

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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Conference Changes Looming, Aztecs Start 90th Season

Where Are We Now? Planning Is Underway For a Tennis Reunion



On the threshold of a 90th year of Aztec tennis, Aztec coaches and players are beginning to ponder a question: How and when can they mount a tennis reunion?

It's a project that needs planning, they agree, just like preparing for a tough match: What are our strengths? What's our best strategy?

In 12 years, the photos of nearly 400 Aztec tennis players and coaches have appeared in Aztec Tennis Reporter. Their images compose a family album drawn from nine decades.

Searching for suggestions about the best way to stage a family reunion that will attract as many Aztecs as possible, the two coaches, Gene Carswell and Peter Mattera, want to hear ideas. They plan to seek suggestions and comments in a mailing early this year.

Aztec Steve Adamson, director

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San Diego State's men's and women's tennis squads open team competition this month in a pair of doubleheader matches at the Aztec Tennis Center.

The women, coached by Peter Mattera, face UC Riverside at 9 a.m. and Cal State Fullerton at 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 21. The following day, the Aztec men, coached by Gene Carswell, face Cal Poly at 10 a.m. and UC Riverside at 4 p.m.

The Aztecs began intercollegiate tennis in 1922 when a men's tennis club was formed.

The Aztec women ranked 51st nationally last season with a 15-10 record. The men finished out of the top 75 teams with a 7-15 record.

The Aztecs will compete in the Mountain West Conference for two final years before moving to the Big West Conference in the summer of 2013. The realignment was announced in December, when Aztec officials moved the football team to the Big East Conference, beginning in 2013, and shifted all other sports to the Big West Conference.

By 2013, the Big West will include Hawaii, whose men's team is coached by Aztec John Nelson (1995-2005). Its women's team is coached by Aztec Jun Her-



Javier Pulgar

nandez (1993-95). Pacific, already in the Big West, is coached by Aztec Ryan Redondo, an All-American at SDSU in 2003 and son of Skip Redondo, Aztec men's coach from 1977 to 1988.

Aztecs Julia Wais of Germany and Javier Pulgar of Spain are leading candidates for the top positions in singles. Two newcomers among the women are Kristin Buth of Germany and Dora Somoracz of Hungary.

Four of six new men's

players are Southern Californians: Rickey Baylon of Buena Park, Spencer Simon of Santa Barbara, Andranik Khachatryan of Burbank, and Derek Siddiqui of Los Alamitos.

Carswell said he was "very happy" to recruit Southern Californians. Baylon ranked in the top 40 nationally at age 17, Simon among the top 5 at age 14, he said.

Thorsten Bertsch of Mannheim and Frederik Gelbrich of Isernhagen are newcomers from Germany.

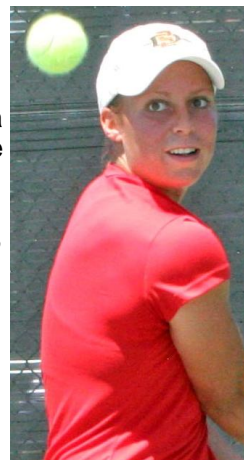
Carswell's squad faces USC, the defending NCAA champion, in Los Angeles on Feb 24.



Baylon



Simon



Julia Wais

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AZTEC STANDOUTS: Julia Wais, left, and Alicia Aguilar rank 47th in U.S. pre-season.

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Aztec's Backyard Becomes Grand Slam Tennis 'Stadium'

*Adapted from USPTA
Fall 2011 Newsletter*

For Aztec Tom Penner (1983) and his family, it's all about "the tennis life." Every Independence Day, he hosts a July 4 party and tournament for family and friends. This year, Tom and his family installed a Har-Tru court on their property in La Mirada

"This tournament stems from a game we call 'French,' which harkens back to the '70s, when I, my brothers, and friends were in our teens," Tom said. "It was a little like QuickStart tennis, and we played with sawed-off wooden frames and Nerf



RACQUETS UP: Aztec Tom Penner (1983) traded his backyard grass court for clay and held a July 4th tournament for family, friends, and neighbors' children.

balls on our backyard patio. The net consisted of two wooden picnic benches with three chairs positioned strategically."

Tom resurrected the game a half-dozen years ago, when he made a 10-and-under-

sized grass court out of his backyard. They played "with junior racquets and modern foam training balls." Brutal competition, heckling included, according to Tom. His new clay court was divided with two 18-foot nets,

10-and-under style. There were women's and men's draws. Many people -- young, old, beginners, veterans -- appeared on court at dusk, after the tournament was over, hitting, running, juggling, leaping.

"It was all so awesome, like a USTA advertisement," said Tom.

"We have friends going back some 40 years, and a new generation of players coming up, our kids, students, those we've inspired, and that particular Fourth, half dozen kids who'd never picked up a racquet before!"

Conference Changes Looming as Aztecs Open 90th Tennis Season

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Boise State, New Mexico, and UNLV are also seen as rugged competition.

"USC is clearly going to be a great opponent," said Carswell, "but we play a very solid schedule all the way through, and there's not anybody in there that we can take lightly."

Pulgar qualified for three Futures tournaments in Spain over the summer and reached two quarterfinals. "He has the most miles under his belt, so he would be a good leader," said Carswell.

Mattera's squad, rich in returning veterans led by Wais, faces the University of San Diego April 11th at the Aztec Tennis Center. "They're going to be good, again," he said of the Toreros. "Of all the home matches, that one really stands out."

Mattera also cited LSU, a first-time foe, and UNLV and



AZTEC SENIORS: Sierra and Roxanne Ellison ranked 59th in nation.

Wyoming as among likely tough opponents.

In 2012, the Aztec men face five teams which earned NCAA tournament bids in 2011: USC, Cal Poly, UCLA, UC Irvine, Fresno State, and USD. The Aztec women face seven teams which earned 2011 NCAA tournament bids: Pepperdine, UC Berkeley, Arizona, Washington, St.

Mary's, Long Beach State, and USD.

The new conference alignment will thrust the Aztecs into a diverse mix of tennis programs. The Big West is comprised of Cal Poly (SLO), Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Northridge, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, and Pacific.

The Aztec men were members in 1969-78, when it was the Pacific Coast Athletic Association. The Aztec women competed in the conference in 1985-1990.

Reunion Planning Underway: Wondering Where Are We Now ?

(Continued from Page One)

of tennis at the Pacific Beach Tennis Club, said a former top Aztec men's player has offered to underwrite a dinner at which coaches and men and women teammates can reconnect.

Mattera suggested a

match pitting Aztec men and women combined in a single team against a co-ed team from University of San Diego

as a possible attraction. He said he favored scheduling the reunion in September or October, 2012.

Carswell said he favored reunions every two years.

The *Aztec Tennis Reporter* has volunteered to distribute a reunion flyer seeking ideas from all players and coaches— **JM**

Aztec Tennis Reporter

January, 2012

Aztec Tennis Reporter is a newsletter created in 1998 for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis. Neither the university nor its athletic department is responsible for its content.

This is the 50th issue. To comment, correct, or subscribe, email aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com. Editor: John Martin (1957)

Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1922-2012) Continues

Carol Plunkett (1976-94): I live on Whidbey Island off the coast of Washington. I love my life as a birdwatcher and citizen scientist working on birds, coastlines and conservation. I am looking forward to Costa Rica in January for some great sightings.



As a coach, I had enough excitement with third-set tie breakers, 5-4 nail biters and teeth grinding. I am content gardening, hiking, kayaking, biking, reading, volunteering, walking my dog, and marveling at nature.

How did I get so lucky?

Citation: Carol Plunkett led San Diego State to 15 NCAA tournament appearances, including a fourth-place finish in 1984...helped produce 18 All-Americans...was 1985 national coach of the year in women's tennis...coached the Aztecs to 312 dual match victories...was honored as conference coach of the year seven times.

Ann Lebedeff (1972-74): I am coaching and teaching at Pomona-Pitzer Colleges and professor of physical education. I



have way too much to do. Our teams have done well, finishing in the top ten nationally each year. I'm Women's Chair for NCAA Division III and ITA Division III. I've been recruiting like crazy and still enjoying our wonderful student-athletes!

Citation: Ann Lebedeff (and Karen Reinke) earned the first national tennis title won by players from San Diego State, capturing the 1974 doubles title of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAAW), a predecessor of the NCAA. Lebedeff was head coach at the University of Arizona from 1977 to 1985, and 1985 conference coach of the year. She won two national team titles while coaching Cal Poly Pomona men and women and was the 1990 NCAA Coach of the Year.

Cynthia MacGregor (1983-86) won All-America honors five times as an Aztec, twice in singles and three times



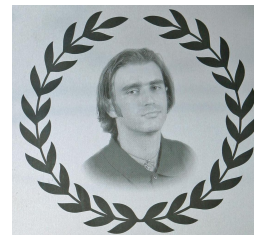
in doubles. She and Aztec Linda Howell were NCAA doubles semifinalists in 1984 and she reached the third round of the

NCAA singles championship in 1985.

Cammy MacGregor, her sister, writes: "That night Cinny was inducted into the Aztec Hall of Fame was a very special evening for us. Cinny passed away on February 13th, 1996, at the age of 32. Cinny and I reached the Round of 16 at the 1988 US Open, the quarterfinals of the 1990 Australian Open, and the semifinals at the 1989 Year End Doubles Championship in Tokyo. (What a nice surprise to receive ATR's email!)"

Aztec Tennis Players and Coaches In San Diego State Athletic Hall of Fame

Oliver Maiberger (2000-03): I am working as a controller in Japan and Korea for Sirona, a multinational company based in Austria. We produce equipment for dentists and



labs. I budget and forecast the performance of our subsidiaries in the two countries, working to optimize communication between HQ and subsidiaries. I returned to Japan in mid May. (I left after the earthquake and spent 2 months in Seoul). Life in Tokyo is back to normal and so is my life here. I have been here one year. My assignment ends in another year. What happens after that is not clear yet. At the moment I am not playing much tennis, so I try to stay in shape with swimming and running (I have just qualified for the Tokyo Marathon). Once I'm back in Germany, I'll pick up a tennis racquet again.

Citation: Oliver Maiberger was a five-time All-American and three-time Mountain West Conference Player of the Year. He and Ryan Redondo won the 2001 NCAA Indoor Doubles Championship, reached the finals of the 2003 NCAA Doubles Championships and achieved a number-one national ranking. Maiberger won 111 singles matches and shared in 103 doubles victories in four years.. He was a four-time Mountain West Conference academic honoree.

SDSU Athletic Hall of Fame Citation Photos

Micki Schillig Feldmann (1980-83): I coached at the University of Iowa (1987-1995) and I have been doing massage



therapy for 15 years now at the Westfield Tennis Club in Cedar Rapids (my dad's club). I got married in January 2004, in Hawaii, to Dennis Feldmann. We have

a 6-year-old son, named Mac. The tennis bug hasn't got him yet. He is a very good swimmer and plays whatever sport is in season. I can't seem to fit tennis into the schedule these days but someday I will again. I'm too busy to miss it right now. I hit the gym about 4:30 am and that keeps me going. Thanks for finding me!

Citation: Schillig (Feldmann) was a three-time All-American, played in the first NCAA women's singles final, reached the NCAA quarterfinals twice in doubles and ranked second nationally. An Academic All-American, she posted a 105-36 record at SDSU. She qualified for Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Nicole Storto (1990-93): Do you know where I am? My teammates aren't sure. I'm a composer, pro-



ducer, guitarist, harmonica player, and country rock singer with Mars Arizona, a recording and live performance

partnership formed with Paul Knowles.

Citation: Nicole Storto was a three-time All-American, a four-time all-conference player and the 1993 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year. She led the Aztecs to three conference championships during her four years as a competitor and reached the second round of four consecutive NCAA doubles championships with three partners.

2012 Aztec Players, Coaches, Matches



Alicia Aguilar



Laura Antonana



Kristin Buth



Emma Cioffi



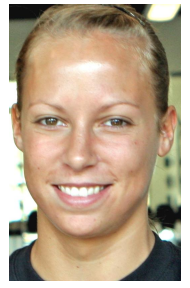
Roxanne Ellison



Sierra Ellison



Dora Somoracz



Julia Wais



Thorsten Bertsch



Juan Florez



Frederik Gelbrich



Andranik Khachatryan



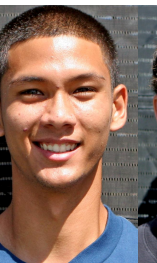
Hunter Nicholas



Javier Pulgar



Shiva Sangwan



Derek Siddiqui



Jose Sierra-Short

Aztec Women

Coaches

Aztec Men



Holly Bagshaw
Volunteer



Lindsay Gamp
Assistant



Peter Mattera
Head Coach



Gene Carswell
Head Coach



Jeff Thomsen
Assistant



Larry Willens
Volunteer

Women Away

Aztec Tennis Center

Men Away

Jan 25 Pepperdine
Feb 1 Cal Berkeley
Feb 11 Arizona
Feb 24 Washington
Feb 25 St. Mary's
Mar 2 Long Beach State
Mar 31 TCU
Apr 1 New Mexico
Apr 7 Boise State
Apr 8 Air Force
Apr 14 UNLV

Women
Saturday Jan 21 UC Riverside 9 am
Saturday Jan 21 CS Fullerton 4 pm
Monday Feb 13 Hawaii 2 pm
Saturday Feb 18 UC Irvine 12 noon
Tuesday Feb 21 LSU 2 pm
Sunday Mar 4 Loyola Marymount 1 pm
Friday Mar 9 UC Santa Barbara 2 pm
Thursday Mar 15 Louisville 2 pm
Saturday Mar 24 Colorado State noon
Sunday Mar 25 Wyoming 10 am
Wednesday Apr 11 USD 2 pm
Monday Apr 16 USF 2 pm
Apr 26-29 Mountain West Championships

Men
Sunday Jan 22 Cal Poly SLO 10 am
Sunday Jan 22 UC Riverside 4 pm
Saturday Feb 18 USF 11 am
Thursday Mar 1 Fresno State 2 pm
Tuesday Mar 6 William & Mary 2 pm
Wednesday Mar 7 Central Florida 2 pm
Friday Apr 6 New Mexico 2 pm
Saturday Apr 7 Texas Christian 11 am
Sunday Apr 14 UNLV 11 am
Sunday Apr 22 UC Santa Barbara 11 am
Apr 26-29 Mountain West Championships

Feb 3 UC Irvine
Feb 9 UCLA
Feb 11 Oklahoma State
Feb 24 USC
Mar 10 New Mexico State
Mar 11 Arizona
Mar 25 Air Force
Mar 27 Denver
Mar 29 Boise State
Apr 19 USD