

Aztec Tennis Reporter

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

Vol 2, No 5, 2000

How Teams Fared

Final National Collegiate Team Tennis Championship standings: 1. South Alabama, 2. Stanford, 3. Virginia Commonwealth, 4. Clemson, 5. Mississippi State, 6. Notre Dame, 7. Southern California, 8. South Carolina, 9. Minnesota, 10. Texas A&M, 11. Illinois, 12. Mississippi, 13. UCLA, 14. LSU, 15. **San Diego State**, 16. Tulsa.

Here's the Score:

This is the 10th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, a newsletter for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis.

ATR's circulation continues to grow: Copies of this issue are being mailed to 830 readers in 37 states and 17 foreign countries.

To receive a copy, contribute an article, comment, or seek a correction, write: John Martin, ATR, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009

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Our Man in Hollywood

S. Alabama Wins U.S. Team Tennis Title; Aztecs 15th

STANFORD, CA — Poised and speedy University of South Alabama humbled Mississippi (30-17) and San Diego State (30-15), clipped South Carolina (23-19) and then outgunned favored Stanford (26-20), to win the National Collegiate Team Tennis Championship at Stanford University in early October.

By winning the title, the Jaguars charged past 15 of the nation's top combined men's and women's college tennis teams. One key victory: USA's Christian Thall's blistering final-round defeat of Stanford All-American Alex Kim, 6-1, in men's singles,

The Aztecs, led by Oliver Maiberger and Valentino Pest, edged Tulsa, 25-19, to grab 15th place in the final standings. Since the event did not count in Intercolle-



ATR Staff Photo

TUNEUP WINDS DOWN: Aztecs Katey Becker, far left, Whitney Wells, and Julie Chidley break into smiles after winning their National Collegiate Team Championship match against Tulsa, 25-19, to claim 15th place for coaches John Nelson and Peter Mattera, far right.

giate Tennis Association rankings, the Aztecs used the invitational tournament as a tune-up, giving veterans Whitney Wells, Katey Becker, and Julie Chidley valuable match experience.

ward for hard work, said Coach Peter Mattera.

The Aztecs lost cliffhangers to Mississippi (21-18) and South Carolina (24-23) despite taking early leads.

We saw the trip as a re-

(Continued on Page 3)

Budget Blues: Two Angels Appear, but Reality Still Bites

Two financial angels - Budget Rent-a-Car and an anonymous donor - have appeared with first aid to help the San Diego State men's tennis team, but a serious budget shortfall still plagues the Aztecs.

Budget Rent-A-Car stepped in with the free use of two 15-seat vans for team transportation, which Men's Coach John Nelson said could save the two teams as much as \$2,500 in travel expenses. The company also provided Nelson with a vehicle for the year.

At the same time, a former player, who asked not to be identified, has sent a



Nelson



Best

\$5,000 check to try to help close a budget gap widened by the absence of an expected donation of \$15,000.

Want to Help? Send Money

ATR readers wishing to help John Nelson defray expenses can reach him at 619-504-3564.

Nelson said the total shortfall, already severe because of budget restraints imposed by the SDSU Athletic Department, still amounts to about \$50,000. He said his own teaching fees, which he has donated in recent years to shore up the team's finances, will not amount to enough to make up the deficit.

Meanwhile, Acting Aztec Tennis Association President Mike Best has decided to seek a consulting position in another city and has relinquished his ATA post.

Nelson and Women's Coach Peter Mattera said the association will elect a successor as soon as possible.

San Diego State has been searching its soul: Is it misusing Aztec culture and names?

In six years on Montezuma Mesa (1956-1962), we sang "Mail Montezuma" at the football games, told friends we were on the Aztec tennis team, and tried and failed to navigate the Aztec calendar.

We admired Donal Hord's wonderful sculpture of Montezuma in the Quad. Wrapped in a huge dark cloak, his hands pulled up gracefully behind his right ear, he looks serene, powerful and wise.

Each year, the university awards a replica of the Montezuma sculpture to its outstanding alumni and faculty. Each season, Montezuma

The Many Faces of Montezuma



1983

appears at football games, spear in hand, warlike, hostile. This, too, represents historical truth.



1987

Not long ago, the University of Wisconsin cancelled a tennis match against SDSU, invoking a Big Ten rule against abusing Native American symbols. By the time thoughtful students raised the issue this fall on campus, it must have been clear: People of one cul-



1997

ture must not expropriate the symbols of another culture.

But what do the two million Mexican inheritors of Aztec language and customs think? Are they offended? Delighted?

There are working class people in Mexico, who, if they heard there was a football team called the Aztecs, would say it was great, said anthropologist Elizabeth Brumfield of Albion College.



2000

But how can we know the heart of a people whose zenith was reached in 1519?

Pedro Arjona of the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico City told ATR: Your request (to contact Aztecs) is like asking a Briton how to contact the Celts or...searching the Seven Hills of Rome for an ancient Roman leader.

But it seems worth a try. Senor Arjona has promised to help. We'll keep you posted.

Perhaps by restoring to Montezuma the dignity in Donal Hord's sculpture, the desire to remove him from our midst will vanish from our hearts. It might even improve our tennis.

— John Martin (1957)

Fatal Volley: Exodus Meets Center Court in a Tennis Thriller

At 38, Kevin Garland has won all the big tournaments, from Wimbledon to Flushing Meadow, but he's starting to fade. So he decides to finish his career in a blaze of glory.

As a protagonist in this 1994 geopolitical tennis novel by Chicago lawyer Robert S. Ross, Garland goes for the \$10 million top prize of a champions tournament in Las Vegas.

To prepare, he reunites with his coach, trains for months, then wins a final warm up event in desert-hot Israel, where he

acquires another motivation: the love of a beautiful woman.

In desert-hot Nevada, Garland begins marching through the draw, eliminating younger opponents. The odds change; gangster gamblers face unacceptably huge losses.

Three men warn him of horrible injury (he could prevent you from winning by a simple fracture of your...wrist).

Garland's terrified call to an old friend and sponsor sets off a chain of events more suited to Exodus than strangers on a

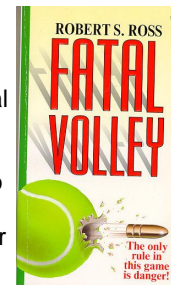
Train (the 1949 Hitchcock tennis murder mystery). That's because author Ross is determined to tell the story of big-time professional tennis against a backdrop (and foreground) of Jewish resistance to Nazi atrocities (in Poland) during World War II and the struggle for sovereignty in Israel.

Sound improbable? Yes. Does it work? Yes, after a fashion. For one thing, readers see Garland, a strong, motivated athlete, struggling to exploit his strengths as a

player while struggling to overcome his weaknesses as a human being. And we learn: Garland's tantrums on court (to pump up box office receipts) evoke John McEnroe at his wildest.

So, for fans and players, there are a number of pleasures, not least of which is the book's wonderful cover illustration: a bullet punctures a ball.

Ross knows tennis and history, and despite flaws (call them foot faults), Fatal Volley is definitely worth several nights on your bedside table. — J.M.



Fatal Volley, Robert S. Ross, 329 pages, 1994, Paperback: K&R Press, 154 W. Hubbard, Suite 250, Chicago, IL 60610 (312-464-0103).

Dear ATR: Voice Mail, Email, and Mail on Intercollegiate Tennis

Dear ATR: I got Aztec Tennis Reporter just the other day and was quite happy to see it. Having moved (from the University of Georgia) to North Carolina to Research Triangle Park, I don't see much in the way of good tennis up here. It was exciting last spring to see the (Georgia) women take the national championship (especially having worked for

them for a year) and things look good for the men this year. Hopefully they'll make it to the (NCAA) tournament this year. Great job on Aztec Tennis Reporter.

Danny Polinsky
Chapel Hill, NC

Polinsky's photo of Alex Waske appeared in "How Sweet It Was," ATR, Vol 2, No 3, 2000.

Dear ATR: I think it's terrific. The University of Florida needs something like Aztec Tennis Reporter.

Art Seitz
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Seitz, a member of the University of Florida tennis team and a top U.S. Air Force player in the 1960s, is a professional tennis photographer whose photo of Valerie Zieg-

enfuss and Allison Bradshaw appeared in "The Ziegenfuss Legacy," ATR, Vol 2, No 4, 2000.

Dear ATR: Just got your latest (edition). It's always great. Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list...and for your support of tennis.

John Embree
Chicago, IL

Embree is Vice President, Racquet Sports, Wilson Sporting Goods Company.

South Alabama Outguns Stanford, San Diego State for U.S. Title

(Continued from Page 1)

San Diego State led South Carolina 9-8 and 14-12 as Maiberger beat Seth Rose, 6-3, and Maiberger and Pest topped Rose and Guillaume Legat, 6-3.

The match was deadlocked at 18-18 after Becker pushed Yugoslav Kartarina Markovski to the limit before bowing, 6-4. Markovski was ranked 29th in the nation last season. But the Gamecocks claimed the match, winning the mixed doubles, 6-5.

The scoring format, adopted from Billie Jean King's World Team Tennis, awards one point for each winning game in five one-set matches: men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

King and Larry Willens, volunteer Aztec coach, helped stage the tournament.

"Socialization was a very important part to this format ...and you really see it at work out there," King told ITA's Casey Angle. "The players really bond when they get here."

Tulsa, co-coached by former Aztec Paige McMurray,



ATR Staff Photos

LIFTOFF: South Alabama's Christian Thall serves in 6-1 victory over Alex Kim of Stanford in the final round.

nearly stole SDSU's last hope for a team match victory. In women's singles, Poland's Aleksandra Durska defeated Becker, 6-3, to pull the Golden Hurricane to within one point, 18-19. But Maiberger and Wells clinched the match with a 6-1 victory over Jennifer DeSpain and Micah Zomer. Final score: SDSU 25, Tulsa 19.

"We don't like to walk away" (in 16th place), said McMurray, "but it was a learning experience."

One key lesson: Start fast,



STANDOFF: Tulsa coach Paige McMurray encourages Jennifer DeSpain to help Golden Hurricane over Blackburn and Lason Cousins.

hold on, and fight. Against Mississippi, the Aztecs took the lead, 15-9, on Pest's 6-2 singles victory over David Blackburn and a 6-1 doubles victory by Pest and Maiberger over Blackburn and Lason Cousins.

But the Rebels stormed back to win 12 of the last 15 games in women's singles and mixed doubles to claim a



FACEOFF: Valentino Pest, serving, and Oliver Maiberger led Aztecs and played a role in 61 of the 81 games won by SDSU.

Despite the setbacks, Coach John Nelson praised the format: "I enjoyed seeing the men and the women play as a team."

Nelson said WTT-style play is "nice in the fall. It gets everybody involved. It doesn't count in the rankings. It's one set. It's good."

Hedberg, Maiberger Top Competitors In S.D. Fall Classic, All-College Tennis

Aztecs Lindsey Hedberg and Oliver Maiberger won singles and doubles titles in the San Diego All-College and Fall Classic Tennis Tournaments in October.

Hedberg defeated Katja Karrento, 6-2, 6-1, to capture the Fall Classic Flight A Championship. Maiberger, ranked 22d by the

ITA, defeated Steven Capriati of Arizona, 6-3, 6-2, in the All-College men's final, then took the doubles title with Travis Hasson over USD's Ricardo Rizo and Juan Cerda, 8-2.

Hasson won the Flight 1 Consolation Singles, defeating Jari Niskala of Arizona, 6-4, 6-2. Aztec Shawn Hiatt reached the Flight 2 final, losing to Bruno Arapovic of Arizona, 6-4, 6-2.

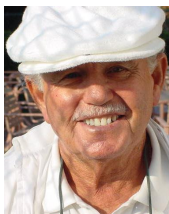
Katey Becker topped Whitney Wells, 6-3, 6-2 in the Flight B final; Silvia Tornier won Flight C, 6-3, 6-2, over Julie Chidley. Emelie Akerbrant-Bengtsson reached the Flight D finals, losing, 6-0, 6-1 to Oregon's Courtney Nagle. In doubles, Hedberg and Tornier won Flight A; Becker and Erin Polowski Flight B.

The two events drew players from nine schools: SDSU, Oregon, Arizona, Cal Poly, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, and USD.

Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues

1940

Ben Press, who attended San Diego State



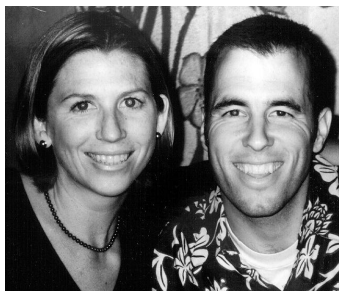
Ben

briefly before transferring to UCLA, visited Washington, D.C. with his wife, **Betty**. Press, a top player and coach who won three national mixed doubles championships with **Jean Doyle (1946)**, is a Master USPTA Professional at the San Diego Hilton on Mission Bay. In the capital, he visi-

ted tennis friend **Allie Ritzenberg** and coached ATR editor John Martin at Washington Tennis Center.

1980

George Husack (1988-91), assistant tennis coach and athletic department marketing and promotions manager for the University of Santa Clara, is engaged to **Wendy Hromdka** (pronounced ro-mat-ka) of Los Angeles. (She played intercollegiate volleyball at Stanford). The couple is planning an August, 2001, wedding in Santa Barbara. From 1995 to 1997, Husack played the ATP satellite circuit in Japan, Mexico and the



Wendy and George

United States and competed in the German League. He holds a master's degree in business administration and lives in Menlo Park.



ATR Staff Photo

COACHES: Women's Coach Peter Mattera, left, and Men's Coach John Nelson lead Aztec teams into new season.

Aztec Men, Women Seek 2001 NCAA Tennis Titles

San Diego State's two intercollegiate tennis teams play 26 home matches in the 2001 season, starting Jan. 22, when the men open against UCSD at 1:30 p.m.

Among this season's opponents: Yale, Princeton, UC Berkeley, Florida State, Purdue, and Pepperdine.

The matches are free. Spectators park off 55th Street in a metered lot, then walk past Cox Arena to the courts, which have a small set of grandstand seats.

Last year, the Aztec women reached the NCAA regional finals at Winston-Salem, NC; the men gained the NCAA Finals in Athens, GA.

2001 SDSU Tennis: 26 Home Matches

Jan 22	UC San Diego (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Jan 24	UC Riverside (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Jan 27	Pacific (Women)	10 a.m.
Jan 27	New Mexico State (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Jan 28	Rice (Women)	10 a.m.
Jan 28	Nevada-Reno (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Feb 6	USD (Women) (at USD)	1:30 p.m.
Feb 9	UC Berkeley (Women)	1:30 p.m.
Feb 16	Loyola Marymount (Women)	1:30 p.m.
Feb 24	Pepperdine (Women)	NOON
Mar 12	Washington State (Women)	2 p.m.
Mar 13	Florida State (Women)	2 p.m.
Mar 16	Purdue (Women)	2 p.m.
Mar 20	Princeton (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Mar 21	Washington (Women)	2 p.m.
Mar 22	Yale (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Mar 23	Princeton (Women)	2 p.m.
Mar 25	Nebraska (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Mar 31	Brigham Young (Men)	2 p.m.
Apr 1	Utah (Men)	2 p.m.
Apr 2	Nevada-Las Vegas (Men)	10 a.m.
Apr 13	New Mexico (Women)	2 p.m.
Apr 14	Air Force (Women)	10 a.m.
Apr 14	Cal Poly SLO (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Apr 18	USD (Men)	1:30 p.m.
Apr 20	Tulsa (Women)	2 p.m.
Apr 22	Oregon (Women)	NOON



ORGANIZER: Donovan slashing her backhand.

Taking a Swing At Job Market

Wanted: An employer seeking a bright prospect — tested in the world of intercollegiate tennis — ready to take the Next Big Step.

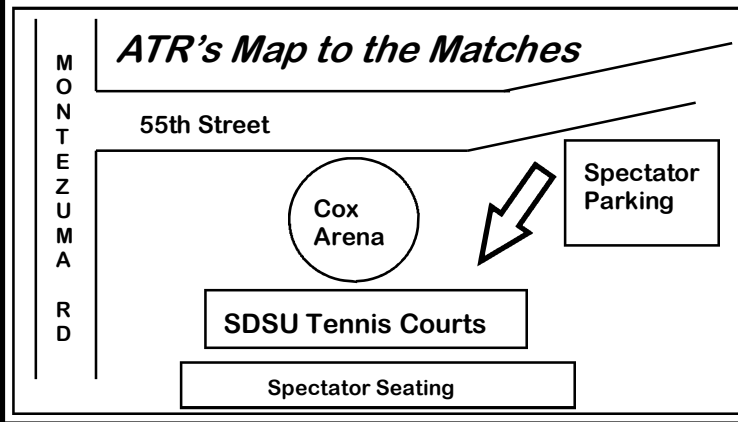
Sarah Donovan played intercollegiate tennis at SDSU and is looking for her first fulltime job in her field.



Donovan (major: kinesiology) but is also interested in coaching, sports medicine, or marketing.

"I have a really organized brain," says Donovan. "I think I'd be good at organizing things."

ATR readers can contact her at 619-286-8780.



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