

Aztec Tennis Reporter

Vol 10, No 1

COVERING SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS SINCE 1999

January 2008

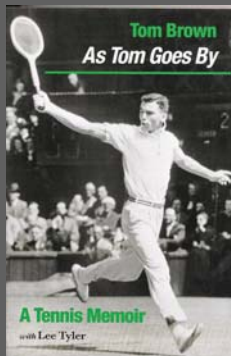


Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

HOME STRETCH: Aztec Women's Coach Peter Mattera, center (back to camera), leads squad in stretch exercises to prepare for 2007-2008 season. Mattera, in 26th year, drills players with fitness tests in running, soccer, and match play.

A Tennis Memoir: Tom Brown's Days At Top and Beyond

By his own measure, the summit of Tom Brown's life in tennis came at Wimbledon in 1946. He lost to Jack Kramer in the men's singles final, and won the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles. "Those were great days," he says.



As Tom Goes By
by Tom Brown

As a 23-year-old San Franciscan headed back to graduate school from the Army, he had scaled the heights of the amateur tennis world and was en route to a career in the Real World. He became a lawyer. For 60-plus years, Brown has continued playing tourna-

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Aztecs Opening 86th Tennis Season

Seventeen Aztec men and women begin the 2008 San Diego State tennis season this month, 86 years since the first Aztec team appeared in 1922 as a men's tennis club.

Both of this year's squads, which compete in the Mountain West Conference, open at home against UC Riverside, the men on Jan 19, the women on Jan 26.

All home matches at the Aztec Tennis Center are open to the public free of charge with paid visitor parking nearby.

The women's team, which ranked 49th in the nation last year, is composed of Ozge Atalay of Turkey, Holly Bagshaw of Britain, Esther Cadua of San Diego, Olivia Colman of Los Angeles, Kathryn Kitts of Pennsylvania, Eliska Krausova of the



Mattera

Carswell

Czech Republic, Sisse Nielsen of Denmark, Julia Trunk of Germany (a semifinalist in the Wilson/ITA West Singles Championships in October), and Milana Yusupov of Israel.

Peter Mattera, in his 26th year as an SDSU women's coach, is assisted by Lindsey Gamp and Larry Willens.

The men's team, which ranked 46th last year, is composed of Michael Beron of San Diego, Achim Ceban of Russia, Andre Felix of Los Angeles, Barty Golas of Germany, Juan Gomez of Ecuador, Matan Shitrit of Israel, Matt Tosches of Murietta, CA, and Tim Schulz van Endert of Germany.

Gene Carswell is in his fifth year as SDSU men's coach, assisted by Aztec All-American Ryan Redondo (see below).

Player Photos, Schedule, Page 4

3 AZTECS ON MOVE IN U.S. COACHING RANKS

Three Aztecs are stepping into key coaching jobs.

After playing the men's professional tour, Aztec Ryan Redondo, who twice gained All-American honors in doubles with Oliver Maiberger (2002-03), has returned to San

Diego State as assistant men's tennis coach. Redondo and Maiberger won the 2001 National Indoor doubles title and were finalists in the 2003 NCAA



Husack



Redondo



Hernandez

Division 1 doubles championships. Redondo is completing course requirements for a bachelor's degree in religious studies.

Aztec George Husack,

who played SDSU men's tennis from 1988 to 1991 and served 12 years as assistant and head coach at Santa Clara, has joined the University of Illinois men's team as associate head coach.

Aztec Jun Hernandez has become head women's coach at the University of Hawaii. He played SDSU men's tennis in 1993-94 and was assistant women's coach at USD and Cal Berkeley.

FLUSHING MEADOWS, NY — It came up repeatedly during John Isner's Cinderella run at the U.S. Open.

After the third round, where he won the first set against Roger Federer, Isner answered the question:

Was playing college tennis at Georgia worth losing four years on the pro tour? His perspective differed sharply from conventional wisdom.

"I think people underestimate college," Isner told reporters after defeating Jarkko Nieminen of Finland, 6-7, 7-6, 7-6, 6-4, in the first round.

In quick strokes, Isner laid out the benefits: "A lot of depth. So many great players. You're going to get a lot of great competition, a lot of great matches in. That's what helped me out. Four years was the right choice for me."

After his second-round victory over Rick DeVoest of South Africa, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6, the subject came up again: Wasn't

Is College Tennis Worth It?



Aztec Tennis Reporter

BIG HITTER: John Isner at 2007 U.S. Open.

it better to skip college tennis?

Isner, 22, and 6 feet 9, confessed why he went to college: "I got so much stronger in college, physically, mentally. I won a lot in college. I had so much fun in college. I wasn't out here grinding on the pro tour at 19."

In his final season at Georgia under Coach Manuel Diaz (who watched and photographed Isner at the Open, left) the Bulldogs were undefeated and Isner reached the NCAA singles final.

Then, with a wild card into the Legg Mason tournament in Washington, he lost only one match — to Andy Roddick in the men's final.

Isner's faltering early steps give hope to tennis's late bloomers.

"I gained a lot of confidence in college," Isner said. "I never beat anybody really that good. *I wasn't that good as a junior.* That's why I chose to go to college." — J.M.

Tom Brown's Days: Playing Tennis for Decades after Rising to the Top

Continued from Page One

ment tennis. Most players his age settle for slippers; Brown competes for prize money.

Now, he's written a loving look back at an astonishing swath of tennis history. He was never again so close to the glare of celebrity, yet he has

ridden the sport to extraordinary heights. With Gardner Mulloy and Fred Kovaleski, he is one of the oldest active top players.

It's interesting to find that Brown's path to that Wimbledon final started at

the 1946 La Jolla Invitational. Winning that title and a later tournament over the same opponent (Bob Falkenburg), "clinched it for me. Jack Kramer and I were tapped to go to Wimbledon," he writes.

Later, Brown married, fathered children, practiced law, traveled the world as a player. He still competes at 85.

As *Tom Goes By* tells what it was like for an athlete who peaked at the highest level of his sport. It proves that Tom Brown has never stopped loving the game. — J.M.

Special order from bookstores, from Amazon.com, or Tom Brown, PO Box 117237, Burlingame, CA 94011-7237 (\$15.95 plus shipping).

Dear ATR: Comments on Foreign Recruiting, Praise for 'Where Are We Now?'

Dear ATR: Interesting discussion and reasonable arguments from both pros and cons on college tennis globalization (*ATR*, September 2007). The same happens all around the world today, be it in economics, politics, culture, or social structures. We have to adapt to this new colorful "one-world" or we get lost.

Ying-Mei & Eike Schulz van Endert Berlin

The writers are parents of Tim Schulz van Endert, a member of the 2008 Aztec men's tennis team.

Dear ATR: I could not disagree more with one comment in a letter (*ATR*, September 2007). The issue is not scholarship access but

tennis quality. Last season, I watched the parent of a ranked U.S. college player on full tennis scholarship make abusive anti-foreign comments throughout an entire dual team match. His daughter had not been denied an opportunity (she was highly recruited by many schools). He was upset that she could not beat her international opponent. The call for quotas and head counts is not the answer.

The problem is our very small and exclusive age 10-16 youth development program. The rest of the world uses ten-

nis clubs to mix development with social interaction. Our tennis system provides little group interaction or support for kids or parents, a component found in swim clubs, Little League and youth soccer. The USTA needs to revamp 10-16 youth tennis.

It is disturbing that some coaches, parents and U.S. players say they want quotas to create scholarship opportunities when really they are struggling to compete at a high level. Ironically, a restricted or closed college ten-

nis system would further weaken U.S. tennis. Our U.S. kids would face weaker opposition and develop even less. Unless we are going to implement foreign quotas at the U.S. Open, perhaps we should address the real problem with U.S. tennis.

John Costello Long Beach, CA

Dear ATR: I especially enjoyed *Where Are We Now?* ("1997 Aztec Women's Tennis Team," *ATR*, March, 2007). Great job finding out what our alumni athletes are doing today!

Cassandra Caesar San Diego

The writer is a professor of counseling and board member of the San Diego District Tennis Association.

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This is the 37th edition of *Aztec Tennis Reporter*, established privately in 1999 for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis. Neither the university nor its athletic department is responsible for *ATR*. To subscribe, comment, or seek a correction, write aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com. Editor: John Martin (1957 men's team)

Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1922-2008) Continues

LEE SWENNES: I'm a sculptor. I create furniture: 25-legged black walnut chairs and steam-bent rockers. It's a way of life. After college I taught art, art history and three-dimensional sculpture at El Cajon Valley and Granite Hills high schools. My wife, Donna, is a retired teacher who

PETE DANIELSON: I've sold my ownership in two Highlander Men's Stores, so I'm a retired businessman now, enjoying life, traveling and playing tennis (I'm probably a B-minus player). My sisters, Molly and Lucinda, and I still play tennis (we use a form of Australian doubles to make a threesome). Lucy and I took lessons from Wilbur Folsom at Morley Field, Molly took from Fred Kinne.

AL OLSEN (1921-1994) coached the Aztec men's tennis team from 1958 into the mid-1970s and served as San Diego State athletic director from 1959 to 1968 (he hired Don Coryell to coach Aztec football). All this after a professional baseball career in the '30s, '40s, and '50s. He pitched most of his career for the San Diego Padres (winning 20 games in 1950)

and played briefly for the Boston Red Sox and Cleveland Indians. Olsen's widow, Mary, said Olsen earned a bachelor's degree from San Diego State by attending classes in winter and playing pro baseball in spring and summer. Olsen later earned a master's degree at UCLA and a Ph.D. at Oregon. His son, Al Jr., said that if asked, his father would probably have said that tennis was his greatest passion (including baseball). The senior Olsen retired as a full professor in 1983 after 26 years at San Diego State, where he was one of the most successful (and well liked) Aztec tennis coaches.

designs high-contrast colorful quilts. We live in Lakeside in an all-wood house I built (no plaster!). It has 23-foot high ceilings. I don't play tennis now but I'll never forget playing on the San Diego City College team that won the Southern California Junior College championship in 1956 with Carl Eltzholtz, Jack Movido, Frank McCabe, and George Swartz (Otis Morgan coached).

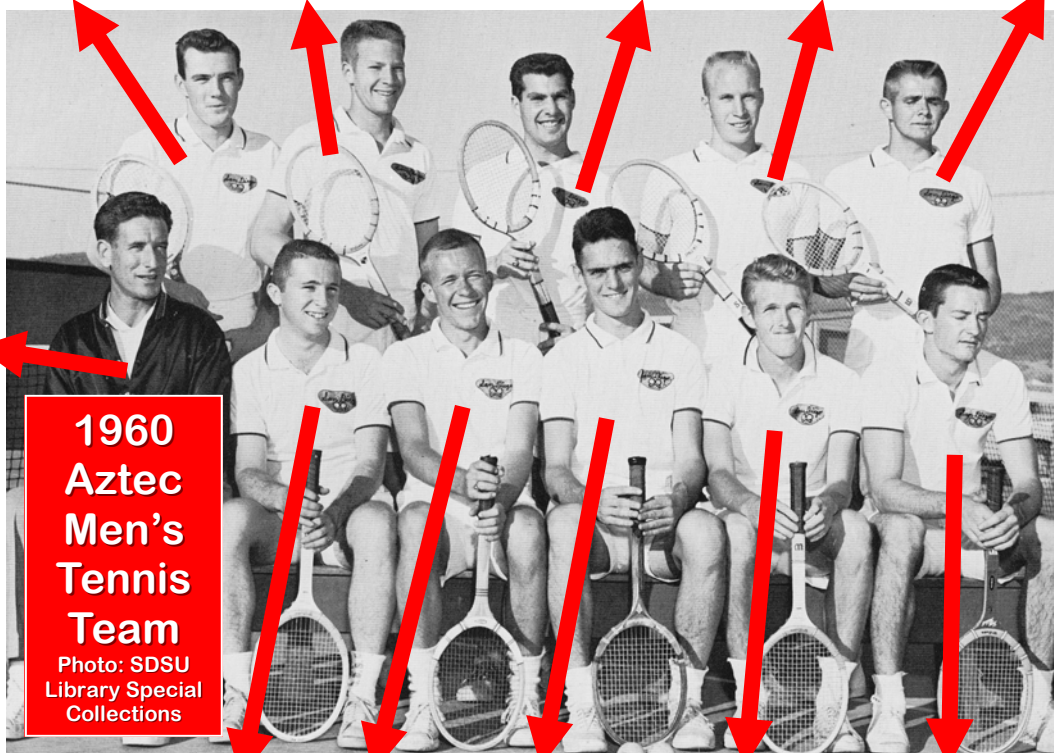
BILL JACK: I'm a retired banker living in Los Angeles and still playing tennis. Two years ago, I ranked fourth in the National USTA Men's 65 doubles with Michael Lo. (My son Mike played the pro tour in 1983). At San Diego State, I won the 1960 California Collegiate Athletic Association singles and doubles championships. In high school (St. Augustine) I was a finalist (and sportsmanship winner) in the Ink tournament. My

MIKE SPERBER: I played tennis at San Diego High with Steve Gordon, who also played at San Diego State. My Aztec teammates have lost track of me. Can you help ATR find me?

high school teammates included John Martin and Tom Mullen (below). The three of us started playing tennis the same day together in Pacific Beach, took Fred Kinne's free tennis clinics at Morley Field, and we all wound up playing for the Aztecs. These days, my wife, Mary, and I travel a lot (Africa last year).

GARY BUNKER (1941-1989) was one of the best doubles players in Aztec history. He won the California Collegiate Athletic Association doubles title three times, in

1960 with Bill Jack (above) and in 1961 and 1962 with Bob Ray. He and Ray were 1962 Ojai doubles finalists. Among opponents they faced (and defeated) that year: Robert Lansdorp of Pepperdine, later a coach and adviser to top players (Pete Sampras and Maria Sharapova among them). After graduation, Bunker taught physical education and coached high school basketball in Los Angeles before returning to San Diego, where for many years he coached the boys and girls tennis teams at Santana High.



1960 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

Photo: SDSU
Library Special
Collections

SEARLE TURNER: I'm a pediatric cardiologist who moved into health care management 25 years ago. My business partner and I help doctors and hospitals navigate administrative hurdles together. I don't play tennis, but I do run on the beach at Del Mar.

PHIL TAYLOR: My teammates have lost track of me. Can you help find me?

TOM DAVEY: I'm retired, still living in San Diego all these years. I taught high school chemistry and (many years ago) worked as a stock broker.

JOHN DREHNER: I'm a retired postal worker with 16,000 books to read (yes, I graduated with honors in English!). I play senior tennis (8-10 tournaments this year). In 2005, I ranked 5th in San Diego, 11th in Southern California.

TOM MULLEN: I'm a retired dentist living in Santa Cruz, where I practiced (dentistry and tennis) for many years. My wife, Sylvia, and I are active in the community and travel frequently (Antarctica is next). I played tournament tennis in Northern California for years and I enjoy teaching the game to my daughters and grandchildren, who are getting more involved with tennis all the time.

