

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Beatrice Capra



Denis Kudla



Junior Ore

## Academy Preps Juniors to Play College Tennis

**FLUSHING MEADOWS, NY** — Four top juniors from the same tennis academy battled in the US Open Junior Championships.

Two — Beatrice Capra of Ellicott City, Md and Denis Kudla of Arlington, Va — gained the quarterfinals.

Two — Mitchell Frank of Annandale, Va and Junior Ore of Gaithersburg, Md — lost tough first-round matches. Their presence at the Junior Champions Ten-

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## Oliver Maiberger Elected to Aztec Hall of Fame



**HALL OF FAMER:** Oliver Maiberger sees a forehand at 2002 NCAA Championships at College Station, Texas.

### 5-Time All-American In 2001-03 Won U.S. Intercollegiate Title

Oliver Maiberger, a German businessman and five-time San Diego State All-American who won the 2001 National Intercollegiate Indoor Doubles Championship with Ryan Redondo, has been chosen for 2009 induction in the Aztec Athletic Hall of Fame.

Maiberger and his Aztec coach, John Nelson, now head coach at the University of Hawaii, are expected to attend the ceremony on November 6 at San Diego State.

The following night, Maiberger and his fellow inductees are scheduled to appear at half-time at the San Diego State-TCU football game in Qualcomm Stadium.

"I am very proud to have been chosen," said Maiberger, whose parents will accompany him to San Diego. He is an assistant controller of Sirona Dental Systems, a German manufacturer of dental instruments and equipment.

Maiberger's five All-American citations came twice in doubles and three times in singles.

"Ollie showed up every day prepared to work, always stayed in the present, and every single day competed," said Nelson, who emphasized that

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## AZTEC LEGACIES ON WORLD STAGE



*Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos*

**TALE OF TWO FAMILIES:** Aleksandra Wozniak, right, of Canada, hits a backhand in a third-round French Open match against Serena Williams. Her sister, Dorota, played Aztec tennis in the 1990s. At US Open, Wozniak defeated Amelie Mauresmo of France. Emilio Gomez of Ecuador, left, hits a backhand service return in the French Open Junior Championships. His father, Andres Gomez, played in the 2009 French Open Legends division. Emilio's brother, Juan Andres Gomez, studies at SDSU and plays on men's team.

# Maiberger, All-American in 2001-03, Named to Aztec Hall of Fame

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Maiberger's work ethic led to his accomplishments.

In one NCAA championship, Nelson said, Maiberger defeated Stanford's Alex Kim, the defending champion, in the first round.

"This was the first time in 50 years that the defending champion lost in the first round," he said.

In his senior year, Maiberger ranked as high as eighth in the nation in singles and first in doubles.

In 2001, Maiberger and Redondo defeated SMU's Johan Brunstrum and Eric Cohn, 8-6, in the final of the 32-team National Intercollegiate Doubles tournament.

It was the first national title in Aztec men's tennis history dating back to 1922, and it signaled the emergence of a potent partnership with Redondo in college doubles.

Maiberger was selected Mountain West Conference Player of the Year twice, in 2001 and 2002, and Co-Player of the Year in 2003, when he and Redondo reached the men's doubles finals at the NCAA championships. Maiberger was named to an all-conference team with Aztec team-



**PARTNERSHIP:** Ryan Redondo, left, hits volley as teammate Oliver Maiberger plays backup in 2002, the year after Redondo and Maiberger embraced as they won the National Intercollegiate Indoor Doubles title.

Left: Stan Liu Photo; right: Dallas Morning News Photo

mates Redondo, Valentino Pest, and Felix Hardt.

In 2004, Maiberger returned to San Diego State for a master's degree in international business and served as assistant men's coach for two seasons. As an undergraduate, he earned academic all-conference honors four times.

According to SDSU records, Maiberger won the

most matches (111 career victories to 28 losses) and registered the highest winning percentage (.799) in singles of any Aztec men's player. He and Redondo scored 59 team victories in doubles. Maiberger is the first Aztec men's tennis player inducted into the Aztec Hall. "It is great to be the first," he said.

Maiberger joins five Aztec women's tennis figures in the hall: Ann Lebedeff, inducted in 1993, Carol Plunkett, Aztec women's coach (1976-1994) inducted in 1999, and three players she coached: three-time All Americans Micki Schillig (1995) and Nicole Storto (2003), as well as Cynthia MacGregor (2006).

## Academy Points Juniors toward Division One College Tennis Scholarships

Continued from Page One  
nis Center in College Park, Md, could lead to careers in professional tennis, but that's not the goal of the academy.

Ray Benton, a former college tennis player (University of Iowa), teaching pro, sports agent, and business partner with Jimmy Connors in the senior professional tour, is

the recently installed CEO of the Center, which has been designated as the USTA's first regional training center.

"Our goal is for each of our students to be able to gain Division One tennis scholarships." Benton said.



Ray Benton

"We're in the business of promoting Division One competition."

Benton said parents and players are encouraged to attend the University of Maryland's home matches and cheer for the Terps.

About 85 juniors attend the academy, almost all from around Washington, D.C. Three live at the academy and study online.

If the Center succeeds in its mission, a few will ultimately play pro tennis, but most will move into college tennis and earn university degrees. — John Martin

## Dear ATR: Utah Coach Acknowledges Roots, Salutes Redondo, Willens

**Dear ATR:** In my 18th year as a head coach (16 at Purdue, and 2 at Utah) and my second rebuilding job, I think back to where I got my start in coaching. Skip (Redondo) and SDSU gave me an opportunity to launch my career and I hon-

estly have been thrilled to spend my entire profes-

sional life involved in the game I love. I am glad to

see Coach (Larry) Willens' heartfelt donation ("Coach Donates \$700,000 Facility," ATR, Vol 10, No 1, January 2009). He's a great man, a nice guy and a heck of a tennis coach!

**Mat Iandolo**  
Head Women's Coach  
University of Utah

**Aztec Tennis Reporter, September 2009**  
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Editor: John Martin (Aztec Men's Tennis, 1957)



## Proud Aztec Coach's Locker Room Gift Honors His Parents

The Aztec Tennis Center has dedicated a \$700,000 structure that enlarges accommodations to include locker rooms for San Diego State men's and women's teams and their visiting opponents.

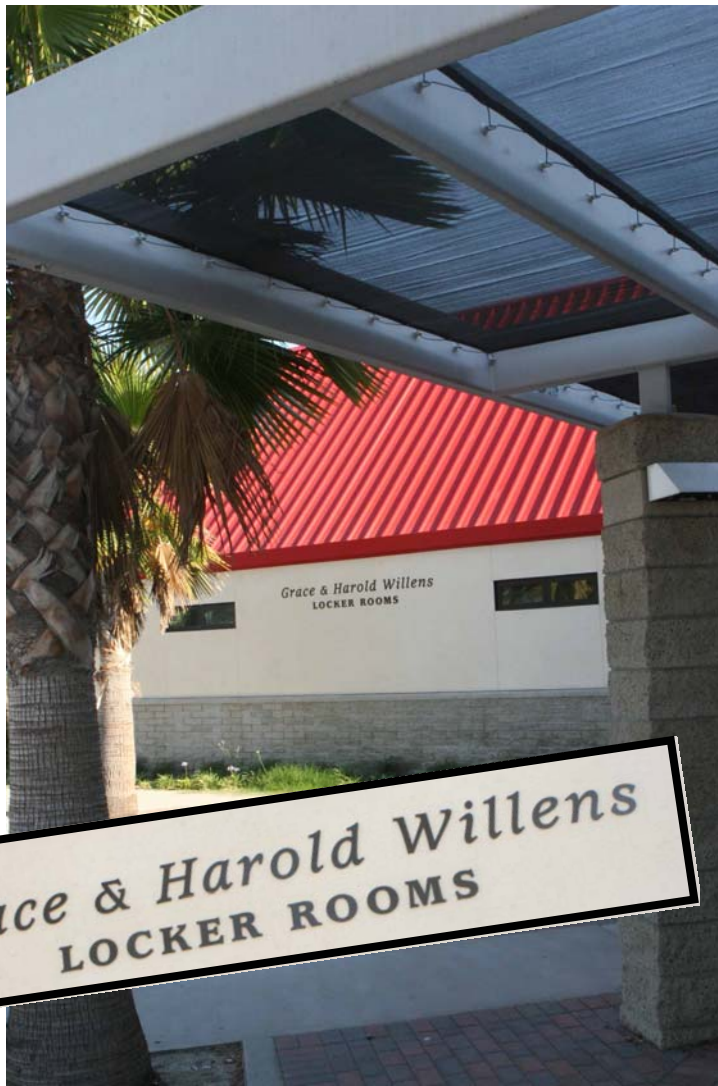
Larry Willens, the benefactor who financed the construction and furnished the facility, is a volunteer Aztec coach. Asked for details of his \$700,000 gift, Willens said he was embarrassed to be the focus of attention: "But if you must," he said, "I understand." The building is dedicated to his late parents, Grace and Harold Willens of Los Angeles.

Larry Willens has served as the volunteer coach for the Aztec men's and women's teams. He is the benefactor who bought furnishings for the Aztec Tennis Center, a patron of San Diego junior tennis, and a traveling coach and logistician to touring professional players, including Aztec Alex Waske of Germany.

In the 1980s, Willens coached Butch Walts, one of the first big servers on the men's tour; Gretchen Magers, a top world junior and later a volunteer Aztec women's coach; and Robin White, the 1988 U.S. Open doubles winner with Gigi Fernandez and the 1989 U.S. Open mixed doubles titlist with Shelby Cannon.

Willens was a top junior athlete. His academic prowess led him to coaching. Graduating from San Jose State in 1962, he served in the Navy, then earned a 1968 master's degree in motor learning and physical education at San Diego State. He coached baseball at USC and later, at SDSU.

A friend of Billie Jean King since their junior tennis days, Willens led the San Diego Friars and Sacramento Capitols in World Team Tennis, coaching Rod Laver and Cliff Drysdale, among others. — J.M.



**MEMORIES:** Aztec Volunteer Coach Willens (below) stands beside locker/shower facility he donated in honor of his parents, Grace and Harold Willens of Los Angeles. Avid fans and competitors ("They played eight days a week," Willens said), the Willenses joined Hollywood personalities and tennis luminaries (including Groucho Marx and Pancho Segura) to make the Beverly Hills Tennis Club a popular 1940-60s destination for tennis families. Harold Willens served as president of the club. After retiring from business and politics, he met often with friends, associates, and journalists at the club.



Photos: Aztec Tennis Reporter



## After Surgery, Aztec Alex Waske In Training, Plans Australia Return

Sidelined for much of two years with an arm injury, Aztec Alex Waske of Germany said he is planning a return to competition.

"I had surgery 10 weeks ago," he said in an email message Sept. 17, "doing therapy right now and working hard for my comeback" at the Australian Open next year.

Waske teamed with countryman Michael Kohlmann to win two main draw doubles matches at the 2009 French Open.

Waske showed flashes of his powerful serve in three rounds at Roland Garros. In the first. Waske and



Aztec Tennis Reporter photo

**AN AZTEC'S RETURN:** Alex Waske leans for forehand at Roland Garros.

Kohlmann defeated Eric Butorac and Scott Lipsky of the United States, 6-4, 6-2, then upset Lukasz Kubot of Poland and Oliver Marach of Austria, the ninth seeds, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), before falling to Tommy Robredo and Marc Lopez of Spain, 6-3, 6-4.

Preparing for Wimbledon qualifying, Waske suffered a recurrence

of the injury, leading to surgery. Waske won All-American honors at San Diego State in 2000, the year he led the Aztec men's tennis team to the NCAA final Round of 16.

## Aztec Ryan Redondo Wins 81st San Diego District Open Tennis Championship

Third-seeded Ryan Redondo, the Aztec assistant men's coach, defeated Oscar Plotkin, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, to win the 81st San Diego District Tennis Championship open men's title in early Septem-

ber. Top-seeded Aztec Juan Andres Gomez lost to Plotnik in the quarterfinals when he was forced to withdraw with an injury. Results for Aztec players: Round of 64: Aztec Jordan Colman def John Allgood, 6-0, 6-0;

Aztec Matthew Tosches def Aron Ouye, 7-6 (2), 6-4; Round of 32: Aztec Juan Andres Gomez (1) def Kyle Rapp, 6-2, 6-0; Colman def Bryce Bettwy (11), 6-4, 6-3; Aztec Tim Shulz Van Endert (5) def Patrick Wright, 6-3, 6-2; Aztec Ryan Redondo (3) def D.J. Jaehnig, 6-3, 6-2; Eric Rubens def Tosches, 7-6 (4) 7-6 (5); Round of 16: Gomez def Erik

Rosner, 6-1, 6-1; Oscar Plotnik def Colman, 6-1, 6-3; Shulz Van Endert def Jason Welborn (13), 6-4, 6-3; Redondo def Taylor Witt, 6-1, 6-3; Quarterfinals: Plotnik (7) def Gomez 6-4, 3-0 ret (inj); Redondo (3) def Shulz Van Endert, 6-2, 6-3; Semifinals: Redondo def Alan Chang, 6-2, 6-1, Finals: Redondo (3) def Plotnik (7), 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

## Then and Now: Aztec Pair Wins German City Doubles Championship



Left: ATR Photo. Right: Courtesy of Tornier and Erichsen

**DOUBLES VICTORS:** Indra Erichsen, left, and Silvia Tornier, were winning a match against UNLV in Las Vegas in 2004 when ATR photographed them. In June, they defeated top-seeded team en route to open doubles title at Hamburg tournament. Tornier manages web design for a German office equipment firm. Erichsen graduated in May from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She works in structured finance for New York-based hedge fund.