

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Cover Photo, "The Match"

## History: When Althea & Angela Won 'The Match'

When they met, Althea Gibson of the United States and Angela Buxton of Great Britain could not have been more different - nor more alike.

Gibson was an American athlete raised in the schoolyards and streets of Harlem. Buxton was a British athlete and daughter of a London businessman.

Yet both faced the sometimes subtle, more often blatant, and always ugly scourge of discrimination: Gibson, who died last year, was black. Buxton, who lives in England and Florida, is a Jew.

Their friendship, which blossomed from a 1955 tour of tournaments in Asia and India and continued until Gibson's death, symbolizes a grim historical fact: Virtually until the advent of professional tennis 35 years ago, the sport functioned under a

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Is College Tennis A Waste of Time?

## Interim Coach Gene Carswell Gains Top Position

San Diego State University has promoted Gene Carswell from interim to head men's tennis coach in a show of confidence following a difficult first season at the helm.

Carswell, who succeeds John Nelson in the permanent position, had served five years as an unpaid assistant. A San Diego resident, he was a top player at the University of New Mexico, holds several USTA gold balls as a doubles champion, and, before joining the Aztecs, served briefly as a hitting partner for Andre Agassi.

Sally Roush, a San Diego State vice president for business affairs, praised Carswell's



Carswell

effort in an email to *ATR*, calling the team's play in his first season "outstanding."

The Aztecs, who were the defending champions, finished as runners-up to New Mexico in the Mountain West Conference championships this spring. The team did not receive an invitation to the NCAA Playoffs and its 11-8 win-loss record led to 75th position in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

After Nelson's departure for the University of Hawaii coaching job, the university raised the men's tennis budget, but Carswell said he still must raise \$20,000 for scholarships.

## Aztecs at 2004 Australian, French, Wimbledon, U.S. Open



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos

**AZTEC GRAND SLAM:** From left, Gretchen Magers of San Diego, an assistant coach (1993-94), Richard Stoakes of England, (1981-82), Larry Willens of San Diego, volunteer women's coach, and Alex Waske of Germany (1997-2000), Aztec All American.

**WIMBLEDON** - Four San Diego State tennis players and coaches played roles at the world's four top international tennis championships.

Gretchen Magers of the United States, an assistant Aztec coach in 1993-94 and one of the world's top juniors in the 1980s, competed in the Wimbledon Ladies' Over 35 Doubles round robin. She and Britain's Wendy Turnbull lost to the eventual winners, Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic and Mima Jause-

vec of Slovakia, 6-4, 6-4.

Alex Waske of Germany, who earned All American honors as an Aztec in 1999 and 2000, played in the qualifying events preceding the French Open, where he lost to Florent Serra of France, and Wimbledon, where he was eliminated by Olivier Mutis of France.

Waske and Alexander Peya of Austria, top seeds in Wimbledon's Gentlemen's Doubles qualifying event, lost to Glenn Weiner and Brandon Coupe of the United States, 4-6, 7-6 (10), 6-3, in the first round.

Larry Willens of the United States, a volunteer with the Aztec women's team, assisted Waske in France and England and coached Abigail Spears of San Diego at Melbourne, Paris, Wimbledon, and Flushing Meadows.

Richard Stoakes of England, a player on Aztec teams of 1981-82, attended matches as a member of the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Stoakes, a businessman, joined the AELTC in the 1990s, and plays at Wimbledon several times a week.

This fall, thousands of foreign students - 13 Aztecs among them - are setting out from their homelands to play American college tennis. For all, it's an adventure, but none will face the ordeal of a young Peruvian who began the same journey just 50 years ago.

In 1954, Alex Olmedo, 17, left Lima on a voyage up Peru's Pacific Coast, passing through the Panama Canal, and into the Caribbean, where his ship docked in Havana. From Cuba, he caught a cheap flight to Miami, where he boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Los Angeles.

In Olmedo's pocket was \$100 handed him by the Peruvian Tennis Association.

The association's president, Jorge Harten, believed he had secured Olmedo a scholarship through a Southern California tennis official who visited Peru to assess the country's junior players.

With assurances that everything had been arranged, Olmedo was given a farewell party and put on the ship to college and a new life in the United States.

## Coming to America: Alex Olmedo

He thinks (the scholarship) was for the University of California, but I didn't know for sure. He says Olmedo, who spoke no English as yet.

In Los Angeles, Olmedo got the bad news: There was no scholarship. No one had arranged anything, except to give him the name of Joe Cianci, a Californian who taught tennis and

ran a pro shop in one of Los Angeles's public parks.

Olmedo was devastated and desperate.

He decided to hang around and do the best I could, he told *ATR*. With his money running out, he turned to Cianci.

He found me a place to stay in a (converted) garage, he said Olmedo, who recalls paying \$25 per month in rent.

He let me help him around the shop, cleaning up - and I played tennis every day.

Cianci immediately saw Ol-



Beverly Hills Hotel Photo

### Alex Olmedo

Tennis Association, refused to allow Olmedo to compete in sanctioned events as a junior.

So, competing as an adult, Olmedo did well. There was a breakthrough, he told *ATR*: the 1954 National Public Parks Championship in Arcadia. Olmedo won the tournament.

Next, in the Pacific Southwest Championships at the Los Angeles Tennis Club, Olmedo hit paydirt. In the third round, he, the Chief, as he was called, upset Lew Hoad, the reigning Wimbledon Champion, who was

Olmedo's promise.

Still, to win a college scholarship, Olmedo needed to show his talent in tournaments. But because he was not enrolled in school (and had not finished high school in Peru), Perry T. Jones, the man who ran the Southern California

on his way home to Australia. What gave me the opening to USC, Olmedo said.

The club pro at the LATC, George Toley, was also the coach of the USC Trojans.

After 18 months at Modesto Junior College, Olmedo joined the Trojans and won the NCAA Singles Championship in 1956 and 1958 (a football scandal disqualified USC from competing in 1957). He also won the Pacific Coast Conference championship three years in a row.

In 1959, Alex Olmedo won Wimbledon, just five years after stepping off the bus in Los Angeles and stepping into what seemed like certain disaster. Later, he became head pro at the Beverly Hills Hotel and still teaches privately.

Moral of the story: no matter how desperate things look, don't give up - but be sure to find somebody who appreciates your talent.

— John Martin (1957)

Footnote: Alex Olmedo Jr. attended San Diego State and played for the Aztecs in the 1980s. The senior Olmedo also sent Julio Noriega of Peru to SDSU (see Page 3).

## History: When Althea and Angela Won 'The Match' at Wimbledon

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cloak of social apartheid.

In America and Britain, Jews whose passion for tennis or golf could not be denied, either formed their own country clubs or faced exclusion and isolation. African-Americans, denied entry in top national tournaments and many local events, formed their own American Tennis Association, which survives to this day.

What sweeter revenge

after being labeled as other-than for these two women to score an improbable victory in the 1956 Ladies' Doubles Championship at Wimbledon.

That's the tale told by journalist Bruce Schoenfeld in a remarkably

detailed and vivid history of a friendship and an era. If this book merely told the story of two women winning Wimble-

don against the odds, it would have been far less interesting. Instead, Schoenfeld has constructed a lively narrative filled with the lore of mid-20th Cen-

tury tennis. Among the most interesting characters:

Jimmy Jones, a player turned sportswriter who becomes Buxton's coach (and later, her devoted friend and lover), and Sydney

Llewellyn, a Jamaican-born player and coach who drives a taxi in New York City to make a living (and is briefly married to Gibson).

Schoenfeld writes in a seamless, engaging style, dispensing with footnotes and speaking with the voice of authority (a practice which distresses most scholars and some journalists). But this is a minor concern; *The Match* is a valuable, enjoyable history of tennis as it was. **J.M.**

*The Match: How Two Outsiders — One Black, the Other Jewish — Forged a Friendship and Made Sports History*, by Bruce Schoenfeld, 304 pages, 2004, HarperCollins, \$24.95

### Aztec Tennis Reporter

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# Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1922-2004)

## 1985 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

*Team Photo  
SDSU Library  
Special Collections*

**ERIC CRABB:** After college, I turned pro (playing satellites, Canadian Open qualifying, Stratton Mountain), did some acting in L.A. (I'm the guitar salesman in *Wayne's World*), then started to study music.



**Crabb**

Now I'm a professional singer in a top 40 variety band; we play Vegas as Uptown Groove ([www.uptowngroove.com](http://www.uptowngroove.com)). I play keyboards, bass, drums, and guitar. My wife, Tanya (she does commercials in L.A.), our daughter, Salish, 10, and I live in Chula Vista. Tennis? I teach Salish and guests at the Hotel del Coronado.

**MAT IANDOLO (assistant coach):** I'm the women's coach at Purdue University, where I'm in my 13th year. My wife, Christine Karges, and I coach together. We met through tennis. She was a two-time All American at the University of Kentucky. I was head pro at a club in Chicago and she was an assistant coach at Northwestern. (Note: Iandolo was *Big 10 Coach of the Year in 1998* and *Big 10 Co-Coach of the Year in 2003*).

**EVIN GELLERI:** After many years of teaching and coaching tennis (on the tour in 1990-91), I've built and run the Petaluma Golf Center. My wife, Debbie, and I have two girls, Hannah, 8, and Madelyn, 6. I've been taking the girls out once a week for tennis. (I think they're gonna like it).

**LARRY LINDSEY:** Can you help ATR? My teammates have lost track of me.

**MARK RIFENBARK:** I'm in my 17th year at the Bel Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades teaching paddle tennis (I won five national singles and two doubles titles). My girlfriend, Amy Rifenberg (that's right, we have amazingly similar names), is a mortgage broker.

**DONNIE YOUNG:** I coached Jim Pugh and Kimberly Date. Can you help ATR find me?

**SKIP REDONDO (Coach, 1977-88):** I'm director at the West Coast Tennis Academy at the La Costa Resort. We opened in June; it's a live-in program and school starts in September. We hope to average 25-30 kids. I also teach a lot of nationally ranked kids. My son Skyler is 9; he's gonna be good. He has a one-handed backhand, the same kind of game as Ryan (SDSU All American), and maybe a bigger serve.



**STEVE GERSTEFELD (assistant coach):** I'm in my 15th year as men's tennis coach at the University of Richmond (VA). We've won five conference titles, two in the last three years. Before that, I spent three years as assistant coach at Harvard University. (San Diego State's tennis reputation and five summers assisting Frank Brennan at his tennis camps in New Jersey helped me get the Harvard job). My wife, Sarah, is an administrative assistant for an investment firm. We married last year. I love the West (I grew up in Santa Monica) and think often of San Diego State and the Aztecs.

**PETE NOREM:** I lease trucks for Penske in Elk Grove, CA (near Sacramento). My wife, Deannette, and I met at Fresno State; we have two kids: Nicole, 10, and Wade, 4. (I've got Nicole playing tennis). In 1997, my 5.0 Northern California team won its regional title and we played in the national championships at Flushing Meadows, NY.

**GLENN STEPHAN:** I run a small financial company and play lots of competitive tennis. My partner and I ranked #1 in the United States in 35-plus doubles.

**BRENT ZIMMERMAN:** I trade futures in Lone Tree, CO, where I live with my wife, Christina, (we married in 1990) and our son, Jackson, 3. I worked in tennis for years in Denver-area country clubs (as a head pro at Glenmoor and tennis director at Heather Ridge) before setting up my trading company in 1999.

**IAN MCAUGHLIN:** I'm from Illinois. Can you help ATR find me?

**JULIO NORIEGA:** I'm director of film and television for the Cisneros Group. We're part of Venevision International, the premier production and distribution company of entertainment for the Spanish-speaking world. For a number of years, I was the manager for Latin America for Warner Brothers and 20th Century Fox (I was based in my hometown, Lima, Peru). My wife, Carolina, and I live in Miami; we married two years ago. Yes, I'm playing tennis, but not as much as I would like. After all these years, I'd love to hear from my teammates.

**JIM KELLOGG:** I'm a real estate broker with Prudential. I still play competitive tennis. My wife, Lisa (a lawyer), and I met at Sunny Hills Racquet & Tennis in Fullerton. We live in Claremont with Caitlyn, 9, Colton, 8, and Carson, 2. Colton and I play on a small back-yard grass court I built from scratch.

**LANCE LAREAU:** I'm an architect and Senior Project Manager for the San Diego Unified School District. We're rebuilding Lincoln High School from the ground up; it's a \$110 million project. (I helped design Legoland for an earlier employer). I live in La Mesa with my wife, Lisa, and our four children, Emily, 9 (in September); Natalie, 6 (in August); Nina, 2 1/2; and Isabel, born in January. The two oldest, Emily and Natalie, love tennis. (Note: Lareau's father, Richard, played on the 1947 Aztec team; his mother, Jean, has won more than 50 USTA titles).

# Coaches Vow to Reverse Surprise Drop in Aztec Rankings

San Diego State's two head tennis coaches are applying vigorous recruiting efforts and stepped up team discipline in twin campaigns to recover from a drop by both teams of more than 50 ranking places during the 2004 team season.

The men's squad, which finished with an 11-9 record, placed 75th in the nation. The women's team, with a 9-15 mark, ranked 71st. Both were the lowest Aztec tennis rankings in many years.

It was a tough season, said men's head coach Gene Carswell, citing injuries and an unexpected administrative decision which kept a major recruit from joining the team.

Still, he said, "We almost pulled it off," referring to an Aztec surge which fell short in the conference championship finals won by New Mexico.

"We're looking to climb ourselves back into more familiar San Diego State territory," Carswell said, indicating his goal of regaining the Mountain West Conference title and an NCAA playoff bid.

The 2005 team will have Marcus Dickhardt, a business major from Marburg, Germany who was 2004 Moun-



*Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo*

## AZTEC TENNIS CENTER'S 'COURTBUILDER'

**Fred Garbutt of Advantage Courts calls himself "the courtbuilder" as he digs net-post holes for 12 courts at Aztec Tennis Center, a \$2.9 million facility due to open in November, financed by gift from Becky and John Moores.**

tain West Conference freshman of the year; Daniel Jung of Villmar, Germany, who compiled a 21-7 record; Christian Groh, an international business major from Crailsheim, Germany with a spring victory over former ATP touring pro Michael Joyce; and Armando Carrascosa, an international business major from Mexicali, Mexico. Carrascosa had a strong summer, reaching the 2004 La Jolla Championships final, where he lost to Aztec senior Felix Hardt; and upsetting the top seed and winning the men's open title at Rancho Penasquitos.

Donia Haynes of Los Angeles, a senior psychology major; and juniors Benedict Stronk of Berlin and Eugenio Romero of Ensenada round out the roster.

Aztec women's coach Peter Mattera has reorganized his team, recruiting top players from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, and England.

Eliska Krausova of Prague, a member of the Czech Republic's national junior team, joins countrywoman Dita Hauerlandova, a transfer from Hampton who was a leading Aztec competitor last season.

Nina Spaeth of Bad Saulgau, Germany, is a six-time winner of the Baden-Wuerttemberg regional championship, and Sisse Nielson of Alleroed, Denmark, is her country's 15th ranked junior (recommended to Mattera by Aztec Rasmus Larsson, who played in 2002).

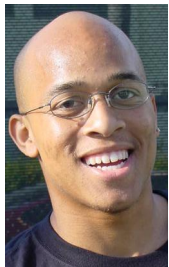
Carla Bell of Ramsden Heath, England, has arrived in San Diego along with Andrea Hermansen of Copenhagen, who officially joins the team in January with two years' eligibility.

Indra Erichsen, an international business major from Hussum, Germany, and Alesya Vidov, a business student from Russia and New York City, round out the top tier with Sara Sansom of Temecula.

"We do have nine really talented student athletes," Mattera said.

"If we are able to stay injury-free and focused on the team goals of Conference and NCAA Championships, I think that this year's team will bring us right back to national prominence.

"This is a very new, very different team, and very exciting," Mattera said. "The talent level of this team is very high."



Haynes



Carrascosa



Hauerlandova



Erichsen



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