

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Email, DVDs, Travel Help Aztec Coaches Pull Teams Together

First, from Istanbul, came an email from Ozge Atalay.

"She had a very good national junior ranking (first or second) and showed a lot of interest," said Aztec coach Peter Mattera.



ATR Photos

Ozge Atalay

Then, on a DVD, Mattera saw powerful images. "I said, 'Wow, she looks very skilled, very solid... She could make an impact right away.'"

A telephone call from a Russian émigré living in San Diego introduced Achim Ceban, a young man from Moscow, to SDSU coach Gene Carswell.



Achim Ceban

Within weeks, via emails and telephone, relationships began to evolve into commitments.

Despite the distance the two students traveled to San Diego in August, (8,800 miles from Turkey and 6,150



Kathryn Kitts

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Aztec Pair Wins All American Honors



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

SMILE SHARING: Marcus Dickhardt, right, and Benedikt Stronk in bemused moment. The Aztec pair compiled 13-3 season record and were chosen as All Americans after reaching quarterfinals in an upset at the 2006 NCAA Championships.

SDSU Men Win Season Title; Carswell Coach of Year

Aztecs Markus Dickhardt and Benedikt Stronk scored an upset victory to reach the quarterfinals of the NCAA men's doubles championship at Stanford, earning them All-America honors for the 2006 season.

Dickhardt, from Marburg, Germany, and Stronk,

from Berlin, defeated North Carolina's Raian Luchici and Brad Pomeroy, 6-1, 6-4, to gain the quarterfinals. In a match at the Aztec Tennis Center in March, the Tarheel pair defeated Stronk and Billy Timu, 8-7 (7) during North Carolina's 6-1 rout of the Aztecs.

Luichi and Pomeroy were

seeded fourth in the NCAA championships.

"I knew they (Dickhardt and Stronk) would be dangerous," said Aztec Coach Gene Carswell. "I told them at the beginning of the spring, when we originally had them paired together, that they could beat

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Aztec Women Gain NCAA Bid, Rank 38th in Nation

The San Diego State women's tennis team stormed back into contention after early spring losses, compiling a 16-9 record, winning second place in the Mountain West Conference, and earning an invitation to NCAA post-season play for the second consecutive year and 19th time.



Hauerlandova

The Aztecs lost to UCLA, 4-1, at Westwood. The Bruins lost to Florida, 4-3, in the Round of 16. Stanford defeated Florida, 4-0, and Miami, 4-1, to win the title.

Aztec Dita Hauerlandova of the Czech Republic was chosen

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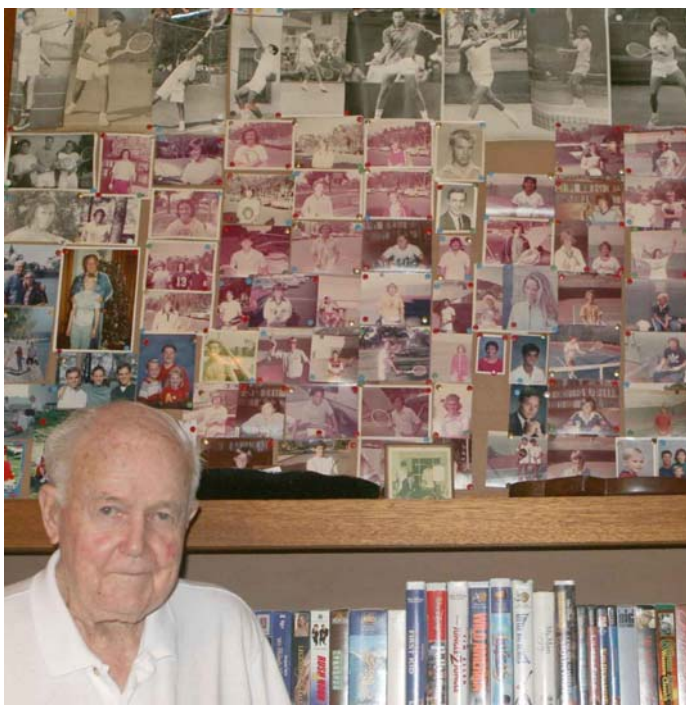
Less than a mile from Morley Field in San Diego's Balboa Park, the fading photo images of dozens of tennis players line a cork bulletin board in Fred Kinne's den on 29th Street.

They are members of a band that can only be called Kinne's Kids. By one estimate, about 7,000 young men share the distinction of having hit in Kinne's free tennis clinics between 1950 and 1991.

At least 40 won college tennis scholarships. An untold number played intercollegiate tennis at San Diego State. Among the best-known Aztecs: Bill Jack, Bobby Ray, Bernie Feldman and Larry Belinsky. Kinne's Kids also played at Stanford, USC, UCLA and elsewhere; dozens more found jobs teaching tennis professionally.

Kinne's remarkable service has landed him in the first group inducted by San Diego's Tennis Hall of Fame. His companions include French Open Champion Michael Chang, Wimbledon champions Maureen Connolly and Karen

Fred Kinne and His Wall of Fame



Aztec Tennis Reporter

Fred Kinne

Hantze Susman, teaching pro Aztec Jean Doyle Garrett (1946), winner of 50 national championships. Ben Press, Australian Open Champion Brian Teacher (another of Kinne's Kids), and Kinne balanced a career

as a reporter and editor (*San Diego Journal*, *San Diego Evening Tribune*, *Los Angeles Examiner*, and *San Diego Union*) with a zest for teaching tennis to juniors just getting started in the sport.

In 1952, he helped form the San Diego Tennis Patrons Association and served as its first president. For years, he drove juniors to tournaments throughout Southern California.

"When we started," Kinne said, "kids from L.A. were glad to see they played somebody from San Diego. When we got better, they used to say: 'Why do I have to play somebody from San Diego?'"

Born in Arizona in 1916 and reared in the Imperial Valley and San Diego, Kinne is a decorated World War II fighter pilot and squadron commander.

After his retirement from newspapering, he operated a tennis club in North Carolina for ten years. It was, he said, the first time he ever charged for a lesson. — **John Martin**

Annals of Recruiting: Email, Telephone, Videos Help Fill Rosters

Continued from Page One

miles from Russia), Atalay and Ceban were merely stepping from one side of the global village to the other.

In Memphis a year ago, Kathryn Kitts of Yardley, Pennsylvania, impressed Mattera in her match at the National Junior 18s Clay Court Championships.

"Then I saw her play in San Jose (National Junior 18s Hard Courts)," said Mattera. He was impressed again. Kitts, who played high school basketball and tennis, paid an official visit to the campus.

"She liked it and I liked her," Mattera said. She signed a letter of intent.

The three newcomers arrived in August. The two women join a team recruited from California, New York, Britain, Denmark, Israel, Czech Republic, and Japan.

Aztec Ceban's teammates arrived from Germany, Canada, Mexico, and California.

Increasingly, thanks to technology and tennis's remarkable growth around the world, the American college tennis team resembles nothing so much as a miniature United Nations.

With Atalay, logistics were complicated. "We're only allowed one phone call per week," Mattera said. NCAA rules prohibit more frequent contacts with international recruits.

"She (Atalay) is very well spoken (and we seemed to have good rapport on the telephone," Mattera said.

Atalay pressed for a commitment early, he said, indicating she was convinced that San Diego State would be a good university to attend. One factor that

may have helped develop the arrangement: Atalay's mother has a friend in San Diego, Mattera said.

Ceban, 17, gained a spot in the qualifying draw for the 2006 U.S. Open Junior Championships. Although seeded 12th, he lost in the first round.

"He had his chances to win," said Carswell, who attended the match at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. "Even so, it was a great experience for him."

By September, two tennis squads — formed from emails, telephones, videos, and scouting trips — were training for competition.

For many from foreign lands, it was their first taste of life in an American melting pot filled with newcomers competing in many sports, including tennis.

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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

1975, 1978-79

Aztec Men's Tennis

One night in May, 1967, three young boys got their first close look at professional tennis. They served as ball boys at San Diego's International Sports Arena. An *Evening Tribune* photographer snapped their photo with one of the players, Earl (Butch) Buchholz. As members of a Mission Valley club team for juniors, Lance Miller, 13, and Todd Harvey, 11, were already deeply involved in tennis. But as they grew older, tennis became one of their prime passions. Both played intercollegiate tennis at San Diego State.

Lance Miller: I sell building interiors for Letts Design, a general contractor; we deal with everybody, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, any federal agency, including the Pentagon. I played at San Diego State in 1975 for Gene Templeton. I won the California Collegiate Athletic Association singles championship (but didn't get to play in the NCAA Championships; the school wouldn't spend the money to send me). I had played a year at UC Santa Barbara in 1973. Before that, I played for Bob Bacon at San Diego City College in 1972, the year we won the state junior college championship. My wife, Laura, and I live in Poway with our four children: Brad, 19, who just won the state junior college diving championship; Shane, 17, a golfer at Poway High School, and our twin daughters, Brooke and Sarah, 11.



STEEL LOWDOWN — Pro tennis star Earl Buchholz shows Lance Miller, 13;

Todd Harvey, 11, and Jon Esguerra, 10, the night before he beat Pancho Segura in matches at International Sports Arena

Earl (Butch) Buchholz is chairman and founder (in 1985) of the Nasdaq-100 Open in Miami, which ranks itself as the fifth largest tennis tournament in the world (after the U.S. Open, French Open, Australian Open, and Wimbledon). Buchholz owns the Pilot Pen, the women's tennis event in New Haven, CT. The son of a public parks tennis instructor in St. Louis, he was the first player to win the world's four top international junior championships (1958-59); he played on the U.S. Davis Cup team (1958-60), ranked fifth in the world (1960), served as the ATP's executive director (1981-83), and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2005.

Jon Esguerra: I'm a set dresser in Hollywood, working in television and movies. (The grips put up the walls, the rest is up to me; tables, chairs, glasses, lights, everything). I work regularly on a television show, *How I Met Your Mother*, and I've just finished my second movie, *Disturbia*, which opens in December. I've been in the business 16 years. I played tennis two years at Mesa College, but not much since. My specialty is three-man beach softball. Tennis really helps me. I bat one-handed; opponents can't read my swing (I can even lob!). This year my team finished second in the Century Division of the Old Mission Beach Athletic Club tournament.

Aztec Alex Waske: Star Rising Despite Wobble at Wimbledon



ATR Photos

Waske: French Open

Six years after achieving All-America honors at San Diego State, Germany's Alex Waske has earned more than \$950,000 in prize money and gained a reputation as one of the world's top doubles players.

At Roland Garros this spring, Waske teamed with Andrei Pavel of Romania to gain the semifinals of the French Open. With Aztec Eric Faulk watching, the pair defeated Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Xavier Malisse of Belgium, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1, in the quarterfinals.

"We have great respect for him," Bob Bryan told ATR in Paris. "He may be top 20 in doubles but he's playing top 10 tennis. He keeps getting better and better."

Forewarned, the Bryans won the next day, 6-3, 7-5, reversing an earlier loss to Waske and another partner, Michael Kohlman of Germany. He and Waske won the U.S. Clay Court Championship in Houston, defeating the Bryans 5-7, 7-6, 7-6, and Julian Knowle and Jurgen Mel-

zer of Austria, 5-7, 6-4, 10-5 (TB) for the title.

At Wimbledon in June, the magic faded. Waske teamed with the veteran Bhupathi, a top doubles specialist. But, new to each other's style of play, they fell in the first round. In singles, Waske lost to Stefano Galvani of Italy in a first-round marathon, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 16-14, after 4 hours 57 minutes.

In July, Waske bounced back, defeating Wimbledon semifinalist Jonas Bjorkman, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, on the Swede's own turf in Bastad.

At the U.S. Open, Waske hit the fourth fastest serve of the tournament (139 mph) but lost to eighth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, 7-6, 7-6, 6-3. He and Kohlman fell in the Round of 16, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to Bjorkman and Max Mirnyi of Belarus, the world's number two doubles team and defending French Open champions.

By mid-September, Waske ranked 114th in the world in singles and 25th in doubles.



Waske, Pavel in Paris

Aztec Women Earn 19th Invitation to NCAA Championships

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as one of eight women in the country to receive the Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship and Leadership Award from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. A graduating senior who hopes to work in international tennis operations, Hauerlandova is the first Aztec to win it since 2002, when the ITA honored Aztec Katja Kar-

rento of Finland.

In her last season, Hauerlandova defeated 18th-ranked Olga Boulytcheva of Brigham Young, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, and Hauerlandova and Sisse Nielsen of Denmark defeated the third-ranked Iva Geric and Maja Kovacek of New Mexico, 8-3. The Aztecs' play gained them second alternate status for the NCAA Championships.

As a doubles team, the Aztec pair

ranked 31st in the ITA's final season standings. Hauerlandova ranked 69th in the nation in singles at one point and 70th in the final week. She won a second career award as Player of the Week in the Mountain West Conference.

Alesya Vidov was chosen Player of the Week after winning four singles and doubles matches in a Seattle double-header against Idaho and Washington.

Avenging Loss to Tarheel Duo, Aztec Pair Wins All-American Honors

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any team in college. I'm happy they made All-American status."

For his efforts, Carswell was chosen Coach of the Year in the Mountain West Conference. The Aztecs compiled a 14-7 record, won the MWC title for the second year running, and lost to TCU in the finals of the MWC tournament, which sends a conference team to the NCAA post-season championships. In three seasons as head coach, Carswell's teams have a 42-22 record.

Stronk and Dickhardt lost in the NCAA quarterfinals to Marco Born and Andreas Siljestrom of Middle Tennessee, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. The Tennessee team lost in the semifinals to Andre Begemann and Scott Doerner of Pepperdine, the school which won the 2006 NCAA men's team championship. Kevin Anderson and Ryan Rowe of Illinois won the doubles crown. In 2002, Aztecs Ryan Redondo and Oliver Maiberger reached the NCAA doubles quarterfinals and were named All-Americans.



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

BENCH: Aztec Brandon Fallon, left, assistant men's coach; Larry Willens, volunteer coach; Gene Carswell, Aztec men's coach.

They ranked third in the final standings for 2002 after winning the ITA National Indoor Men's Championship in Dallas.

The Aztec men won the 2006 conference title with a 6-0 record, defeating TCU in the final regular season match, 4-3. But the Horned Frogs turned the tables in the conference tournament, 4-1, earning the NCAA tournament invitation.

Despite the loss, the Aztec men fashioned a successful season. After losing to undefeated North Carolina in mid-March, the Aztecs stood at 4-5, but reeled off 11 victories in the next 14 matches, moving from 72nd to 49th in the ITA rankings by season's end.

Stronk, Dickhardt, and Christian Groh, a junior from Crailsheim, Germany, who ranked 86th in the country in singles, each won Player of the Week honors from the Mountain West Conference. Stronk and Dickhardt were chosen for All-Mountain West honors in singles and doubles and Groh was named to the conference singles team.