

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1998

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Weekly 'Capsules' Reminding Aztecs of Tennis Reunion

A series of "Aztec Tennis Time Capsules" began appearing in September in the email in-boxes of more than 150 San Diego State tennis players around the world.

Delivered weekly to men



Golas

"Where Are We Now?"

The capsules are aimed at reminding players that they are invited to a tennis reunion at SDSU March 22-24, 2013.



Susman

"Please continue and put a smile on all the past Aztec faces," he said.

"OK," volunteered Shelley Susman of San Diego, who played on the 1983-87 Aztec

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Where Are We Now? 3



Aztec Tennis Reporter

AZTEC Tami Nguyen en route to 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 fall victory over Heidi Stewart of SMU.

AZTEC WASKE'S FAREWELL

FLUSHING MEADOWS, NY — The doubles match on Court 16 lasted exactly two hours, the last two hours of Alex Waske's 12-year career at the highest level of the international men's tennis tour.

Waske and Dick Norman of Belgium were eliminated by Frantisek Cermak of the Czech Republic and Michal Mertinak of Slovakia, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5), in the U.S. Open's first round.

Rooting for Waske from the sidelines were

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John Martin/Aztec Tennis Reporter

PUMPED: Aztec Alex Waske of Germany exalts in a victory at Wimbledon, where he signaled he was winding down his career.

Aztecs Are Victors In Fall Encounters, Eye Spring Season

Nearly a dozen Aztec men and women tennis players won more than three dozen singles and doubles matches in a fall series of regional and state tournaments involving players from 19 colleges and universities in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

Coaches said they value the matches as preparation for team contests starting in January.

Selected (fine-print) results:

Aztec **Tami Nguyen** won two rounds in the SDSU Fall Classic II in early November, losing in the finals of the Black Flight to Julija Lukac of Washington, 6-2, 6-3. In earlier rounds, **Nguyen** outlasted Capucine Gregoire of Washington, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, and Heidi Stewart of SMU, 6-7, 6-2, 6-4. **Nguyen** and **Laura Antonana** won a final consolation round doubles match over Lukac and Andejela Nemcevic of Washington, 9-7.

Aztec **Dora Somoracz** won the Gold Flight consolation title with victories over Lexi Antista of Utah, 6-0, 6-1, and Alexandra Trubich of Kansas, 6-3, 6-4.

Aztec **Julia Wais** gained the consola-

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Aztec Husack Takes Helm at Crimson Tide

Aztec George Husack, who played on the 1988-91 San Diego State men's teams and coach-ed at Santa Clara, Illinois, and USC, has taken over as head coach of the University of Alabama.

He called the post "a great opportunity on the coaching end that I'm really excited about as well as a move that's best for my family."

Husack and his wife, Kristina, moved to Tuscaloosa in July with their three children: three-year-old Nina and two-year-old twins Grant

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Aztecs Gain Individual Victories in Fall, Await Team Play in Spring

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tion final of the White bracket, defeating Maria Jose-Cardona of Kansas, 6-2, 6-3, before losing to Andjela Nemcevic of Washington, 6-4, 6-1.

Wais and **Alicia Aguilar** won a final doubles round over Elianne Douglas-Miron and Riko Shimizu of Washington, 8-6.

Aztec **Alicia Aguilar** lost to Nemcevic in the semifinals, 7-6 (3), 6-1. In a playoff match, **Aguilar** defeated Jose-Cardona, 6-4, 6-4.

Aztec **Laura Antonana** won a playoff match against Susan McRann of Arizona, 6-0, 6-1 in the Red Flight.

Aztec **Kristin Buth** defeated Nayara Moraes of Middle Tennessee, 6-4, 6-4 in the Black Flight.

In the Aztec Fall Men's Invitational, Aztec **An-dranik Khachatryan** won the B Flight Championship, defeating Corey Smith of USC, 6-4, 6-4.

Khachatryan scored a 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Carlos Bermudez of Arizona in the quarterfinals, then defeated Matt Kirby of Tulsa, 7-5, 6-4 in the semifinals.

Aztec **Juan Florez** won a first-round encounter with Sylvester Luu of UC San Diego, 6-4, 6-4, before falling to Max DeVroome of USC, 6-3, 6-0

in the quarterfinals of the A Flight Championship. DeVroome was a junior men's finalist at the 2012 French Open.

Aztec **Freddy Gelbrich**, seeded second, lost a first-round match to Max Jigante of UC San Diego, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2. In consolation, **Gelbrich** beat Jakob Karnopp of USD, 7-5, 6-1, then fell in the final to Kieren Thompson of Arizona, 6-4, 6-1.

In doubles, **Kachatryan** and **Florez** defeated Roy Brandys and Henrik Raag of Sacramento State, 8-4, and lost to Jigante and Carill Salomon of UC San Diego, 8-5, in the semis.

In the USTA/ITA West Regional Championships, Aztec **Thorsten Bertsch** defeated Nick Northcott of Loyola Marymount, 6-1, 6-1, Jurgen DeJager of Cal Poly, 6-1, 6-2, and Jacob Jung of UC Irvine, 6-0, 6-2. In the quarterfinals, **Bertsch** lost to Eric Johnson of USC, 6-4, 6-4.

Khachatryan won three matches in the consolation bracket, defeating Carter Lam of Hawaii, 6-7, 6-4, 10-6 (tiebreak), Devin Barber of Cal Poly, 6-1, 6-4, and DeVroome of USC, 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 (tiebreak). **Khachatryan** fell to Marco Comuzzo of Cal Poly, 6-3, 6-3, in the

semifinals.

In the SDSU Fall Women's Classic I, Aztec **Kristin Buth** won the Grey bracket with victories over Anna Depanu of USD, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 and Idil Hiciraiafoglu of USD, 6-3, 6-4. Depanu was ranked 75th by the ITA.

Aztec **Tami Nguyen** won the Gold bracket by defeating Cora Brown of USD, 6-1, 6-2. **Nguyen** defeated Klaudia Malenovska of Long Beach State, 2-6, 6-4, 10-5 (tiebreak) in the USTA/ITA Regional Championships.

Aztec **Alicia Aguilar** won the SDSU Fall Women's Classic I consolation singles title, defeating Aztec **Michaela Casanova**, 6-0, 6-1. **Aguilar** and **Julia Wais** won the red bracket doubles title, defeating Laura Claus and Marta Stojanovic of USD, 8-6.

Aztecs **Kristin Buth** and **Michela Casanova** defeated Augustine Valenzuela of North Texas State and Corinne Schnyder of Cal State Northridge, 8-2.

Aztecs **Dora Somoracz** and **Tami Nguyen** won the black bracket by defeating Megan Moore and Tara Panu of Pepperdine, 8-3.

Aztec George Husack Coaching Crimson Tide after Stints at Illinois and USC

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and Greta.

Husack was the Inter-collegiate Tennis Association's National Assistant Coach of the Year in 2012, his final year with the national champion Trojans.

The Crimson Tide ranked 48th in the nation in the final 2012 standings.

At both USC and Illinois, according to the Alabama website, Husack "was responsible for coaching, player development and recruiting."

The Trojans compiled an 85-6 record during Husack's



Husack

three seasons and had four players, including two-time NCAA singles champion Steve Johnson, earn 10 All-America honors.

In 2008 and 2009, under Assistant Coach Husack, the Illinois men twice

gained the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. Husack was head coach at Santa Clara for five years, beginning in 2002. He joined the Broncos as assistant coach in 1993,

Husack, SDSU team captain in his final year, graduated in 1991 with a degree in finance.

Weekly 'Time Capsules' Reminding Aztecs of March, 2013 Reunion

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women's team, "here to help if you want."

In July, Peter Mattera, the women's coach, wrote to more than 150 Aztec men and women players around the world: "It will be really great to have you all back to campus and re-connect with former teammates as well as offering the current teams a chance to meet the people that have made Aztec Tennis so special!"

"I can't wait for March to come!" wrote Indra Erichsen, whose 2003 Aztec women's team won the Mountain West Championship.

Ned Eames, who played on the 1977-83 men's teams said "I have made flight arrangements for the reunion and look forward to it."

Eames is founder and president of Tenacity, a non-profit tennis organization tutoring and coaching more than 5,000 schoolchildren in

Boston each summer.

"I've been enjoying these time capsules," wrote Tom Penner, a screenwriter who played on the men's team in 1982. "I hope to make it to the reunion in March."

During the reunion weekend, the Aztec women's team will face Dartmouth and the men's team will play in the annual SDSU-USD invitational tournament.

Paige Patridge McMurray, who played on the women's team in 1989-1993 and served as assistant Aztec coach from 1994 to 1996, said she plans to attend. She retired in 2005 after 9 years as head coach at Tulsa.

Many Aztecs will travel to the reunion from great distances, Steve Wellington, a lawyer who played in the 1980s, will have the shortest trip. He lives on Campanile Drive, "The reunion sounds fun. I'll plan on making it," said Wellington. "I only live three blocks from campus, so I don't have much of an excuse, now do I?"

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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.

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November, 2012

Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1922-2009)

Aztec Tennis Reporter Vol 10, No 1, January 2009

Most popular ATR feature in our first 10 years? That's easy: Where Are We Now?

Tracked down through teammates, families, yearbooks, telephone directories, and the Internet, nearly 140 Aztecs have told ATR their stories.

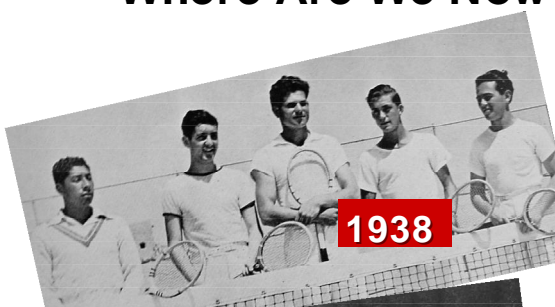
Highlights: George Holland (1946 Aztec men's team) was under fire at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Nicole Storto (1990-93) and Jeanette Bhaguan-Storto Triniti das (aka 'Triniti') (1995-98) are both professional songwriters, singers, and musicians.

Two Aztec women served as police officers: Heather Petty (1981-84), a San Diego police detective, and Susheel Gulati (1992-1993), a London bobby.

The 1932 Aztec men's coach, Leslie Wilbanks, wore three-piece suits and later coached Hollywood starlets and celebrities.

Most amazing career path: Bill Wilbanks Ereneta (1957 Aztec men's team) flew Marine jet fighters, worked on America's supersonic transport, became deputy director of the San Jose International Airport, and then retired — to sing professional opera and perform in at least 30 musicals in the Bay Area.

Most unusual circulation discovery: An ex-wife refused to reveal an Aztec tennis player's mailing address but lovingly forwarded each new issue of Aztec Tennis Reporter to him for many years.



1938

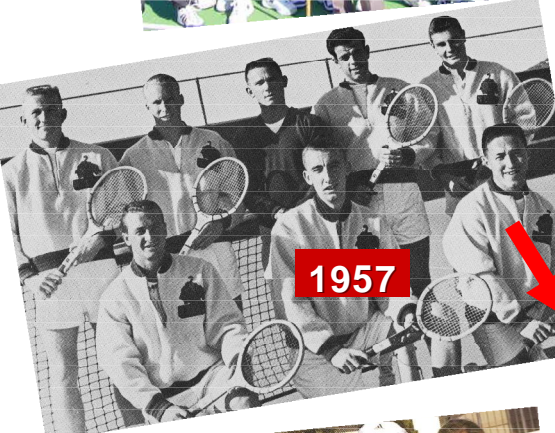


1984



2002

1936



1957



2003



1975



1997



1975

1983



1992



1985



1958



1996

A Victory Lap for Waske after a Career Launched at San Diego State

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John Nelson of Honolulu and Larry Willens of San Diego, the two coaches who helped him begin his college career at San Diego State in 1997 at the age of 23.

"Right now!" Willens shouted from the sideline on as Waske and Norman scored a service break to lead, 6-5, in the final set. But unforced errors foiled them in a tie-breaker.

Willens, a volunteer coach at San Diego State, and Nelson, who coaches at the University of Hawaii, cheered and clapped to the end, falling silent only when a Norman backhand went astray. The match, like Waske's career, was over.

Refusing to strike a somber note about the defeat, Nelson said: "He's had an unbelievable career, starting as late as he did," which came after military service and study at a German university. "I know he's disappointed today, but he came out, and they went for it, they served for the match, things didn't go their way, but he's a winner."

Waske arrived in San Diego in 1997 ranked 187th in Germany, a former junior player whose coaches told him he lacked promise.

Waske said German officials often advise players to seek realistic goals. "They don't want you to shoot for a goal that's not in reach," he said. By contrast, Waske said, Nelson "mentioned becoming top hundred in the world, and that was worlds away for me."

Nelson "was the first person ever believing in my tennis," Waske said. "He saw big things in me. He was the first one calling me that morning when I first broke the top hundred."

That was 2006, the year Waske and Andrei Pavel of Romania gained the doubles semifinals at the French Open, where they lost to top seeds Bob and Mike Bryan of the United States. In 2005, Waske and Jürgen Melzer of Austria reached the doubles semifinals at the Australian Open.

In eight Davis Cup matches representing Germany, Waske's record is 8-1, all in doubles except for a 2006 singles victory over Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand.

In 2005, Waske defeated Rafael Nadal, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, on grass in the Wimbledon warm-up tournament at Halle, Germany.

In late 2007, Waske suffered an arm injury that forced him off the tour. He was given a protected ranking by the ATP while he sought medical care.

"I've had three elbow surgeries, and it's killing me not to play again," Waske said in March 2011."

To generate income, Waske opened Schüttler-Waske Tennis-University, a tennis academy and training center near the Frankfurt airport. Angelique Kerber, who defeated Kim Clijsters and Sabine Lisicki to reach the semifinals at Wimbledon in June, trained at the academy a year ago and for four days earlier this year.

Kerber worked with Willens, whom Waske praised for his mastery of the game's mental aspects.

At the Tennis-University, "I'm the C.E.O.," Waske said. "The players come because they want to work with me. The coaches need me, too. For two years I've been killing myself now with the playing and running the company."

Waske said he employed nine coaches and had attracted 30 young players from around Europe as resident students. Among its services is an evaluation by Waske of young European players seeking American college tennis scholarships.

Through the years, Waske has funneled about a dozen promising German players to Nelson's college teams, first at San Diego State and later at Hawaii, where Nelson moved in 2003. Nelson called him "the most loyal player I've



John Martin/Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos
CLIMAX: The former Aztec Coach John Nelson, left, greets Aztec Alex Waske after final match.

ever coached."

"I send everybody that's talented, I send to John Nelson because I believe so much in him," Waske said. "Morally, he must be the best person in the world."

"I'm a big fan of his, and if I didn't have a father, I wish he would be like John."

— John Martin

A longer version of this story appeared on August 29, 2012 in The New York Times.

Waske Winds Down and Earns Pension

At Wimbledon, Alex Waske said he planned to play in smaller APT tournaments until the end of 2012 if it would help him earn enough credits to qualify for a pension.

After the U.S. Open in September, Waske began to wind down his career by earning prize money (and ATP pension credits) in a series of appearances in 28-team doubles draw tournaments.

Paired with Xavier Malisse of Belgium, he gained the semifinals of the ATP indoor hard court championship in Metz, France. With Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia he reached the quarterfinals of indoor championships in Bangkok and Vienna. The points earned in Vienna qualified Waske for an ATP pension, according to Willens.