

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Aztec Pair Wins National Indoor Doubles Title



SDSU University Archives

EARLY CHAMP: Aztec Lois Morris won Southern Cal title. **1922 Aztec Club Led to 2001 Title**

Aztec tennis had humble beginnings: In 1922, an unnamed student started a tennis club - for men.

Two charter members - Spencer Held and Joe Van Rennselaer - won the doubles title in the first tournament they entered (at Chaffey Junior College in Alta Loma).

Lois Morris, the school's women's champ, was not invited to join the club. Undaunted, she won the 1923 Southern California collegiate women's singles title at Ojai.

In 1974, Aztecs Ann Lebedeff and Karen Reinke won the AIAW national intercollegiate women's doubles title.

But for 79 years, until Nov. 10, 2001, no Aztec male had ever won a national intercollegiate tennis championship.

No longer.



Photo Courtesy Karen Reinke Bishop

1974 CHAMPS: Aztecs Lebedeff, left, and Reinke at Ojai.

SDSU's Men Claim First U.S. Crown In 79-Year History

San Diego State's Oliver Maiberger, who has been moving up the pyramid of American college tennis, and Ryan Redondo, a fast-starting newcomer who carries a rich Aztec heritage, won the Omni Hotels National Intercollegiate Indoor Doubles Championships in Dallas in early November.

The Aztecs defeated SMU's Johan Brunstrum and Eric Cohn, 8-6 in the final of the 32-team tournament.

It was the first national title in Aztec men's tennis history dating back to 1922, and it signaled the emergence of a potent partnership in college doubles.

A pair of Aztecs, Ann Lebedeff and Karen Reinke, won the national doubles title in 1974 under the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), the NCAA's predecessor.

The 2001 Aztec men's team had been playing together barely two months, yet: "We're really comfortable with each other," said Redondo, whose father, Skip, coached SDSU (1977-1988). "We complement each other real well. He trusts me and I trust him."

The difference in the final, said Maiberger, was resolve and desire: "We think we wanted it a little more. We were a bit more determined."

Aztec Men's Coach John Nelson praised Redondo's quick start and the Aztecs' focus and discipline in the final's most difficult moments: "I'm proud of the guys."

Facing a break point at 15-40 on his serve, Redondo



Chris Hamilton for Dallas Morning News

VICTORY HUG: Oliver Maiberger (wearing cap) and Ryan Redondo embrace at moment of triumph in the Texas final.

stepped up and hit big serves to win the game, said Nelson

Later, facing sudden death, the Mustangs served at Maiberger, who last summer won the Southwest German Championship.

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Tornier Triumphs in 2 Tournaments

San Diego State's Silvia Tornier won singles titles at the 2001 Intercollegiate Fall Classic and the Aztec Invitational.

Competing against players from Alabama, Baylor, Cal State Northridge, Fresno State, Kansas, Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, UC Irvine, UCSD, and USD, Tornier defeated Aztec Katja Karrento, 6-3, 6-0, in the Flight A final of the Fall Classic and Cheryl Mallaiah of Kansas, 6-1, 6-2, in the Aztec Invitational final.

Tornier and Lindsey Hedberg, 29th in ITA rankings, won



Stan Liu Photo

Silvia Tornier

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Little Mo's Aztec Legacy

War dims memories, so let's remember:

Three days before hijackers blew a hole in America's confidence, Venus and Serena Williams scaled the peak of tennis.

It was an evening filled with stars (Diana Ross, Robert Redford, Spike Lee).

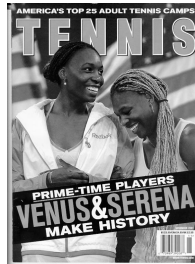
In prime-time, the sisters slugged it out, not before the Queen but in Queens.

Watching television at home, some were disappointed, convinced the sisters were only going through the motions. But inside the stadium, especially during the

A Night of 'Delicious Chocolate'

second set, it was slam-bang tennis; two superb athletes going toe-to-toe.

When it was over (and Venus won our hearts with cheerful comments), a warm glow filled the stands.



Venus & Serena on *Tennis Magazine* Cover



ATR Staff Photo

Ed Bradley

Ed Bradley of CBS News *60 Minutes*, said: "To go from a lily white sport played at the country clubs to having two black women play for the national championship in a stadium named for Arthur Ashe, that's pretty special."

Bradley smiled when a re-

porter remarked: "Such delicious chocolate, referring to the combatants, whose beautiful dark skin glistened with the fever of achievement."

It was a moment when everyone could feel good about tennis.

For the next 60 hours, the sisters' pictures flashed across the globe on electronic wings.

Then, in a burst of exploding jet fuel, their images and the sport vanished.

Now, amnesia reigns in an Age of Anxiety.

Let's not forget that night.

— John Martin (1957)

Big-Time College Athletics: 'No Excuse for It,' Says Veteran Writer

By Leonard Koppett

How can one justify the conduct of big-time college athletics?

If you include the term "big-time," which I define in a moment, the answer is straightforward. You can't. There's simply no excuse for an educational institution to be engaged in such an enterprise.

By "big-time" I mean specifically, and only, NCAA Division I-A football and basketball. These are out-and-out mass entertainment commercial operations, as different from all other college sports activity as the movie industry is from family snapshots.

Divisions 1-AA, II, and III in football and basketball, all other varsity teams, all intra-mural and recreational sports conditioning programs, all have positive aspects to balance any negatives. Big-time has only the

negatives.

It's wrong to talk of varsity college athletes in general. You can't lump together golf, tennis, swimming, track, soccer and baseball, and lower-level football and basketball, with participants in big-time football and basketball. The experience, requirements, burden and benefits of big-timers are inherently different from the rest. They are professional (underpaid) entertainers, chosen to maximize ticket and other revenue.

What's wrong with that?

By professing amateurism — the only way to escape paying the players market rates — big-time college athletics has infected our society with a debilitating disease. The entire school system insists on an amateur posture. But the high school football or basketball star knows he's playing for a tangible reward: a free college education. The college player knows he's getting it. So do his coaches, teachers, administrators, parents and family, non-playing schoolmates and out-of-school friends. And all the neighbors and local business-

men who praise his success. And he knows they know. And they know he knows.

The pervasive institutionalization of hypocrisy is at work every day, on millions of students. The lesson is inescapable: It's all right to do one thing while professing its opposite. It's not only all right, it's warmly endorsed and fostered by the leaders of society and all the authority figures who fashion a young person's values — parents, clergy, teachers, and government officials.

And all this is true apart from any violations of the self-serving rules devised to keep administrators in control. Scandals abound, and have for more than a century; but a "clean" program instills and sustains the hypocrisy every bit as virulently.

The vast majority of college athletes and programs are honestly amateur and a valid element of college life. But schools should not be in the mass entertainment business. The big-timers exert a tug towards commercial techniques, to some extent, on women's basketball and hockey, and in a few

cases, baseball, but that's not the problem. Football is, and that's the model basketball followed.

Can anything be done about it? Obviously not. Why? Because the overwhelming majority of those involved, including the public, like it the way it is. Does it harm our educational system and establishment? Sure. Does that matter? Not to enough people to make it change. A policy based on bread and circuses is hard to reverse when it's the circus that supplies the bread to so many policy-makers and their beneficiaries.

Next Issue: Final Thoughts

Aztec Tennis Reporter

Editor: John Martin 202-222-7140
Archives: Jeanette Rolfe; Copy: Martin Schram; Circulation: Lori Mitchell (San Diego) Sumner Bouldin, Ruud Dorenbos, Jimmy Earle, Katherine Fitzhugh, Linda Walters, Floyd Walters, Mike Wussow (Washington).

This is the 17th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, a newsletter established in 1999 for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of SDSU tennis. This issue is being mailed to 1,211 readers in 38 states and 20 foreign countries.

To contact ATR, write to John Martin, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Or email us: aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com

ATR's Unforced Errors

Due to a printing error, some copies of ATR's last issue (Vol 3, No 6) carried an extraneous headline on page three. ATR regrets the mistake and will replace any misprinted copy at the reader's request.

In an article about a fundraising tournament, a former WTA tour professional was misidentified. Her name is Ginger Nielsen, not Nelson. ATR regrets the error. — J.M.

Where Are We Now? A Great Search (1922-2002) Continues

1997 San Diego State Men's Team

Ryan Johnston (1994): I'm in my fourth year (and first full recruiting year) as men's head tennis coach at the University of Nevada Reno. We're looking to be a lot stronger. We've also just started a quarterly newsletter, *Wolfpack Aces*, based on the *Aztec Tennis Reporter*.

John Nelson (Head Coach, 1993-2001): I'm in my ninth year as head coach. Yes, I'll say it: My goal is to win the NCAA championship.

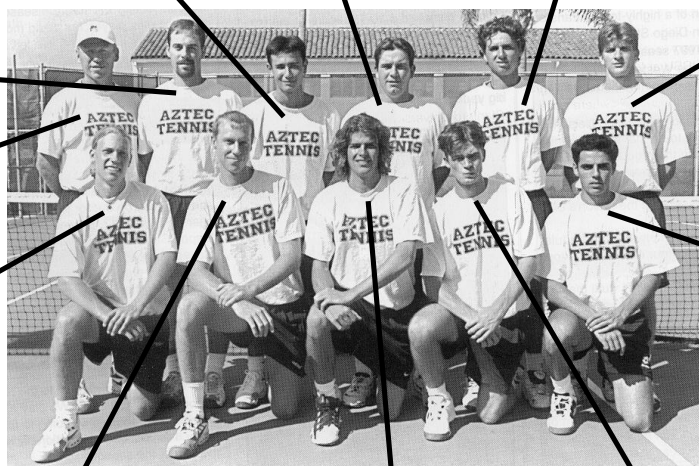
Steve Adamson (1995-98): I've spent three years on the men's ATP tour, mostly playing doubles. I might play a couple tournaments around San Diego but that will be it. I had a successful summer and it has been a lot fun, but I need to start making a more substantial living.

Nguey Lay (1995-99): I'm a property manager (both commercial and residential) in my family's real estate business in San Francisco. I'm not playing much tennis but will get back to it.

Frank Morgan (1994, 96-98): I'm trading financial gas derivatives on the New York Mercantile Exchange from my energy company office in Houston. Five flash screens, charts and graphs all day. It's stressful as hell, but it's fun (well, my hair's falling out). Tennis? Off and on with Owen Davidson, the Australian pro who plays senior tournaments.

Bobby Hrdina (1997-98): I'm selling automobiles in La Mesa. No, I'm not playing tournaments, but I am coaching a top Southern California woman and a young Russian woman who's about 800 in the world. They both hit pretty good (although not as good as Martina Hingis; we worked together briefly two years ago).

Stefan Khudic (1996-98): I'm director of leasing and handle the San Diego portfolio for a nationwide commercial real estate firm (we own and manage office buildings). Playing tennis? (Only) once in awhile; because of my job, I travel a lot to Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Married? Not me. Too busy.



Ali Esna (1994-97): I'm starting my own mortgage company in Irvine, CA, after working as a financial advisor and loan officer and running an international television satellite programming company. I play tennis weekly and I'm in shape to play challengers soon.

Eric Faulk (1994-98): I played on the tour, now I'm training to be a San Diego Fire Department paramedic. I still hit with (Volunteer Aztec Coach) Larry Willens and he still makes fun of my forehand!

Blake Pearson (1995-97): I'm in New York and Miami working in the advertising industry. (For recent pictures, see "Where is Blake Now?" in the next *ATR*).

Geoff Stewart (1996-97): Am I living in Calgary? My teammates have lost track of me. My address, anyone?

Dear ATR: Templeton's Help, Ashe's Library, Chiller's Thanks

Dear ATR: I was saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Gene Templeton (Where Are We Now?; *ATR*, Vol 3, No 3). I played under Gene at SDSU his first four years (1970-74).

Gene was just beginning to build a tennis program. We were not very competitive with the big-name schools, but we sure knew how to lose in style and have fun at the same time.

I have a vivid picture of Gene hitting tennis balls to us during practice as he puffed on a cigarette. The cigarette hanging out of Gene's mouth was

his trademark. Gene was much more than a coach to me. He was a mentor, teacher, and stabilizing force in my life during those turbulent college years. Moreover, he played an important role in my gaining admission to law school and in helping me reach my dreams.

Keep up the good work with *ATR*. Reading about SDSU tennis teams will keep me forever young.

**Stuart Yasgoor
San Diego**

The writer is an attorney with

law offices in La Jolla and Laguna Hills, CA.

Dear ATR: Thank you for the very nice article (Arthur Ashe's Library: Lessons of Life and Tennis; *ATR*, Vol 3, No 5). The TransAfrica Library is a wonderful honor of which Arthur was very proud (and very deserving, I might add!) So glad to hear it is alive and well and thriving, providing a much needed resource.

**Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe
New York, NY**

The writer is an accomplished professional photogra-

pher and the widow of Arthur Ashe.

Dear ATR: Thanks, mate, for the *Aztec Tennis Reporter* (Vol 3, No. 6). It is a fantastic publication. We had a fantastic time in San Diego and hope to do it again next year.

**Brad Chiller
Stillwater, OK**

The writer, an Australian, coached Oklahoma State to the 2001 WTT Intercollegiate Team Tennis title in September (ATR, Vol 3, No 6) at the Barnes Tennis Center.



Stan Liu Photo

Travis Hasson

Hasson Captures All-College Crown

Aztec Travis Hasson won the 2001 all-San Diego college tournament sponsored by the University of San Diego, defeating USD's top two players, Juan Cerda and Ricardo Rizo, on his way to the title. Aztecs Alex Waske and Oliver Maiberger won the tournament in two previous years.

Tornier Triumphs

(Continued from Page 1)

the Classic Flight A doubles, 8-5, over Karrento and Katey Becker. They lost the Invitational finals, 8-3, to KU's Kristen and Courtney Steinbock.

Hedberg upset ninth-seeded Lauren Fisher of UCLA, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-3, in the Omni Regional Championships. Fisher ranked 76th in singles and 3rd in doubles. Hedberg lost, 6-2, 6-4, to second-seed Jewel Peterson of USC, ranked 15th in the U.S.

Maiberger and Redondo Claim U.S. Indoor Title, 1st Aztec Men's National Tennis Championship

(Continued from Page 1)

Ollie took it straight up the line for a winner; it was a clutch point.

When Cohn hit a steaming service return low to Maiberger's backhand, the Aztec reached down and flicked a key volley up the line, again passing Brunstrum to win the point.

Brunstrum won the 2000 National Indoor doubles crown with another partner.

In the Baylor (semifinal) match, there was an unbelievable exchange, said Nelson. One of our guys hit stab volley, the ball sat up five feet above the net, and their big guy came running in to hit it as hard as he could.

Ollie realized that if he stayed back, we'd lose the point, so he charged, and stuck his racket out. The Baylor guy hit a forehand down the middle. Ollie's racket deflected it for an inside-out winning volley.

Maiberger held serve without a single break throughout the doubles tournament, Nelson observed proudly: "He's really starting to understand the mental game."

The indoor singles was a different matter. Seeded third after winning the Region VII championship, Maiberger fell in the first round to Indian Davis Cup player Harsh Mankad of Minnesota, 7-5, 6-1.



John Nelson Photo for ATR

WINNERS: Ryan Redondo, left, and Oliver Maiberger lift trophies.

Unfortunately, Oliver did not play well, said Nelson. It was a case of nerves. Maiberger said Mankad was initially troubled by the same problem.

Even though I didn't play good tennis in the beginning, he said, he had break chances. He was playing very nervous, with a lot of unforced errors.

But Mankad (who played Americans Andy Roddick and James Blake in India's Davis Cup match in October) went on to win the tournament, defeating Benjamin Becker of Baylor, 6-7 (5), 6-0, 7-6 (2), in the final.

Maiberger and Redondo swept to the doubles finals with

victories over Cody Conley and Joachim Lien of Louisville, 8-4; Andrew Colombo and Tiago Ruffoni of Auburn (third seeds), 8-5, and Marcus Hornung and Reiner Neurohr of Baylor, 8-5.

In October, Maiberger won the Region VII singles title and he and Redondo won the doubles crown in Las Vegas.

In that final, the Aztecs upset Brigham Young's Gert Vilms and Carlos Lozano, 8-5. The Cougars were seeded first and ranked fourth in the nation.

Two weeks earlier, Maiberger battled Stanford's K.J. Hippensteel to the wire before yielding, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the ITA All American Championships at Stone Mountain, GA.

Aztec Travis Hasson won three pre-qualifying rounds at the All American, bowing to Bowling Green's Geoff Hiscox, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

For Coach Nelson, in his ninth season at SDSU, the National Indoor doubles championship was a new triumph. His players have won the Rolex Small College Singles Championship (Mauricio Achondo of Cal State Hayward) and his UC Davis teams won three NCAA Division Two doubles titles and one NCAA Division Two team Champion-



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Founder-Editor: John Martin
VP, Circulation: Lori Mitchell

aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com

Tennis Coaches
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182

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