 tackles and 5.5 tackles for loss last season which included a 10-tackle and forced fumble performance against Oregon State.



### 2022 RESULTS (10-4)

Cal Poly (W 35-7)

Oregon State (L 32-35)

@ USC (L 17-45)

@ UConn (L 14-19)

@ Boise State (L 20-40)

**San Jose State (W 17-10)**

@ **New Mexico (W 41-9)**

**San Diego State (W 32-28)**

**Hawaii (W 55-13)**

@ **UNLV (W 37-30)**

@ **Nevada (W 41-14)**

**Wyoming (W 30-0)**

@ **Boise State (W 28-16)**

**Washington State (W 29-6)**



### RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

**83rd**

(Via 24/7 Sports)