

Aztec Tennis Reporter

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY Volume 3, Number 1, 2001

Here's the Score:

This is the 11th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter* (now in its third year), 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 854 readers in 37 states and 18 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

Carswell Captures USTA's Gold Ball In 25-Plus Doubles

Assistant Aztec Men's Tennis Coach Gene Carswell and his doubles partner, Mike Brown, are making a name as one of the nation's top 25-plus doubles teams.

The two San Diegans won the 2000 USTA 25 National Doubles Championship at Morley Field in November, defeating Carsten Hoffman and Art Hernandez of Huntington Beach in the final, 6-0, 7-5.

"It was my first gold ball, I

(Continued on Page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Our Man in Hollywood 2
Where Are We Now? 3
An Aztec & An Aggie 4

NEXT ISSUE:

When Billie Beat Bobby

Aztecs Win Invitation to Top U.S. Indoor Event

SDSU Women Tie Clemson at 27th As Season Opens

Led by Silvia Tornier, a sophomore from Hamburg, Germany, the 2001 San Diego State women's tennis team is shaping up as one of the strongest in recent years.

"We could be very tough," said Coach Peter Mattera. "We have nine very good players.

The Aztecs were tied with Clemson at 27th in pre-season national rankings, ahead of TCU and Georgia Tech and trailing Tulsa (coached by former Aztec player Paige Hammond McMurray) and the University of Washington. The Aztecs play Washington March 21 and Tulsa April 20.

Based on her winter performance, Tornier ranked 46th in ITA pre-season singles.

The Aztecs also placed



Ernie Anderson Photo

TORNIER TOUGH: Aztec Silvia Tornier of Germany hits a practice backhand.

two doubles teams in the nation's top 25. Tornier and Lindsey Hedberg ranked 19th and Whitney Wells and Katja

(Continued on Page 4)

Seattle-Bound, SDSU Men Rank 19th in America

The San Diego State men's tennis team has parlayed fall victories into an appearance at the ITA National Team Indoor Championships in Seattle in February.

The invitation, the first ever received by the Aztecs, comes after a strong showing in last fall's ITA regional tournament in Las Vegas.

The SDSU team ranks 19th in the national pre-season poll, finishing ahead of Texas and Fresno State and trailing Mississippi State and Minnesota.

Aztec Valentino Pest of Germany won the fall regional tournament in Las Vegas and with it an invitation to the 32-player Rolex National Intercollegiate In-

(Continued on Page 3)

Two Aztecs Receive Top National Coaching Awards

PRINCETON, N.J. - The Intercollegiate Tennis Association has honored two San Diego State tennis graduates with prestigious national coaching awards.

Ann Lebedeff (1972-74), one of SDSU's top tennis players of the 1970s and a leading college coach, was named Division II Coach of the Decade for the 1990s.

Lebedeff, now coaching Pomona-Pitzer College, led Cal Poly-Pomona to back-to-back NCAA Division II women's titles in 1991-92 and a runner-up showing in 1994.

Liz Dudash LaPlante (1975-77) was honored as NCAA Division III 2000 Coach of the Year at UC San Diego, which lost in the national finals to top-seeded Trinity, 5-4.

LaPlante and Lebedeff were honored at



DYNAMIC DUO: Aztecs Liz Laplante, left, Ann Lebedeff at Florida banquet.

the ITA banquet in Florida in December.

"It was big year for us," said LaPlante, who began coaching UC San Diego after graduation from SDSU. Ten years ago, she was Division III Coach of the Decade.

"We have the best record of any Division III school," she said, citing four national titles.

Lebedeff has coached a total of 20 All-Americans. LaPlante's team this year included an All-American, as well as Kirsten Olson of San Diego, Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship Award winner.

Among winners for the 1990's decade: Frank Brennan and Dick Gould of Stanford and Bob Hansen of UC Santa Cruz.

The ITA and Wilson Sporting Goods sponsor the awards.

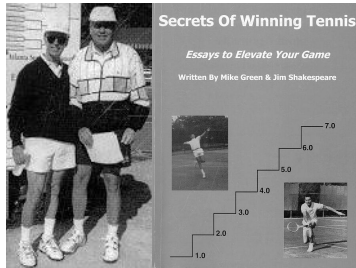
Jim Shakespeare has the name and the game to write a great book about tennis. A former National Collegiate Coach of the Year at Presbyterian College in South Carolina, he coached nine All-Americans.

Today, he terrorizes the draws of USTA National 60-plus Championships. (Despite my Aztec tenacity, I thank the Almighty when he's in someone else's quarter.)

For *Secrets*, he has teamed up with Mike Green, the Davis Cup teammate of Tony Trabert and Vic Seixas.

They have crafted

Secrets: Elevating Tennis Essays



AUTHOR, AUTHOR: Jim Shakespeare, left, and Mike Green beside their book of tennis *Secrets*.

101 essays on every aspect of the game. They divide the territory: *Your Game is Like a Jigsaw Puzzle* (Green) lays out all the elements of a complete game. *Now You*

Are Going to Win

(Shakespeare) describes how a winning demeanor can convince your opponents that *they know* they are going to

lose to you.

With 105 years of tennis between them, their ideas ring true. Each essay, usually less than a page in length, leads to a drill to firm up your understanding and to increase your skill level. Their purpose is to elevate your game from whatever your level, 1.0 to

7.0. There is even an essay on *Teaching the Beginner* (Shakespeare), which suggests simple ways to divide lessons into five stages.

The tone is purposeful and direct, just like the authors. The cover isn't slick; except for the jigsaw puzzle, the illustrations are simple.

For Aztecs looking to improve their games, *Secrets* is a gift from two veterans who've seen it all.

• **John Martin (1957)**

Secrets of Winning Tennis, Shakespeare & Green, 212 pages, \$19.95 plus \$5 S&H. Check or money order payable to Jim Shakespeare, 7100 Old Westham Road, Richmond, VA 23225-1616. (Virginia residents add 90 cents state sales tax.)

A Tennis Movie to Make You Weep: 'Hard, Fast, and Beautiful'

By Tom Penner

During one of the rain delays at last year's U.S. Open, John McEnroe was heard to say that before he died he'd love to see just one good tennis movie.

One may wonder whether he'd just caught a late-night AMC screening of *Ida Lupino's Hard, Fast & Beautiful*.

Brought to the big screen in 1952, this dull and unimaginative tennis melodrama, starring Claire Trevor as a tennis mom from hell, and foxy Sally Forrest as her tennis star daughter (who goes from local high school prodigy to Forest Hills champion), has all the energy and snap of a flat soft drink.

For the tennis enthusiast, however, the fun may lie in spotting how our favorite sport is betrayed and bastardized in film treatment. We enjoy catching the filmmakers committing laughable tennis *faux paux*, such as innocent Sally winning the Junior Nationals on her first attempt (without a backhand) then working hard on the stroke the length

of a one-minute montage and proceeding to conquer Forest Hills.

Upon winning America's greatest tennis honor she travels off to Europe (against the wishes of her Opie Cunningham-like fiance) to play Wimbledon. After all, what is any self-

respecting tennis movie without a glimpse of England's fabled lawns in the fall?

To be fair, any filmmaker setting out to make a tennis movie should be applauded, and Claire Trevor's evil portrayal of the obsessive mother

really gets you hating her.

Toward the film's end, as her neglected husband lies dying in a hospital bed, he has just enough breath to tell her to *beat it*.

Hard, Fast, and Beautiful (1952) ATR's reviewer copy, from a private collection, is not available to the public.

You sympathize with him, much in the way you like to hate Vic Morrow's abusive Little

League Manager in the wonderful kiddie baseball film, *The Bad News Bears*.

In the end, happy and wizened Sally grows the *cajones* to manage her own tennis endorsements a la Venus and Serena, and she

manages to stave off a major impulse to tank her second Final at Forest Hills. She wins the cup, the devotion of Opie, and presumably, a better backhand.

The film's last shot shows her mother, spurned and bitter, seated in the empty Forest Hills center court stands. Cue the dead leaves blowing across the court. Fade up dramatic score. Set and match.

• • • • •
Aztec Tom Penner played at SDSU in 1980-83; he writes screenplays, teaches tennis, and lives with his wife, Jenny, in Long Beach.

Dear ATR: 'Keep it coming. I really like it.'

Dear ATR: Keep up the good work. I enjoy reading all the tennis articles.

Jeanne Garrett (1946)

Jeanne Doyle Garrett attended San Diego State before transferring to the University of Arizona, where she excelled at tennis and began a successful career as

player and coach, winning more than 50 gold balls in USTA competition. Garrett, featured in ATR, Vol. 1, No. 2 ("She Wanted to Play on the SDSU Men's Team — in 1946."), lives in San Diego.

Dear ATR: One of the things I've enjoyed this past year is reading the Aztec Ten-

nis Reporter. It's fun. We may get up to SDSU (in April) for home matches. I learned about them from the Reporter. Keep it coming. I really like it.

Steve Gibson

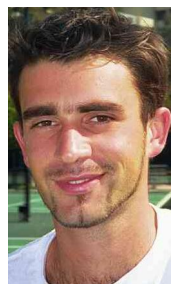
The writer is a veteran reporter for The Sacramento Bee.

Aztecs Earn Bid For Seattle Trip, Seek U.S. Title

(Continued from Page 1)

door Championships in Dallas, TX in early February.

Aztec Oliver Maiberger of



Maiberger

Germany placed 59th in the pre-season singles rankings after winning 22 straight matches playing last season at number two singles.

A coaches committee chose San Diego State to represent Region VII in the ITA National Indoor Team Championships, February 16-18, in Seattle. The draw is composed of the top eight teams ranked nationally and the top team in each of eight regions.

Joining the Aztecs in the Seattle draw: Washington, UCLA, Pepperdine, Illinois, Tennessee, Duke, Mississippi, Georgia, Stanford, Princeton,



Webster

Texas A&M, TCU, Oklahoma State, Florida, and Virginia Commonwealth.

"We get the people looking hoping to get," said Coach John Nelson, "we'd be better than last year."

One new recruit is Felix Hardt of Allensbach, Germany, who ranks among his country's top 80 male players.

"Eric Faulk (an Aztec team member in 1994-98) told me he's a very good player," said Nelson.

Hardt is an international business major and an acquaintance of Maiberger and Pest.

A second recruit, not yet enrolled in classes, is awaiting NCAA certification.

Two returning players, Travis Hasson of San Luis Obispo and Shawn Hiatt of



Hasson



Bere

North Carolina will join Khalid Naffa, a transfer from Saddleback College, coached by Aztec Scott Hansen (1991-93).

Another returning starter, Matt Bere of Michigan, won 17 of 29 matches last year. Against Virginia Commonwealth at the NCAA finals in Athens, GA, Bere took a one-set lead and pulled the Aztecs to within a single set of victory in the Round of (Sweet) 16.

It was not clear whether Adam Webster of Santa Barbara would return for a final year. Webster won 15 of 25 matches last year, stopping Fernando Sanchez's 23-match streak for Virginia Commonwealth in the NCAA finals.

Paired with Maiberger in doubles matches last year, Webster and Hasson won 16



Hiatt

Carswell Gains USTA Gold Ball In 25+ Doubles

(Continued from Page 1)

was excited. It's one of those trophies you always hear about," Carswell said.

In the semifinals, he and Brown upset the top seeds, Keith Casterlin of Arlington, TX and Stanley Pawlowski of Cutchogue, NY, 6-2, 6-3.

In a playoff for third place, Casterlin and Pawlowski defeated Aztec Bobby Hrdina (1998) and Matt Brothers of Kenosha, WI, 6-1, 7-6.

A week later, Carswell and Brown won the doubles crown at the 14th Annual Top Gun Tournament at Seacliff Tennis Club in Orange County, again defeating Hoffman and Hernandez in the final, 6-2, 7-6 (13-11).

Carswell and Brown defeated three other Aztecs on their way to the USTA title. In the first round, they overcame Ted Hagey (1973-75) and Chaz Griffin, 6-2, 6-3. In the quarterfinals, they defeated Mike Paradowski (1992-95) and Kerry Safdie (1989-93), 6-3, 6-1.

Carswell played number one at New Mexico for three years, leading the team to three consecutive conference championships (1991-93). He played on the pro tennis tour for five years and is in his third year as assistant men's coach at SDSU.

Carswell leads a double life, helping coach the Aztecs while operating an ice cream business with his wife, Lainie. The couple employs 18 workers at three San Diego franchises of Dipping Dots Ice Cream. They started their business partnership in 1994 and are expanding their operations to stores in Newport Beach and Irvine.

The couple met as students at the University New Mexico, where she played volleyball.



Carswell

Budget Car Unit Helping Aztecs In Tennis Travel

Budget Car Sales of San Diego is helping the Aztec tennis effort. It furnishes Men's Coach John Nelson with a car and gives the men's and women's teams use of a 15-passenger van.

Budget operates in Miramar, Escondido, and El Cajon, under Chief Operating Officer Rod Millum and General Manager Randy Kocher.

The Budget Car Sales donation saves the two teams an estimated \$5,000.

"It's been a real blessing for me," said Nelson. "We really appreciate their help and involvement in our program."

Where Are We Aztecs Now? The Great Search (1942-01)

1950

Bill Jack (1956-60), who led the Aztecs all four years, has retired after a career in finance with Bank of America and the Industrial Bank of Japan. Jack reports he has resumed playing tennis after many years on the golf



Jack

course. He lives with his wife, **Mary**, in La Canada. A finalist in the San Diego-wide Harper Ink tournament while at St. Augustine High School, he later held senior Southern California rankings.

1990

Alex Waske (1998-2000) reached 255th in the ATP



Waske

world rankings this fall. In January, he reported that he and his partner defeated Karim Alami and Hicham Arazi of Morocco, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) in the first round at Doha, Qatar, making 60 (ATP) points and quite some dough. At the Australian Open qualifying tournament, he reached the second round, falling to Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland, 6-2, 7-5.

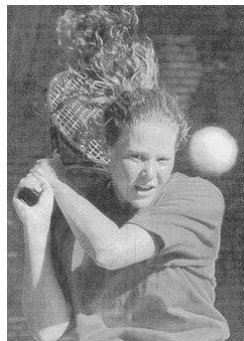
Coming of Age: Aztec & Aggie



1986: WHEN IT ALL BEGAN



1992: USTA-BOUND



EYES ON PRIZE



1988: DAWN, LEFT; LINDSEY, RIGHT; ASHLEY, CENTER

After years of enduring double takes and double matches, Dawn Doyle of Austin, TX, at left, kindly shared her pictures (we got a million+) so we could show you her twin daughters growing up to play college tennis.

Lindsey Hedberg (1999-2001), upper right, is a student-athlete at San Diego State. Ashley Hedberg is a student-athlete at Texas A&M, after transferring from the University of New Mexico. Both are sophomores.

Among the top juniors in their USTA (Texas) section, they met in a singles final (1995) and won the doubles title five times.

Remarkably they never played local, Doyle says, just national events. Now it's big-time college tennis.



1995: USTA SECTIONAL SINGLES



TROVE: TROPHIES AND MEDALS, TOO



1998: FIVE-TIME WINNERS, USTA SECTION

Aztec Women, Clemson Tied At 27th in U.S.

(Continued from Page 1)

Karrento ranked 23rd. This could pay dividends. Under a new ITA format, each match starts with doubles play. This will be good for us, said Mattera. We're quite strong.

In fall competition, Torniier reached the quarterfinals of the ITA Regional Tournament at UC Irvine, losing in a third-set tiebreaker to Jewell Peterson (9th) of USC.

The 2001 roster includes Hedberg of Texas, Karrento of Finland, Wells of Fresno, CA, Katey Becker of Orange, CA, Julie Chidley of Riverside, CA, Emelie Akerbrant-Bengtsson of Sweden, Erin Polowski of Idaho and Christine Avendano of Poyway, CA, who won a place on the team in a tryout.

Polowski took Faye De Vera (47) of Arizona State to three sets at the Irvine regional tournament, losing in a tiebreaker.

In February, the Aztecs face several tough opponents, including 12th-ranked USC and 10th-ranked Pepperdine, as well as UC Irvine, which defeated the Aztecs in an upset last year.



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