

Aztec Tennis Reporter

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

Vol 3, No 3, 2001

Tennis Teams Top SDSU's Athletes With High Grades

San Diego State's tennis players earned the top grade point averages for men and women among the 17 Aztec athletic teams for the Spring 2000 semester.

Eight of nine women's team members posted averages of 3.2 or above, as did six members of the men's team.

Katja Karrento, a pre-med student from Finland, scored straight A's and was one of three student athletes who received the Malik Award for a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Aztec's Karrento, Silvia Tornier, Lindsey Hedberg, Katey Becker, Whitney Wells, Emelie Akerbrant-Bengtsson, Erin Polowski, and Christine Avendano led all teams with a 3.55 grade point average.

Aztec's Matt Bere, Oliver Maiberger, Valentino Pest, Travis Hasson, Shawn Hiatt, and Alexander Waske compiled a GPA of 2.98, highest for all men's teams and fourth highest overall.

The SDSU scholar-athletes were honored at an Athletic Department banquet in early April.



Photos by Stan Liu

Aztec's on the Attack

Watching the ball, Aztec's Silvia Tornier, top; Julie Chidley, center left; Lindsey Hedberg, center right, and Katey Becker practice for Mountain West Championship tournament. Aztec's gained finals, losing title to BYU, 4-3.

Aztec's Streak Ends in Finals; BYU Wins Title

San Diego State's women's tennis team caught fire in the final month of the season, upsetting 31st ranked Tulsa, 5-2, winning 13 of 15 matches, and battling BYU to the final point (4-3) before yielding the conference tournament title to the Cougars.

The Aztec's had shut out Air Force, 4-0, to gain the Mountain West finals. Despite their loss to BYU, the Aztec's expected to receive an at-large invitation to the NCAA playoffs.

Bedeveled by alternating wins and losses in the first three months of play, SDSU's record stood at 8-7 in early April. Then the team put together a string of victories, including the Tulsa upset and triumphs over New Mexico (6-1) and University of San Diego (4-3).

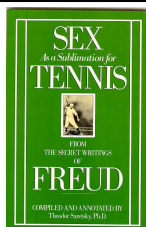
Their only loss in the regular conference season was to Brigham Young by an identical 4-3 score, which Coach Peter Matterna called a "heartbreaker."

By April 23, the Aztec's had rebounded to a 14-7 record, winning eight matches in a row.

They were playing good ball.

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When Holly Beat Ronnie

Aztec Men Win 12 of 14, Earn Title, Lose Bid

San Diego State's men's tennis team shrugged off the loss of Valentino Pest to injury and Felix Hardt to ineligibility, winning 12 of its final 14 regular season matches and capturing the Mountain West Conference season title.

But upstart BYU grabbed the year-end tournament crown with a stunning 4-1 victory over the Aztec's, snapping Oliver Maiberger's 18-match winning streak and dashing hopes for an invitation

from the NCAA playoff committee.

Even so, said Coach John Nelson: "I'm proud of the guys. They took control of their season."

After a 2-7 start, Nelson held a lengthy team meeting. "I challenged them," he said. "I wanted them to be in charge."

Within weeks, Maiberger, Shawn Hiatt and Mike Coelho led the Aztec's to victories over UC San Diego (6-1), Bowling Green (7-0), Princeton (5-2),

Nebraska (4-3), BYU (5-2), Utah (5-1), UNLV (5-1), Air Force (7-0), New Mexico (4-3), Cal Poly (5-2) UC Santa Barbara (7-0), and USD (4-3).

Their losses, by identical 4-3 scores, were to Yale and Middle Tennessee.

"The guys are coming around," Nelson said late in April, during Pest's lengthy absence. "I'm getting some very good performances."

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Felix Hardt was minutes away from his first intercollegiate tennis match as an Aztec when his coach, John Nelson, delivered the bad news.

Hardt, a young student from a small town in Germany, had jumped all the hoops to gain acceptance at San Diego State: posted his SAT scores, provided his high school grades, and, to affirm his status, documented his repayment of a small amount of money he had earned from a few pro tournaments.

By most accounts, this is a common experience in Ameri-

Paying The Price of Honesty

can college tennis these days.

After a season or two of professional play (often with only modest results), today's college student-athletes regain their amateur standing by showing they accepted no more money than their expenses to play on the tour.

There's another NCAA requirement: a one-year absence from the pro circuit.

Hardt had abstained for virtually every minute of the year, with one exception.

Shortly before entering compulsory military service, he played in a pro tournament as a favor to a friend who was tournament director. The dates were on his NCAA application.

Now, just 30 minutes before the season opener against New Mexico State (which the Aztecs lost), the NCAA compliance officer issued a ruling: Hardt must wait a full year before competing.

It is a perceived fact of life

in college tennis today that few coaches submit an exhaustive accounting of their players' pro records, especially from foreign countries. Many coaches look the other way. It can pay big dividends.

But John Nelson is a teacher. Even though Hardt might have been the Aztecs' top player (making SDSU one of the nation's best), Nelson insisted Hardt's NCAA papers must be complete.

Hardt, Nelson, and the entire team paid a price. But they won my everlasting admiration. — **John Martin (1957)**

Sex (as a Sublimation for) Tennis (from the Secret Writings of) Freud

Okay, first thing, send the children from the room. This tennis book contains dirty words (not only "foot fault" but "sublimation" and "psychoanalysis.")

These words spring from the suppressed imagination of a Long Island university professor whose love of tennis afflicted him with temporary madness in 1985.

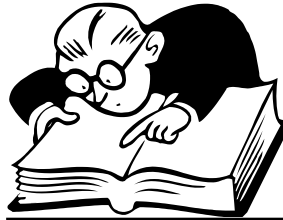
That year, with the nationwide craze for tennis approaching its peak, Dr. Theodor Saretsky, a training analyst and clinical professor at Adelphi University's Postdoctoral Institute, published this set of articles, letters, and speeches by Sigmund Freud. All, astonishingly, relate to tennis.

Let's be clear: They are all

fake (I think) — but lovingly created, meticulously footnoted, lavishly illustrated, and maddeningly devoted to the twin loves of tennis-playing professors: documenting and theorizing.

Thus, we learn that Freud realized sex was losing its grip on the masses and that tennis was taking over as our most basic instinct, destined to lower the birth rate with the advent of nighttime play and weekend doubles leagues.

To combat the most dan-



Sex As a Sublimation for Tennis from the Secret Writings of Freud, compiled and annotated by Theodor Saretsky, Ph.D., 1985, Workman Publishing, NY, 10 Brower Avenue, Woodmere, NY 11598 (516-374-3252) Price: \$8 (cost of shipping and handling charges are included)

gerous effects of this neurosis, Freud set up his Psychoanalytic Tennis Institute in Vienna in 1906. Tennis players flocked to its couches.

Most authorities agree, writes Saretsky, that if he had not been preoccupied with his other interests, Freud could have been a high intermediate player.

All of this is such fun that the reader feels as if he or she is drowning in pleasure (I don't want to carry this metaphor too far).

Yes, there are flaws: Why,

for example, must we wait until page 86 to find out that in 1934 Freud devised a cure for choking? Dr. Saretsky tells us that *unheimlich* is the German word for "something frightening that suddenly takes over" — the impulse to play terribly for no good reason.

The cure, he reveals with a straight face, is the Heimlich Maneuver.

If you enjoy indulging your fantasies about tennis, this book is for you. If you fear compulsion, stay away, which is how many Americans reacted to tennis after 1985 (staying in bed on Saturday mornings).

I ask you: Do we really need Sigmund Freud to explain this? — **J.M.**

Dear ATR: 'Loved Your Review' — Shakespeare

Dear ATR: I just got your newsletter and I loved the review ("Secrets: Elevating Tennis Essays," ATR, Vol. 3, No. 2) You were very generous. Thank you very much. And let me let you know if we get some orders because of it. I have a feeling we will. And I sure appreciate it.

Jim Shakespeare
Richmond, VA

The writer is co-author, with Mike Green, of *Secrets of Winning Tennis*.

Dear ATR: What a wonderful niche newsletter. I read every word. No, I don't know Dick Graham, Dick Knox, or Jim Wyatt. (See "The Great Search," ATR, Vol 3, No 2) But I knew Norm Brinker, who wound up marrying Maureen Connolly. Now that's a tennis connection for San Diego State.

Larry Townsend
Evanston, IL

The writer was editor of *The Aztec* and a candidate for

student president in the 1957 SDSU election won by Brinker. Little 'Mo Connolly, who worked as a clerk for The San Diego Union, won Wimbledon (1952-54), Forest Hills (1951-53), France (1953-54) and Australia (1953). She was injured in a riding accident and did not return to competition. (She died in 1969 at age 34). After graduation, Townsend, now retired, served The Chicago Tribune as reporter and editor for more than 37 years.

Aztec Tennis Reporter

This is the 13th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, a newsletter for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis.

This edition of *ATR* is being mailed to 876 readers in 37 states and 18 foreign countries.

ATR, now in its third year, invites letters and articles and returns all unused manuscripts.

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

Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1942-2001)

1975

San Diego State Men's Tennis Team

Larry Belinsky:
"I own a furniture business and live in Rancho Santa Fe."

Stu McDowell:
"I'm district psychologist for the Carmel schools and live in Pacific Grove, CA."

Reed Anderson:
"I run my own tennis school in Rancho Mirage, CA."

Craig Isaacs, player, assistant coach: "I'm a financial consultant for professional athletes and live in Phoenix, AZ."



Jon Toney: "I sell packaging materials in the Bay Area and live in Nevada City, CA."

Gene Templeton, head coach, lived and coached high school and college teams in Texas, Arizona, California and New Mexico. He is deceased.

Mario Parker:
"Am I living in Costa Mesa?"

Gary Druckman: "I'm a tennis coach and businessman living in Park City, Utah."

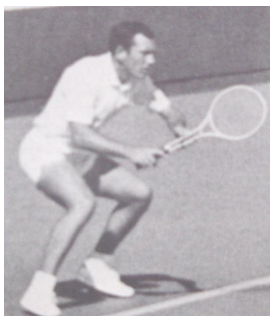
1970

Gary Druckman (1974-78), who has been in the office supply and corporate catering business for a decade, is considering a return to tennis. Druckman coached UC Santa Barbara for six years (1984-89), compiling a 97-53 record, including an upset victory over #3 ranked UCLA in 1988. Druckman reports his teams beat Arizona three years in a row and never lost to the Aztecs. He lives with his wife, **Marta**, in **Park City, Utah**.

Craig Isaacs (1969-72, Assistant Coach, 1972-75) is senior vice president and Chief Operating Officer of the consulting division of Walker & Hebets, a financial consulting firm which handles investments for more than 250 professional athletes and entertainers. After college, Isaacs competed on the tour, playing in the U.S. Open qualifying

and satellite tournaments in Canada and Mexico. With Aztecs **Gene Templeton** and **Dave Austin**, Isaacs created Tennis Services, USA, which consulted with resorts, then he taught at Tennis La Jolla and coached at The Bishop's School. In 1984, he moved to **Phoenix, AZ**, where he lives with his wife, **Betsy**. Isaacs said he has not played tennis in 12 or 13 years, but vows: "I get back to it." He and his partners recently helped raise \$2.5 million for medical research.

Stu McDowell (1974-76) is District Psychologist for the Carmel Unified School District, where he has worked 17 years. After his intercollegiate days, McDowell played tournament tennis, bicycled the



Craig Isaacs, 1969

West Coast and ran marathons before beginning graduate studies at Long Beach State. McDowell and his wife, **Caren**, live in **Pacific Grove, CA** with their two children, **Sara**, 17, and **Riley**, 13.

Jon Toney (1975) teaches tennis some evenings and sells packaging materials for Allied Containers in the San Francisco area during the week before returning on weekends to his home in **Nevada City, CA**, where he lives with his wife, **Lee Ann**, and their two children, **Jason**, 14, and **Megan**, 16.

Dom Gomsi (1974-76) is general manager of the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector District and teaches tennis privately in the Palm

Springs area. Gomsi played on the ATP tour (1977-79) and competed in the Wimbledon qualifying tournament, at Queens Club, and in international satellite tournaments. Gomsi ran a junior tennis boarding program in Ramona and was president of the United States Professional Tennis Association for California (he held a NorCal ranking three years ago). With a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a master's in biology (both from SDSU), Gomsi was a chemist for the State of California in Berkeley and ran the Alameda County Vector Control program (controlling mosquitoes and pests), before taking his current position three years ago. He lives in **La Quinta, CA**.

Mario Parker (1975), who coached at Orange Coast College, is believed (by teammate Gary Druckman) to be living in **Costa Mesa, CA**.

Aztec Streak Ends in Finals

(Continued from Page 1)

said Mattera. "The chemistry is good and it's all come together," he said.

When Silvia Tornier, the top Aztec player for much of the season, was sidelined with a pulled muscle, Mattera rested her, then shifted her to doubles duty, moving Lindsay Hedberg to number one singles. The Texan sophomore picked up valuable points for the Aztecs.

"Lindsay has been playing great tennis," Mattera said in mid-April.

Hedberg ran off a string of seven victories at number one. Among her triumphs: Bianca Posada of Tulsa, 6-1, 6-2; Janice Nyland of Oregon, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, and Brooke Parsons of Air Force, 6-1, 6-1.

Despite exceptional play, the conference title was beyond the Aztecs' improving reach.

Even with points from Aztecs Tornier, Katja Karrento, and Katey Becker, SDSU fell short. BYU's Jodi Richardson broke Hedberg's victory string, 6-2, 7-5, and the Cougars won the doubles point as well as two other crucial singles matches.

In the decisive number three singles, Aztec Whitney Wells held off BYU's Lu Oswald as long as possible before yielding the final point in a 7-5, 6-4 loss.

There were consolations: Five Aztecs won all-Mountain West Conference honors: Tornier (16-12), Karrento (23-8), Wells (16-13), Chidley (16-15), and Hedberg, (18-10) who was twice MWC Player of the Week.

In doubles, Hedberg and Tornier ranked 43rd in the nation in the ITA's April 25 list.

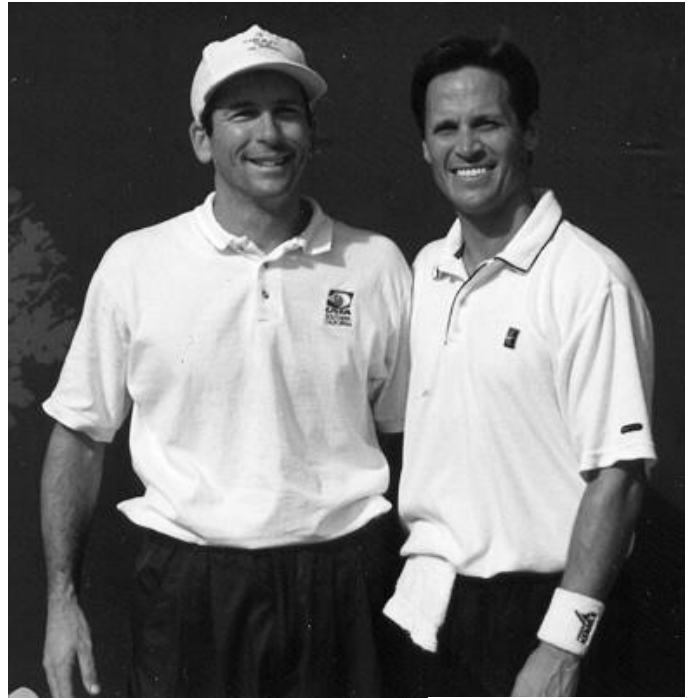


Photo Courtesy Glenn Stephan

NUMBER ONE IN AMERICA: Aztec Glenn Stephan, right, and Pat Rhea, who played at USD, earned USTA ranking as the nation's top 35-plus men's doubles team for 2000.

Aztec Men Revive, Win 12 of 14, MWC Title, But Not NCAA Bid

(Continued from Page 1)

Shawn Hiatt (has) really come on. He had a great win over (Gregor) Skorin of (UNLV).+

Hiatt won, 6-3, 6-1, and the Aztecs toppled the 32nd ranked team in the country.

Coelho, San Diego's top junior in 1998, was another star. Against Nebraska, down one set and behind 5-2, he faced two match points.

"He pulled out the tiebreaker 9-7 and won the third set, 6-1,+

Nelson said, proudly.

Until the conference tournament, Maiberger was never beaten in the top singles slot with Webster to win 11 of 13 (18-0). He had ranked 21st in doubles matches, was Mountain West Player of the Week in singles and 45th in doubles, with Aztec Travis Hasson at his side.

But against BYU, the Aztecs lost the doubles point, then Maiberger fell to BYU's Carlos Lozano, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (4).

Pest lost to Gert Vilms, 6-4, 6-4. Only Aztec Adam Webster was able to win, defeating BYU's Eric

Nyman, 6-2, 6-4.

It had been a year of promise. Maiberger, who teamed with Webster to win 11 of 13 (18-0). He had ranked 21st in doubles matches, was Mountain West Player of the Week five times (three in a row). He is expected to receive an invitation to play in the NCAA singles championships in Athens, GA in mid-May.

Two of the most satisfying New Mexico (then unbeaten in conference play), and cross-

town rival USD, by 4-3 scores.

Against the Lobos, Matt Bere won the deciding point, defeating Andrew Irving, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5). The teams battled seven hours.

The SDSU victory over 55th ranked USD was the Aztecs' sixth in a row over the Toreros and vindication.

"They were telling everybody around town they were going to beat us this year," said Nelson.



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