

Aztec Tennis Reporter

FOR THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

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TEAM MATES: Billie Jean King and Larry Willens.

Aztecs, Toreros To Host 16 Teams Seeking U.S. Title

The National Collegiate Team Tennis Championships moves to San Diego this fall, where it will be co-hosted by San Diego State and the University of San Diego.

The tournament, now in its third year, was developed in association with Billie Jean King and directed by Larry Willens, volunteer Aztec women's coach. The players utilize King's World Team Tennis scoring format.

The 2001 event, to be held at the Barnes Tennis Center in September, is a major prize for San Diego tennis fans. It draws the top 16 collegiate co-ed teams in the country, based on rankings supplied by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association in Princeton, NJ.

The University of South Alabama upset host Stanford to win the 2000 championship.

The combined San Diego State team (Oliver Maiberger, Valentino Pest, Whitney Wells, Katey Becker, Julie Chidley) finished 15th, edging out Tulsa.

Maiberger Upsets Kim, Named All American

Aztec Defeats Champ, Gains NCAA Final 16, Chosen Player of Year

Oliver Maiberger, San Diego State's top men's singles player, dethroned Alex Kim, the defending NCAA singles champion, 7-5, 6-2, in the first round of the national intercollegiate championships at Athens, Georgia.

Maiberger's victory was his second this year over Kim, but it surprised NCAA tournament officials, who had seeded the Stanford ace at number two, expecting him to reach the 2001 finals.

It was the first loss by a previous year's title holder in the first round of the NCAA championships, according to records dating back to 1950.

"I would have to say it was a real battle out there," said Maiberger. "We both didn't play our best tennis. Obviously it is a good win for me and I really feel happy."

Despite his disappointment, Kim praised Maiberger:

"Oliver played really good. Coming into the tournament, I felt that I had a good chance to repeat as singles champion."



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos Courtesy Georgiadogs.com

ALL AMERICAN: Aztec Oliver Maiberger awaits serve, left, and swats forehand at 2001 NCAA Championships in Athens, GA, where he upset Stanford's Alex Kim, 7-5, 6-2.

Maiberger was named Mountain West Player of the Year and earned the victory over Kim after three weeks of high-intensity practices under Coach John Nelson.

"I've been playing really hard," he told reporters after the match. "My coach did a really good job preparing me." In the second round, Maiberger defeated Adam Carey of Tennessee, 6-3, 7-5.

"It was a solid match," said Nelson. When Maiberger fal-

tered in the second set, he ended up breaking (Carey) and serving it out. That was great. The victory propelled Maiberger into the Round of 16 and qualified him as an All-American, the second Aztec in two years to receive the honor. Alex Waske won All-American status last year by virtue of being seeded in the top 16.

Sophomore Maiberger's

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Waske's Tour Diary: "I Was Ready to Kill the Guy..."

Editor's Note: Aztec Alex Waske of Germany (1998-2000) plays on the tour and emails his diary to ATR.

Thursday, April 5, 2001

I am practicing quite a lot. I have some time off now, and I am trying to use it for my conditioning. They tested my speed, strength, and endurance, and I am good in the first two, but I suck in endurance

(on the court!). So that means I have one of these watches which measure my pulse and I have to jog for like 45 minutes in between a certain heart rate.

My birthday was ok; I cooked, invited my best friends, and we went out after. I got a lot of presents, mostly perfume and shower gels! Something wrong with the way

I smell or were they just not creative?

Well, other than that I feel I am getting fitter, but I am not hitting the ball that well. I will start playing again in two weeks, we'll see how it goes.

Sunday, May 6, 2001

Things are getting better. I just came back from a future

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Golf: 10 Good Reasons

So, Is It All-ESPN All The Time?



In the 1940s and 1950s, bored college students swallowed goldfish and stuffed themselves into phone booths. Now, says Indiana University professor Murray Sperber, it's all-ESPN all the time.

In *"Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports is Crippling Undergraduate Education,"* (323 pp, Henry Holt & Co, New York) Sperber charges that universities try to compensate for their lack of commitment to undergraduate education by fostering major athletic programs which act as a kind of opiate.

Sperber's analysis seems on target. On some campuses, students get feloniously excited about The Big Game, The Playoffs, and The Sweet 16. After they lost Final Four games, Maryland fans set fires, Arizona fans rioted.

Sperber blames universities for their escalation of big-time college sports. And he

doesn't excuse ESPN for its hip style and inexhaustible weeknight appetite for college football and basketball. (Too bad Bristol U. has so little hunger for college tennis.)

Has Sperber got the goods on the suspects? Not entirely, says Andrew Hacker of the City University of New York.

Writing in *The New York Review of Books*, Hacker has his own gripes (low grades among athletes, overcrowded classes, professorial indifference). But he questions Sperber's conclusions that the big universities are corrupt and that all most students are looking for is an easy degree.

Hacker insists most students would like a demanding

education, with stimulating and committed teachers.

Sperber, meanwhile, has more fish to fry: He describes an aristocracy of athletes.

From the first contact between an athlete and a school, Sperber writes, the jock knows that he or she is special and is treated much better than ordinary student applicants. Among other perks, the university usually pays for the visit.

Still, once on the payroll (scholarship), he reports, the jock, working in a sport for 30, 40, or more hours per week, definitely earns his or her athletic scholarship.

One bad result, Sperber suggests: The schools pam-

per athletes academically.

Everyone that lowers standards for athletes, says Author John Feinstein (*Hard Courts*) writing in the *Washington Post*.

Who is to blame? Every era has its athletic villains, says Columnist Robert Lipsyte in *The New York Times*.

First, it was camp athletes (1920s), then camp coaches (1950s), then shoe companies (1960-1990s) and now, writes Lipsyte:

Current perceived villains are those faculty members, the tramp star professors and the tenured clock-watchers alike, who determinedly ignore the plagiarized papers, doctored grades, and fraudulent eligibilities that keep blue chips on the table.

The gauntlet is down. Question: What is the truth about this at San Diego State?

John Martin (1957)

When Billie Beat Bobby: Waiting for High-Octane Tennis to Ignite

By Tom Penner

The inescapable fact of making a "tennis" movie is that the actors don't usually know how to play tennis.

Prior to filming ABC TV's "When Billie Beat Bobby," Holly Hunter went through a rigorous crash course, and while she didn't quite master her forehand, she did pick up the essence of Billie Jean King.

Therein lies this movie's strength: Its awareness that great sports movies are not about the sport itself, but about people.

Written and directed by the savvy Jane Anderson, the story of the feminist King and her private hell on the road to the "match of the century" makes this possibly one of the best "tennis" movies ever produced. Granted, the list is short.

Ron Silver is fabulous, a dead ringer for the wily Riggs. With his friend and hitting partner, Lornie Kuhle at his side,

played with smirking delight by actor and tennis pro Vincent Van Patten, the two kindle a giddy irreverence (think El-

liot Gould and Donald Sutherland in the original *M*A*S*H*).

But for stuffy tennis purists demanding realism in their tennis cinema, this newest entry falls a little short.

Yes, there is hope. And yes, Anderson succeeds not only to liven up the action, but also to place the viewer inside Billie and Bobby's heads during their fabled slugfest.

But let's face it, high level tennis is hard to fake. Maybe digital imaging is the answer, literally applying an actor's head to a skilled tennis player's body, then, as Ander-



FAME GAME: Tennis Night at Movies

son has done, filming the action using every cinematic trick in the book. The potential for high-

octane tennis cinema is hinted at early in the movie during Billie Jean's junior days on the hard courts of Long Beach. With King's short, dark hair and familiar cat-glasses, the young actress portraying her is obviously a real-life junior ace. This is a delight to the camera's eye, the strokes dynamic and punishing, if only for a few frames.

Later, during the climactic match at the Houston Astro-dome, another tennis ace stands in for Riggs on a few long shots (is it Van Patten?) and again that certain, burst-

ing verisimilitude is achieved.

The rest of the match is linked together with close ups and quick cuts in an effort to cover up the holes in Holly's and Ronnie's games.

The question persists: Now that we know a tennis story can be told well, will Hollywood ever get the action right?

Just as tennis itself takes much more commitment to excel, so must the makers of the next "tennis" movie strive for even more tennis reality.

Tom Penner (1981-83) of Long Beach writes screenplays and teaches tennis.

Aztec Tennis Reporter

This is the 14th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, a newsletter for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis.

Now in its third year, *ATR* is being mailed to 1,029 readers in 37 states and 18 foreign countries.

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

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

1984 San Diego State Women's Tennis Team

Dana Bleicher Pohlman (1983-87): I worked in the garment industry in LA and corporate recruiting and now live in Pacific Beach with my husband, Jeff Pohlman, and our kids, Trevor, 3, and Emily, 1. This was the best year of my life — we were a great team! I miss them!

Taiche Kantner Rudee (1983-84): I taught junior tennis for 12 years; now I'm customer service manager for the Sovietski Collection catalogue. I live in Tierrasanta with my husband, David Rudee, and our son, Kyle, 9 months old (in June).

Heather Petty (1981-84): I'm a detective in the robbery division of the San Diego Police Department. I live in Escondido with my husband, Kevin Barnard, a narcotics detective; he played college tennis at UNLV — and yes, we met on a tennis court.

Shelley Susman (1983-87): I'm a working mother, teaching tennis on the same private court in La Jolla where my mom once taught, and caring for my kids, Victoria, 4, and James, 20 months (in June).

Carol Plunkett (Coach, 1976-1993): I'm retired, traveling a lot, working a little as a tax consultant in Portland, Oregon, trying to golf, and finding it very frustrating (tennis is so much easier).

Peter Mattera (Assistant Coach, 1984-1993): I'm the head women's tennis coach in my eighth season, living in Carlsbad with my wife, Beth, and Kayley, 14, and Torre, 12 — and yes, I'm still surfing.

Tenley Treat Gritt (1981-85): I'm a small business accountant (I don't do taxes!) and mother of Kaitlyn (5 in July) and Sierra (3 in August). I play tennis for fun. We live in Chula Vista; my husband, Kurt, teaches math and coaches the baseball team at Hilltop High.

Jenny Rens (1982-84): I graduated from Northwestern University Dental School, went into practice with my Dad in La Jolla and now own it on my own. I've just started hitting (tennis) again — and surfing. I'm loving it.

Catherine Berry Davies (1982-86): I'm enjoying county (league) tennis in Southampton, England, and staying in shape. My husband (he's in the pharmaceutical business) and I have just had twins!

Carol Neeld Lang (1980-84): I've run a graphics design business, coached a high school team, and play 5.0 tennis. My husband, Bill, a test engineer, and I (and our kids, Sandy, 10, and Billy, 7) live in Las Cruces, NM. (The kids now play, too).

Cynthia MacGregor (1982-86) played on the women's tour with her sister. She is deceased.

Jean Dillingham (1981-84): I was a USTA schools director and a manager for Penn Racquet Sports; now I teach middle school PE and 15-20 hours of tennis a week, and am starting a credit card processing business with my (junior) tennis coach. I live in Studio City, CA.



Linda Howell (1981-85): I played on the tour, was head tennis professional at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, and now I'm a financial advisor for UBS Paine Webber in Century City.

Waske's Diary: "The Only Thing That Kept Me from Killing Him..."

(Continued from Page 1)

in Esslingen, Germany. I made semis in singles. I played my partner first round in singles, beat him 7-5 in the third, then the (seventh) seeded Frenchy (Jean-Baptiste) Perlant (6-1 6-1) and the third seed (Thierry) Guardiola (2-6 7-5 7-6). We won the doubles, which puts us to 8-0 in career wins.

Today I played league in France and beat (Juan Albert)

Viloca (ATP 105) 6-4 7-6, so I guess I am getting better. I am playing aggressive again. Tomorrow morning I will take off to Jerusalem to play a challenger.

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Back in Germany! I lost first round to the number three seed (Stephane) Huet, 4-6 6-4 2-6. There was a storm during my match, windiest conditions I have ever played through. But my biggest problem was

the harder I served, the better he returned. Then it worked fine, I was playing a lot better than him. Then the coach of his friend comes up, sits next to the fence, and starts provoking me. It worked, I was ready to kill the guy. The umpire told him to step away from the fence, which he did (one step), and he kept doing it. I lost my serve and my concentration, and things (went) downhill. The only thing that

kept me from killing him was my brain telling me that the penalty will be very high (money wise and the time of being ineligible for playing), so I only put in a complaint...at the supervisor's office.

Overall, I wasn't unhappy because Iō (used) the circumstances as an advantage and not as an excuse. I'll probably train for a week and then go back out there. Hope all is well! Alex.

Maiberger Upsets NCAA Champ, Wins All American Honors

(Continued from Page 1)

2001 NCAA run ended against Duke freshman Phil King, 6-4, 6-4. King was seeded 5-8.

Nelson called the defeat "not a great match" for Maiberger. "He competed extremely well (earlier) and didn't play as well as he had played."

In the 32-team NCAA Doubles Championships, Maiberger and Adam Webster fell in the opening round to Peter Luczak and David Mullis of Fresno State, 7-5, 6-2. The Bulldogs were seeded 5-8.

Reflecting on his upset of Kim, Maiberger said he built on their two previous encounters:

"I played Alex last year at NCAAs and lost, and then played him in February and beat him in three sets. So I knew that I could beat him."

For the 2001 Aztec season,

Nelson said the SDSU men achieved three historic firsts:

"First time we had a player make it to the quarterfinals in the National Indoors. Tino (Valentino Pest) did that," Nelson said. "First time the team ever made it to the National Indoors, (only 16 teams are invited); (and) first time a player has made it to the NCAA round of 16 in singles."

Aztec Coaches Skip Redondo (1977-1989) and Hugh Bream (1989-1993) confirmed that Maiberger is the first SDSU player to reach the Round of 16 in the NCAA Tennis Championships, which adopted the current format in 1977.

In 1992, Aztecs Jeff Belloli and Chris Numbers reached the NCAA doubles semifinals; in 1991, Belloli and Dax Peter-

son reached the NCAA doubles quarterfinals.

The Aztecs won the 2001 Mountain West Conference title in regular season play, SDSU's first conference tennis championship in eight years.

San Diego State won the Western Athletic Conference season title in 1990-93, recalled Coach Bream, but each year the Aztecs finished off the mark in the year-end WAC tournament.

The 2001 season "wasn't as strong as we would have liked," conceded Nelson, "but I think next year we

should be awesome."

The Aztecs will lose seniors Webster, Matt Bere, and Shawn Hiatt, but Nelson said he expects Felix Hardt, a young German who enrolled in January, to join Maiberger and Pest at the top of the team's lineup next year.

Hardt's absence, due to ineligibility, hampered the 2001 Aztecs. But Nelson said the addition of Hardt and two or more transfer students could make the 2002 Aztecs a powerful team with national promise.

In 2000, the Aztecs reached the NCAA Sweet Sixteen finals in Athens, GA.

ATR's Season: A Few Unforced Errors

Editor's Note: In our May issue (Vol 3, No 3), ATR's reports on the season were incomplete.

In the Mountain West Conference tournament, SDSU's women defeated both Air Force Academy and Colorado State to reach the finals (where they lost to BYU). ATR did not report the victory over Colorado State.

ATR did not report a men's team loss to New Mexico in the conference tournament. The Aztecs were first upset by

BYU, 4-1, and then by New Mexico, 4-2, finishing fourth (SDSU won the MWC title with a 6-1 season record).

For the record, despite strong second-half showings, neither Aztec team received an invitation to the 2001 NCAA playoffs.

Stanford won the women's title, defeating Vanderbilt in the final. SDSU women ranked 43rd. Georgia won the men's title, defeating Tennessee in the final. SDSU men ranked 63rd.



ABC Television Photos

When Holly Beat Ronnie

Ron Silver as Bobby Riggs (as Little Bo Peep) and Holly Hunter as Billie Jean King in "When Billie Beat Bobby." Aztec Tom Penner's review, Page 2.



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