

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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A Reunion Plan? Luring Coaches Who Led Aztecs

One of the last times Carol Plunkett appeared at an Aztec



event was 1999, when she was inducted into the SDSU Athletic Hall of Fame as the most successful tennis coach (312 victories) in San Diego State history.

If she can be coaxed back to a reunion tentatively planned for next spring (no date has been set), it could draw her players to return for an extraordinary moment, a first-time gathering of many of the 14 Aztec women she coached to All American honors in singles or doubles. She retired in 1993.

Between 1976 and 1986, Plunkett's Aztec teams finished in the NCAA's top 10 no fewer than eight times in ten years.



John Nelson returns to San Diego State regularly — as a foe. He left to coach Hawaii in 2004. In 2000, he led the Aztec men

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EYES ON THE PRIZE



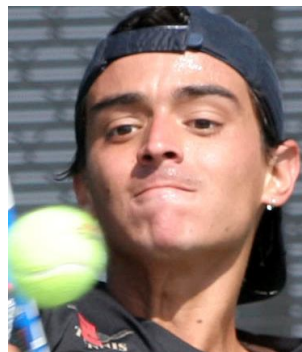
Derek Siddiqui



Julia Wais



Emma Cioffi



Juan Florez



Rickey Baylon



Sierra Ellison



Javier Pulgar



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos
Freddy Gelbrich

Aztec Women Gain Mountain West's Tournament Final

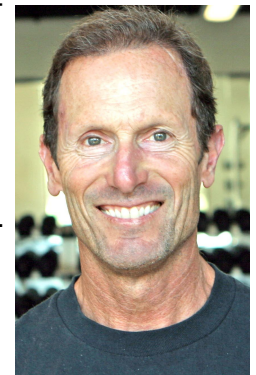
Mattera Coach of Year;
Men Reach Semifinals

Rallying from an up-and-down season, the San Diego State women's tennis team battled into the finals of the Mountain West Conference tournament against TCU, the top-seeded team.

In the championship match, Aztec Julia Wais defeated 78th ranked Stephanie Tan, 6-3, 6-3, and Aztec Laura Antonana defeated Olivia Smith, 6-4, 6-2.

Aztecs Emma Cioffi and Alicia Aguilar fought off defeat to force third sets. Ultimately, Cioffi fell, 0-6, 7-5, 4-6, and Aguilar trailed 5-2 when the match ended. TCU won, 4-2.

In earlier rounds, the Aztecs defeated New Mexico, 4-0, and UNLV, 4-1. For guiding their surge, Aztec Peter Mattera won Mountain West Coach of the Year honors.



Peter Mattera

The Aztec men, led by Coach Gene Carswell, fell to New Mexico's Lobos, 4-1, in the tournament semifinals. They finished at 15-9.

Four Aztec women and three Aztec men earned places on the 2012 Mountain West all-conference teams, but San Diego State's Javier Pulgar of Spain won the biggest prize: Mountain West Player-of-the-Year.

Teammates Derek Siddiqui of

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Dear ATR: Thoughts on an Aztec Tennis Reunion for 2013

Note: In February, Alumni Steve Adamson and John Martin invited comments about a tennis reunion.

Dear Steve and John:

Great idea, I would love to see my old teammates again and spend a couple days in San Diego.

Weekend would probably be best, dinner and fun tournament sounds good to me. If I come up with any other ideas I will let you know. Maybe you can find some players without current email addresses through Facebook?

Please keep me updated about the plan, timeline etc.

Oliver Maiberger (2000-03)
Tokyo, Japan

Dear John and Steve,

I got the invite from Richard Stoakes. I am tennis class of 1979 and 1980. Please include me

Kevin Keenan (1979-80)
Manhattan Beach, CA

Hi John:

Sounds good – but it’s unlikely I will be able to make it. Hope it goes well.

Richard Stoakes (1981-82)
Surrey, United Kingdom

Dear Steve and John:

Your email was forwarded to me and I would like to be included in the reunion and added to your email list.

I played on the Aztec Men’s Tennis team in the 1982/1983 and 1983/1984 seasons culminating with winning the WAC Men’s Singles Championship in my senior year and representing SDSU at the NCAA tournament in Athens. I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Graham Espley-Jones (1983)
Newport Beach, CA

Dear John:

Thanks for your efforts in keeping the Aztec tennis community connected. The reunion sounds like a great idea.

Perry Durning (1967)
El Cajon, CA

Plan for Reunion? Attracting Coaches Who Led Aztecs Over Years

(Continued from Page One)

to their deepest penetration of the NCAA Tennis Championships: the Round of 16.

Nelson’s presence at the reunion would almost certainly draw many of his players from the ten years (1994-2004) he coached, including one of his biggest fans: Aztec Alex Waske of Germany, who credits Nelson and Larry Willens with convincing him he could be a top 100 player.



Susheel Gulati

A reunion might also draw together dozens of players from the first Redondo era (1977-1988), when Skip Redondo coached teams often composed of more than a dozen players (the 1985 Aztec men’s squad carried 13, the 2012 Aztec men’s team roster lists 11).

Redondo’s son Ryan, an All-American as a Aztec player after transferring from Pepperdine, coached in a second Redondo era that might also supply its share of reunion

guests. Now head coach at University of the Pacific, Ryan Redondo would be reunited with his All-American doubles partner, Oliver Maiberger, now an executive for an Austrian dental equipment company living and working in Tokyo.

“I would love to see my old teammates again,” Maiberger wrote, “and spend a couple of days in San Diego.”

Susheel Gulati, who won All American honors in doubles in 1993, Plunkett’s final year of coaching, said she would



Skip Redondo



Ryan Redondo

Her Aztec doubles partner, Sarah Donovan, lives in Britain. She was an all-conference honoree in 1999. Bhagundas earned all-WAC academic honors in 1996 and 1998.

If she returns for the reunion, Aztec

Lisa Alipaz will have a lot to share with teammates and fellow coaches. She has fashioned a successful career as coach of the St. Mary’s women’s team, which ranked 19th in the nation in February. Alipaz was an academic All-American in 1995 as well as an all-WAC player that same year.

Hugh Bream, who coached the Aztec men from 1989 to 1993, has dozens of players who might wish to catch up at a reunion.



Hugh Bream

return and expected to join teammates and players she coached as an assistant to Peter Mattera, the current women’s coach. Gulati serves as a police officer in London.

She said she believed Jeannette Bhagundas, a professional singer known as Triniti, would be likely to attend. Bhagundas, a 1998 All-Western Athletic Conference honoree in doubles lives in the Los Angeles area.



Lisa Alipaz

Bream retired last year as women’s head coach at Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo), his alma mater, where he spent 11 years at the helm.

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Aztec All Americans: Where Are We Now? (1922-2012)



Micki Schillig, Cedar Rapids, IA



Kathy Snelson, Sacramento, CA



Helen Park Bates, Sarasota, FL

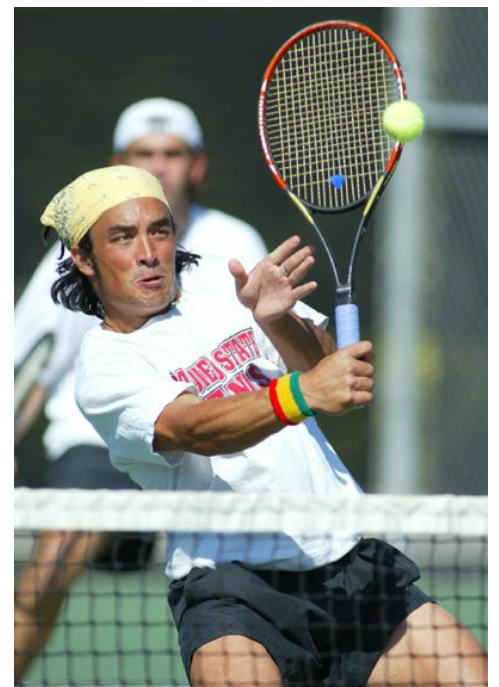


Monique Javer, Burlingame, CA

- Jeff Belloli
1991, 1992
- Catherine Berry
1986
- Dorey Brandt
1988, 1991
- Markus Dickhart
2006
- Susheel Gulati
1993
- Susan Hawke
1992
- Linda Howell
1984
- Monique Javer
1987
- Kim Jones
1978, 1979
- Cynthia Macgregor
1982-86
- Oliver Maiberger
2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
- Anne Moeller
1985, 1986
- Chris Numbers
1992
- Helen Park
1982
- Dax Peterson
1991
- Ryan Redondo
2003
- Micki Schillig
1980, 1982, 1983
- Kathy Snelson
1979, 1981
- Nicole Storto
1982, 1983
- Benedict Stronk
2006
- Julie Tullberg
1988
- Alex Waske
2000



Aztec Tennis Reporter
Alex Waske, Frankfurt, Germany



Stan Liu Photo
Ryan Redondo, Stockton, CA



Aztec Tennis Reporter
Oliver Maiberger, Tokyo, Japan

Aztecs Enjoy Streaks (Winning) and Endure Slumps (Losing) in Long Year

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Long Beach, CA, and Thorsten Bertsch of Germany joined Pulgar on the all-conference men's team.

Aztecs Wais of Germany and Antonana of Spain won all-conference women's team singles honors. Roxanne and Sierra Ellison earned all-conference status in doubles for the third time.

The Aztec men's tennis team, rebounding from two consecutive losing seasons, rose to 42nd in the nation for a time and surged to a 15-7 record.

The Aztec women's team lost eight of its first ten matches and struggled to mount a 10-13 record on the eve of the Mountain West Championships.

In February, the women suffered a six-match losing streak that pushed their team ranking down from 48th to 52nd in the nation. Then, despite winning seven of eight matches between March 4 and April 8, the Aztecs

found themselves trapped outside the list of the top 75 teams in the nation.

Among their best showings, the Aztec women fell to 26th ranked Pepperdine, 4-3, and topped 61st ranked



Laura Antonana

Wyoming, 5-2.

Aztecs Wais and Aguilar stood 47th and the Ellison sisters ranked 59th in the pre-season Intercollegiate Tennis Association doubles rankings but did not break back into the national rankings.

Wais won Mountain West Player-of-the-Week honors twice, winning four matches in two days against TCU and New Mexico in April, and singles and



Aztec Tennis Reporter

IT'S A STRETCH: Roxanne Ellison focuses on forehand volley in upset Aztec 6-1 loss to LSU in February. Playing in top position, seniors Roxanne and Sierra Ellison won all-Mountain West honors in doubles for third time

doubles victories over UC Santa Barbara in March.

The Aztec men fashioned three winning



Susan Mullane

COACH IS A COMPETITOR

Aztec Jeff Thomsen, the assistant San Diego State men's coach, stroked a path through three rounds to gain the quarterfinals of the International Tennis Federation's 35-and-over World Championship in February at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Thomsen was California's top junior college player in 1995-96 at Golden West College in Huntington Beach. He ranked 87th in the world in late April in the ITF 35-and-over division.

Aztec Hugh Bream, who coached the San Diego State men between 1989 and 1993, won two ITF 55-and-over qualifying rounds before dropping a three-set main draw match.

Aztec Larry Belinsky, who played at SDSU in 1975 and 1976, reached the second round in the men's 55-and-over doubles. In singles, he saved three match points to win in three sets to gain the second round of consolation.

streaks in three months. They won five of six matches between Jan 22 and Feb 18, six of seven matches between March 6 and March 25, and four of five matches between April 6 and April 22.

Among the men's victories were upsets of higher ranked Cal Poly (5-2), UC Irvine (4-3), and New Mexico (4-3). One of their best showings in defeat was their 4-3 loss to 24th ranked Harvard.

Three Aztec men earned Mountain West Player-of-the-Week honors: Pulgar (Jan 25) won three of his four matches in opening day victories over Cal Poly and UC Riverside.

Siddiqui (Feb 8) earned the match-clinching point in the Aztec's 4-3 victory over 47th-ranked UC Irvine, a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6) victory over Sam Gould.

Bertsch (Feb 15) upset Oklahoma State's 77th-ranked Chris Haworth, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Pulgar posted victories over 17th-ranked Remi Boutiller of Fresno State and 60th ranked Vlad Bondarenko of Oklahoma State.

Another notable triumph: Aztec Juan Florez defeated UCSB's Max Glenn, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (8), to seal an SDSU victory, 4-3, in April.



Thorsten Bertsch