

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY Vol 3, No 6, 2001



ATR Staff Photos

**REDONDO RETURN:** Skip Redondo, right, and Ryan.

## A Redondo Era Dawns -- Again

After a freshman year at Pepperdine, Ryan Redondo has transferred to San Diego State and begun a new chapter in his family's tennis history, which includes his father's 11-year tenure as Aztec men's tennis coach (1977-1988).

From an early age, when he played with racquets and balls in a team shed beside the courts on Montezuma Mesa, Redondo has been part of the Aztec tennis family.

Now, seasoned by competition (at 15, while in high school, he earned two ATP points and ranked 1100th in the world), he is expected to add depth to an Aztec squad already brimming with talent.

The Redondos are one of America's most accomplished tennis families. In the 60s, re-

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Oklahoma State Wins U.S. Title, Aztecs 10th

Oklahoma State dethroned defending champion South Alabama, 27-20, in the finals of the third World Team Tennis National Collegiate Championships in late September.

San Diego State, which co-hosted the 16-team event with the University of San Diego at the Barnes Tennis Center, finished tenth. In 2000, the Aztec men and women claimed 15th place.

Oklahoma State Coach Brad Chiller, who said his players performed well under the pressure, praised the format as spectator-friendly: "Everything is right here."

All five single-set matches (women's doubles, men's singles, men's doubles,



ATR Staff Photo

**DUO:** Aztecs Oliver Maiberger (top) and Ryan Redondo.

women's singles, and mixed doubles) were played in turn on

a single court as teammates watched.

Texas Christian and South Carolina did not compete due to travel security concerns and were replaced by UC Irvine and Santa Clara.

Aztec Oliver Maiberger was unbeaten in his six singles matches. Maiberger and Ryan Redondo won five of their six doubles matches.

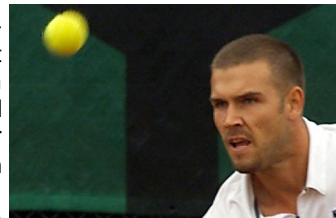
In a playoff, the Aztecs lost a super-tiebreaker to Texas A&M, 24-23, for ninth place.

**Final Standings:** 1. Oklahoma State, 2. South Alabama, 3. BYU and 3. Alabama (tied for third; no playoff was held; BYU does not compete on Sundays), 5. Fresno State, 6. Oklahoma City, 7. Arizona, 8. SMU, 9. Texas A&M, 10. San Diego State, 11. Santa Clara, 12. Loyola Marymount, 13. USD, 14. Princeton, 15. UC Irvine,

## Waske Rises After Call To U.S. Open, Strong Summer

Aztec Alex Waske (1998-2000) accepted an overnight invitation to the U.S. Open qualifying tournament (and lost), then fought to the upper levels of ATP tournaments in Europe and the United States.

Waske won the singles title at Los Angeles (master's), and reached the finals at El Monte (satellite), the semifinals in Aschaffenburg (challenger),



ATR Photo: Stefan Gregor

**EYEBALL:** Waske at work.

and the quarterfinals in Claremont-Pomona (satellite), earn-

ing a total of 82 ATP singles and doubles points in California.

By early October, with victories over Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner among others, he ranked 268 in the world in singles and 166 in doubles.

In El Monte, he faced Aztec Steve Adamson (1995-98) in doubles. When play ended

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Madison Avenue's Aztec

### Whitney Wells Takes a Job

Whitney Wells (1998-01) who helped lead the Aztec women's team for four years, has been hired as an assistant women's coach at Fresno State.



Whitney

Two Bull-dogs she will help coach, Simone Jardim and Kim Niggemeyer, topped ITA preseason rankings.

Fresno. In her four Aztec seasons, her record was 62-53 in singles and 70-42 in doubles. (She was 22-7 in doubles as a senior).

### Travis Hasson Takes a Wife

Travis Hasson, an Aztec tennis mainstay who ranked 50th in ITA doubles in 2001, married his high school sweetheart, Kate Jeffrey, on July 7th at Grace Church in San Luis Obispo. The couple honeymooned at



Kate & Travis

Lake Tahoe. She attends Grossmont College and plans to be a teacher. He is preparing for a career in pharmacy (after a final tennis season). Pastor Kenneth Peet, who married the couple, was Travis's high school tennis coach.

*"I heard the news today, oh boy."* — Beatles, 1967

That morning, Brian Lawson was blocked by traffic as he tried to drive from New Jersey through New York City to Long Island for his consolation match at the USTA National 60s Grass Court Championships. He was safe.

Even though terror is going around, we are playing this tournament, Alex Waske emailed his friends from Los Angeles. Later, his semifinal match was stopped between sets for a memorial service to honor the dead and wounded.

In downtown Washington, a Dutch economist friend, Ruud Dorenbos, and I had just finished hitting and left the

## Tennis When the Terror Came



Thanks to Mort Gerberg for sharing his cartoon: Copyright 1985. *The New Yorker*

**"As in real life, Avery, you're only as good as your second serve."**

tennis court beside the Federal Reserve Bank Board. Soon, security guards evacuated the building and blocked off the

street. Now, they check cars, but tennis continues; we step past them to walk to the court.

Eleven days after the at-

tacks, Cartoonist Mort Gerberg, a New Yorker, was still reeling: My regular tennis partner invited me to play the other day, but I begged off until next week, he said.

Have enough trouble concentrating on the ball under ordinary circumstances; no sense putting my head in jeopardy of getting hit by a serve.

It was hard to concentrate. But back in 1985, Gerberg, ever the philosopher, created a cartoon response to perpetrators of terror (on the tennis court).

While he never intended it this way, perhaps real-life perpetrators should pay heed: A big first serve is not the end of the match. America won't quit.

John Martin (1957)

## Beer & Circus: 'None of These Words Describes Intercollegiate Sports'

By Rick Bay

I have never read Murray Sperber's *Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports is Crippling Undergraduate Education* (Vol 3, Nos 4 & 5) — nor do I intend to read it. Call me uninformed, but I have heard it all before.

Anybody who is drawn to ominous book titles ought to stick to Dickens's *Bleak House* or Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. None of these words, including Sperber's, accurately describes intercollegiate athletics.

Everywhere in higher education there are concerns about the evils of college sports: Dumb jocks in cake courses, majoring in eligibility, illegally recruited, paid by rich boosters under the table or for

phantom jobs.

Some of this concern is merited. Given the number of NCAA investigations annually, college sports will never be devoid of abuses.

But enough cynicism. A solid athletics program is a valuable asset to any university. Competitive sports is educational. Being a part of a school team brings life lessons that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

Teamwork, leadership, adherence to rules and self-sacrifice come from playing organized sports.

Sperber and others cite abuses in football and basketball, generally ignoring the mostly admirable records of our athletes competing in the Olympic sports. Some of them dream of becoming

professionals, but most know it is unlikely and focus on graduating.

At SDSU, about 115 of 550 student athletes play football or basketball. Last year more than 185, or 33 per cent, of the 550 (including a number of football and basketball players) earned the honor of scholar athlete for earning a 3.2 grade point average or better.

The GPA for our student athletes was 2.74 (higher than the general average). In the last four years, the graduation rate for student athletes was higher than that of the general student population.

Football and basketball generate most of the revenue that makes it possible for many Division 1 Olympic sports programs to exist. And even where football is a net ex-

pense, it stimulates gifts and corporate sponsorships.

At San Diego State, athletics is the university's most visible asset, keeping it on the community radar and drawing media attention the university could not otherwise purchase.

Big-time sports does not cripple undergraduate education. If anything, it helps nurture and sustain it.

*The writer is Executive Athletic Director and Special Assistant to the SDSU President.*

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This is the 16th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, a newsletter for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of SDSU tennis.

This issue is being mailed to 1,174 readers in 37 states and 20 foreign countries.

To correspond, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 or [aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com](mailto:aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com)

## Dear ATR: I Left My (Tennis) Heart in Kaiserslautern

Dear ATR: I just got back from a seven-week tennis vacation in Germany. I play in a 30-and-over tennis league for a club in Kaiserslautern. (It is so much fun and I am very lucky to be able to get away for this length of time). I went through three stacks of mail

and found Vol. 3, No. 3 of the *Aztec Tennis Reporter*. As always it was a great read.

Glenn Stephan  
Escondido, CA

*The writer played at San Diego State (1983-84).*

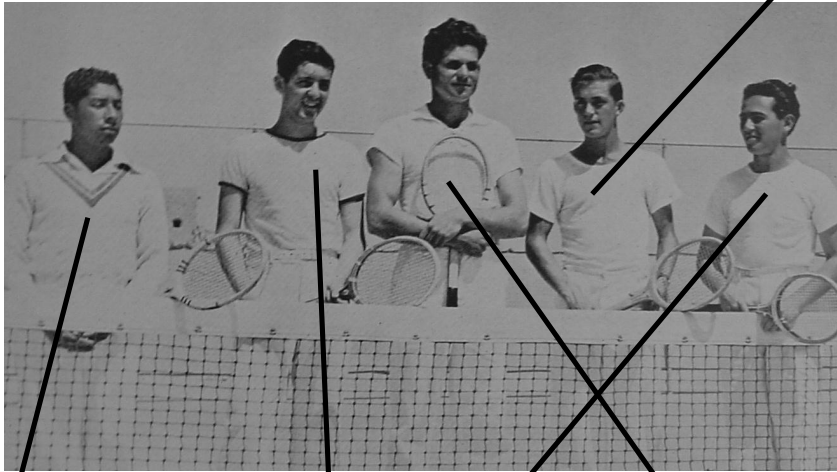
Dear ATR: Your story about the 1984 Women's

Team (The Great Search, ATR, Vol 3, No 5) was terrific. It was great to catch up with that talented group. What accomplishments! We can be very proud of them all.

Barbara Hartung  
(Class of 1956)  
San Diego, CA

# Where Are We Now? The Great Search Widens (1938-2001)

## 1938 San Diego State Men's Tennis Team



**Rafael Huerta (1938-41):** I served in the U.S. Army Air Corps' 337th Fighter Group in North Africa in World War II, worked at Ryan Aeronautical as an inspector of Navy drones in the experimental department, and retired after 25 years in quality control at Charco Construction. At San Diego State, I was called "Baron" because I used to read a lot about Baron von Richthofen (German flying ace). I played tournaments in San Diego and at the Lakeside and El Cajon Tennis Clubs. I worked nights and taught tennis days. I taught Jane Ward, the county champion, and Bob Carruthers, the national boy's champion (he died in an auto accident coming home from USC, where he was on a tennis scholarship). I stopped playing 12 years ago. How did I start? Frankie Parker (U.S. Singles Champion, 1944, 1945; French Champion, 1948, 1949) taught me in Coronado. I'm 91 and still go to Morley Field — to get tennis balls for my German Shepard. My wife, Julia, and I have two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.



Huerta

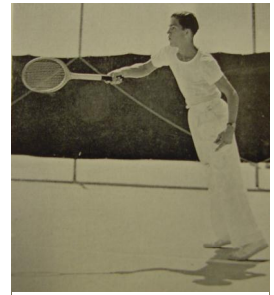
**Norman Seltzer (1936, 38):** I'm a lawyer. I went to Hastings Law School and then, in 1948, founded Seltzer, Kaplan, McMahon, and Vitek, a San Diego law firm. The 1938 Aztec team? We weren't very good, but we had a helluva lot of fun. Over the years, I played tennis for fun; I played for the Balboa Tennis Club in the County Winter Doubles League. I'm 83. My wife, Florence, and I have two children.

Photos Courtesy of  
Special Collections,  
University Archives,  
San Diego State U.

**Ernest Casares (1936-38)** earned his first letter in tennis as a freshman in 1936 and became a prominent dentist in San Diego. He passed away in 2000.

**Elston Wyatt (1938):** I left San Diego State after my freshman year, and moved to Pensacola (my Dad was a Navy doctor), then went to the Naval Academy. I was graduated in 1943 and served in both World War II and Korea (I commanded a destroyer, the *Wantauk*) and retired in 1963 as a Lieutenant Commander. I've played tennis all these years but dropped tournaments five or six years ago. I'm 81. My wife, Trudy, and I live in Honolulu, where I taught tennis at a prep school. I was the best in the Navy, although we didn't have an all-Navy tennis championship at the time. And yes, I (probably) beat Ted Schroeder (Wimbledon and U.S. National Champion and six-time Davis Cup player) in 1947.

*Editor's note: Wyatt's victory over Schroeder, 6-4, 6-2, was recalled by Wyatt's 1938 Aztec team captain, Carmack Berryman (see below).*



Del Sudoeste Photos

Elston Wyatt

**Carmack Berryman (1935-38):** I'm a retired school teacher. At San Diego State, I majored in physical education and social studies then took a teaching credential and masters' at Whittier College. I taught high school for many years and coached tennis at Lincoln High and Cal Western (now USIU) and was the head tennis pro at the Hotel Del Coronado (1950-61). Peter Mattera (now SDSU women's coach) was a little boy when I played his father at the Hotel Del. I'm 87. My wife, Shirley, and I have been married 57 years (her brother, Alex Gordon, played intercollegiate tennis at UCLA). We have four children and four grandchildren. Our granddaughter Sheri Oliver just won the La Jolla Open for 12-and-under.



Berryman

## A Redondo Era Dawning Again

(Continued from Page 1)

called Skip Redondo, his four sisters were ranked number one in the nation in their junior divisions.

Tammy Redondo (1979-83) played Aztec tennis under Coach Carol Plunkett (1976-93). Marita Redondo ranked fourth in the U.S. and twelfth in the world in women's singles. Both are Ryan's aunts.

Ryan's uncle, Walter, reached the top 50 on the men's world tour in the 1970s.

Ryan's half-sister Summer played at Boise State (she



ATR Staff Photo

**RYAN'S ROOTERS:** Redondo family at SDSU-Texas A&M match, from far right: Ryan's grandmother, Martha; his brother, Skyler; mother, Marita; father, Skip; grandfather, Taquio; aunt Tammy; Tammy's daughter, Tiara; Ryan's sister, Shelly; her husband, Del Tulao; Ryan's half-sister Summer; Ryan; his girlfriend, Alexandria Ali; Ryan's cousin, Brandon Lupian; and Ryan's half-sister Kia Moore.

works for USTA); his half-sister Luis Obispo. His father, Skip, Kia played at Cal Poly, San played at UC Irvine (1972-73).

## Waske's Summer Raises ATP Rank

(Continued from Page 1)

(Waske and partner won), Adamson broke the news: He was retiring from the tour.

He had the honor, said Waske, of playing against him in his final match.

Waske met his doubles partner, Sebastian Jaeger, in two singles finals. In their first meeting, Jaeger won 6-2, 6-4.

Sebastian played...great...He was reading my serves really well...zoning for a big part of the match...he deserved to win it.

Waske added: He is always weird to play a good friend.

Waske won the second final (Jaeger defaulted due to

## Aztec Tennis Wins Funds from 5th Clay Court Tournament



George Marks Photo

**MONEY MAKERS:** Aztec alumni and friends who played to help raise donations, standing, from left: Jay Meyer, Jim Ault, Susheel Gulati, Peter Davis, Taichi Kantner Rudee, Tim Darling, Tammy Redondo, Mike Paradowski, Peter Buntmeyer, Scott Preece, Jack McGrory (rear), Gregg Caledonia, and Lou Sacco. Kneeling from left: Felix Hardt (crouching), Nick Varvais, Rasmus Larson, Kerry Safdie.

## Aztec Club Seeks Letter Winners

The Aztec Athletic Department wants you - if you've won an SDSU tennis letter - to join the Aztec Club.

About 3,000 Aztec student athletes and alumni are eligible to join and attend club events, according to Associate Athletic Director Joe Moeller. There are no dues or membership fees, he said.

The Aztec Club plans for a spring golf tournament.

Tennis letter winners who wish to join may contact Moeller's assistant, Deanna Lottermoser at 619-594-5162 or at [dlotterm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:dlotterm@mail.sdsu.edu).

San Jose State alumnus Dave Kuhne and University of Alabama alumnus Mike Smith defeated San Diego State freshman Felix Hardt and Aztec alumnus Jay Meyer in the doubles finals of the Fifth Annual Clay Court Tournament at the Barnes Junior Tennis Center.

In the mixed doubles final, former WTA pro Ann Mall and SDSU alumnus Scott Preece defeated former WTA pro Ginger Helgesen Nelson and Dr. Stoney Anderson.

The tournament, sponsored by Meyer and Gregg Caledonia, raised \$8,000 to be divided between the Barnes Center and San Diego State tennis.

More than 50 pros and amateurs competed to raise funds.



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FOR THE  
SAN DIEGO STATE  
TENNIS  
COMMUNITY

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