

Aztec Tennis Reporter

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

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ATRPhoto

Beer & Circus: Final Thoughts

In his book, *Beer and Circus*, Indiana University professor Murray Sperber accuses the nation's biggest universities of starving undergraduate education while doling out huge sums for school teams stocked with coddled, professional athletes (See *ATR*, Vol 3, Nos 4, 5).

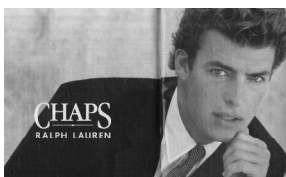
SDSU Executive Athletic Director Rick Bay concedes there are abuses but says team sports help nurture a campus and its students (Vol 3, No 6). He asks: If universities can pay top (Nobel-level) professors in the high six figures, why not football coaches? And he adds: SDSU and other universities recruit top students with the same fervor as a coach courting a prospective linebacker.

Yet veteran sportswriter Leonard Koppett (*The New York Times*) says there's no excuse for big-time (Division 1A) football and basketball programs, which are pure entertainment and promote hypocrisy because they fly under a false flag of amateurism (Vol 3, No 7).

There are abuses and successes (lives lifted by a chance to go to college). The system is out of balance. To fulfill its promise, it needs help. - J.M.

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Aztec Teams Embarking on 2002 Season

Women Schedule A Doubleheader; Men In Early Test Against Stanford

Bolstered by newcomers and toughened by fall competition, San Diego State's two tennis teams are pushing off on ambitious schedules for the 2002 season.

The squads play 20 home matches, including bouts with Georgia Tech, USC, and Notre Dame (women), and Princeton and Tulsa (men).

The Aztec women open at home on Saturday, Jan. 26, in an unusual doubleheader. Both opposing teams are coached by Aztecs: Lisa Ali-paz (1993-95) leads St. Mary's Gaels, and Hugh Bream (coach, 1989-93), leads Cal Poly (SLO).

The Aztec men face perennial powerhouse Stanford in their opening dual match on Feb. 2 at Stanford. Their home opener is against UC Irvine on Feb. 23.

The men's team is led by Oliver Maiberger, 11th in the nation in preseason rankings by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. He and Aztec Ryan Redondo are the 2001



Erichsen photo, 1999; Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos, 2001

FACES: Top row, from left, Tornier, Erichsen, Chidley, Romero. Bottom row, Hardt, Jensen, Coelho, and Naffa.

Teams, Dates, Times, and a Map on Page 4

Rasmus Jensen, a Danish graduate student with a final season's eligibility (he played at Valdosta State); Khalid Naffa of Jordan, a Saddlebrook College transfer; and veterans Gabe Coren and Mike Coelho round out Coach John Nelson's team.

The Aztec women, coached by Peter Mattera, are led by Silvia Tornier, winner of two fall tournaments and 60th in pre-season ITA doubles polls with Lindsey Hedberg. Katja Karrento, Katey Becker and Julie Chidley are returning veterans. Indra Erichsen of Germany is joining the team, as is Mexico's Katalina Romero.

Felix Hardt is a highly regarded newcomer from Germany. Aztec Senior Travis Hasson is the all-college champion in San Diego.

Little Mo: Little Aztec Legacy

It's a tennis footnote: Maureen Connolly, the first woman to win the four Grand Slam tournaments in a single year (1953), attended San Diego State College.

True: She never played intercollegiate tennis for the Aztecs. True: She later attended many more classes at Southern Methodist University. True: Her time on Montezuma Mesa



was so brief it barely rates a mention.

But it remains a fact, unknown even to some of her closest friends.

By the time she arrived on campus to study, Connolly was Maureen C. Brinker, married to Norman Brinker, 1957 student body president and an Olympic equestrian com-

Connolly (Continued on Page 2)

Both teams are pointing for the NCAA Division I championships. Last season, the women

Lebedeff Top Coach

Aztec Ann Lebedeff (1972-74) of fifth-ranked Pomona-Pitzer won the 2001 Division III Coach of the Year Award from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and Wilson Sporting Goods. Lebedeff was Division II Coach of the Decade (1990s), Coach of the Year (1990, 1992) and national college doubles champ in

The day after San Diego State won one of the crown jewels of college tennis - the Omni Hotels National Intercollegiate Indoor Doubles Championship in Dallas - the news dropped through a Black Hole into a Parallel Universe.

The New York Times, which prides itself on keeping tabs on tennis at all levels, carried not a line.

Neither did *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, or *Los Angeles Times*, all of which employ fine writers who know tennis. (*The Times* did report scores for a Southern California intercollegiate tournament).

The *Dallas Morning News*, which helped sponsor the tournament in its back-

Tennis News: Lost in a Black Hole

yard, gave it modest coverage.

But The Associated Press, which transmits its members' stories to each other, did not spread the word. Must have slipped under the carpet, said Brian Ford of the AP in Dallas.

Relying on another source, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* reported the news, but in only two sentences. Brian Wong, an editor, explained: On Sunday, football gets center court.

Disappointing? Yes, but



maybe it's time to face facts. Billie Jean King told coaches at the recent WTT Intercollegiate Team Tennis Championship in San Diego: Until college

tennis becomes a spectator sport, it won't be taken seriously.

Maureen Connolly once received reams of local coverage but one of her patron saints, Nelson Fisher, was a sportswriter. Today, argues King, until college tennis draws customers through the turn-

stiles, forget the coverage. The truth is that local tennis stories, which encouraged generations of young men and women to plunge into the sport with a passion, are frequently crowded out today by the spectator money sports.

Until somebody rediscovers or reinvents tennis (King is trying), it will be hard to find stories about it.

But a telephone call can help. Check the Aztec tennis schedules (see page 4). Go to a match (20 at home this year). If you can't attend, call the newspapers and TV stations. Ask for scores. Inquire about local tournaments. They want your business. Tell them you're interested in tennis. They will be, too.

—John Martin (1957)

Grand Slammer 'Little Mo' Connolly: A Little Aztec Legacy

(Continued from Page 1)

petitor. She enrolled as a student in the fall of 1964, according to the SDSU Registrar's public records.

It was her introduction to college history courses, said Brinker, now retired in Dallas.

One who noticed Mrs. Brinker's earliest appearances on campus was Linda Cowie Walters, a journalism student and professional singer who performed with her sisters Gaye and Bonnie.

Walters supplied a clipping from *The San Diego Union* of Jan. 1, 1956, showing tennis star Maureen preparing to ride on San Diego's Rose Parade float with Walters' sister Gaye, a beauty queen.

She saw her (Maureen) frequently during my time+ (on campus), said Walters, now a professional

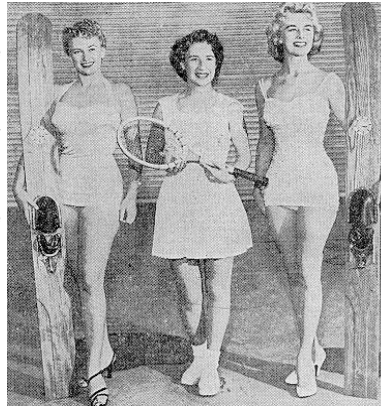


Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation Legacy Alive

photographer in the Philadelphia area.

Connolly was unbeaten in singles in the Australian Championships (5-0), the French (10-0), and Wimbledon (18-0), and lost only two matches at Forest Hills (19-2). She was dubbed 'Little Mo' by sports writers for her powerful strokes and devastating accuracy. Searching for a metaphor, they likened her shots to shells fired from the big guns of the American battleship USS Missouri.

Connolly later studied history at SMU when the couple moved to Texas early in Brinker's highly successful career in the restaurant franchise development industry.



AFLOAT: Grand Slam tennis champion Maureen Connolly, center, with beauty queens Phyllis Fleming, left, and Gaye Cowie, in 1956 *San Diego Union* clipping of celebrities chosen to ride a Rose Parade float.

nis, said Brinker.

Thanks to his devotion, Connolly's tennis legacy is alive more than 30 years after her death. Directed by Nancy Jeffet, who is assisted by Carol Weyman, the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation sponsors annual national and regional tennis competitions for thousands of young girls who dream of grand slam conquests.

Connolly's competitive tennis career was cut short in 1954 by a leg injury suffered in a freak traffic accident on horseback. She later coached tennis, but died of cancer in 1969 at age 34.

She was one of the most wonderful people in the world who just happened to play ten-

How would Maureen fare against today's highly conditioned athletes? In his *Tennis Encyclopedia*, Bud Collins of *The Boston Globe* quotes Lance Tingay of London's *Daily Telegraph*:

Whenever a great player comes along you have to ask: Could she have beaten Mau-



Maureen

ATR JOB MARKET

A free service of Aztec Tennis Reporter

Lisa Papi (1997-2000), now in management for national firm, seeks full-time position with San Diego firm or organization, ideally in field of athletics. Degree in marketing, looking to work for college or professional sports organization on business side in public relations or management. Contact Papi at 559-276-9200.

Aztec Tennis Reporter

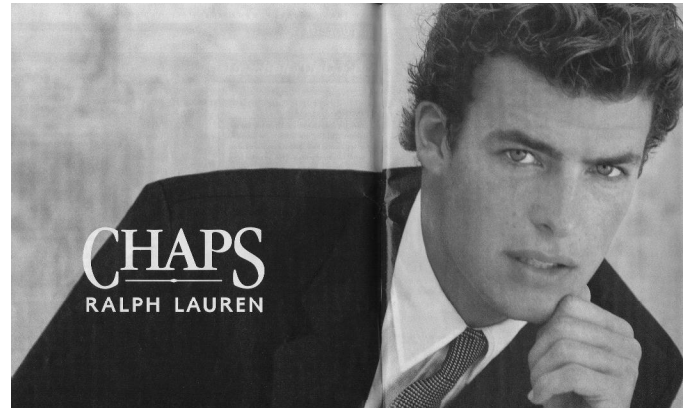
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Where Is He Now? An Aztec Shows Up In The Fashion Trade

Blake Pearson, Team Member in 1996-98, Moves from Capitol Hill To A Professional Modeling Career



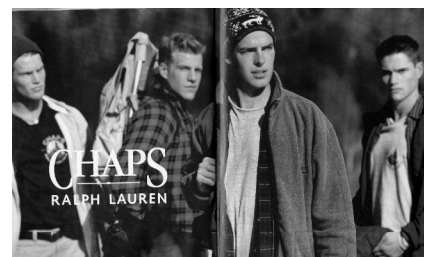
FASHION CENTERFOLD: Blake Pearson (1996-98) is the Ralph Lauren Chaps model in many top U.S. magazines.



EDITOR'S NOTE
DUE TO MATURE CONTENT
PARENTAL CONSENT SUGGESTED
FOR READERS UNDER EIGHTEEN



ONE OF THE GUYS: Blake Pearson, inset, on the 1997 Aztec men's team. After playing at San Diego State, Pearson, of McLean, VA, served on Capitol Hill in Washington as an Agriculture Committee aide to U.S. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana. Then, encouraged by sports agents of the ATP player and model Jan-Michael Gambill, Pearson took a job with the Wilhelmina Agency in Miami and New York. (For whereabouts of his 1997 teammates, see *ATR*, Vol 3, No 7).



2002 San Diego State Tennis Team Schedules

WOMEN

Jan 26 ST MARY'S 8 A.M. SDSU
 Jan 26 CAL POLY SLO 2 P.M. SDSU
 Feb 1 WASHINGTON SEATTLE
 Feb 3 WASHINGTON STATE SEATTLE
 Feb 10 OREGON 10 A.M. SDSU
 Feb 16 PACIFIC NOON SDSU
 Feb 22 UC IRVINE 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 1 CAL BERKELEY
 Mar 2 STANFORD STANFORD
 Mar 4 GEORGIA TECH 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 7 BAYLOR 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 13 USC 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 15 NOTRE DAME 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 19 KANSAS STATE 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 22 UTAH LAS VEGAS
 Mar 23 BRIGHAM YOUNG LAS VEGAS
 Mar 29 WYOMING 2 P.M. SDSU
 Mar 30 COLORADO STATE 10 A.M. SDSU
 Mar 31 UNLV 10 A.M. SDSU
 Apr 6 NEW MEXICO COLORADO SPRINGS
 Apr 7 AIR FORCE COLORADO SPRINGS
 Apr 13 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT NOON SDSU
 Apr 16 USD 2 P.M. SDSU
 Apr 25-27 M. WEST CONFERENCE PROVO, UT
 May 10-11 NCAA REGIONALS TBA

May 16-25 NCAA FINALS

MEN

Jan 18-20 PEPPERDINE INVITATIONAL MALIBU
 Jan 24-26 REGIONAL TEAM QUALIFYING BOISE
 Feb 2 STANFORD STANFORD
 Feb 7-9 NATIONAL TEAM INDOORS LOUISVILLE
 Feb 19 UCLA WESTWOOD
 Feb 22 PEPPERDINE MALIBU
 Feb 23 UC IRVINE NOON, SDSU
 Mar 3 SANTA BARBARA NOON, SDSU
 Mar 16-19 BLUE-GRAY TOURNAMENT MOBILE, AL
 Mar 23 PRINCETON NOON, SDSU
 Mar 29 NEW MEXICO LAS VEGAS
 Mar 30 AIR FORCE LAS VEGAS
 Mar 31 UNLV LAS VEGAS
 Apr 5 UNIVERSITY OF TULSA 1:30 P.M. SDSU
 Apr 9 USD 1:30 P.M. USD
 Apr 12 UTAH SALT LAKE CITY
 Apr 13 BRIGHAM YOUNG SALT LAKE CITY
 Apr 14 UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC NOON SDSU
 Apr 25-27 M. WEST CONFERENCE LAS VEGAS
 May 11-12 NCAA REGIONALS TBA
 May 18-27 NCAA FINALS COLLEGE STATION, TX

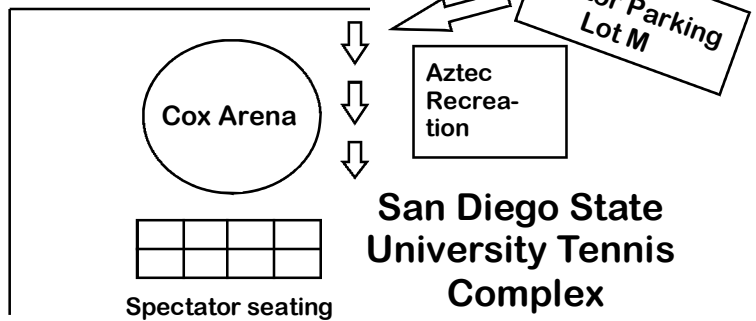


Susheel Gulati Assistant Coach
 Peter Mattera Women's Coach
 Larry Willens Volunteer Coach
 John Nelson Men's Coach
 Gene Carswell Assistant Coach

MONTZUMA RD

ATR Map to the Matches

55TH STREET



**Aztec
Tennis
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FOR THE
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