



Aztec Tennis Reporter

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FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

SDSU WOMEN, MEN BOW IN '99 NCAA REGIONALS

• HERE'S THE SCORE:

- This is the second issue of Aztec Tennis Reporter, a newsletter for SDSU players, alumni, and friends.
- Our mailing list has grown: 171 people in 18 states and 8 foreign countries.
- To receive ATR, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

Both of San Diego State's tennis teams fought their way into the 1999 NCAA regional playoffs before bowing out in hard-fought contests.

The Aztec men (15-6) dumped Tulsa in the first round at Los Angeles, avenging an earlier loss (picture, page 2), but fell to the top-seeded UCLA Bruins. (Georgia upset UCLA for the 1999 NCAA title).

The Aztec women (16-10) lost to Marquette in NCAA action at Berkeley, finishing the season at 34th in the nation. The men finished 35th. Reaching the NCAA playoffs was a key goal for both SDSU



AZTEC WINNER: Whitney Wells (right) beat USD's Millie Prior in final regular season match before the NCAA regional playoffs.

NCAA playoffs was a key goal for both SDSU teams.

Against UCLA, the Aztecs held match points and a 5-4, third-set lead but the Bruins pulled out a 4-1 victory.

"We gave them a scare," said SDSU Men's Coach John Nelson. "To play the number one team in the country, at UCLA, with the fans and everything, it was exciting.

"I was proud of the guys," Nelson said. "They competed very hard. They earned a lot." Continued on Page 2

She Wanted to Play on SDSU Men's Team – in 1946

Jeanne Doyle entered San Diego State as a freshman in the fall of 1945 ranked first in the United States in junior doubles and second in junior singles to Shirley Fry.

There was no Aztec women's tennis team, so at the suggestion of the men's coach, Doyle tried something novel: she hit with the men.

"She was good enough to beat a lot of guys on the ladder," says Walt Palmer (1946-47). Dominic Sacco (1945-47), who played number two, isn't sure: "We were not a bad team," he says proudly. But John Brock (1948), who played number one, is certain: "She would have had a shot at it." Doyle has no doubt: "I was good enough to make the team."



Jeanne Doyle (1948)

But Doyle did not make it, despite the gains women had made during World War II by

stepping into previously all-male jobs and competition.

"The coach (Dick Thomas, 1946) said he checked and they would not allow it," says Doyle, who later married one Aztec tennis player, Dick Lareau (1947) and is the mother of another, Lance Lareau (1984-85).

Doyle insists she was not disappointed. Then one day she met Jesse Owens, the 1938 Olympic champion, who was visiting campus to speak at a basketball game. The two talked heart-to-heart: an Afri-

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Who's Who?

Dear ATR: Mail from Friends and One Very Successful Foe

T2000: An Aztec's Discovery

On a spring day in Paris in 1965, a butler welcomed me at the door of a house near the Bois de Boulogne.

Inside, I met Rene Lacoste, who dominated tennis in the late 1920s and helped bring France the Davis Cup for the first time. The same man who put an alligator on his polo shirt and changed tennis fashion forever.

You play tennis, too, Lacoste said, drawing out my story of Southern California junior tournaments and a frosh season on the Aztec team.

Now, as a young copy editor at The New York Times's International Edition, I was looking for a feature story. I got one: Lacoste had just

The Story of Rene Lacoste: Shirts to Steel Racquets



The New York Times, May 4, 1965

perfected a steel tennis racquet, and had put some on sale in four Paris sporting goods stores a few days earlier.

I wrote a piece, using a picture of Lacoste with his invention (above). An odd idea, I thought, making racquets of steel instead of wood. Lacoste said it might change tennis the same way metal

shafts changed golf. Not likely, I thought.

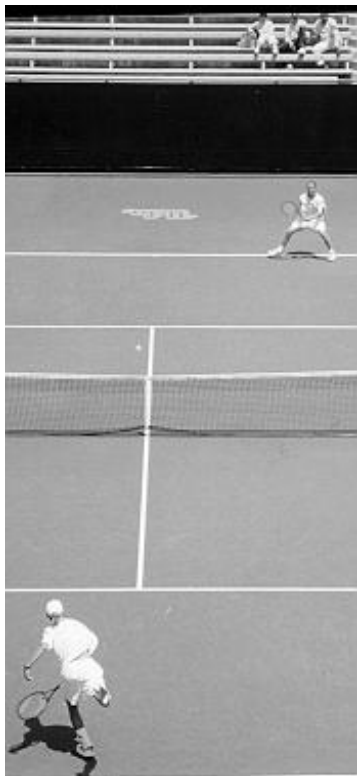
But soon, the Wilson Sporting Goods Company bought Lacoste's invention and gave it a futuristic name: T2000.

Wilson's John Embree says his company sold hundreds of thousands of T2000s in the next 13 years. True, it sold many more wooden Jack Kramer racquets (10 million plus), but, as Lacoste forecast, the T2000 ushered in new materials and new thinking.

Nine years later, in 1974, Jimmy Connors won Wimbledon, and the US and Australian Opens playing with the T2000. Today, of course, it is a relic from a time when hair was long and strokes were flat.

But recently, a friend bought one for \$5 in an antique shop and presented it as a gift, reminding me of that day in Paris when I met a legend and got to tell the world about the T2000. · John Martin (1957)

Both SDSU Teams Bow in 1999 NCAA Regional Playoffs



AZTECS DEFEAT TULSA: Adam Webster (top) awaits serve from Tulsa's Nenad Toroman in NCAA playoff match suspended when SDSU clinched 4-1 victory at Los Angeles Tennis Center.

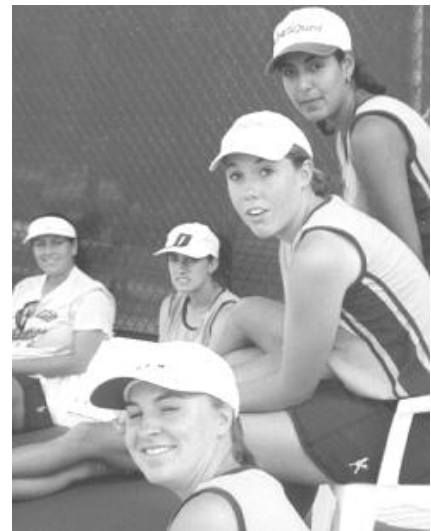
Continued from Page One of respect because they were so close. In NCAA women's doubles action at Gainesville, Florida, Aztecs Sarah Donovan and Maggie Cole won the first set but lost to Iowa's Toni Neykova and Shera Wiegler, 3-6, 6-0, 6-2, in the opening round. As a doubles team, they finished at 32nd nationally.

Coach Peter Mattera called it an up and down season, praising the Aztecs for throwing a scare (6-3) into Cal Berkeley (4th in final ITA rankings), and rallying to defeat BYU. Two losses to Marquette were low points: "I like to think we could have come substantially closer," he said.

With Donovan, Cole, and Dorota Wozniak leaving, Mattera expects to rebuild with three freshmen: Lindsey Hedberg, a Texas junior ranked 53rd in the United States; Emelie Bengtsson, Sweden's 15th ranked 18-year-old; and Katja Karrento, a top Finnish junior.

In NCAA men's singles at Athens, Georgia, Alex Waske struggled for three sets before losing to Eric Drew of the University of Washington, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. (Drew reached the semifinals).

Waske wound up 27th in the nation and is testing the summer-fall pro tour. Under the rules, if he accepts no more than expenses, he could return for a final half-season in January.



NCAA PLAYOFF-BOUND: Aztecs catch breath after beating USD before NCAA Regionals. Clockwise, from left rear: Maggie Cole, Lisa Papi, Laura Aguero, Katy Becker, and Julie Chidley.

Coach Nelson points to victories over Virginia Tech and Fresno State as the team's high points for the season; both opponents made it to the so-called Sweet Sixteens, the NCAA Team Championships Round of 16 in Georgia (see next page), a journey Nelson insists the San Diego State Aztecs are destined to make.

Where Are We Now? (1942-99) The Great Search Continues

1940

H.R. Roy Short (1946-47)



Roy Short (1946-47)

is a former real estate appraiser, insurance adjuster, recreation leader, as well as a 1969 USD Law School graduate who now practices mental health law in San Diego; he posed and took this picture to prove that he remains an active player.

1970

Linda (Sandler) Wagner (1973-76) is in her 21st year as a tennis teaching professional; she lives in Gilbert, AZ, near Phoenix, with her husband, **Dennis**, an investigative reporter for *The Arizona Republic*, and their



AZTECS IN ARIZONA: Kacie (left), Dennis, Linda (1973-76), Dusty Wagner.

children: **Dusty**, a National Junior College All-American at #6 this year on the Scottsdale Community College team, and **Kacie**, who shows promise from many hours on court with her mom.

Micki Schillig (1979-83) is head tennis pro and chief massage therapist at the Westfield Tennis Club in Cedar Rapids, IA; a three-time All American at SDSU, she hit the tour (1983-86), playing at Wimbledon, and US and Australian Opens, then coached the University of Iowa for eight years before returning to live

with dog **Cricket** and cat **jojo** in her hometown of Cedar Rapids; she holds a degree in massage therapy and teaches tennis at the same Iowa club founded by her father.



Micki Schillig (1979-83), Cricket, and jojo in Iowa.

1980

Linda Howell (1981-85) is a financial advisor with Paine Webber in Los Angeles after spending part of 1985 as a touring pro (US Open, Australian Open, Wimbledon) and 13 years as a teaching professional, including 8

years at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles. As a hologram, she showed **Sharon Stone** how to hit ground strokes and serves (below) in *Total Recall*, the 1990 Hollywood film; her acting debut flickers to a close when **Arnold Schwarzenegger** returns from a violent encounter with a murderous gang from Mars and ends the practice by racing right through Howell's image.



TOTAL FOCUS: Linda Howell (1981-85) (right) shows Sharon Stone how to hit a forehand in *Total Recall*.

Postcards from Athens, GA: Aztecs on NCAA Scene



FOREHAND WAVE: Legendary Georgia Coach and writer Dan Magill presides over the Men's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame at Dan Magill Tennis Complex.



BILLBOARD BOOSTERS: Georgia installed big sign to herald NCAA event for coverage on national TV.

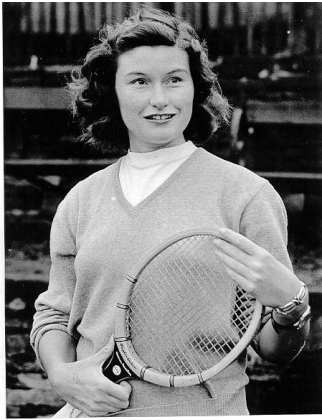


PRE-NCAA MATCH WORKOUT: Alex Waske (right) serves to Assistant SDSU Coach Eugene Carswell prior to Waske's first-round test. In 1999, Aztec Waske defeated two players in the top ten: UCLA's Jean-Noel Grinda (6) and SMU's Ignacio Hirigoyen (9).

**Staff Photos
Aztec Tennis Reporter**



DEBATING THE BREAKS: Aztec John Nelson (right) ponders coaches' discussion chaired by David Benjamin of Princeton, (far left photo), Intercollegiate Tennis Association Executive Director, and ITA's Nina Miller. One topic: bathroom breaks.



Doyle at North England Championships (1951)

On the Frontlines: Women's College Tennis in 1946

Continued from Page One
can-American sprinter and an American female tennis player, discussing the barriers they faced in 1946.

When Owens got up to speak at the game, Doyle was astonished: "He told of having met me, she said, and how, being black, he had his problems of being accepted.

And here was somebody at San Diego State who was more or less an elite athlete who could not participate.

John Brock sympathizes: "She suffered the same lot as the rest of her gender did in those days.

Not all women suffered equally. In 1941, USC and UCLA, like San Diego State, did not allow women to play on men's teams, so Californians Pauline Betz and Dodo Cheney accepted scholarships to play on the men's team at Rollins College in Florida.

I don't think the men were too thrilled to play us, says Betz, who now lives in Bethesda, MD. But their male teammates had no qualms. And one was pretty tough: Jack Kramer played number one at Rollins; two



Coach Doyle at San Diego City College

other California men played two and three, Betz and Cheney were four and five.

We won more than we lost, says Betz, who recalls matches against Tulane, Miami and eight or nine other men's college teams.

Doyle, too, refused to give up. In 1948, she transferred to the University of Arizona, winning intercolle-

giate tournaments in California, Arizona, Washington, and Oregon as a member of the women's team. Later, she was named to the Wildcat Hall of Fame.

After graduation, she coached at Arizona, taught inner-city kids in Berkeley, then returned to San Diego, where she taught and coached at Cal Western, Southwestern, USD, and San Diego City College.

Today, Doyle plays regularly (hitting with John Brock, among others) and reports she has won more than 50 USTA titles.

What was it like on the frontlines in the 1940s? Not pleasant, she suggests: "The women's athletic department did not want me to compete (with the men), she says. (They) were so antagonistic.

So why did she persist? "I'm not a very competitive person, she insists (somewhat unconvincingly, considering her exploits). "I just love tennis, win or lose.

When Jesse Owens got up to speak at the San Diego State basketball game, Doyle was astonished.



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