

ATR

Founded 1999 Vol 8 No 1

With Ceremony, Aztecs Dedicate A Tennis Center

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With speeches, a reception, and a balloon-festooned ribbon-cutting, San Diego State dedicated a 12-court tennis center in early February.

The university's president, Stephen Weber, called the tennis facility and an adjoining softball stadium vehicles to alert the public to scholars, laboratories, and campus projects which he said define a successful university.

"They may not be aware of the academic endeavors," Weber said, "but they read the sports pages."



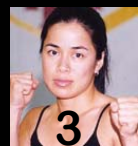
Huerta

With Rafael Huerta and Carmack Berryman, members of the 1938 Aztec men's team, as guests of honor, the dedication came nearly a year after the two Aztec tennis teams began playing on the new courts and 11 years after philanthropists John and Becky Moores pledged \$2 million to build a center.



Berryman

Former Aztec coach John Nelson won praise for securing funds for the men's team and the center. President Weber and Athletic Director Jeff Schemmel thanked the Moores for their generosity.



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San Diego State Athletic Department

BACKSTROKE: Aztec Dita Hauerlandova won the deciding match against BYU.

Aztec Women Upset BYU, 4-3, Earn 14-6 Record

Recovering from an early loss to rising Long Beach State, San Diego State's women's tennis team rallied by mid-March to raise its ranking from 55th to 29th to 36th in the Fila Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

The Aztecs then upset 23rd-ranked Brigham Young, 4-3, part of an eight-match winning streak, ended the next day by UNLV, 5-2.



Bagshaw

The season looked decidedly unpromising when the team lost four of its first seven matches, including defeats by fourth-ranked Southern California (7-0), sixth-ranked California (7-0) and 23rd-ranked Pepperdine (4-3).

Clawing upward from a 55th ranking, they defeated 39th-ranked Washington (5-2) and 36th-ranked

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Aztec Men Fall to USC, UCLA, USD, Top Ivy League Foes

Bolstered by a pair of brothers from Canada, the San Diego State men's tennis team stormed into the spring season by dropping close 4-3 decisions to USC and UCLA, raising hopes the Aztecs might be strong competitors.

Then, after defeats by East Tennessee State, 4-3, and University of the Pa-



Stefan, left, and Billy Timu

cific, 4-3, the Aztecs defeated Cal Poly, 5-2, UCSD, 7-0, UCSB, 6-1, Yale, 6-1, and Princeton, 7-0, but fell to 13th-ranked North Carolina, 6-1, 36th-ranked University of San Diego, 5-2, and 2nd ranked Pepperdine, 5-2.

Against the Waves,

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Standing quietly beside his tall son, the thin man in the blue cap melted nearly into invisibility that day five years ago at the Barnes Tennis Center.

Taquio Redondo, fifth from the right in the picture (inset), was standing tall for the Redondo family's favorite pastime: tennis.

No fewer than nine Redondos have played the sport, competing at every level from juniors and high school to college and the pro tour. That day, a grandson, Ryan, was playing for San Diego State against Texas A&M, and the clan showed up in force.

"Taquio always asked Ryan where he was playing and he attended as many matches as he could," said Ryan's mother, Marita. For years, she said, Taquio was the cheerleader, a constant, comforting presence at Redondo matches. He saw some fine tennis: One of Ryan's aunts (also named

Farewell to a Fan: Taquio Redondo



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

RYAN'S ROOTERS: Redondo family at 2001 SDSU-Texas A&M match. From far right: Ryan's grandmother, Martha; his brother, Skyler; mother, Marita; father, Skip; grandfather, Taquio (inset); aunt Tammy; Tammy's daughter, Tiara; Ryan's aunt Shelly; her husband, Del Tulao; Ryan's sister Summer; Ryan; a friend, Alexandra Ali; Ryan's cousin, Brandon Lupian; and Ryan's sister Kia Moore.

Marita) played on the pro tour. So did his uncle Walter. His aunt Tammy played on the San Diego State women's team (1979-83). His father, Skip (Taquio's son) coached

the Aztec men (1977-1989). At one stage, there was even a Redondo tennis racquet, a matter of great family pride.

When Taquio passed away at Christmas, Skip

Redondo and the entire family agreed on a special gesture to salute Taquio.

On the day of the funeral, which led to a family gathering, Ryan, who now plays on the pro tour, too, emailed *ATR*:

"We have all been celebrating his (Taquio's) life and we even put a ProKennex Redondo Heritage (racquet) signed by all of the family in the coffin with him. So, this is a very special time."

Taquio joined the U.S. Navy in his native Philippines when he was 18. He wasn't a patriarch who spawned a tennis dynasty. It was Skip's mother's mother who introduced them all to tennis, exhorting them to excel like Maureen Connolly.

Taquio didn't even play tennis, but showed the love of a parent for his children and his grandchildren. He was a fan (everyone needs one).

They all loved him for it.

— John Martin (1957)

Dear *ATR*: Story Behind the New Tennis Center; Blankenship's Loyalty

Dear *ATR*: Great work with *Aztec Tennis Reporter*! I really enjoyed your story about the tennis center ("The New Aztec Tennis Center: An 11-Year Odyssey," *ATR*, Vol 7, No 2). My wife (Ginger Helgeson Nielsen) and I know John Nelson and this story well. One point that was missed is that John Nelson met John Moores before Moores had ever met with Rick Bay (SDSU Athletic Director at the time). Nelson, in fact, was the catalyst for Moores getting with Bay and developing a relationship with SDSU, which has resulted in approximately \$30 million in donations to SDSU athletics by the Moores (John and Becky)..

Based on this, the meeting

between Nelson and Moores may stand as one of the most important in the history of SDSU athletics.

**Todd Nielsen
San Diego**

The writer is president-elect of the Aztec Athletic Foundation. His wife, Ginger, was coached in the 1990s by John Nelson (Aztec coach, 1993-2003) when she ranked 29th in the world in singles and was consistently in the WTA's top 50.

Dear *ATR*: I enjoy reading *Aztec Tennis Reporter*. Keep up the great work!

**Geoff Roche
Redlands, CA**

The writer coaches men's

tennis at the University of Redlands.

Dear *ATR*: Just a note to let you know how much I enjoyed your most recent edition of the *ATR*. Please keep me on your (e-mailing) list. Peter Mattera and Gene Carswell are fortunate to have *ATR* to help promote Aztec tennis.

**Steve Gerstenfeld
Richmond, VA**

The writer is head men's coach at the University of Richmond. He played Aztec men's tennis in 1983-84 and assisted Aztec men's coach Skip Redondo in 1984-86.

Dear *ATR*: Your article about Powell Blankenship

really hit home. ("A Gentle Aztec Whose Career Defined Loyalty", *ATR*, Vol 7, No 2) We were classmates at La Jolla High School and on the tennis team together for three years. He was a quality guy. I did not know that he played for the Aztecs. That was after I graduated. I remember Bill Jack (our top player) and Al Olsen (our coach). Fred Kinne's name reminded me of some lessons he gave me, much like Powell did for others.

**Dr. Neil Olson
Colorado Springs, CO**

The writer played Aztec men's tennis (1957-58) and retires in June after practicing medicine for 39 years.

Aztec Tennis Reporter

Editor: John Martin Copy: Martin Schram Circulation: Sherry Bertram, Sumner Bouldin, Madaline Cerrato, Ruud Dorenbos, Jimmy Earle, Desmond Fitzgerald, Katherine Fitzhugh, Shannon Lambrechts, Claire Martin, Peter Mattera, Jeannette Rolfe, Ruth Spenser, Alexandra Van Selm, Linda Walters, Floyd Walters, Weston Williams, Mike Wussow. Photographers: Claire Martin, Art Seitz, Linda Walters. This is the 31st edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, established in 1999 for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of SDSU tennis. This issue goes in email and print editions to about 1,500 readers in 26 countries. To subscribe, comment, or seek a correction, write to aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com.

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Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1922-2006)



Nguyen photos from USA team website; Erichsen photos from campaign colleagues.

Jennifer Nguyen (1992-1995): I'm a businesswoman — and a kick boxer. I fought for the United States in the world championships in Thailand a little more than a year ago. We won six medals and established the U.S.A. as a top competitor for the first time in what's called Muaythai, which is also Thailand's national sport. I won the silver medal for my division. A major lesson

from Muaythai is that you discover incredible things in yourself once you decide to never give up. (I use my hands, feet, elbows and knees to attack; we emphasize strategy, composure, and intense conditioning). After graduation, I played club tennis in the Netherlands with my Aztec teammate Lisa Alipaz (she's now the women's coach at St. Mary's). Then I worked in San Jose and got

my MBA at Golden Gate University. I helped create a couple of start-up companies in Silicon Valley (one was acquired by another company, but it failed in the dotcom crash). I now work for a San Mateo company called Success Factors. I married David Higaki in 1999; he runs the East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring Foundation, which is based at Stanford University.

Indra Erichsen (2002-2005): I'm working in public relations for a German copper company in Hamburg now but in the election last September, I campaigned with Ingbert Liebing, a friend and lawyer running for a

seat in Germany's parliament (the Bundestag). I was his personal assistant. It was fun and exhausting at the same time. He won his seat by a big margin and our party elected the new chancellor. (She is the first woman to hold that position and the first from what was East Germany). After having difficulties adjusting to German lifestyle, I feel at home again and happier. In the beginning, I felt like a stranger in my own country. After I graduated, I got an internship with a state chan-

cellery. I organized and planned visits for the governor. It was great to work with embassies and other governmental institutions. I'm not playing much tennis (I didn't hit for two months) but I am improving my golf handicap (and I won a little tournament!). My goal is to work for a few years to gain some job experience and then I want to begin graduate studies in international relations, hopefully at Columbia University.





LindaWaltersPix; ATR montage

CLIPPING SERVICE: Scissors-wielding guests snip ribbon to dedicate new Aztec Tennis Center and Softball Stadium. From left, Aztec Women’s Coach Peter Mattera, Men’s Coach Gene Carswell, *Aztec Tennis Reporter* editor John Martin, Athletic Director Jeff Schemmel, Senior Associate Athletic Director James Senter, SDSU President Steve Weber, retired softball coach Liane Lane, and Women’s Head Softball Coach Kathy Van Wyck. (Story, Page One, Letter Page 2)

Aztec Men Top Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Fall to West Coast Foes



Dickhardt

Sabo

Romero

Beron

Groh

Gomez

Ossareh

Bittner

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who have lost only one match all season, Aztecs Marcus Dickhardt and Benedikt Stronk upset the nation’s top-ranked doubles team of Scott Doerner and Andre Begemann, 8-3. In singles, Aztec Christian Groh upset 25th ranked Pedro Rico, 6-4, 6-4, and Aztec Anthony Gomez topped Richard John-

son, 7-5, 3-6, 10-7 (tiebreak).

The Aztecs topped the University of Portland, 7-0, but their record stood at 4-4 and they dropped out of the top 75. By early April, they had revived, rising to 56th in the nation on a record of 11 victories and 7 losses.

Newcomers Stefan Timu, a senior transfer from the Uni-

versity of Georgia, and his brother, Billy Timu, a freshman, are Montreal residents who chose to play college tennis together at San Diego State. Their teammates include Germany’s Dickhardt of Marburg, and Stronk of Berlin, who often trade off at the top singles position, and Groh of Crailsheim, who plays number

three. Californians Robert Sabo of Rancho Mirage, Gomez of Palm Desert, Michael Beron of San Diego, and Eugenio Romero of Ensenada (Baja California) team with Nima Ossareh of Bethesda, MD, and Matt Bittner of Sioux Falls, SD.

In early April, Aztec Dickhardt won the Mountain West Player of the Week award.

Aztec Women, Victors Against BYU, Washington, Oregon, Rank 34th

Continued from Page One

Oregon (4-3), North Carolina State (5-2), Wisconsin (6-1), and Utah, 6-1. They lost to 19th ranked Harvard, 4-3.

The Aztecs ran off a string of victories in the Mountain West Conference, defeating Colorado State and Air Force by identical 5-2 scores, and Wyoming, 6-1 (Head Coach Peter Mattera’s 200th victory at SDSU).

The Aztecs played without



Cadua



Yusupov



Vidov



Nielsen



Hagiwara



Krausova

Holly Bagshaw of Britain, one of the team’s most promising recruits. To resolve an eligibility question, she is sitting out the spring season.

“With Holly in the lineup, we would have been stronger,” said Mattera. “I think we would

have beaten Long Beach State and possibly Pepperdine,” he said.

The squad has only one senior, Dita Hauerlandova of the Czech Republic, who won the deciding match against BYU’s 18th-ranked Olga Bou-

lytcheva, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

San Diegan Esther Cadua, a freshman, has joined Yuki Hagiwara of Japan, a transfer from Grossmont College; Milana Yusupov of Israel, a freshman; and Hauerlandova; Sisse Nielsen of Denmark; Eliska Krausova of the Czech Republic, both sophomores; and a junior, Russian-born Alesya Vidov of New York.