

GLIMPSE OF FUTURE: Artist's sketch of new Aztec tennis facility.

## Aztec Tennis Center Gaining \$750,000 for Operations Site

University budget officials have added about \$750,000 in funds to construct a 3,000-square-foot structure to house women's coaches' offices and locker rooms in an Aztec Tennis Center, the two head coaches report.

The operations structure would contain equipment lockers for the two Aztec tennis teams and their visiting opponents.

The creation of perma-

nent seating for a stadium-style court remains a key goal of money-raising efforts, according to women's coach Peter Matcoaches' offices and temporary.

One goal is to provide an inviting site for national and international competitions as well as Aztec home tennis matches.

One result could be the elevation of tennis to new importance within the

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# Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Vitas Gerulaitis in 1990 cameo role as a coach.

## 'Nobody's Perfect' Is Now a Teenager

BY TOM PENNER

It may seem pointless to drub a tennis film 13 years after its release, but perhaps we can still learn something from bad romantic comedies masquerading as tennis movies.

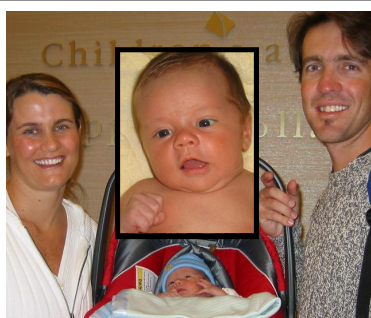
*Nobody's Perfect* (1990) is the kind of insubstantial fluff that somehow gets produced and then enjoys a shelf life, appearing periodically on cable (where I discovered it) or as a

## Propstra Rejoins Aztecs as Coach

Christy Propstra, who played on nationally ranked Aztec teams of the 1990s, has rejoined the team as an assistant women's coach, replacing Susheel Gulati, who resigned in June to return to the United Kingdom (See %from Susheel with Love,+ page 2).

Propstra, who recently married and whose name is now Christy Panter, is an Arizona native working as a marriage, family, and child

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Photos Courtesy of Carswell Family

**BABY CARSWELL:** Spence Hamilton Carswell, inset and below, with parents Lainie and Gene Carswell. Young Spence arrived on Father's Day while his father was preparing to become interim head coach of the Aztec men's tennis team.

## Maiberger Hired To Assist Aztecs

Gene Carswell, one of the nation's top senior doubles players, has hired Aztec All American Oliver Maiberger (2000-03) as his assistant coach and begun assembling the San Diego State men's tennis team for the 2003-04 season.

Maiberger and Ryan Redondo won the National Indoor Championship two years ago and both won All American honors last year, Maiberger's final season of

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## 3 Aztec Women: Scholar, Coach, Player Earning Points

### Katja Karrento

won an NCAA postgraduate grant of \$6,900 awarded to 58 scholars (including 15 intercollegiate tennis players) whose athletic eligibility has ended. A senior from Finland, Karrento studied cellular and molecular biology and plans to attend medical school. The winners all earned high grades and brought distinction to their teams and schools. Karrento played on the Aztec women's tennis team from 1999 to 2003.

### Ann Lebedeff

co-coached an all-star U.S. college team to victory in two exhibition matches celebrating the 100th anniversary of tennis at Japan's Waseda University. Lebedeff of Pomona-Pitzer and Bob Bayliss of Notre Dame led ten men and women players. At SDSU, Lebedeff and Karen Reineke won the 1974 national college doubles championship. Lebedeff was Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division II Coach of the (1990s) Decade.

### Gretchen Magers

gained the 2003 Wimbledon Ladies 35 Doubles final. An assistant Aztec women's coach in 1993-94, Magers is a teaching pro in San Diego. (She was one of the world's top juniors in the 1980s). In 2002, she and Mima Jausovec of Slovenia won the Wimbledon Ladies 35 Doubles Championship. Magers and Peter McNamara of Australia were the 2002 U.S. Open Masters 35 Mixed Doubles Champions.

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Madame P's Backhand

After more than a decade in America, Aztec Assistant Coach Susheel Gulati has returned to her mother country - Great Britain - to be closer to her family. She leaves San Diego State tennis with a final recruit: Alesya Vidov, a young student from Odessa, Russia, by way of Brooklyn, New York.

Born in 1985, Vidov came with her parents to the United States in 1991. Encouraged by Vladimir Vidov, her stepfather, she began playing tennis at age 10. By last fall, she had won three Grand Prix tournaments and held the number one ranking for 18-year-olds in the USTA Eastern Section.

Gulati was recruited in 1991 from Tyler (Texas) Junior College by then assistant Aztec coach Peter Mattera and then head coach Carol Plunkett.

As a senior, Gulati won All American honors in doubles in 1993. As a coach, she helped recruit dozens of players to San Diego State; among the best-known are Julie Childley

## Alesya Vidov: From Susheel with Love



Inset, SDSU Athletic Department; ATR Staff Photo

**FACES:** Alesya Vidov, right, and Ken Bruton, an instructor at Columbia University's Tennis Center in New York City. Susheel Gulati, inset, encouraged Vidov to enroll at SDSU.

and Katey Becker.

Last summer, Gulati spotted Vidov playing in a national tournament in Memphis; then Mattera met with Vidov in San Jose. Both coaches urged her to attend San Diego State. Vidov says she immediately

liked the idea of coming to San Diego, a place she'd never visited. She says she found Gulati really easy to talk to.

So Vidov submitted transcripts from her high school, an unconventional alma mater: Alpha Omega Academy, an

internet high school with studies keyed to each student's schedule. It's more difficult than regular high school, she said. It's more challenging and demanding.

Going online to read her lessons at an early hour each day, Vidov found herself able to play tennis and study at home in Brooklyn and in Middletown, NY, where she lived for more than two years while continuing her tennis training.

Last year, she said, when her coach urged her to turn pro immediately rather than attend college, Vidov balked.

She left Middletown and returned to New York City, where she began working with three instructors, Steve Host, Jaime Marcells, and Ken Bruton, a Poughkeepsie, NY, teaching pro she met last December.

The result will be seen this fall. Vidov has arrived in San Diego to take up the twin challenges of college (psychology is an interest) and college tennis.

She is Susheel Gulati's final legacy. - **John Martin (1957)**

## 'Nobody's Perfect': Why a Flawed Tennis Movie Distracts Our Critic

*Continued from Page 1*

video returned to Blockbuster in the wee hours of the night, three-quarters viewed.

Even with a cameo by Vitas Gerulaitis as a coach, this film's climactic college tennis match was not a huge draw for the everyday filmgoer, and even tennis enthusiasts will be disappointed.

What passes for national college competition is the court performance of a couple of B-grade actors. To their credit, Chad Lowe, brother of Rob, and Gail O'Grady both look to have played some club or high school tennis.

But watching them compete against genuine Pepperdine players is a different matter. The Malibu campus and the 1990 team stand in for a

fictional Bramson College.

The real players could wipe the actors off the court, but instead they are allowed to place the ball only where the thespians might get a racket on it.

The match action is lifeless and stunting, but Lowe is possibly ahead of his time with a killer one-handed-backhand-topspin-flick volley!

The makers of the film smartly steer away from the court action and choose to develop the romance between a love-struck young male tennis player and a blonde bombshell with bad 80's hair and rigidly bad, high-arching 80's ground strokes.

In an effort to win her love, Lowe goes transgender and poses as Stephanie, a trans-

fer student from Switzerland. She becomes the bombshell's roommate, teammate, classmate, closest confidante - and then it all falls apart, much like their tennis games.

To the dismay of film buffs, there is a cameo appearance by Robert Vaughn as a helpless campus doctor, possibly the worst scene ever filmed!

As farce, it probably got a drubbing by the critics the first time around, so why watch it?

Because we are tennis lovers and tennis bums, and anything tennis interests us.

Because the late tennis great Gerulaitis has a cameo role as the men's tennis coach.

And because the dorm rooms are adorned with posters of late '80s tennis greats, including Martina Navratilova, who still rates a poster.

Footsie+this and, but as with tennis, we can learn from

our bad matches, too. In this case, maybe we learn we are incurably curious about tennis.

### Aztec Tennis Reporter

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This is the 24th 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 approximately 1,600 readers in 37 states and 25 foreign countries.

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*Tom Penner (1983-85) writes screenplays in Long Beach and teaches tennis in Orange County.*

## Dear ATR: Hail Coach Nelson

Dear ATR: As John Nelson said %the (menç) program is in the best shape in the schoolç history.+ (ATR, Vol 5, No 2, 2003)

Congratulations to John as he continues his coaching career at the University of Hawaii. His talent should be rewarded and acknowledged.

While I am sad that John will not be teaching, coaching and mentoring the Aztecs, I am happy knowing he will carry on under great conditions in Hawaii. John, we wish you the very best!

It is great news and a tribute to John that the school has stepped up and provided increased budgeting for coaching and scholarships.

At Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, we look forward to working with Gene Carswell. We are very proud of our relationship with Aztec tennis.

**Andy Volkert**  
San Diego

*The writer is director of tennis at Fairbanks Ranch Country Club and has helped raise funds the Aztec men's team.*

Dear ATR: Thanks for the article (%the Wrote the World,+ATR, Vol 4, No. 3). You captured more than any other what transpired in the changing world of college tennis during the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

**Bernis Duke**  
Tulsa, OK

*The writer coached at Oral Roberts University and is a member of the Intercollegiate Men's Tennis Hall of Fame.*

## Where Are We Now? The Great Search: 1922-2003

### 1992 Aztec Women's Tennis Team

**Tanya Lauer:** I ran in an Arizona race (at Sabino Canyon) three years ago but ATR has run out of ideas for finding an address or phone number for me. Can you help?

**Assistant Coach Peter Mattera:** I am now the head coach at SDSU, in my tenth season, still surfing, still running, and still enjoying a great

**Susheel Gulati:** I spent 8 years as assistant womenç coach and have returned to the UK. I love toured Europe and now I am starting to coach tennis while I look for a job. I am interested in a new career.

**Nicole Storto:** Paul and I live in Oakland and love the area. We have two cats and a dog, who gets to come to work with me. I have been office manager at an investment



**Nicole Storto and Paul**

played at the Sweetwater in Mill Valley and had a pretty good turnout. We changed our name to Mars Arizona (from Drowning Noah) and are recording our third album. Our website is [www.marsarizona.com](http://www.marsarizona.com).

**Shawn Egan:** I am teaching second grade at Seaside Elementary in Torrance, CA and getting my doctorate at USC in learning and instruction (my emphasis is literacy). I am not married, no kids, no pets. I would love to go back and teach at San Diego State. I want to teach teachers and San Diego State has a great program. I love started playing tennis again, just for fun; mixed doubles, good exercise.

**Paige Patridge Farmer:** My husband, Andy, and I run the West Coast Tennis Academy ([www.wcta.com](http://www.wcta.com)) at the La Costa Resort and Spa. I am the program coordinator (players from four years old to adults) and I do the bookkeeping, so I am busy and play very little tennis - except with Brandon, our son, who is now four years old.

**Paige Hammond McMurray:** I am doing the mom thing and I am in my eighth year coaching the University of Tulsa womenç tennis team. My sons, Cooper and Jake, will be two and four in December. My husband, Kurston, who played Aztec baseball, just opened his own law office in Tulsa.



**Paige**

**Claire Bateman:** I am living in London, and, after six years in direct marketing, I am teaching salsa (dancing), working in sports and pregnancy massage, renovating my 95-year-old grandmotherç three-bedroom house, studying for a nutrition diploma, and considering playing tennis again for my county.

**Do you know me?** I was team trainer. ATR canç find me. Can you help?



**Coach Carol Plunkett:** I spend most of my time on Whidbey Island gardening, boating, golfing, biking. I teach a class at Reed College (Portland) and have a new puppy, Maggie (yellow lab). I love the newsletter; seeing pictures of everyone always makes me smile. What a lot of good times we had.

**Susan Hawke:** I am one of four catering managers at the San Diego Convention Center and the San Diego Concourse. We bring in billions of dollars for the city (we love fed 20,000 people at a single event). I donç play much tennis. I had three arm surgeries, one in college and two on the satellite tour (1993-96). I spend much of my free winter time at Lake Tahoe; I love become a snow boarder. My best friend is Taunya Johnson Moen. I am still single (and still a great catch).

**Taunya Johnson Moen:** I was marketing director for a real estate company, covering the Southwest, but I was unhappy traveling so much so I quit to look for a new job. I am not playing tennis, but tons of beach volleyball (I'm addicted!). Brad and I are still together and happy, as always (we celebrated our fifth anniversary in July).

We love our new house (Rancho Bernardo).

**Eva Olivarez:** My teammates report I am married, raising a family (our daughterç name is Bernice) in Manila, where I work in my fatherç business.

## SDSU Boosts Tennis Funds For New Site

(Continued from Page 1)

SDSU Athletic Department.

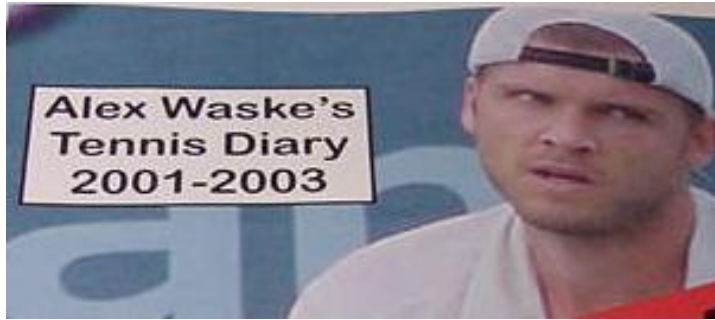
Both coaches welcomed added university support, saying budget officers have promised about \$750,000 above previous commitments.

That leaves Mattera and Carswell with the task of raising \$750,000 from outside sources. Mattera said he remains hopeful that a corporation will make a major gift.

The tennis center will replace a demolished dormitory and be part of a complex for SDSU tennis and softball.

Coach Mattera is searching for donors who will name the center for their corporations or for themselves as an act of support for Aztec tennis.

Mattera said that he would



### WASKE IN DAVIS CUP, SHARES DIARY

Aztec Alex Waske (1997-2000) was selected by the German Davis Cup team for its match against Belarus. *ATR* has sent a copy of Waske's tennis diary (cover detail, above) to 28 contributors to SDSU men's program. Waske is sharing his diary to support team and honor his coach, John Nelson. To receive copy, donors write checks to "SDSU Men's Tennis" at Aztec Athletic Foundation, SDSU, San Diego, CA 92182.

prefer that the center be built with permanent seating rather than with temporary stands that would be costly to replace.

Both tennis coaches endorsed the use of naming rights to raise funds.

Interim Men's Coach Gene Carswell is helping in the

search for potential contributors.

"I'd like to see us build this thing all at once," said Carswell. "I think there is a pretty good chance, once people can see the site and see what's happening, that donors will come forward."

## Carswell Gains Maiberger Help for 2004 Aztecs

(Continued from Page 1)

eligibility as a player.

Maiberger has returned to San Diego State to complete a final semester in his studies for a bachelor's degree in business and said he plans to seek a master's degree, which would extend his availability for coaching duties. He has held internships with corporations in his native Germany the past two summers and plans a career in business.

During his final season as a player, Maiberger rose to number one in doubles (with Redondo) and 8th in singles in the ITA national rankings.

Carswell was named interim head coach in June when John Nelson resigned to accept the head coaching position at the University of Hawaii.

Carswell served five years as Nelson's unpaid assistant. He was a top University of New Mexico player recruited from San Diego in the 1990s. He holds four USTA gold balls for doubles championships won in the USTA Men's Open and Men's 25 divisions.



Maiberger

## Propstra (Now Panter) Rejoins Aztecs as Assistant Coach

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counselor in San Diego's north county area.

The SDSU athletic department said Propstra recorded 46 singles victories and 37 doubles victories on Aztec women's teams between 1992 and 1996. The Aztecs won 54 matches and lost 46 during that period, ranking 18th in the U.S. in 1993.

Head coach Peter Mattera

said Panter's appointment will fill an important role in the Aztec women's effort for the 2003-04 season.

Panter said she always loved college athletics and I had such a great experience at San Diego State that I jumped at the opportunity.

In addition to counseling, Panter has worked in sports psychology (she is co-author of a workbook, *Mind Gym*). In her new position, she will assist

head coach Mattera with recruiting, on-court coaching, scheduling, and administration.

Gulati, who was an All American in doubles at San Diego State, served as assistant coach for eight years following her graduation and helped Mattera scout recruits at national junior tournaments in and out of California.

The Aztec women finished the 2003 season ranked 27th in the U.S. with a 26-2 record.



**Aztec  
Tennis  
Reporter**

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