

Wimbledon to Tokyo: Alex Waske's Excellent Adventure

Two years after winning All-American honors at San Diego State, Alex Waske (1997-2000) fought his way into the main draws at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, held three match points against Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia in the President's Cup at Tashkent, and de-

feated Carlos Moya of Spain in straight sets at the Japan Open. The Aztec's streak boosted his ranking to 137th in the world. His 6-4, 7-5 victory over Moya, ranked tenth in the world, was, in his own words



Alex Waske

"The biggest win of my career so far." His toe-to-toe match with Kafelnikov ended, 6-7, 7-6, 7-6, in a tiebreaker in which the Russian trailed 3-6 but won the last five points. Even so, Waske called it a "good experi-

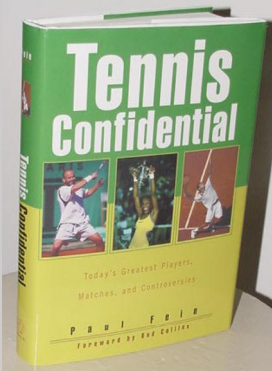
ence, and nice to know I can beat a top 10 player." Two weeks later, his prophecy came true in Tokyo. He knocked out Moya, seeded third, with a series of powerful service games. Ahead 6-5 and 15-all in the second set, Waske missed
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Aztec Tennis Reporter

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ATR Photo

Psst! Here's Scoop On Stars of Tennis

Fifty years ago, *Confidential Magazine* terrified Hollywood's top stars and titillated its readers with tales of illicit sex, ruinous relationships, and ill-gotten gains, mostly in the celluloid industry. The movie *LA Confidential* peeked under the same sheets.

Tennis Confidential is about an extra-marital affair, alright, but it's the one we've all been having - with tennis. Author Paul Fein shares a
(Continued on Page 2)

Preview: New Aztecs Arriving for 2003 Season

The two 2003 San Diego State tennis teams will be composed of mature veterans, new recruits, and surprise arrivals. Here's a preview:

The women's team returns five top players, including Silvia Tornier of Germany, the 2002 Mountain West Conference Player of the Year. Her returning teammates are Lindsay Hedberg of Texas, Katja Karrento of Finland, Katalina Romero of Mexico, and Indra Erichsen of Germany.

They will be joined by Patricia Graf of Germany, a transfer student who played number two singles at Baylor University, and two freshmen: Colby Comstock of Rolling Hills, CA, and Jenessa Jackson of Salt Lake City, UT. Both Americans were nationally ranked as juniors.

"We've got eight really good players," said

Coach Peter Mattera. "I think we'll have an excellent team."

The men welcome back All Americans Oliver Maiberger of Germany and Ryan Redondo of San Diego, the defending Omni Hotels National Indoor doubles champions.

Returning with them are Valentino Pest and Felix Hardt of Germany and Californians Gabe Coren of Santa Cruz and Mike Coelho of San Diego.

The newest Aztec recruit is Daniel Jung of Germany, who enrolled at the suggestion of Alex Waske (1997-2000). Two new arrivals who walked on are Sylvian Anibie of France, a transfer student from College of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA, and William Lefevre, a nationally ranked junior from Louisiana.

"I think it'll be the best team we've ever had," said Coach John Nelson.

2 Aztecs Win Tennis Week/ITA Honors at U.S. Open

San Diego State's All-American doubles team of Oliver Maiberger and Ryan Redondo stepped to the podium at New York's West Side Tennis Club and received citations honoring them as members of the *Tennis Week Magazine* / Intercollegiate Tennis Association 2002 All-Star team.

Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Gene Scott and Carole Graebner, former top 10 player, presented



ATR Staff Photo

WEST SIDE STORY: Aztecs Ryan Redondo, left, and Oliver Maiberger flank *Tennis Week's* Publisher Gene Scott at a luncheon honoring America's top college players held at West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, NY.

framed certificates for 26 male and female student athletes at a luncheon on the club

patio during the final qualifying rounds of the U.S. Open. Among those hon-

ored: NCAA Division One Singles Champions Matias Boeker of Georgia and Bea Bielik of Wake Forest.

Redondo and Maiberger won the Omni Hotels National Intercollegiate Indoor Doubles title and All American honors at the NCAA Championships, ranking third in America and first in the Mountain West.

ATR on Internet

The *Aztec Tennis Reporter* newsletter is now on the web at www.aztectennisreporter.com.

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Aztec Ned Eames Looks at Spiritual Motivation in Tennis: Page 2

NEXT ISSUE:

The Art of Not Choking

Aztec Ned Eames is a management consultant who played tennis at San Diego State in the 1980s and later joined the ATP tour for three years.

He has organized Tenacity, a small group of advisors and contributors who have created an urban tennis program which captures the imagination of more than 2,000 Boston children every summer (See *ATR*, Vol 1, No 3).

With links to Harvard, MIT, and Boston schools and city recreation programs, Tenacity is a model for the nation: It links academic studies and athletic effort. (A similar program in Washington, DC, also sends maturing young players off to college).

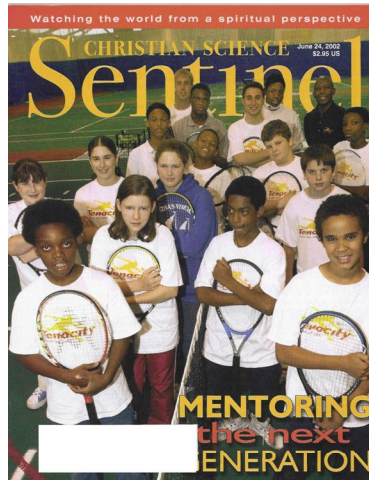
Eames recently opened Tenacity to a reporter and photographer from the *Christian Science Sentinel*, a weekly magazine published by

An Aztec Looks at The Spiritual Game

his church, which is headquartered in Boston.

What motivated him to start Tenacity? Eames told the *Sentinel* the effort grew out of his experience at San Diego State, when he went into a slump and lost 10 matches in a row.

Not only was my game coming apart, but my emotions were shot. Eames told the *Sentinel*. My temper was flaring and nothing about the game was enjoyable to me.



COVER KIDS: Youngsters in Ned Eames's Tenacity project.

Eames decided he needed more study of his faith, so he visited a Christian Science reading room, where he found an issue of the *Sentinel* with a feature article on motives. As I read it, and thought about my motives for playing tennis,

it became clear to me that while I was purporting to serve God, ultimately I was serving Ned and my vision of how things should go with my tennis game.

It was a real eye-opener. I decided from then on to play with the single motive of glorifying God. No matter how I played. I put God first.

Eames admits that while his playing did not improve, he won his next ten matches!

The *Sentinel* noted that Tenacity has no connection with any religious organization or philosophy (but) in one sense it does have a religious purpose.

The root meaning of religion is to bind. I wrote a staff member, as in vows binding one to a religious order. Eames hopes Tenacity can act as an influence to bind together a city that has sometimes suffered from division by race, ethnicity, and economic status.

In this way, Eames is fulfilling a commitment to God by pursuing his love of tennis and sharing the sport with new generations. — John Martin (1957)

Tennis Confidential: Getting the Inside Story on the Stars of Tennis

(Continued from Page 1)

compendium of columns, interviews, and insights he's produced in 25 years of writing about tennis. He covers everything from inflated egos, tanked matches, and domineering parents to overpowered racquets, ignorance of racism, and celebration of sexism (that is, Ted Tinling's grooming of the fairer sex, a phenomenon that predated Anna Kournikova).

Some of what's best here is not controversial - nor even confidential - just solid reporting and sensitive story telling and interviewing.

Fein reproduces portraits he's drawn of ten major figures of the modern game: Venus and Serena Williams, Andre Agassi, Kournikova (yes), Gustavo Kuerten, Jennifer Capriati, Bjorn Borg, Rod Laver, Lindsay Davenport, and Martina Navratilova. His

most memorable interviews turn out to be with Pete Sampras, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Bobby Riggs, Arthur Ashe (twice), and Tinling, tennis's institutional memory (before Bud Collins).

The closest Fein comes to dishing dirt is Chapter 24, called True Confessions, where stars admit to indiscretions: Billie Jean King divulges the fact that she tanked the

Tennis Confidential, by Paul Fein, forward by Bud Collins, \$26.95, Brassey's, 22841 Quicksilver Dr, Dulles, VA 20155.

final of a Grand Slam event (but won't name it); Hanna Mandlikova says lots of tour coaches secretly - and improperly - signal instructions during matches; Pancho Gonzalez admits that he was a social misfit, and Jennifer Capriati confesses that she wanted to kill herself in 1994 because she felt ugly and overweight. That these revelations were all reported elsewhere first takes away their edge, but Fein's handling of

them is mostly sympathetic and provides useful context.

If one section provokes endless debate, it will be Fein's attempt to choose The Ten Greatest Matches of All Time. Some matches are by consensus beyond question (Don Budge defeats Gottfried von Cramm in the 1937 Davis Cup), but some are doubtful: Boris Becker's defeat of Kevin Curren in the 1985 Wimbledon Final is too great a stretch, even for Fein, who then lowers the bar, calling it intriguing. To be sure, it catapulted Becker into stardom and awakened the sleeping giant of German tennis; still, it fails to stir our emotions beyond its groundbreaking nature.

But the number-one match on Fein's Top-10 list is a sure winner: Borg Defeats McEnroe in the 1980 Wimbledon final. Fein quotes Frank Deford, who called it one of the most extraordinary contests in the annals of sport.

Fein hits the lines on most points and has written an engaging book for all of tennis's paramours. - J.M.

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

The Sequel: 1975 Aztec Women's Tennis Team

Linda Sandler Wagner (1974-75): I'm a tennis pro teaching outside Phoenix (See Vol 4, No 3)

Debbie Turner (1972-75): I'm a former touring and teaching pro, now a team leader for a San Diego accounting firm (See Vol 4, No 3)

Joan Whitby: I'm a retired professor (See Vol 4, No. 3)

Judy Abrams: My teammates remember my name but nobody knows where I live. Can you help?



Linda Sandler Photo

Carol Tammen (1972-77): I'm an actress and singer living in New York City. After college, I taught special education for a year in San Diego, then in Los Angeles. In 1984, I enrolled at Chapman College to study for a music degree; I auditioned and waited tables, then worked my way to Broadway (while holding a corporate job for four years). Not long ago, Bruce Weber, a critic for *The New York Times* saw a show I was in (*Splendor*) and wrote: "The casting is spot on and with eight unassailable singers on the one-car, garage-sized stage, there is probably more vocal talent per square foot here than anywhere else in New York." In addition to waiting tables across from Lincoln Center, I work in corporate training and development and sit on the board of the Association of Psychological Types. I don't have much time for tennis, but recently, at a 5 a.m. audition, I ran into gal who plays at a Manhattan tennis club and we've started hitting from time to time. I enjoy it so much I went and got my certificate as a teaching pro! I was the pinch hitter on the SDSU tennis team, a very consistent player but not as strong as our best players (Ann Lebedeff and Karen Reinke) in 1974, the year we were third in the nation. We won the league title over UCLA and USC.



Photo Courtesy Carol Tammen

Carol Tammen

Lisa LaRussa Zapf (1975-77): I'm teaching adaptive physical education to autistic children in Temecula. It's my first year (I went back and did graduate work at SDSU). After college, I got a teaching credential at Fresno State, met and married my husband, Paul, in 1977. We stayed in Fresno and I coached high school tennis, then moved to San Diego in 1987. I taught elementary school physical education in San Marcos for a year, then worked in my husband's golfing business for six years (he owns a store in Encinitas). I have one son, Eric, 19, who attends Palomar College. I play golf tournaments as well as competitive tennis for a club in Palomar, which competes against the Bobby Riggs Club, Rancho Penasquitos, and Rancho Bernardo.

Patti Palmer Crane: Many of my friends showed me your article on the women's team of 1975 in Vol. 4, Issue 3. They knew I wasn't lost! In fact, I haven't even left San Diego. Here's what I've been doing the last 25-plus years: After graduating from SDSU with a BA in physical education in 1976 and then a teaching credential in 1977, I started teaching physical education for San Diego City Schools in adaptive PE. At one point (for 7 years), I stopped teaching school to be a Mom and taught tennis at the Pacific Beach Tennis Club. I did go back to teaching elementary physical education (and physiology). I recently changed to teaching science at Dana Middle School in Point Loma (all 5th and 6th graders). I teach tennis just part-time now. I was married in 1978 and divorced in 1991. I have two great athletic kids: Jill, 21, a snowboard instructor in Mammoth Lakes, CA, and Jeff, 18, starting in engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall (2002). I went back to SDSU and got my masters in education in 1998. I still play a little tennis and teach part-time at PBTC, as a certified USPTA member. I round out my time by playing women's soccer and enjoying the San Diego weather.

Wimbledon to Tokyo: Aztec Waske's Great Adventure

(Continued from Page 1)

an easy backhand.

"God was I tight again. So I said it out loud in German, and I felt better, motivating me and telling me to go for it."

Two points later, Waske was up 40-30 (match point) over Moya. Heart pumping, he told friends, "pull back, focus on the serve and only think about the serve, not win or lose." Waske served an ace.

The victory over Moya and near-miss with Kafelnikov strengthened a confidence Waske had already begun developing at San Diego State.

Coach (John) Nelson was the first person to tell me I could be in the top 100. Waske told ATR, praising Nelson's persistence in his coaching instructions when the young player arrived in San Diego from Frankfurt in 1997.

Coach fought him at every step. Waske said "until one day I was too tired to resist. Then I followed his suggestion and discovered he was right."



ATRPhoto

TAKING AIM: Alex Waske at U.S. Open, where he defeated Magnus Norman of Sweden, 6-3, 6-3, to qualify.

Waske's Wimbledon results included victories over two players who defeated Pete Sampras prior to Sampras's surprise triumph in the U.S. Open.

In his final Wimbledon qualifying match, Waske defeated George Bastl of Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3). Bastl gained a last-minute lucky loser entry and defeated Sampras in five sets, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4.

In his first-round match, Waske defeated Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-7 (2), 6-1. Gaudenzi had beaten Sampras, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (3) in the French Open.

Although Waske lost in the second round to Flavio Saretta of Brazil, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5, he was performing at a high level. Saretta had upset Thomas Johansson of Sweden, the eighth seed.

Waske blamed his loss on a couple of mental let-downs...He caught me in those situations.

Waske was also caught in a tide of South Americans.

Saretta lost in the third round in five sets to Andre Sa of Brazil, who defeated Feliciano Lopez of Spain before losing in the quarterfinals to Tim Henman of Great Britain.

Wimbledon runner-up David Nalbandian of Argentina was the first South American to reach a Wimbledon final since Alex Olmedo of Peru won the title in 1959. (Olmedo's son, Alex Jr., played on the San Diego State teams in 1987-89).

Waske's Wimbledon showing capped a remarkable six-month climb: He gained 167 places in the ATP singles rankings. He won a Challenger title in April in Mexico by defeating Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2.

With money collected for his Wimbledon appearances and elsewhere prior to the Japan Open, Waske stood 185th on the ATP money list, with \$72,368. His career earnings were \$134,274.

Waske Earnings Report

The German website *Sport1* reported that Waske has paid tour expenses with earnings from the Bundesliga (German League) and with a \$25,000 loan from his father. His Wimbledon winnings nearly retired the loan, according to the report. (Translated from the German by Oliver Maiberger).

Magers Wins 2 Majors: Wimbledon, U.S. Open

Gretchen Magers, a volunteer Aztec women's tennis coach in 1993, teamed with

Mima Jausovec of Slovenia to win the 2002 Wimbledon Ladies 35 Doubles Championship. They defeated Rosalyn Nideffer of South Africa and Helena

Sukova of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3, in the final. The victory was sweet: Magers was runner-up in both 1999 and 2000.

At the U.S. Open, Magers and Peter McNamara of Australia won the Masters Mixed Doubles Championship with straight-set triumphs over three opponents, including a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Mary Lou Piatek and Sandy Mayer of the United States in the final.



ATRPhoto, left, by Claire Martin; ATRStaff

Gaudenzi



Saretta



Jim Richey Photo

Magers



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