



# Aztec Tennis Reporter

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1999

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

## Waske, Hrdina, Faulk, and Nygaard Earn ATP Points

- Here's the Score:
- This is the third issue of Aztec Tennis Reporter, a newsletter for players, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis.
- Our mailing list continues to grow: ATR now goes to 256 readers in 15 states and 9 foreign countries.
- To receive ATR, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009

### 4 Aztecs Advancing On Tour in Germany, Americas, the Bronx

At least four former San Diego State men's tennis players earned prized ATP points this spring and summer playing in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

The points enable players to enter ATP tournaments worldwide, sometimes with a seeding and often without playing in qualifying rounds.

Alex Waske (1997-1999), SDSU's top player this past season, captured the biggest prize, winning the Futures #8 singles title in Zell am Harmersbach, Germany, and collecting 24 ATP points.

Winning three qualifying rounds and five main draw matches, Waske defeated



Waske

countryman Jan Weinzierl, 7-5, 7-6 (4) in the final. It was his fourth futures tournament. He won three more ATP points by reaching the quarterfinals in Leun, moving him up 60 places to a tie for 603d ranking in the ATP computerized world rankings.

Bobby Hrdina (1996-98) collected 8 ATP points and a ranking of 948th after a spring and summer of playing in Cuba, Mexico, Alabama, the Carolinas, Arkansas, and Northern California.

Eric Faulk (1994-98) won

his first ATP point by reaching the quarterfinals in Guadalajara, Mexico, then moved to Hungary and Germany in search of more action. By early August, he was tied for 1306th in the world.

Kelly Nygaard (1993-94) won a presumptive ATP point by taking the GHI Wild Card Challenger doubles title in New York's Bronx borough.

Nygaard's victory with partner Doug Abraham of Washington, DC, put them in the GHI Challenger's main draw, where first-round victories lead to more ATP points.

This spring, Faulk won the San Diego Tennis Patrons College Player of the Year  
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- ATR's Movie Critic On Patrol in Hollywood
- Aztecs in the Desert: Pros Who Are Hot

### Aztec Hrdina Hired as Martina Hingis' Hitting Partner

Martina Hingis of Switzerland, working with her mother to regain their footing in the world of international women's tennis, has hired San Diego State tennis graduate Bobby Hrdina (1996-98) as her hitting partner. Hrdina told ATR he has been asked to start traveling with the Czech-born star and that he plans to attend the U.S. Open in New York to work with Hingis and her mother, Melanie Molitor, who is again serving as her daughter's coach. "I guess they like the way I play. I'm a baseliner," he said. "That's how most



Bobby Hrdina (1996-98)

women play. I hit the balls similar to what women do, only I'm a little quicker."

Hrdina met Hingis in early August after a call from Angel Lopez of the San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club. Hingis needed a hitting partner as she prepared for the TIG Tennis Classic in Carlsbad.

Hrdina, who had been traveling on the ATP tour, agreed to go to the LaCosta resort to work out with the young cham-

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## The Aztec All Americans: Skill, Grace, Endurance — and Title IX

The world is discovering the skill, grace, and endurance of women athletes.

Any earthling who did not hear of the U.S. victory over China in the World Cup final was out of the galaxy that day.

Women's college tennis has earned a place in this expanding universe of sport. And not by accident. Women emerged from World War II with few choices. (See *The Wanted to Play on the SDSU Men's Team* in 1946, *ATR*, Vol 1:2). Colleges rarely funded women's team competition.

Fast forward: In 1972, Congress enacts Title IX. Women get a sporting chance. In 1973, Billy Jean beats Bobby.

Since Title IX, dozens of



**BANNER YEARS: SDSU All-American Women's List**

women have played on a San Diego State team. Fourteen are All-Americans. In singles: Kim Jones (1978-79), Kathy Snelson (1979, 81), Micki Schilling (1980, 82, 83), Cynthia MacGregor (1982-86), Helen Park (1982),

Linda Howell (1984), Anne Moeller (1985), and Monique Javer (1987).

In doubles: Howell, MacGregor, and Schilling repeated and were joined by Catherine Berry (1986), Dorey Brandt

(1988, 1991), Julie Tullberg (1988), Susan Hawke (1992), Nicole Storto (1992-93), and Susheel Gulati (1993).

Who don't know what life would be like without Title IX, says Aztec Liz Dudash LaPlante (1975-77), UC San Diego coach for 20 years.

Today it is fashionable to disparage Title IX as unnecessary, ineffective or destructive. (See *The Myth of Title IX*, *The Weekly Standard*, July 26, 1999).

But Title IX led athletic directors to get serious about funding women's teams. Females finally joined the sports family as full partners, a benefit to all who love tennis. **John Martin (1957)**

## Aztec Waske, Hrdina, Faulk ('98 Player of Year) and Nygaard Racking Up ATP Points

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Award for 1998 (not Hrdina, as erroneously reported by *ATR* in May). Faulk played number one on the SDSU team and was ranked 41st in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Winning his ATP point made him very happy, said Marga Faulk, his mother. Earlier, Faulk played at Cancun, Mexico and in El Salvador, but won no ATP points.

Nygaard and partner Abraham reached the semifinals of the Legg Mason Wild Card



**AZTEC HONORED: Eric Faulk (1994-98) (right) and mentor Larry Willens, at Tennis Patrons dinner.**

Challenger in Washington, DC in June, taking the tournament's best score (3-6, 6-0, 6-

3) from the eventual winners, Lee Harang and Trevor Spracklin of William and Mary.

Nygaard defeated a fellow Aztec, John Martin (1957), 6-0, 6-0, in the first round of the challenger singles, then lost to Warren Bufford of Florida A&M, 6-2, 6-3.

Hrdina's odyssey began in Cuba in the spring, continued in Mexico and then shifted to the USA1 circuit. He played in satellite tournaments in Alabama, the Carolinas, and Arkansas. Traveling to Northern California, he played futures tournaments in Berkeley, Danville, Redding, Chico, and a challenger held at



**AZTEC BLOWOUT: Kelly Nygaard (1993-94) (right) beat John Martin (1957) in Legg Mason in Washington.**

Aptos, where he defeated a seeded player.

## Dear Aztec Tennis Reporter: Mail from Friends and A Very Successful Foe

Dear *ATR*: Thank you for writing such a nice article about me (*The Wanted to Play on the SDSU Men's Team* in 1946, *ATR*, Vol 1:2). I feel honored.

P.S. I enjoyed the T2000 article. I enjoyed that racket!

**Jeanne Doyle  
(1946)  
San Diego**

Dear *ATR*: I loved the

(inaugural) issue; it was fantastic, especially considering it was just getting off the ground.

**Gene Lachelt  
(1975-79)  
Henderson, NV**

Dear *ATR*: Well done. Bravo.

**Harlan Roy Short  
(1946-47)  
San Diego**

Dear *ATR*: I just received my first Aztec Tennis Reporter, and I just wanted to say thanks, I thought it was great.

**Lisa Alipaz (1993-95)  
Head Coach  
St. Mary's College  
Moraga, CA**

Dear *ATR*: The Aztec Tennis Reporter is great. I really enjoyed reading about San Diego State tennis players,

and I assume others will, too.

**Barbara Hartung  
SDSU Professor  
San Diego**

Dear *ATR*: I just got a copy of the newsletter. What a great start...Keep it up. It will help the program immensely.

**Dick Gould,  
Head Coach  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA**

# Where Are We Now? (1942-1999) The Great Search Continues

## 1940

**Hughes Hill (1942)**, a retired career Naval officer and engineer who served 26 years in ship building, repair and aircraft carrier damage control, recently remarried and lives with his wife,



**Hughes Hill**

**Susan**, in San Diego; he plays regularly at La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, where a son-in-law, **John Campbell**, is general manager... **Howard Smith (1942, 46)** spent the war years at Ryan Aeronautical and Consolidated Vultee, which produced bombers, then



**Howard Smith**

returned to San Diego State and was graduated in 1948; he worked 20 years as a stockbroker and 15 years as an accountant for the San Diego Public Library, where he still keeps track of fines and lost book fees for 33 branches; he and his wife, **Jane**, live in San Diego.

## 1950

**Dick Smith (1958)** taught elementary school for 20 years in San Diego after stints in the U.S. Army, where he was a finalist at the Seventh Army Tennis Championships in the mid-1950s, and at San Diego State, where he played on the Aztec team the year before

his graduation; now retired, he plays tennis 4 to 5 times a week at Club Marriott on San Diego Bay, and lives with his wife, **Judy**, in San Diego.



**Dick Smith**

## 1970

**Jean Dillingham (1978, 81-84)** is Western Regional Promotions Manager for Penn Racquet Sports; she joined Penn after working as regional manager for the Special Olympics and serving five years as director of the USTA's Southern California schools program, which gives teachers ways to teach tennis and introduces top players to students;



**Jean Dillingham**

Dillingham coached Santa Monica Community College for three years and runs a tennis academy in Santa Monica, where she holds weekly clinics... **Mark Anderson (1979-81)** owns JTM Professional Carpets, a commercial carpet restoration and installation business, and lives with his wife, **Tammy**, (she attended the Air Force Academy and Cal State Fullerton) and their four children, in La Mirada, CA; a member of the Sunny Hills Racquet Club in Fullerton, he reports he has resumed tournament competition.

## 1980

**Tom Penner (1981-83)**, who has written the Great American Tennis Screenplay (and is looking for the right producer) has been playing and teaching tennis and writing for much of the last 20 years, taking seasonal teaching positions at clubs and resorts in Italy and Germany while retaining his private practice in La Mirada, near Fullerton, an area with many promising Korean-American juniors; he and **Jennifer** (she plays tennis, too) were married in May and honeymooned in Europe; they live in Long Beach.



**Mark Anderson (left) and Tom Penner in Fullerton.**

nis at the Princess Hotel in Scottsdale (1997) and now sings and plays guitar with **Drowning Noah**, an organic psychedelic folk rock band (website: [drowningnoah.com](http://drowningnoah.com)) which she formed with her husband,



**Nicole Storto**

**Paul Knowles**; the couple moved from Arizona to the Chicago area to be part of the music scene.

## 1990

**Jun Hernandez (1993-95)** is Assistant Women's Coach at the University of San Diego; after playing satellite ATP tournaments, he worked for the sports equipment company, Forten, taught at Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis, and joined the USD staff two years ago; seen here at USD-SDSU match won by Aztecs.



**Jun Hernandez**



Aztec Tennis Reporter Staff Photos

## Who's Who: Can You Identify These 4 Aztecs?

From left, Tole Marinovic (1989-90), head pro, Indian Ridge Resort, Rancho Mirage, and Bobby Riggs Tennis Club, Encinitas; Ken Kuperstein (Assistant Coach, 1990), head pro, Shadow Mountain Resort, Palm Desert, and Aspen Club, CO; Larry Willens, Volunteer Coach; and Peter Matterna, Women's

## Got a Tennis Story? Your Picture? Send It To Aztec Tennis Reporter

Remember when you beat the player who was supposed to demolish you? Your finest tournament? The worst cheater you ever saw? The road trip from hell?

Tell ATR. You'll feel a lot better, and

so will our readers. We want to tell your story. Of course, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Send them to Aztec Tennis Reporter, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

# Aztec Hrdina Signs On as Hitting Partner for Martina Hingis

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has won Wimbledon, Australian and U.S. Open singles championships and a Grand Slam sweep of the world's top doubles titles.

Hingis and her mother resumed working together following the French Open, where she lost to Stefi Graf in the final, and Wimbledon, which Hingis attended alone and suffered a stunning first-round loss.

In Carlsbad, after a week of hitting with Hrdina, the 18-year-old seemed to regain her stride.

Hingis defeated Venus Williams, 6-4, 6-0, for the title. (Williams upset Lindsey Davenport in the semifinals). The result catapulted Hingis back into the WTA's number one position in the world rankings.

"Martina's got her game back," said a TIG Tennis Classic official as he handed Hingis a trophy and a check for \$80,000.

"I played one of my best matches ever," Hingis told the crowd. "I just hope I can continue playing this tennis."

"She looks fitter than I've ever seen her look," said former champion Tracy Austin, who declared that Hingis must now be regarded as the favorite to win the 1999 U.S.



***"This is going to open up some opportunities; doors (will) slide open," said Hrdina. "It's up to me to decide which ones to enter."***

Open.

For Hrdina, a sustained hitting partnership contains plenty of potential pluses and minuses.

"I want to keep playing tournaments," he told ATR. But this will be difficult if he maintains Hingis's worldwide travel schedule.

Still, the high profile exposure could mean other chances for the Aztec.

"This is going to open up some opportunities; doors (will) slide open," said Hrdina. "It's up to me to decide which ones to enter."

"I'm pretty happy," said Lopez, who has served as a tour coach and hitting partner. "I urged him to take it a week at a time."

Practice partnerships are often informal, subject to ups and downs stirred by victory or defeat. "It's like dating," said one tour veteran, emphasizing that such arrangements are delicate and often brief.

But both players in this partnership share an unusual background: Hrdina, like Hingis, was born in Czechoslovakia (which no longer exists). Both left at an early age (she grew up in Switzerland, he in San Diego). And now they share a new bond: tennis.

## Transition: Scott Hansen (1991-93) Takes Head Coaching Post at Saddleback

Scott Hansen (1991-93) is becoming head coach of men's tennis at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA, this fall. The school, founded in 1967, tied for second among California Junior Colleges in the June, 1999

Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings. Three team members ranked in the top 25 in singles. A doubles team ranked tenth in the nation. "I'm excited to be coaching this early in my career," said Hansen, who had been living in Pa-

hoa, Hawaii. He is spending the summer teaching tennis in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Hansen joins a group of Aztecs in the coaching profession, including Lisa Alipaz (1993-95) at St. Mary's (CA), Liz Dudash LaP-

dash LaPlante (1975-77) at UC San Diego, Ryan Johnston (1994-95) at UNReno, Matt Landolo (1985-86) at Purdue University, George Husack (1991) at Santa Clara, and Jun Hernandez (1993-95) at USD.



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