

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

Vol 2, No 3, 2000

## HOW SWEET IT WAS!

### Aztecs Win NCAA Regional, Reach Final 16 at Athens



Daniel Polinsky for ATR

**BITTERSWEET:** Aztec Alex Waske in upset defeat by Pepperdine #1 Robert Kendrick, 7-6, 6-2. Waske received honors as an All-American.

**ATHENS, GA** — San Diego State's men's tennis team, seeded 33-48 after an unexpected loss to New Mexico (which denied it the Mountain West Conference title), upset Washington, 4-3, and Pepperdine, 4-2, to win the 2000 NCAA regional championships and advance for the first time to the elite Sweet Sixteen of college tennis.

Tournament officials at the University of Georgia, which has hosted the NCAA finals 21 of the last 28 years, called the Aztecs' twin regional victories "a pair of the biggest shockers in NCAA tennis history."

In the round of 16, the Aztecs fell, 4-3, to Virginia Commonwealth (seeded 17-32), which then defeated Illinois (6th) and Tennessee (10th) by identical 4-3 scores before

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116TH NCAA TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP  
University of Georgia-Athens  
Henry Field Stadium  
SAT., MAY 20, 2000  
- NO REFUNDS -

losing to top-seeded Stanford, 4-0, for the 2000 NCAA men's team championship.

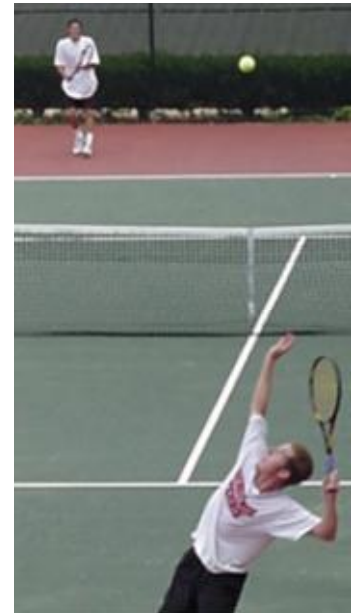
The Aztec women reached the NCAA regional finals, defeating South Florida, 5-4, before losing to 5th ranked Wake Forest, 5-0, at Winston-Salem, NC.

Against VCU, the Aztecs won the doubles point and took a 2-1 lead as Alex

Waske posted a 7-5, 6-0 victory over VCU's Daniel Andersson, the nation's top-ranked intercollegiate player for much of the year.

VCU's Frank Moser, ranked 17th in the nation, snapped Aztec Oliver Maiberger's 22-match winning streak at number two singles, 6-4, 6-3, but Aztec Adam Webster countered by breaking Fernando Sanchez's string of 23 straight victories, 6-2, 6-3, at number four singles.

VCU won the third and sixth singles and by the time Aztec #5 Matt Bere won the first set, 7-5,



ATR Staff Photo

**SWEET:** Aztec Adam Webster serves, beats VCU #4 Fernando Sanchez, 6-2, 6-3, ending his opponent's 23-match victory streak.

against VCU's Mats Norin, the two teams were headed for a 3-3 deadlock.

Norin, a freshman from Sweden, took the second set, 6

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### Aztec Tennis Fund Changing Strokes

A group of Aztec alumni and SDSU supporters has scrapped plans for a tennis foundation and decided to work together as the Aztec Tennis Association under Volunteer Coach

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O'Hara's Documentary

#### Here's The Score:

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

ATR's circulation continues to grow: It now goes to 586 readers in 28 states and 9 foreign countries.

To receive a copy, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

## Aztec Sports Budgeting in the Age of Aesop, Orwell, and Deford

Let's step out of the barn and check the animals. Athletic Director Rick Bay sees a goose which lays golden eggs (*Aesop's Fables*). Properly promoted and fairly compensated, he argues, college football (the goose) can earn money to help fund budgets for other sports (including tennis, which is why we're paying attention). The problem, according to

Bay: The national television revenue is too little going to too few schools (63). He says what ABC Sports reportedly offered for the Bowl Championship Series (\$100 million a year) is peanuts next to the \$6 billion CBS Sports is paying for ten years of March Madness.

***"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."* — George Orwell, *Animal Farm* (1945)**

Now, there's another animal in the barnyard. Football is a pig, says *Sports Illustrated's* Frank Deford. Monster football is entertainment, he argues in a recent commentary on NPR's *Morning Edition*.

It might not be legal, he says, his voice cheerful with mischief, but why not shift it to a Department of Entertainment and fund the other sports at a decent level. With budgets so tight, Bay, who prepared for a career in journalism, must know that sportswriter would have been a better choice. Easier than waiting for that goose. — John Martin (1957)



Photo and clipping from The Sun, Hong Kong

**MAXIMUM COVERAGE:** Aztec All-American Chris Numbers (1991-95), left, backs up Melvin Tong in Hong Kong victory over Kazakstan. Ball? See arrow.

## Aztec Plays Hong Kong Davis Cup

Chris Numbers (1991-95), the first San Diego State player invited to the NCAA Championships in both singles and doubles, has become a stalwart for Hong Kong's Davis Cup team. Under a little known Cup regulation, he is eligible to coach and play for the Hong Kong team. He also coaches its Federation Cup and Junior Davis Cup teams. A Houston company, Peter Burwash, assigned him to

Hong Kong in 1997 under a contract by which it helps run its tennis programs. Davis Cup rules allow foreigners to play if they carry valid work visas and reside in the country for three years. In April, against Kazakstan, Numbers joined one of his students, Melvin Tong, in doubles, winning 7-5, 7-6 (6), 6-1. It was an awesome feeling to represent a country, Numbers said. The pressure was enormous.

## Kings of The Court: A Video Shows Why Greats of Past Fascinate Us Today

By Tom Penner

This year, during the 100th anniversary of the Ojai Amateur Tennis Tournament, it was rumored that tennis greats Jack Kramer, Gene Mako, and Ted Schroeder might make an appearance. An official could not verify this, saying only that Kramer might have been in the Sunday crowd wearing a tan coat. Like ghosts from a vanished era, these "kings of the courts," the greats who set the standard for tennis excellence, recede from our grasp, taking their rightful place in history. But they needn't be forgotten.

***Kings Of The Court (The Ten Greatest Tennis Players Of All Time)***, a 1997 video, offers a rare and privileged glimpse into a golden age of tennis.

Interviews with Don Budge, Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer,

Rod Laver, Pancho Segura, and Gene Mako, and vintage film footage make it refreshingly watchable.

Hosted by John Forsythe and enhanced by an era-

evoking musical score, it reminds us that the fundamentals have not changed: Little Bill Johnston was using a western forehand grip in the 1920's. Ellsworth Vines smacked the ball harder and flatter than anyone. Before Pete Sampras, there was "Big Jake" Kramer. According to Riggs, Kramer had the best first serve and second serve. Period. But Kramer gives the



National Archives

**Kramer Tilden Gonzalez**

nod to Vines, and Laver says he saw no one hit a serve harder or more accurately than Gonzalez.

Utilizing both regular and slow-motion photography,

the film shows the balletic footwork of the great "Big Bill" Tilden, the grace and grit of Gonzalez, the brute tenacity of Riggs, and the beautiful flow of Budge's backhand, a shot he claims "felt natural" because he batted left-handed in baseball.

***Kings of the Court*** is for all of us who have heard the names, but didn't know the games. It links us with our

tennis heritage. It's indispensable.

***Kings of the Court*** is available from Video Sports of America (415-885-6959).

Tom Penner played at San Diego State (1981-83) and is a screenwriter and tennis pro who lives in Long Beach.

## Dear ATR: OK, OK, No Long White Pants

**Dear ATR:** Your *Budge-to-Agassi Spectrum* (Vol 2, No. 2) was a delight of fashion, style, and perspective on the game. I am putting my white pants in the drawer.

Joyce Gattas  
San Diego

The writer is Dean of the SDSU College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts.

# Where Are We Now? The Big Search (1942-2000) Continues

1940

**Ed Brown (1946)** who joined the Aztecs for a year after World War II Navy duty and later spent 30 years at RCA



**Brown**

Jose under coach Dickey Thomas.

in the record business, lives in San Diego's Mission Hills area. A graduate of Woodburg College (Class of 1949), he remembers Aztec road trips to Santa Barbara, Fresno, and San

1950

**Dr. Tom Mullen (1958-60)**, a transfer from St. Mary's who played #2 singles on Coach Al Olson's Aztec



**Mullen**

golf) with his wife, **Sylvia**, in Santa Cruz.

teams in the California Collegiate Athletic Association, has retired from dentistry after more than 30 years. A former top county tennis competitor now active in civic affairs, he lives (and plays

1970

**Tim Darling (1976-77)**, an engineer for Texas Instruments, has been working on the board of the newly



**Darling**

tennis teams.

formed Aztec Tennis Association. Darling is active in charitable causes and is helping recruit donors to supply funds for equipment and operating expenses for both the men's and women's Aztec

1990

**Mike Paradowski (1992-95)**, who was married in August, and **Kerry Safdie (1989-93)** are



**Paradowski**



**Safdie**

teaching pros at the San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club, where they work with another Aztec, **Woody Yocom (1988-91)**, who previously taught and coached in Chula Vista. Safdie, a partner in his family's

New York-based sweater business, was an All American in doubles with **Chris Numbers (1991-95)**, who lives in Hong Kong (see story, photo of Aztec Davis Cup player, Page 2).

## How Sweet It Was: Aztecs In NCAA Final 16

(Continued from Page 1)

-2, then bore down, winning the final set, 6-1, to clinch the match for VCU.

"We felt we could win," said Aztec Coach John Nelson, "but VCU played very hard and was the better team today."

Nelson gathered the team at the baseline after the final point and praised the players' hard work and determination. Athletic Director Rick Bay told them the university was proud of them; they had placed a marker.

In NCAA singles competition, Waske and Maiberger



**HUG: Adam Webster and his father, Joseph, embrace after match.**



ATR Staff Photos

**GO AZTEC!: Coach Nelson encouraging Aztec Matt Bere to fight for third set against VCU.**

reached the second round.

Maiberger lost to the eventual champion, Alex Kim of Stanford, 6-3, 7-6 (4). Afterward, Kim said Maiberger really started to come on, and I knew that if it went to a third set, it would be tough. Apart from a 3-set semifinal, this was Kim's most difficult match.

Waske lost to Robert Kendrick of Pepperdine, 7-6 (2), 6-2, after beating Kendrick in two previous matches, including the regional final.

Kendrick's victory gave the

### Correction

Due to an error, ATR reported an Aztec loss to UC Irvine (Vol 2, No. 2). The men's match was dropped from the schedule and not played.

Waves a measure of consolation for their loss to the Aztecs in the regional final at Malibu.

There, the Aztecs avenged a 5-2 defeat in March by fashioning a stunning 4-2 upset. The hero was Valentino Pest, the Aztec freshman from Germany. He teamed with Maiberger to help win the doubles point and then upset Sebastien Graef (72nd nationally). Graef served for the match at 5-4 in the second set, but Pest fought back and won, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.



**FINAL VICTORY: Alex Waske, center, thanks an NCAA referee after defeating VCU's Daniel Anderson (2d in nation), 7-5, 6-0. Coach Nelson, far left, approaches to congratulate Waske for winning his last team match as an Aztec.**

## Aztecs Win Honors In U.S., Region VII

It was a banner year for Aztec tennis: The men (17-8), beat two top-ten teams, Baylor and Pepperdine, and ranked 19th. The women (16-10) ranked 27th.

Alex Waske was named an All-American and conference and region Player of the Year. Oliver Maiberger was the top rookie in the conference and region. Waske and Adam Webster were all-conference in doubles.

Whitney Wells and Katja Karrento won all-Mountain West Conference honors in singles and Wells and Laura Agüero were all-Mountain West as a doubles team.



**Wells**



**Karrento**



**Agüero**

## Tennis Fund's New Strokes

(Continued from Page 1)

Mike Best to solicit funds for both men's and women's teams.

In a letter to members, Best said checks bearing contributions of less than \$5,000 should be earmarked for tennis scholarships, equipment, recruiting and team travel and sent to the Campanile Foundation, the university's newly designated depository for tax-exempt contributions.

Larger donations, he said, will be coordinated with the Campanile Foundation and the SDSU Athletic Department. The change was made to clarify for donors how their gifts would be administered.

Best is a Stanford graduate and player who has served as a coach and consultant on the professional tennis circuit and is now a management expert with Alders Consulting Group.

Among several ways he suggested ATA may raise money: an Aztec Tennis Club with paid memberships, name donations to furnish the proposed new Tennis Complex, sponsorships by airline, hotel, restaurant and apparel companies, and an Aztec summer tennis camp. The ATA is forming committees to compile an



ATR Staff Photo

**AZTEC VALEDICTORY: Speaking after VCU match, All-American Alex Waske praises coach and SDSU.**

### Waske's Gracious Goodbye

*The following edited exchange is from a post-match press conference at the 116th NCAA Tennis Championships, Waske's final as an Aztec.*

**Adam Minichino, Athens Daily News:** San Diego State has made strides the last three years. Do you feel proud as one person who helped establish the program?

**Alex Waske:** I actually see it the other way around. Coach (John) Nelson helped me a lot. I got here 3 years ago with a German ranking of 180. Over the years, I developed my new ranking (26th in Germany, 290th in world). I was a good player before I got here. But I improved probably two or three levels. I'm happy I (chose) San Diego State. I would never, ever change this decision.

So whoever I talk to, the good German guys or players in America, I just tell them: Go to San Diego State.

The top ten (American players) are recruited by UCLA or Stanford. They're good programs. (But) what I have experienced is a great coach at San Diego State.

electronic mailing list, coordinate fundraising events, raise money for scholarships, re-

cruting and team travel expenses, and prepare materials to attract corporate sponsors.

## Aztec Lebedeff Earns National Tennis Award

Pomona-Pitzer College Women's Coach Ann Lebedeff (1972-74), one of San Diego State's finest players and coaches, has been honored by the International Tennis Hall of Fame for her work as an educator.

Dr. Lebedeff and Nick Bollettieri received the 1999 Tennis Educational Merit Awards, given to a man and woman for notable contributions at the national level.



Lebedeff

In 1974, before NCAA competition for women, Aztecs Lebedeff and Karen Reinke Bishop (1973-74) won the AIAW-USTA national college doubles title at Kalamazoo, MI.

Dr. Lebedeff coached Arizona (9 years) and Cal Poly (10 years), was Wilson/ITA National Coach of the Year, and is a director of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

### Got E-Mail? Tell Us

The Aztec Tennis Association is exploring ways ATR can offer an e-mail edition. To receive it, send your e-mail address to Chairman Mike Best: Mbest@san.r.com.



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