

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY Vol 4, No 3, 2002

## Maiberger Earns All-American Honors in Singles, Doubles

### Tennis Movies: The Spectacle of Losing It All



**FEARFUL:** Katherine Hepburn, left, loses hope against Gussie Moran in *Pat and Mike*.

BY TOM PENNER (1981-83)

You either love or hate "The Royal Tennenbaums," but one thing is sure: Any tennis player can relate - at least in small part - to the troubled character of Ritchie Tennenbaum.

Ritchie chokes in a big match on center court at Forest Hills, the Men's Final on grass. True, he tosses his racquet casually at passing shots, freakily pulling off a shoe and sock and sitting down on the baseline -- but it's a choke all the same. Somewhere in this extremism is a piece of our own worst on-court fears.

The seeds of Ritchie's meltdown are planted in the fear of not living up to his potential. In a family of highly gifted children (virtuosos and geniuses)

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**choke** (chok), v., to become too tense or nervous to perform well. (sometimes fol. by *up*).

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God and The Game



*Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos*

**ALL AMERICANS:** Ryan Redondo, left, Oliver Maiberger in NCAA Men's Championships at College Station, TX.

## Aztec Women Ranked Second In Mountain West, 30th in U.S.

San Diego State's 27 matches and avenged last year's MWC loss to BYU with higher ranked Notre Dame a 5-2 victory over the Cougars in Las Vegas. A day earlier, they overwhelmed Utah, 7-0, then registered identical 6-1 victories over Wyoming and Colorado State. Against the Fighting Irish, In all, the Aztecs won 18 of

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**POISED:** Aztecs Indra Erichsen, left, and Silvia Tornier await serve against BYU in Las Vegas. They won, 8-4.

## Aztec Men Claim Mountain Crown, Bow to #2 UCLA In NCAA Playoffs

**Nelson Coach of Year; Redondo All-American For Doubles Triumphs**

Aztec Oliver Maiberger earned All-American status for a second year as San Diego State won the 2002 Mountain West Men's Tennis Championship, swept the year-end conference tournament, and won coaching and player of the year honors.

In the NCAA team championships, the Aztecs fell to UCLA, the nation's second-ranked team, 4-1, in the second round.

Maiberger reached the quarterfinals in NCAA singles and he and Ryan Redondo reached the doubles quarterfinals, earning them both the All-American designation (see below).

SDSU's John Nelson was voted Coach of the Year for both the Mountain West Conference

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## How 2 Aztecs Won All-America Status

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - Unseeded Aztec Oliver Maiberger won All-American honors for a second year by reaching the quarterfinals of the NCAA Singles Championships here on the Texas A&M campus.

San Diego State's top doubles team, Maiberger and Ryan Redondo, won All-American

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#### Bulletin

Aztec Alex Waske (1998-2000) won three qualifying matches to earn a place in the main draw of 2002 Wimbledon.

In 1967, an obscure new university in Oklahoma began attracting an amazing assortment of tennis players from across the globe. When they showed up, they began tearing through their opponents with astounding efficiency.

"We went 24-0 that first year," remembers Bernis Duke, their coach. Before their arrival in Tulsa, few of its players had heard of Oral Roberts University and few of their opponents had any reason to respect its tennis team.

Not for long.

Within a short time, Duke's teams reached the top ten of college tennis. In all, he recruited 125 players from 25 countries, including Italy, India, Finland, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.

"I saved a couple of guys' lives by getting 'em over here (and out of war zones)," recalls the tall Arkansas native.

It all started because he

## Bernis Duke: He Wrote the World



ATR Staff Photo

**APPLAUSE: Bernis Duke rising upon induction into Intercollegiate Men's Tennis Hall of Fame. Applauding, players Roy Brammer, right, of South Africa, and Jeff Owen of St. Louis.**

could not attract Americans, so Duke wrote to foreign tennis associations, offering full scholarships and a prize: introduction to life in America.

Ubaldo Scanagatta arrived

from Italy. Today he is an international tennis writer.

Duke's success helped ignite a globalization of American college tennis. Today, two-thirds of the men and half

the women in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's top 100 are from other countries.

Among Aztecs, Oliver Maiberger (an All American), Valentino Pest, Felix Hardt, Silvia Tornier, and Indra Erichsen are from Germany; Katja Karrento is from Finland, Katalina Romero from Mexico.

In May, during the NCAA Men's Championships at Texas A&M, Bernis Duke was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Hall of Fame.

Some of Duke's players showed up: Among them, Roger Zamudio (Mexico) flew in from Los Angeles, where he is a movie producer; Roy Brammer (South Africa), traveled from North Carolina, where he is a businessman.

As Duke stepped forward, they all stood and applauded, thanking the man who helped changed their lives and the face of American college tennis.

— John Martin (1957)

## Tennis Movies: Fear of Losing It All On Court and On Screen

(Continued from Page 1)

he is a refugee from his father's high expectations, the victim of a relationship based on performance, not love.

Played by Gene Hackman, this patriarch is a tough act to follow.

Now, it might be argued that in the 1970's golden age of tennis, of pliable wooden racquets, of heightened showmanship and greater audience deference, Ritchie was simply creating entertainment art -- but probably not.

A choke is a choke, and when the pressure is on we sometimes think about everything but the ball.

Traditionally, Hollywood prefers to keep it simple, boiling its psycho-babble down into trusty romantic fairy tales. Take the hard-to-find 1952 classic, "Pat & Mike," starring Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. The story concerns an arch choker, Pat Pemberton, pro tennis ace

(and pro golfer), whose concentration deserts her every time her fiancé (not Tracy) is on the sidelines.

Pat's most traumatic "choke" comes at San Francisco's Cow Palace, where we get a cameo peek at Donald Budge, Alice Marble, and "Gorgeous" Gussie Moran (the Kournikova of her time).

Katie is beating Gussie soundly when, you guessed it, the fiancé shows up at the courtside and Katie's brain im-

plodes.

The comical result, unlike the darker vision of The Tennenbaums, is all Hollywood.

The net grows tall as a building and rises to stop each shot. Her racquet is suddenly the size of a ping pong paddle, while Gussie's has grown as large as a small tree. Down into a spiral of choking madness goes our lead character, collapsing in a state of delirium.

As with Ritchie Tennenbaum, only true love can

### Dear ATR: Thanks for Fashion Spread

Dear ATR: Thanks so much from the Pearson Family for your terrific layout on our son Blake, who played for SDSU in 1996-98 ("Where is Blake Now?" ATR, Vol 4, No 1). He came back from Santa Barbara (after) a four-day shoot for Ralph Lauren, Chaps and flew back to Miami Beach for three days of work for a German clothing manufacturer. He's

busy and happy.

Esme & Russ Pearson  
Solana Beach, CA

### ATR's Unforced Errors

In Vol 4, No 2, the surname of Nick Bollettieri was misspelled. Also, SMU's number one singles player is Kristian Pfeiffer, not Kristain.

ATR regrets the errors.

heal a choking brain, or so we realize by these films' finales.

Ah, Hollywood.

Tom Penner (1981-83) writes screenplays, teaches tennis in Orange County, and lives in Long Beach.

### Aztec Tennis Reporter

Editor: John Martin 202-232-5959

Copy Editor: Martin Schram

Circulation: Sumner Bouldin, Jimmy Earle, Ruud Dorenbos, Desmond Fitzgerald, Katherine Fitzhugh, Alexandra Van Selm, Linda Walters, Floyd Walters, Mike Wussow (Washington, DC)

Archives: Jeanette Rolfe (SDSU)

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To subscribe, comment, seek a correction, or request back issues, please write to John Martin, ATR, 1528 Corcoran St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. Or email:

[aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com](mailto:aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com)

San Diego State Coaches:  
Peter Mattera (W) 619-594-6505  
John Nelson (M) 619-594-5084



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

## 1975 San Diego State Women's Tennis Team



ATR Staff Photos

**Linda Sandler Wagner (1973-76):** I'm a teaching pro at the Val Vista Lakes sports complex in Gilbert, AZ. My daughter, Kacie (left), is a 12-year-old competing in USTA South-west District. She just won the Sportsman-ship Award for all the girls in the district. I'm more proud of this than anything else she's won. She's a great kid. My son, Dusty (left), played for Scottsdale Community College, was an All American, now attends Arizona State, and strings racquets in Tempe.



Photo Courtesy Linda Sandler Wagner

Is my name Carol?

Is my name Lisa?

**Joan Whitby (Coach):** I'm a professor emeritus on the Exercise and Nutrition Science faculty at San Diego State University.

My teammates can't recall my name. Do you know who I am?

**Patti Palmer Crane:** My teammates have lost track of me. Do you know where I am?

**Debbie Turner (1972-75):** I'm on the audit team at an accounting firm in San Diego. I played the women's tour for eight years, specializing in doubles. My partner and I won our first tournament right after college in Kansas City. What a wonderful way to start the tour! Our biggest moment was the doubles final at Beckenham, England, in 1980, where we lost to Pam Shriver and Sue Barker. I was head pro at Rancho Arbolitos Swim and Tennis for 13 years but hung up tennis on Oct. 18, 1996, after a hip replacement. Our proudest moment as a team during my years at SDSU was beating UCLA, 5-4, for the league championship. UCLA had not lost a title in five years. We were pumped up. It came down to the last match. They had scholarships and we were digging it out on \$4 a day for meals!

## How Aztecs Maiberger, Redondo Won All-American Honors

(Continued from Page 1)

status by earning a #3 seed- ing and by reaching the quar- ters.

Maiberger's run in singles led him past Victor Romero of Tulane, 6-3, 6-3; Marcin Mat- kowski of UCLA, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, and fifth-ranked Andy Leber of Texas-Arlington, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Leber, who ended the year ranked 7th, had lost only twice in the regular season.

"He was serving at 120 miles per hour and Ollie was sending back his serve harder than it was coming in," said Aztec Coach John Nelson.

Maiberger said Leber's serve was his big weapon.

When I was able to handle it, I think it got his attention and made him nervous."

In the quar- terfinals, Maiberger fell to fourth- ranked Jesse Witten of Ken- tucky, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Witten then defeated Ryan Haviland of Stanford, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1, to reach the finals, where he lost to Matias Boeker of Georgia,

6-0. In doubles, Maiberger and Redondo won two rounds, defeating Martin, who fell in the finals to Auburn's Andrew Columbo and Mark Kovacs, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.



ATR Staff Photo

**FOURHANDS:** Redondo, near right, and Maiberger shake hands with Georgia's Boeker, far left, and Hodge.

7-5, 6-0.

In doubles, Maiberger and Redondo won two rounds, defeating Martin, who fell in the finals to Auburn's Andrew Columbo and Mark Kovacs, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. The Aztecs had a remark- able year: Maiberger earned a national singles ranking of 14th. Maiberger and Redondo ranked 3rd in doubles.

In November, the pair won the National Indoor Doubles Championship, the first national title for SDSU men. Maiberger was the first Aztec male to gain the NCAA singles quarterfinals in the 80

loss. He and Redondo lost to Phillip King and Michael Yani of Duke, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. The Duke team then lost to Stan- ford's Scott Lipsky and David Boeker and Bo Hodge of Geor- gia, 6-4, 6-4, and Matthias Mathaes and P r a k a s h Yenkataraman of Rice, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

In the dou- bles quarterfi- nals, Maiberger was returning to play after barely an hour's rest from his three-set quarterfinal singles

loss. He and Redondo lost to Phillip King and Michael Yani of Duke, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. The Duke team then lost to Stan- ford's Scott Lipsky and David Boeker and Bo Hodge of Geor- gia, 6-4, 6-4, and Matthias Mathaes and P r a k a s h Yenkataraman of Rice, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

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## 2 Aztecs Earn All-American Tennis Honor

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and Intercollegiate Tennis Association Region VII. Four of his players were selected for the all-conference squad.

Maiberger was selected as MWC Player of the Year, and named to an all-conference team, which included Aztec teammates Redondo, Valentino Pest, and Felix Hardt.

In the NCAA playoffs, the Aztecs defeated Hampton, the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference Champion, 5-0.

Playing UCLA at Westwood, the Aztecs started fast, winning the doubles point.

Maiberger and Redondo, defeated UCLA's Jean-Julien Rojer and Marcin Matkowski, the nation's top team. The score was 8-6, their second victory this year over the nation's top-ranked team.

Aztecs Felix Hardt and Valentino Pest, ranked 52nd in the nation, topped Bruins Alberto Francis and Rodrigo Grilli, 8-1.

"I honestly felt we were going to win the match," Coach Nelson said.

Redondo was up a break in the third set in the number five singles and Pest was in a three-set battle at number two but the Bruins ground out four straight-set victories. UCLA's Tobias Clemens, ranked 10th



ATR Staff Photos

**FRONT LINE:** Swinging into singles action against BYU's Cougars, from left, Katey Clark-Becker, Julie Anna Chidley, Lindsey Hedberg, and Katalina Romero. The Aztecs won, 5-2.

## Aztec Women Reach NCAA Regional Playoffs

(Continued from Page 1)

SDSU won, 5-2, with strong singles performances at the top five spots. Among the victors were Silvia Tornier, Lindsey Hedberg, Katja Karrento, and Julie Anna Chidley.

Although the Aztecs dumped UNLV by 4-3 on Montezuma Mesa, they dropped a

in the U.S., defeated Maiberger, 6-2, 7-6, to clinch the match for the Bruins.

To play the number two (team) that close shows our depth, said Nelson.

In the NCAA Championships in Texas, UCLA defeated Auburn (4-0) and Florida (4-0) to reach the semifinals, where the Bruins lost to Georgia, 4-2.

USC won the team title for retiring Trojan Coach Dick Leach, upsetting the top-seeded Bulldogs, 4-1.

tense 4-2 return match in the MWC tournament in Utah, winding up second in the final conference standings.

Five Aztecs won all-conference honors, including Tornier, who was voted Player of the Year and an academic all-conference athlete. She was joined by Hedberg, Kar-

rento, Katalina Romero, and Indra Erichsen on the all-Mountain West squad.

Tornier was ranked 62nd in the nation in singles. She and Erichsen, paired in mid-season, won all nine of their matches.

The Aztec women (18-9) ranked 30th for the year, just ahead of Auburn and Miami.

The season was a roller coaster for the Aztecs, who lost 7 of their first 15 matches, then won 10 of their last 12 contests. In March, they upset eighth-ranked SMU at the National Indoors and reached the semi-finals at the Blue-Gray Invitational.

Victories over Virginia Commonwealth (VCU) and South Alabama (USA), and a strong performance against third-ranked Illinois (a 4-2 loss), boosted their national ranking

from 40 to 25, the year's high.

In mid-March, illness knocked out Maiberger and the Aztecs stumbled, losing 4-3 to Yale, then defeated Princeton, 6-1.

It was a good run, said Coach Nelson of the season. To go to the second round of the NCAA Tournament and place individuals in the quarter-finals of both singles and doubles shows how much progress we have made.

The Aztec men (18-9) ended the year ranked 31st in the U.S.



**Aztec  
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**FOR THE  
SAN DIEGO STATE  
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COMMUNITY**

Founder-Editor:  
John Martin

[aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com](mailto:aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com)

Tennis Coaches  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182

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