

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

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Wanted: Donors To Name Center For Aztec Tennis

Aztec tennis coach Peter Mattera is going big-name hunting, looking for donors to finance the completion of an Aztec tennis complex that would attract national college and professional tournaments.

San Diego State is building a softball field and tennis center on land to be cleared by demolition of an aging dormitory on Montezuma Mesa. Construction is to begin late this summer and be completed in 2004.

University planners have earmarked \$1 million for the demolition, \$3 million for softball and \$2 million for tennis.

Mattera is trying to raise an additional \$1.5 million to create stadium seating for about 3,000 spectators, plus a 4,800-square-foot structure that would house satellite coaches' offices, men's and women's home and visitor locker rooms, a tournament desk, and public restrooms.

The tennis funds earmarked by the university will pay for 12 tennis courts, fencing, lighting, and temporary seating for only about 500 spectators.

To raise the added funds, the Aztec coach is looking for
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THIS ISSUE:

John Nelson's Legacy Farewell to S.D. Tennis Aztec Women Hikers 2 3 4

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From Susheel with Love

Aztecs Gain All America, Mountain West Honors



Top, right photos, by R.C. Rique; left photo, by Allen Sullivan, Athens (GA) Banner Herald

NCAA FINALISTS: Aztecs Oliver Maiberger, top, Ryan Redondo, right, faced Illinois's Rajeev Ram, left, and Brian Wilson, back to camera. All four won honors as All Americans.

SDSU Pair Attains #1 Doubles Rank, Falls in NCAA Final

Aztecs Oliver Maiberger and Ryan Redondo won four rounds at the NCAA Tennis Doubles Championship in Athens, GA, before losing the final, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 to Illinois' Rajeev Ram and Brian Wilson.

The victory gave the Fighting Illini a sweep of NCAA team, singles, and doubles titles and denied the Aztec pair a second national title in a remarkable two-year partnership.

Two years ago, the Aztecs earned the National Indoor doubles title and this March the number one Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking.

"They played great...and hit their spots," said Maiberger of the Illinois pair. "They never let up on us at all. We were hoping to...force a lot of errors on them, but they did that to us."

(Continued on Page 4)

Aztec Women (22-6) Earn NCAA Bid, Rank 27 in U.S.

San Diego State's women's tennis team won the Mountain West conference title and the year-end tournament as the most dominant team in the conference.

In the NCAA regional championships, the Aztecs fell to Fresno State, 4-0, at Tempe, Ariz. The loss earned the women a 22-6 final record and 27th ranking in the nation.

In their NCAA playoff contest, the Bulldogs' Vlatka Jovanovic and Kristy McRae earned an 8-2 victory over Aztecs Patricia Graf and Katalina Romero and All-American Chloe Calotti and Lucia Tallo defeated Indra Ericksen and Silvia Tornier, 8-2, to capture

the doubles point.

In singles, Tallo topped Aztec Lindsey Hedberg, 6-3, 6-2. Kathrin Winterhalter defeated Graf, 6-4, 6-2, and Lucia Sainz stopped Romero, 6-4, 6-3.

Fresno State lost to Arizona State, 4-2, in the NCAA regional final the following day.

At the NCAA Doubles Championships in Florida, Tornier and Ericksen took the nation's 17th ranked doubles team, Alexis Gordon and Julia Scaringe of Florida, to three sets, losing 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

(Continued on Page 4)

Nelson Accepts Hawaii Coaching Post

The University of Hawaii has hired John Nelson to succeed Warrior Coach Jim Schwitters, who is retiring after 39 years at the helm.

Nelson served ten years as SDSU men's tennis coach and was four times ITA Region VII or Mountain West Coach of the Year.

"I'm burned out," Nelson said, "I just felt too much stress raising all that money. I'm leaving the program in the best shape it's ever been. It's time to move on."

The Hawaii offer included recruiting expenses, salary for

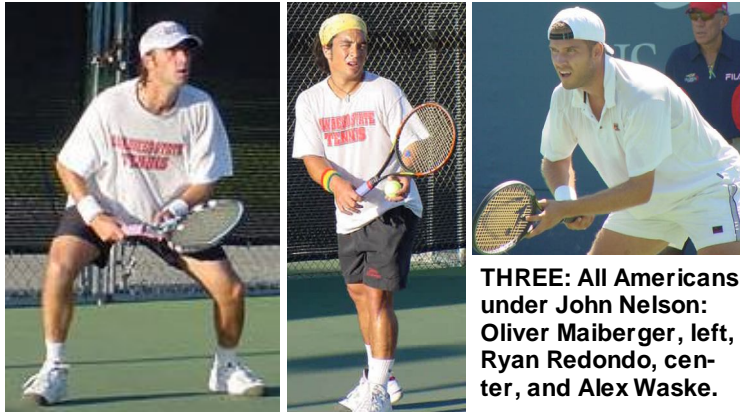
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John Nelson is leaving a legacy: In 21 years at three universities, he coached 19 players who achieved All American status.

He coached six years at Cal State Hayward (1982-1988), where he played as an undergraduate (1977-78). Six of his players won All American honors. The team won the Intercollegiate Tennis Association national small college championship. It ranked in the top ten every year and twice finished third in the nation.

In five years at UC Davis (1988-1993), ten of Nelson's players earned All American status. His team won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Champion-

John Nelson's All American Legacy



THREE: All Americans under John Nelson: Oliver Maiberger, left, Ryan Redondo, center, and Alex Waske.

ship in 1992 and he was Division II Coach of the Year. The team lost in the NCAA Division II finals in 1990 and was ranked among the top four teams in the nation every year

John Nelson coached.

In his ten years at San Diego State (1993-2003), three Aztec players qualified for All American honors. One doubles team won the National Indoor Championship and lost in the NCAA Doubles Championship final.

Nelson was Northern California Coach of the Year eight times at Hayward and UC Davis. He was Region VII Coach of the Year three times at San Diego State and Mountain West Coach of the Year last year.

Nelson's legacy started at Hayward, where he was an All American, reaching the quar-

terfinals in the 1978 Division II NCAA Singles Championships

Twenty-two years later, he coached SDSU's first singles All American, Alex Waske of Germany, who credits Nelson with dramatically raising his playing skills.

In 2000, at his final NCAA post-match interview in Athens, GA, Waske praised Nelson as one of the finest coaches in tennis.

Relieved of the stressful fundraising he shouldered for a decade as part of the burden of coaching at San Diego State, John Nelson is about to show Hawaii just how good he is.

No one who knows John Nelson believes Hawaii is anything but lucky to have him.

Readers responded to a plea for funds to assist Nelson pay team debts ("Brother, Can You Spare a Hundred?", *ATR*, Vol 5, No 1) by donating more than \$7,000 to help cover recruiting, travel, equipment, and scholarship expenses. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity. — **John Martin (1957)**

John Nelson's All-American Roster

Division I

Alex Waske, Oliver Maiberger, Ryan Redondo
San Diego State University

Division II

Mark Segesta, Marc Lamonica, Chris Tsao, Dave Allen,
Steve Summer, Jeff McCan, Mark Ebner, Scott Ezell,
Kevin Lee, Tom Burwell

UC Davis

Mauricio Achondo, Menoj Kashyap, Rolf Wiedemeyer,
Brian Mehmedbasich, Guy Schalin, Dave Wolfe

Cal State Hayward

Big-Name Hunt for Donors to Aztec Tennis Center

(Continued from Page 1)

private or corporate donors of \$700,000 to \$1 million. Their name or names would grace the tennis complex. The name of a \$500,000 donor would appear prominently on the cluster of 12 courts.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Aztec tennis, Mattera said. "If we build in a first-class manner, we think we will be able to co-host prestigious tennis events here."

Among potential guest tenants: the NCAA Regional Championships and the annual Accura Women's Tennis Association tournament.

This would bring added attention to the university and

the city, Mattera said, offering a high degree of exposure for corporations or private individuals.

"They have an opportunity to be associated with the flagship university within the California state system," he said.

"For a tennis enthusiast or a San Diego State enthusiast, this is an opportunity to creating a lasting legacy."

At the same time, Mattera insisted that no donation would

be too small or unappreciated.

"We may create bricks around the facility which would carry the person's name or family names," Mattera said.

The naming ritual is a hallmark of modern fundraising. At Stanford University, the Taube Family Tennis Center is studied with donor names, including individual seats with plaques honoring contributors. Many players, families, and fans donated the funds.

UNFORCED ERROR

Due to a proofreading error, the final line was dropped from a story on Coach Gene Carswell's medical leave ("Gene Carswell Takes a Breather," *ATR*, Vol 5, No. 1). The line should have read: "In

Carswell's absence, Chad Stoloff has joined the team as an unpaid volunteer assistant coach." *ATR* regrets the error. Carswell returned to duty in March. Former Aztec Coach Skip Redondo (1977-88) also helped in Carswell's absence.

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This issue is being mailed to approximately 1,600 readers in 38 states and 24 foreign countries.

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John Nelson: Farewell to Friends of San Diego State Tennis



John Nelson, SDSU Coach, 1993-2003



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos

REFLECTION: Coach Nelson discusses departure from Montezuma Mesa, calling men's tennis "in the best shape in the school's history."

Dear Friends of San Diego State Tennis:

I want to thank all of you who have supported me for the past ten years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here in San Diego and have made many good friends.

The program is in the best shape in the school's history. The university has stepped up, significantly increasing the operating budget, scholarships, and for the first time will have a paid assistant coach.

Gene Carswell, a good friend, who volunteered for five years as the assistant coach, has been named interim head coach for the coming season. He has been a big part of the development and success of the program.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the contribution of all of you who donated your time and money to put this program on the map. I would like to mention individuals whose significant contributions have made a tremendous impact on Aztec tennis:

Thanks first to all the players for their commitment to becoming better individuals, on and off the court. I have enjoyed the journey with you.

John Moores, the owner of the Padres, personally donated \$15,000 a year for scholarships and \$2.5 million for the new tennis complex. His initial gift enabled me to recruit Alexander Waske, currently top 100 in the world. Alex is our #1 ambassador, always looking to help our program.

John Martin, former Aztec player and retired ABC News Correspondent, started and published the *Aztec Tennis Reporter* for the past four years. His newsletter is a benchmark for all others. He has given Aztec tennis international recognition. He and his wife, Katherine Fitzgugh, augmented my operating budget on a yearly basis.

Samantha Mills, president of the Aztec Tennis Foundation, has helped raise many thousands of dollars in countless hours in our programs.

Fairbanks Ranch Country Club head pro Andy Vocker and member Skeets Dunn offered tremendous support.

Denny Dickenson, friend and mentor, provided financial and moral support. Jerry Honstein donated uniforms over several years. Plus he provided mental health support in our golf outings.

It has been a team effort and all of your support and involvement has taken SDSU tennis to a new level. It could not have been done without you.



LEADER: Nelson pulls team together after a lose to New Mexico.



HEADLINER: High point of 2000 Aztec effort was NCAA Sweet Sixteen finish.



CHAMPION: Aztecs win 2003 Mountain West Conference.



NUMBER ONE: John Nelson's favorite number.

2 Aztecs Gain Top Ranking, NCAA's Final

(Continued from Page 1)

Redondo agreed: "I thought we made them work hard and they just really hit the lines well."

The Aztecs, 28th ranked, reached NCAA post-season play under coach John Nelson for the fourth year in a row. There, they defeated the University of San Diego, 5-0, before taking 12th ranked Washington to a seventh match, yielding, 4-3. The Huskies lost, 4-2, to Illinois, the eventual NCAA team champions.

Maiberger won All America honors in singles and doubles, Mountain West (and Region VII Senior) Player of the Year



Photo Courtesy Indra Erichsen

HAWAII HIKE: Aztecs scaled heights above Honolulu. From left, Silvia Tornier, Julie Litrich, Colby Comstock, Lindsey Hedberg, Indra Erichsen, Katalina Romero, Katja Karrento. Down at sea level, Aztecs defeated University of Hawaii, 6-1.

award, and a spot in the NCAA Singles Championships, where he upset the eighth seed, Stanford's David Martin, 6-1, 6-3.

Maiberger broke all 4-year Aztec records: 111 victories and

28 losses in singles, 103 victories and 31 losses in doubles.

In the NCAA Doubles Championships, Maiberger and Redondo defeated Benedikt Dorsch and Reiner Neurohr of Baylor, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, in the quarters, and Martin and Scott Lipsky of Stanford, 6-4, 6-4, in the semifinals.

In March, the Aztec pair captured the 114th Pacific Coast Doubles Championship against teams from Stanford, USC, UCLA, and Texas A&M and briefly earned the number one ranking of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Felix Hardt won Region VII honors with a 3.87 grade average. Nelson was chosen Region VII Coach of the Year and Gene Carswell Assistant Coach of the Year. The team (28th) defeated Pepperdine (26th) and Clemson (27th).

Aztec Women, 22-6 for Year, Win NCAA Bid

(Continued from Page 1)

The Aztec pair ranked 44th, winning 26 of 31 matches, and 12 of their final 13 matches.

Tornier was Mountain West Player of the Year and won Academic All American and Region VIII honors with a 3.85 grade point average.

The Aztecs scored victories over Washington State (4-3), Rice (6-2), TCU (4-3), Princeton (6-2) and Purdue (4-3). Their only loss in the Mountain West Conference was to 30th ranked UNLV, 4-3, a result the Aztecs overcame by winning the Mountain West title in the conference championship tournament.

All but two Aztec losses came at the hands of high-ranking teams: 4th ranked Cal Berkeley (6-1), 5th ranked Southern California (7-0), 6th ranked Washington (6-1), and 20th ranked Fresno State (4-0). Cross-town rival USD, which ended the season at 44th in the nation, upset the Aztecs, 5-2.

Even so, "We had a very good season," said Coach Peter Mattered, who was named Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year.

He praised the team for its battling spirit. "We had a lot of character and depth," he said.

Nelson Accepts Hawaii Coaching Post

(Continued from Page 1)

an assistant, and use of a renovated \$3.5 million tennis complex. The San Diego State counteroffer included a pay raise, a 3-year contract, money to pay an assistant for the first time, added scholarships, and higher per diem expenses.

In 2000, Nelson coached the Aztecs to the NCAA Sweet 16. His best-known player, Alex Waske of Germany, has competed at Wimbledon and the U.S., French, and Australian Opens, reaching 100th in the ATP world rankings.

Nelson said he believed his position in Hawaii will require him to raise less of his team's budget privately.

At San Diego State, he often raised \$50,000 a year by teaching and soliciting funds for team expenses not covered by its meager share of the athletic budget.

Gene Carswell, Nelson's assistant, is his interim successor. Nelson said he hoped SDSU, which is reorganizing its athletic department, would ask Carswell to be the new head coach.



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**FOR THE
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