



# Aztec Tennis Reporter

Volume 2  
Issue 1  
2000

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

## Coach of Year



**A REAL PRO:** SDSU's Nelson, left, with Lackritz and plaque

## Nelson Wins Honor As Top Professional From USTA District

The 7,500-member San Diego District Tennis Association has honored Aztec Tennis Coach John Nelson as the Male Professional Coach of the Year.

Aztec Jay Turner (1958) received the Sportsmanship award for the year, reflecting a lifelong commitment to tennis, which includes roles as a college player, high school coach, and senior competitor.

Nelson, in his seventh season at SDSU, was honored for achievements as teacher and coach in the San Diego area.

Nelson was NCAA Division II Coach of the Year in 1992 at UC Davis and seven times Coach of the Year in the Northern California Athletic Conference. In 1998, he was the Intercollegiate Tennis Association  
*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Inside This Issue:

The Golf Menace 2  
ATR's Got Mail 2  
Men's Y2K Schedule 3

## Aztecs Fall To UCLA, Call for Reinforcements

### Hasson Wins in 3 Sets and Blocks a Shutout at Westwood Opener

The UCLA Bruins, America's top college tennis team in pre-season polls, rolled past San Diego State, 6-1, in the mid-January opener for both teams at the Los Angeles Tennis Center in Westwood.

Aztec Travis Hasson carved out a 3-set victory over Bruin Lassi Katola, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the number-three singles.

Travis gave one of his best performances, said Coach John Nelson. Nelson was very excited by (his play) in singles and doubles. He's the hardest worker on the team and it's very evident.

The match left the Aztecs, rated 54th in ITA rankings, hopeful the team's fortunes can be bolstered by reinforcements expected in late January. Last season's top Aztec, Alex Waske, who spent the



Photos by Joseph Webster for Aztec Tennis Reporter

### POWER STROKES: Travis Hasson, left, serves; Matt Bere, center, smacks forehand, and Adam Webster swings against UCLA at Los Angeles Tennis Cen-

summer and fall on the ATP challenger and futures circuit, has returned to campus and is seeking NCAA reinstatement for a final season. Under NCAA rules, Waske can regain eligibility if his prize earnings did not exceed his expenses. His application is

under review by the NCAA.

Two newcomers, Oliver Maiberger of Germany, and Gabe Coren, a transfer from Boise State, are expected to join the team shortly. Two other transfers, one from UC Irvine and the other from Germany, are awaiting final NCAA approval. Rules prohibit disclosure of their identities until they are signed.

Against UCLA, Nelson said Adam Webster and Matt Bere were starting to do the right thing. Webster fell to Jong-Min Lee, 6-3, 6-2. Bere, 58th in ITA rankings, lost to Brandon Kramer, 6-2, 6-3. Aztec Dan Castro pulled Bruin Erfa

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Aztecs Establishing Tennis Fund

Beset by sharp budget cutbacks, San Diego State's tennis coaches are forming a non-profit foundation to raise funds for recruiting, equipment and travel for both men's and women's teams.

The decision comes on instructions from the SDSU Athletic Department following a 20 per cent department-wide cut-back ordered last fall due to a

\$750,000 error in budgeting for department expenses.

The first recruits to the Aztec Tennis Foundation board are Greg Caledonia (1978-80), president of Advantage, a tennis court construction company; Tim Darling (1977), a Texas Instruments engineer;

*(Continued on Page 4)*

Golfers, they're everywhere: Crowning prodigies (Tiger Woods), celebrating locals (Kevin Costner in *Tin Cup*), and chronicling seniors (Robert Ulrich in *Miracle on the 17th Green*).

There's a golf shop in every airport with a wind sock, a golf channel on TV, a golfer's mutual fund on Wall Street, and surely a golfer's bench in the transit lounge to Heaven.

David McCullough, the Pulitzer-Prize winning biographer (a walker), tells a worrisome tale. A Texas resort

## Tennis and The Menace: Golf

manager confided that few guests play tennis any longer, preferring, instead, to play golf.

Why?+ asked McCullough: "Golf takes a long time. It's expensive, and there's no exercise involved."

That's just it, replied the innkeeper. "It's expensive; they've



got money. It takes a long time; they conduct business, and there's no exercise."

Truth be told, I'm envious of golf's pull on the public. I wish tennis commanded the zeal that golf draws from its players, the passion it creates in its fans, and the exposure it wins from television.

I worry: Even good tennis players succumb to its thrall. How did coaches relax during the NCAA Men's Tennis Championships in Georgia last spring? Final answer: Staged their own golf tournament.

I know, tennis is coming back, popular again. Ratings up, attendance up, attitude up.

So why did my Sports Authority just downsize tennis stuff and expand the golf section? —**John Martin (1957)**

## Dear ATR: Letters, E-Mail and Voice Mail from Our Readers

### Dear ATR:

Aztec Tennis Reporter is



quite impressive. Congratulations on the effort and the editorial product. I enjoyed reading it.

### Armen Keteyian

New Canaan, CT

*The writer covers the NFL for CBS Sports and reports for HBO's Real Sports; he played shortstop and second base for San Diego State (1973-75).*

### Dear ATR:

Got your Aztec Tennis Reporter. Great news stories.

A little of our background: We have two sons, Robin, 24, who played Division 1 tennis at UC Irvine, and Sean (a member



Sean, Robin, Darlene, the pet dog, and Steve Walker

of the 1999-2000 Aztec men's team.) They played every sport, loved their dog and pet chicken, and learned to fend for themselves while Mom and Dad worked hard to support their tennis endeavors.

Family values and education were our first priorities.

**Darlene (& Steve) Walker  
Sebastopol, CA**

### Dear ATR:

I really enjoyed your report on Carol Plunkett's induction into the Aztec Hall of Fame (Vol 1, Issue 5), especially the stories told by her former players. The greatness of any coach as a person is told by her players, not by her win-loss statistics. Carol had a wonderful influence on their lives.

Thank you for keeping us all in touch with one of the most fun and rewarding times in our lives: college tennis.

**Dr. Ann Lebedeff (1971-72)  
Temecula, CA**

*The writer, a top ranked player while at San Diego State and member of the Aztec Hall of Fame, coaches tennis at Pomona*



Lebedeff

's Pitzer College.

### Dear ATR:

I enjoyed your article on Jeanne (Doyle) Garrett. (Vol 1, Issue 2). She was my partner for 20 years and helped me achieve my first gold ball (USTA award for winning a national tournament). We won the USTA national 45 doubles in Milwaukee.

I have been reading your newsletter, and enjoy seeing pictures of local locals who are still playing.

**Georgia (Bunker) Turner  
El Cajon**

*The writer, a top national player for many years, gained the 1999 USTA Women's 65 Clay Court singles semifinals. Her husband, Jay Turner (1956), and her brother, Gary Bunker (1959-62), both played Aztec tennis.*

### Dear ATR:

Thanks for making me look like a star in the last issue. I suggest getting in touch with



Glenn Stephan, who is having a great year in the 35s.

**Larry Belinsky (1973-76)  
Rancho Santa Fe**

*The writer, who owns Country Furniture Faire, refers to Glenn Stephan (1983-84), a 10-year Merrill Lynch veteran who operates Stephan Financial Services; he gained the consolation semifinals of the USTA Men's 35 Clay Court Championships and expects to earn a top 25 USTA national singles ranking. He and USD's Pat Rea, won 7 doubles titles and reached the USTA National Men's 35 Hard Court semis.*



Stephan, left, and former crosstown rival Pat Rea.

# 2000 Aztec Men's Tennis Team Schedule



Hasson



Castro



Walker



Hiatt



Eugene Carswell

Jan 12 (Wed)	UCLA	Los Angeles	1-6
Jan 27 (Thur)	BYU	SDSU	1:30
p.m. Jan 30 (Sun)	Pacific	SDSU	
	1:30 p.m.		
Feb 10 (Thu)	Santa Clara	Santa Clara	1:30
p.m. Feb 11 (Fri)	Stanford	Palo Alto	
	1:30 p.m.	Pepperdine Malibu	
	1:30 p.m.	Air Force	SDSU
	11 a.m.		
Mar 1 (Wed)	Michigan	SDSU	1:30
p.m. Mar 6 (Mon)	Baylor	SDSU	
	1:30 p.m.	Toledo	SDSU
	1:30 p.m.	Mar 12 (Sun) Fresno State	
	Fresno	NOON	Mar 14 (Tues) Texas Tech
	SDSU	1:30 p.m.	Mar 18 (Sat) New Mex-
	Albuquerque	NOON	Mar 19 (Sun) Central Flor-
	Albuquerque	NOON	Mar 21 (Tues) Denver
	SDSU	1:30 p.m.	Mar 25 (Sat) Utah
	Las Vegas	NOON	Mar 26 (Sun) UNLV
	Las Vegas	NOON	
Apr 4 (Tues)	USD	San Diego (USD)	1:30



Waske



Bere



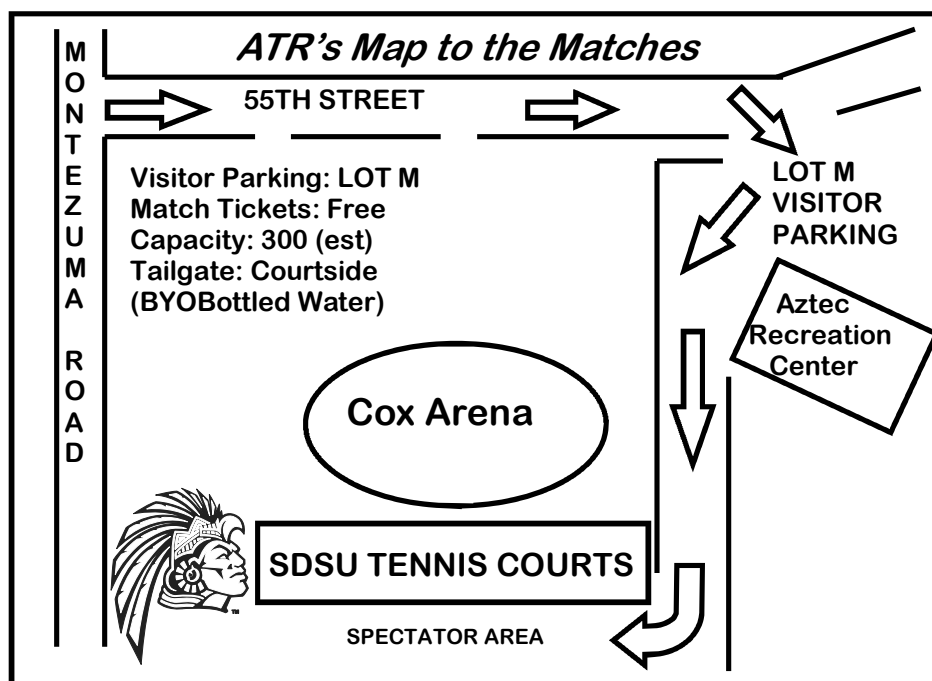
Webster



O'Hara



John Nelson  
Head Coach



## Turner Honored By USTA District

(Continued from Page 1)  
regional coach of the year.

Turner played basketball and tennis at SDSU and coached at Santana High; he ranks 4th in the SDDTA Men's 65 list for the 1999 year. His wife, Georgia Bunker, is a leading national player (see letters, page 2).

SDSU Professor James Lackritz is incoming president of the USTA's San Diego District Tennis Association, which presented the awards at the LaJolla Beach and Tennis Club.

Lackritz praised Nelson's coaching skills and his firmness with difficult parents.

Aztec Powell Blankenship (1958), head pro at the Pacific Beach Tennis Club, was the 1998 pro/coach winner.

The association has honored ten Aztecs in 25 years. The others: Carol Plunkett, Anne Meigs, Skip Redondo, Hugh Bream, Larry Belinsky, Bobby Hrdina, Janice Fitch.



**SPORTSMAN:**  
Jay Turner



Photo by Joseph Webster for Aztec Tennis Reporter

**PASSING LANE: Aztec Matt Bere, foreground, leans to right in 6-2, 6-3 loss to UCLA's Brandon Kramer in L.A.**

## Coaches Eye Tennis Foundation Funds

(Continued from Page 1)  
Dr. Michael Buono, a San Diego State anatomy and physiology professor; Linda Stoner, a community tennis player, and Larry Willens, a volunteer Aztec men's and women's coach.

"We're excited about this," said women's coach Peter Matera. He and men's coach John Nelson are working to form the organization with Stoner's spouse, former Aztec golf coach Neal Stoner, now an Associate Athletic Director.

The Aztec Tennis Foundation will be governed by 10 directors drawn from the San

Diego State tennis community. Each director recruits additional members. Contributions are tax-deductible, minus the value of items the donors receive.

The coaches plan to reward donors with Aztec team shorts, shirts, and warm-up outfits.

## UCLA's Bruins Top Aztecs, 6-1

(Continued from Page 1)  
Djahangiri into a third set before losing, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1. UCLA's Chris Sands, 53rd in ITA rankings, defeated Aztec Sean Walker, 7-5, 6-1.

The Aztec men take on BYU Jan. 27 in their home opener. The Aztec women face University of the Pacific on the road Jan. 30, then play St. Mary's Feb. 2 and UC Irvine Feb 3, both at SDSU.

Maiberger is ranked 75th in Germany. He has been accepted for admission, and awaits an NCAA ruling on his exact playing status. Nelson said he expects him to take the court against BYU.

Boise State transfer Coren hopes to play his way onto the team, which appears likely to grow much stronger.

## Here's the Score:

This is the sixth 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 461 readers in 30 states and 9 foreign countries.

To receive copies or to correspond with ATR, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009



**Aztec  
Tennis  
Reporter**

**FOR THE  
SAN DIEGO  
STATE TENNIS  
COMMUNITY**

Tennis Coaches  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 265

Editor: John Martin 202-222-7140  
Chief Archivist: Jeanette Rolf  
Circulation Director: Lori Mitchell