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— The Editor

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Tale of 2 Continents: Some Aztecs Playing A Grass Court Circuit

TAURANGA, New Zealand - After church in this seaport town of 90,000, a schoolteacher stepped forward to address the visitors: "You must come to lunch. I've got a grass tennis court."



ATR Photo

MOW DOWN: Kiwi host cuts Centre Court.

In ten minutes, the lanky New Zealand homeowner had trimmed his court-sized space, dragged a net into position, and pronounced it Centre Court.

Despite the absence of chalk lines (for which the host apologized), we hit for nearly an hour, stopping only to retrieve balls from flower beds and orchard.

At lunch, Kitchingman recalled his visits to Wimbledon 25 years earlier while he and his wife,

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New Aztec Tennis Center

Aztec Men Win 2005 Mountain West Title



San Diego State Athletic Department

MOUNTAIN WEST VICTORS Aztecs smile in triumph after 4-2 defeat of Brigham Young in finals of 2005 conference championships at San Diego's Barnes Tennis Center. From left, Oliver Maiberger, assistant coach; Eugenio Romero; Gene Carswell, head coach; Armando Carrascosa, Markus Dickhardt; Dontia Haynes (top); Daniel Jung (middle); Benedikt Stronk (kneeling with trophy); Matt Bittner; Christian Groh, and Nima Ossirah. The team earned bid to NCAA Championships.

After 4-5 Start, 13 Straight Triumphs and the Crown

Rebounding from an indifferent start to a promising season, San Diego State's men's tennis team regained supremacy in the Mountain West Conference with a season-ending blitz of 13 consecutive opponents, including the MWC Championship final. There, the Aztecs claimed a 4-2 victory over Brigham Young University, earning a berth in the NCAA Championship playoffs for

the first time since 2003. Against 24th ranked California in the NCAA regional event, the SDSU team fell, 4-1.

Daniel Jung won the lone Aztec point, defeating Ken Nakahara, 6-2, 6-2.



SDSU Athletic Dept

Carswell

Aztec Alex Waske Vaults to the Top

WIMBLEDON - San Diego State All-American Alex Waske of Germany (1998-2000) has jumped to tennis' highest ranks.

In June, Waske defeated the French Open Champion, Rafael Nadal of Spain, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, in the Gerry Weber Open in



ATR Photo

Waske

Halle, Germany. The victory snapped Nadal's winning streak at 24 matches. In May, Waske teamed with Tommy Haas to win the deciding point in Germany's 2-1 victory over Argentina for the World Team Cup title.

The Mountain West Conference chose Aztec Gene Carswell as Coach of the Year and five Aztecs won all-conference team honors: Markus Dickhardt, Armando Carrascosa, and Benedikt

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Aztec Grass Circuit: Learning to Hack, Roll, Shave, Weed, and Enjoy

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Brenda, were working in London. Long after their return to New Zealand, he said, the couple negotiated a compromise.

She said I could put in a court, Kitchingman said, as long as I did not build fences.

That way, he explained, it left room for her to plant a garden and him to create a place to play his beloved sport of tennis.

He spent about \$1500 for golf course seeds and hiring a worker to power roll the turf.

Kitchingman has played many championship finals on his Centre Court over the years, maneuvering his two sons into the sport in their childhoods, rallying and competing with them in fierce matches, and sending them off into the world, thinking, no doubt, that every proper home has a grass tennis court.

— John Martin (1957)

Summer on Grass An Aztec's Delight

LONG BEACH, CALIF.

Last summer I journeyed to San Diego to visit an old friend and fellow Aztec player, Jim Kellogg, who had built a lawn tennis court in his backyard.

It wasn't lawn tennis in the



Kellogg family photos (left and top and bottom center); Penner family photos

TEST MATCHES: Tennis pro Ed Collins, left, advances to net as Colton Kellogg, above center, son of Aztec Jim Kellogg, watches for volley on grass court of Duncan Depew, Point Loma High tennis coach and Peninsula Club pro. Aztec author Tom Penner, lower right, coaches daughter, Lily, for night play, upper right. Carson Kellogg, bottom center, prepares a forehand.

classic sense. Jim's court is no larger than two service courts. One side is longer by 20 feet than the other. Sometimes you hit the ball into the swimming pool or under the swing, or you chase your shot barefoot over the fence into a prickly ravine. You play with various balls (plastic-covered foam works best). You obey only the rules you and your chil-

dren make up, and soon you achieve the desired goal of all racquet sports -- to have fun.

Jim's inspiration has caused more lawn courts to spring up. My court-building method? Simply hack out that unappealing, weed-infested backyard, roll it as flat as Salt Lake, position the sprinklers off to the side, and lay down some gorgeous

green Kentucky Hybrid Bermuda (35 cents a square foot).

Roll it, shave it, nurse it, and weed it. Try to keep the dogs off and in a few months, throw up a net. Voila! It's lawn tennis, but perhaps it has a more practical application for these leaner times. It's mini tennis, with a devotion to fun over duty, a truly grassroots approach to teaching children about our great game.

Then after the racquet sports, the net comes down and you can play croquet, or hold foot races, or even do a bit of lawn bowling, which is what Jim's friend Duncan Depew enjoys on his slightly larger backyard court. Jim says Duncan's court is better, and this has prompted Kellogg to renovate his grass court.

Call me crazy but I'm going to overhaul the whole thing, says Jim. My court's not as flat as it could be, and I'm going to move the swing set and get more feet.

And my diligent efforts? In spite of two successful garden parties, there's much to improve. Hopes run high for the glory of spring, which kicks off with a lawn scalping, then patient waiting as the Bermuda hopefully grows in, sturdy and green, then more lawn rolling, nursing, weeding, and lots of summer fun.

— Tom Penner (1984)

Dear ATR: Where Have You Been?

Dear ATR: I got my last copy in December (2004) and now it's July. What's going on?

— Name Withheld on Request

Dear NWOR: After six years of publishing a free printed newsletter, we are streamlining operations. To save time (and conserve the editor's funds), ATR is going digital, offering a free, full-color edition delivered online. To each reader, I guarantee that, as always, your

name and address will never be sold or shared with anyone. Thanks very much for your support all these years. Please send us your email address for The Next Thing.

Cheers, John Martin, Editor

Dear ATR: You certainly do a super job. Most interesting, learning of (Alex) Omedo's original trip to California (Coming to America; ATR, Vol 6, No 2).

Dan Magill
Co-Chairman and Curator
ITA College Tennis
Hall of Fame, Athens, GA

SDSU Notice to Readers of ATR

The San Diego State University Women's and Men's Tennis Teams are about to embark on their annual fundraising campaign. The funds raised will directly benefit the scholarships of the student/athletes for these two programs. Additionally, there will be a major effort to find the missing alumni for these two teams. If you played for SDSU, and have not recently updated your information, please let us hear from you. Please send your annual gift and updated alumni information to Carol Propstra, Department of Athletics, 5500 Campanile Dr. San Diego, CA 92182-4313. I can be contacted @ 619-594-7924, (c) 619-957-8345, and e-mail is propstra@mail.sdsu.edu.

Carol Propstra
Development Officer
Aztec Athletic Foundation

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1922-2005) Continues

1932 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

The Players: They wore white shirts with sleeves rolled up to their elbows. Some wore caps with snap brims. Their coach sported a three-piece suit, a thin mustache, and a yen to be an actor. They were the Aztecs of 1932, and in later years, they became some of San Diego's finest tennis players. As a team, according to the yearbook, the court men placed high in the Southern California conference. At

the 1932 Ojai college tournament, Aztecs Hugh McArthur and Ben Hayward, the captain,

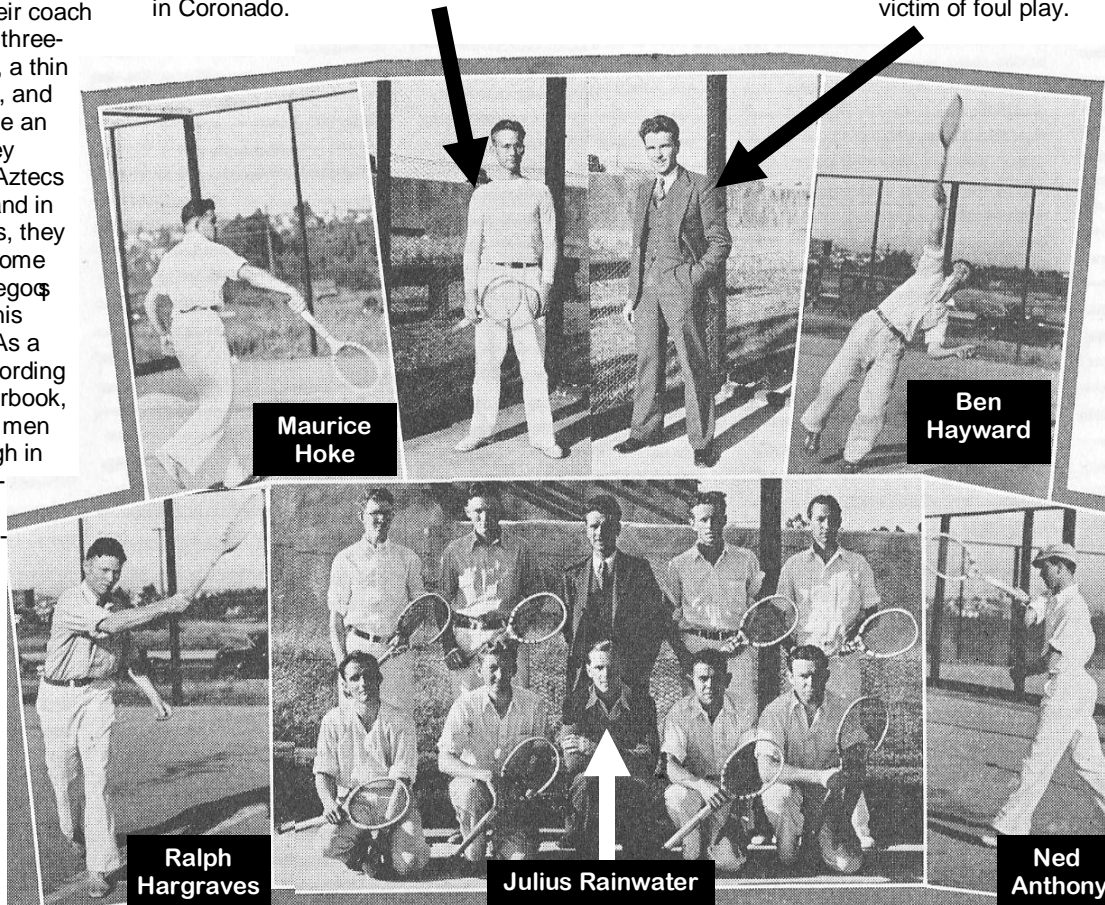
reached the semifinals, losing to an unnamed pair from UCLA in what the Del Sudoeste called a terrific struggle.

For more information, *Aztec Tennis Reporter* tracked down Hugh McArthur (above) and turned to Ben Press, the leading San Diego men's player in

Hugh McArthur: I'll be 94 in September. I'm a retired businessman. I live in Mission Hills with my granddaughter, Sarah McArthur (she's a writer). I was the top Southern California high school player in my day while at San Diego High. I won at Fullerton and Ojai and many San Diego tournaments. I was the county men's champion a number of times. I went to state college, quit, got married, and went back to it. In 1940, I started a little business at 3d and G Streets with several friends. About 1949, we built a steel yard down on Harbor Drive, where the bridge now goes across to Coronado. We moved 1,000 tons of steel out of there. We had 80 people; then we repaired and sold tractors and farm machinery from International Harvester. I sold the business in 1972 and retired at 62. I played tennis all the time I was working and I stayed with it until I was 78. My teammates? Maurice Hoke studied to be an engineer. Last I saw of Ben Hayward, he was running a big apartment building on Sixth Avenue, across from Balboa Park; Ned Anthony (the son of a Bank of America officer) was working in the parts department of an automobile agency; Hal Hanson (not identified in picture) became a banker in Coronado.

Leslie Wilbanks coached one of the best teams in San Diego State history, according to the 1932 Del Sudoeste yearbook. A native Midwesterner, Wilbanks coached movie stars and celebrities in Hollywood after leaving San Diego State. A stylish dresser and devotee of flashy sports cars, Wilbanks tried acting but died in a mysterious 1940s shooting incident that Los Angeles police ruled a suicide. To this day, some family members told *ATR*, they suspect that fun-loving Wilbanks, who lived his life to the fullest, was the victim of foul play.

Ben Hayward made his fortune in real estate and kept up his tennis for many years. Ben Press described him as a very good player and a stalwart in the Balboa Tennis Club. He made sure kids were invited to play. It was one of the few times we got to play with new balls. Hayward became an excellent golfer, Press said, and served for years as director of a major golf tournament held each summer at the Desert Inn Hotel in Palm Springs.



Maurice Hoke

Ben Hayward

Ralph Hargraves

Julius Rainwater

Ned Anthony

the 1950s and 1960s. As head pro at Hotel del Coronado for nearly 30 years, Press knew and played several of the 1932 Aztecs in their senior playing days.

Of Hugh McArthur: He was a super player, the San Diego champion for a good long time. When I started to play him, he

was in his late 30s and early 40s. He was still plenty tough. He had a lot of feel and a lot of touch. He was a nice smart player.

Jim Phelan (not identified in photo) became an obstetrician. He moved to the Imperial Valley but came up because he had a lot of fam-

ily (here). He loved to exercise at the hotel. Press, who has written a history of his years in Coronado, now teaches at the Hilton Hotel on Mission Bay.

1932 Yearbook Photo Layout
Courtesy SDSU Library
Special Collections

Aztec Men Regain Mountain West Crown; Carswell Coach of Year

Continued from Page One
Stronk in singles and Jung and Dontia Haynes in doubles.

In succession, the Aztecs defeated William & Mary (4-0), Harvard (5-2), UC Santa Barbara (5-2), Utah (6-1), BYU (4-3), UNLV (5-2), USD (5-2), Hawaii (7-0), Denver (5-2), New Mexico (5-2), Air Force Academy (5-2), UNLV (4-3), and BYU (4-2).

During the year, Stronk defeated two highly regarded players: 13th-ranked Arnaud

Leclercq of Virginia Commonwealth, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5), and 32nd-ranked Alex Vlaski of Washington, 7-6(5), 7-6(9).

In March, Brown, the 2005 Ivy League champion, and Rice University topped the Az-



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

RAM: Aztec Stronk in VCU upset.

tecs by identical 4-2 scores at the Blue Gray Championship in Montgomery, Alabama.

That's when we bottomed out, Carswell said.

With a 4-5 record, the Aztecs stiff-

ened and began their winning streak. In the conference cham-

pionship tournament, Stronk won the deciding point, beating Nima Roshan of BYU, 6-7(1), 6-3, 6-0.

With a 16-6 record, the Aztecs rose to 35th in the nation, 40 places higher than last year. Stronk was 77th in singles, Markus Dickhardt 94th; at one stage, Armando Carrascosa ranked 112th.

Stronk was twice Mountain West player of the week; Haynes, Dickhardt, and Carrascosa were chosen for the honor once each.

With Two Big Upsets, Aztec Women Flirt with Top 25, Gain NCAA Bid

Starting the season near 65th in U.S. college tennis, San Diego State's women's team staged two of the year's biggest upsets, defeating 8th-ranked Washington, 5-2, and 28th-ranked Michigan, 4-3, pushing them briefly into the top 25.

At season's end, they earned an at-large place in the NCAA Championships, where they fell to Arizona State, 4-0, in the Los Angeles regional.

It was the Aztecs' 18th post-season appearance.

"We are happy that we were selected," Coach Peter Mattera said. "This is a great reward for...a great season."

It wasn't easy. Struggling to create momentum, the Aztecs fell to 12th-ranked Southern California, 7-0, to 42nd-ranked Pepperdine, 4-3, and to 17th-ranked Cal Berkeley, 5-2, before winning six of their final eight matches. That string included a 4-3 victory

over crosstown rival USD. The Aztecs lost to BYU, the eventual champion, in the semifinals of

Waske Leaps to Top As a Star in Doubles

Continued from Page One

In January, Waske and Jurgen Melzer of Austria reached the semifinals of the Australian Open, defeating the world's top-ranked team, Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and Daniel Nestor of Canada, 6-3, 7-6.

At the French Open, Waske and ex-UCLA Bruin Marcin Matkowski of Poland reached the third round in men's doubles.

At Wimbledon, Waske and Rainer Schuettler of Germany gained the quarterfinals, upsetting the 7th and 11th seeds before falling to top seeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and Max Mirnyi of Belarus, 7-5, 6-3, 6-2.

Waske, who holds victories over Carlos Moya and Goran

the Mountain West tournament. With a final won-loss record of 16-11, the SDSU women end-

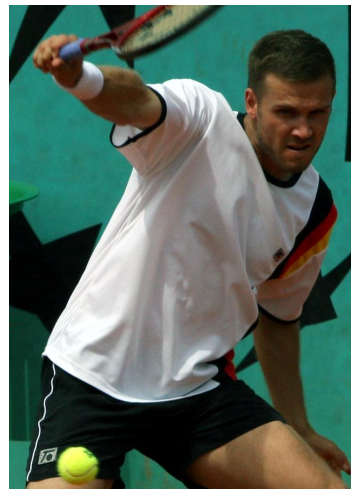
ed the regular season ranked 47th. In 2004, they compiled a 9-15 record and ranked 72nd in the U.S.

In April, Dita Hauerlandova won *Inside Tennis'* player of the month award.

Hauerlandova and Indra Erichsen both earned Mountain West player of the week awards.

In her final year at SDSU, Erichsen won the 2005 Intercollegiate Tennis Association's West Region Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award after being chosen for the all-Mountain West Conference team for the fourth time in four seasons. She compiled a 13-9 record playing with four doubles partners.

The ITA citation praised Erichsen's dedication and commitment to her team, which enhanced (its) performance and exemplified the spirit of college tennis. +



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

BIG HIT: Alex Waske strokes a backhand at French Open.

Ivanesevic, credits Aztec Coach John Nelson (1993-2003) for much of his success, especially for emphasizing doubles play.

**Aztec
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