

Aztec Tennis Reporter

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

Vol 2, No 2, 2000

Aztec Men Stun #9 Baylor, 4-3, in a Major College Upset

• Here's The Score:

- This is the seventh issue of Aztec Tennis Reporter, a newsletter for players, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis.
- Our mailing list has grown to 487 readers in 28 states and 9 foreign countries.
- To receive ATR, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

Women Nip Tulsa; 'Greatest' Rally Wins Final Match

Unranked San Diego State pulled off one of college tennis biggest upsets of the year by beating the ninth-ranked Baylor men, 4-3, on SDSU's home courts.

"Awesome. That was a great win for us," said Men's Coach John Nelson.

The Aztec women, meanwhile, clawed their way back from the brink of defeat against 61st ranked Tulsa. Fighting



Photo for Aztec Tennis Reporter

CLAP AND SHOUT: Aztecs encouraging teammates in final match against Baylor.

from 0-7 down in the final doubles match, they won 9-8 (7), and took the team match by the

score of 5-4.

"It was the greatest comeback you can hope to see in women's tennis," said Aztec coach Peter Mattera.

The two victories sent a bolt of electricity through the two squads, which had started the season with repeated losses to higher-ranked teams.

Against Baylor, Aztec Alex Waske defeated 14th-ranked Johann Jooste, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Aztec Oliver Maiberger defeated Pawel Gajdzik, 7-6 (1), 2-6, 6-3. At fifth position, Aztec Travis (Continued on Page 4)

Aztecs Seek Chief to Run A Foundation

The Aztec Tennis Foundation is looking for a leader to help it raise funds to operate the university's two intercollegiate tennis teams.

Coaches Peter Mattera and John Nelson have recruited more than a dozen board members who met in February to organize an effort to finance the teams' travel and (Continued on Page 2)



Tenacity Photo by Joanna Gleason

STANDUP GUYS: Aztec Ned Eames, right, Tenacity co-founder, with friends, from left, Boston Mayor Tom Menino; Bud Schultz, co-founder, and ATP's Todd Martin.

Tenacity: An Aztec Takes On Boston

Aztec Ned Eames (1979-83) and his partners see tenacity as the key for 1,200 Boston children trying to learn the skills of tennis and academic achievement.

They see Tenacity, their

year-old grass roots effort, as a way to reach a new level with the umpire's call: "Game. Set. LIFE. +"

Eames, who staged the group's first formal fundraiser

(Continued on Page 3)

Guten Tag: Here Come the Aztecs

Three Germans playing on a tennis team bearing the name of a South American people who never set foot in San Diego?

Analysis
Sounds bizarre, but get used to it: This is the globalization of American college tennis. Of the top 100 men in the ITA rankings, 64 are foreign-born. The Aztecs are (Continued on Page 2) (Continued from Page 1)

Inside this Issue:



What Budge Wore:
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Waske Maiberger

Don Budge wore long white trousers. It was 1952 and he was playing an exhibition at Morley Field. Budge teamed up with a San Diego junior, Martha Hoke, against Bobby Bobbitt, another San Diego junior, and the famed Alice Marble.

She (Marble) swore like a man, +recalls San Diego newspaperman and junior tennis patron Fred Kinne.

Except for Budge's flaming red hair and beaming smile, he could have been the model for that incredibly stiff tennis pro in the Nike commercials 35 years later.

Don't EVER hit the ball too hard, +the TV pro would say, immaculate in long white pants

The Budge-to-Agassi Spectrum

and cable-knit sweater.

Then, pony-tailed Andre Agassi, dressed in shocking color, would appear and smash the ball as hard as he could.

It made Budge-era tennis look so fuddy-duddy you couldn't imagine a red-blooded athlete even touching a tennis racquet in the old days.

When Budge passed away in January, Agassi was win-



AP Wide World Photo
Budge (1938)

ning the Australian Open. Something was happening to the color bars on my television set. Agassi, head shaved, was wearing all white, as if, en route to Melbourne, his plane had landed at Wimbledon for a wardrobe change at the All-England Club.

Months later, white still seems to be experiencing a revival.

So let's be clear: We don't want a return to Dullness.

In 1976, Tony Korn-

heiser, writing for *The New York Times*, found Bjorn Borg as methodical as an ice flow.

In 2000, we want to see the passion Borg never displayed.

Today, Agassi shows it. Pete Sampras does, too, on occasion. And both often report for combat wearing Budge-era all-white. The 2000 Aztec men and women wear white.

So maybe tennis is recapturing the dash it had when Budge invented Grand Slams.

But if so, please, no long white pants; we're athletes.

— John Martin (1957)

Guten Tag: Aztecs Speaking German — Also Swedish, Finnish, and Spanish

merely keeping step.

The latest arrival is Valentino Pest, a Croatian-German who received final NCAA certification just in time for the Toledo match, which the Aztecs won, 7-0. Pest (pronounced Pesht) is ranked 55th in Germany. He follows Alexander Waske and Oliver Maiberger to San Diego from Frankfurt, where the three grew up playing junior tennis. Waske encouraged his two countrymen to join him in California.

The Aztec teams also boast Blair O'Hara of Australia, Laura Aguero of Mexico, Emelie Bengtsson of Sweden, and Katja Karrento of Finland.

The presence of foreigners at a state institution surprises and pleases some alumni as much as it troubles some others.

Troy Collins (1980-83) led the Aztecs at Number One, making the NCAA top 16 (he later won the National Public Parks Championship). He has played on the

ATP tour and coached on the ATP and WTA tours.

We should be developing

our own players at the grass roots, +says Collins, who is director of tennis at Sunny Hills Racquet Club in Fullerton, which has produced numerous Aztec players.

Coach John Nelson agrees that it would be preferable to field an all-American team, but says he's had trouble recruiting top American players to come to Montezuma Mesa.

Interest in San Diego State was low, because our ranking was low, +says Nelson. With the foreigners coming now, our program is moving up and we should be able to attract more



SMALL WORLD: SDSU tennis players from left, from Finland, Germany, Sweden, Australia, Mexico.

Americans.

This year's contingent of foreign student athletes is following a tradi-

tion: Aztecs have come from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Peru, South Africa, the Philippines, Canada and Mexico.

Nelson's German strategy has begun to pay dividends. Despite a nerve-racking start: Maiberger and Pest were late arrivals; Waske, back from the

ATP tour, was reinstated by the NCAA only after the season started.

When the team was finally assembled, it held no ranking, having lost to UCLA, BYU, UC Irvine, and Pepperdine.

But then, after knocking off Baylor and throwing a scare into Fresno State, the Aztecs moved to 27th in the nation in the ITA rankings.

Aztecs Seeking Foundation Chief

(Continued from Page 1)
equipment expenses. Some new members: Former Aztec players Greg Caledonia (1979) and Tim Darling (1977), Samantha Mills of Colliers International; Steve Schnall, SDSU athletic department marketing executive, and Jen

Singer, an auto insurance executive. Ernest Wheeler, a former athletic director at Boise State, is lending a hand. The foundation president will lead the effort. Mattera and Nelson ask candidates to call. Mattera's number is 619-594-6505, Nelson's is 619-594-5084.

Dear ATR: Golf? You're All Wrong

Dear ATR: I liked everything in the last issue (Vol. 2, Issue 1) except what you wrote about golf. (Tennis and the Menace: Golf+). Golf is a form of mental health; it's relax-



Nelson

ing!

John Nelson

SDSU Men's Head Coach

Editor's Note: That's the point:

Golf is not a sport, it's a game.

Dear ATR: I was just looking at this gorgeous Friday afternoon and I was looking for somebody to go out and play 18 with. I enjoy reading your newsletter, but (sorry) I'm due



Farkas

on the first tee.

Ray Farkas

Washington, DC

Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1942-2000)

1940

John Brock (1948), dashing in his long whites in 1941, is a former teacher and real estate



John Brock (1941 and 1999)

broker who worked 33 years at San Diego Federal Savings and Loan before retiring in 1989. Drafted from Stanford in World War II, he played tennis in the armed forces, earned a top Southern California doubles ranking (6th), and now plays 3-4 days a week at Morley Field. Brock has two children and lives with his wife, **Carmelita**, in San Diego.



Carmelita & John Brock



Jay Leno & Dane Chapin

1970

Dane Chapin (1977-78), who played at San Diego State as a freshman before transferring to UCLA, has hit the big time with USAOPOLY, a family-owned business employing as many as 40 persons who create specialty board games under licensing agreements; Chapin lives with his wife, **Lynn**, and their daughter, **Taylor**, in Encinitas.

1980

Nick Getz (1980-85), director of tennis at the Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles, played ATP satellites in 1985, taught at the San Francisco Tennis Club, was head pro eight years at the West End Health and Racquet Club in Florence, CA, and moved to Hillcrest in 1996, where he runs the pro shop, teaches private lessons and clinics, operates a junior program, and stages as many as 14 tournaments a year.



Getz

Tenacious Aztec Ned Eames Tackling Boston's Tennis Youth

(Continued from Page 1)

March 31st, displays plenty of tenacity himself. He and his board have raised more than \$1.1 million to fund a tennis organization that reaches his city's school children.

Eames worked a year forging financial and athletic links, recruiting a team of tennis-playing associates: a lawyer, a civic leader, a teaching pro (his doubles partner), and investment advisors.

They got the city to budget \$45,000 for summer jobs. In its first season, Tenacity's 40-person staff taught more than 1,200 children at 15 sites operated by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

Why call it Tenacity?

"It captures what we do," said Eames. "It talks of persistence, which we know is critical in life and tennis."

"It also speaks of tennis in the city," he says. That takes money. Tenacity's goal is to

raise a total of \$1.6 million to finance operations in the coming year.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$100 apiece, tables for 10 are \$1,000. Grand slam sponsors receive 10 premium seats and a gift for \$2,500.

Tax-deductible donations to Tenacity Inc. go to Tenacity, Astor Station, PO Box 231193, Boston, MA 02123-1193.

Eames acquired his tenacity in New England, where he ranked fourth as a junior, won a tennis scholarship to Penn State, but then decided to look westward for a school more committed to tennis. He joined the Aztecs as a walk-on under

Skip Redondo. Eames co-captained the Aztecs (1982-83), played ATP satellites, then turned to business.

In the mid-80s, Eames worked in sales and marketing at *The Christian Science Monitor*. It was



"It captures what we do," says Eames: "It talks of persistence, which is critical in life and tennis."

a time of turmoil, he says: "I learned the pain of organizational change." It was a harbinger: "I became interested in change management, and now a growing field in business. Eames spent the '90s on consulting assignments: *The New York Times*, Hewlett-Packard, and AT&T.

Then, he says, it was time for a change. "I saw a need here in Boston."

Tenacity has formed a partnership with Harvard University, where it tutors 80 children in tennis and academic skills three days a week.

"We are an official after-school program for four middle schools," he says. "We make a presenta-

tion to the whole sixth grade in the gym."

Candidates battle through back-to-back Saturday tryouts to be chosen (based on effort, cooperation and general affinity for the program). Once on board, they enter a 3-year intensive course at no cost, training 15 weeks each in their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years.

"We encourage kids of different socio-economic grades to join," says Eames. "We want to mix them up."

Two years ago, Eames ranked 15th in USTA 35 singles. He and Shultz, his doubles partner, who is Tenacity's co-founder and the head pro at the Longwood Cricket Club, ranked 3d in the U.S.

Now it's all work and no play (he has dropped tournament tennis), and for a tenacious Aztec, it's all worth it.

Eames wants to hear from Aztecs. His e-mail address: eweames@banet.net.

Aztecs Electrified by Baylor Upset, Victory Surge Over Tulsa

(Continued from Page 1)

Hasson defeated Sean O'Connor, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. The Aztecs won two of the three doubles matches despite Baylor's strength: Its teams ranked 4th, 30th and 38th in that week's ITA listings.

Against Tulsa (coached by former Aztec Paige McMurray), Aztec Lisa Papi and Julie Chidley charged back from seven games down in what appeared to be a certain loss. The Aztecs defeated Aleksandra Durska and Bianca Posada, 9-8 (7).

The victories sent both



ATR Staff Photos

VICTORY AND DEFEAT: Alex Waske strokes forehand in three-set victory over Pepperdine's Robert Kendrick; Coach John Nelson recaps match after team's 5-2 loss.

the men's and women's teams on winning spurts: The women beat Princeton (6-3) and Washington State (5-3), lost to Purdue (5-4) (coached by former Aztec Matt Landolo), then dumped Ohio State (5-3) and BYU (5-4), rising to 27th place in the ITA national rankings.

Whitney Wells defeated Princeton's top player, Amanda Hastings-Phillips, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (3). Katja Karrento won the second singles, beating Tiger Tyotsna Vasisnt, 6-3, 6-4. Earlier, the Aztec women lost to 6th-ranked Pepperdine, 8-0; 7th-ranked USC, 5-1, and 58th-ranked Michigan, 6-3.

Both Aztec teams dropped matches to UC Irvine, and sat through a frustrating rainout at

Stanford. Later, the women lost to Oregon, 6-3, and Cal Berkeley, 7-2.

Aztec newcomer Valentino Pest joined the lineup in time to help the Aztecs rout Toledo, 7-0, but then the team fell to 16th-ranked Fresno State, 4-3, at Fresno. Pest took 25th-ranked Olivier Le Jeune to three sets before losing, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Then the Aztecs rolled past Texas Tech, 5-2, Yale, 7-0, Central Florida, 5-2, New Mexico, 5-2, Denver, 7-0, UNLV, 6-1, and Utah, 6-1 and rose to 27th in ITA rankings.

Against Pepperdine, sixth nationally, Waske and Maiberger won Number 1 and 2 singles. Waske defeated

29th ranked Robert Kendrick, 6-7, 6-4, 6-2. But the team lost, 5-2. Against 28th-ranked Michigan, with Waske away, the Aztecs stumbled, 4-3.

Maiberger can claim a unique honor: First Mountain West Conference Player of the Week. Wells and Katey Becker won it, too, as did Waske (three times). Maiberger repeated later in the year.

By April, both teams ranked in the top 30 and looked like good prospects to reach the NCAA playoffs.



HONORABLE: Oliver Maiberger warms up for Pepperdine match. He won first Mountain West player of week



RAIN MAN: Coach Peter Mattera sits beside a rain-slick court as a storm washes out both the men's and women's matches at Stanford.



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