

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

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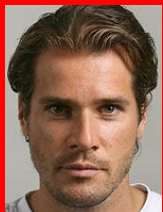
## Aztec Groh Takes To Road as Coach With Tommy Haas

MELBOURNE, Australia — Five years after helping lead the Aztecs in his senior year at San Diego State, Christian Groh of Crailsheim, Germany (population 33,086) is coaching the world's 21st ranked singles player, Tommy Haas.



Groh

Groh joined Haas's team in February after working with Michael Berrer at the suggestion of Aztec All-American Alex Waske. Groh previously coached as an assistant at the University of San Diego.



Haas

"I met Tommy at the Los Angeles tournament in 2011," Groh said. "I was working with Berrer and Tommy was looking at what we were doing."

The two chatted briefly at the U.S. Open later that year. Months later, Haas

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## Aztecs Starting 91st Year of College Tennis



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos

**WORLDLY:** Aztecs Isabelle Hoorn, above, of The Netherlands, and Thorsten Bertsch, below, of Germany, help SDSU compete with 16 men and women from the U.S. (Burbank, Long Beach, and Santa Barbara, California, and Park City, Utah), and Canada, Columbia, Germany, Hungary, India, Mexico, The Netherlands, Philippines, Spain, and Switzerland.



Eighteen Aztecs from across the globe begin San Diego State's 91st year of collegiate tennis with a pair of doubleheaders on Jan. 18 and 19 at the Aztec Tennis Center.

The ten Aztec men meet teams from UC San Diego and UC Riverside on the morning and afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 18. The eight Aztec women follow the next day against teams from UC Riverside and Cal State Fullerton.

San Diego State College students formed a male-only tennis club in 1922, opening the way for college competition now in its tenth decade.

The 1932 Aztec men's team leader, Hugh McArthur, celebrated his 101st birthday in September.

In 2013, the two teams play 28 home matches at the Aztec Tennis Center (see Page 4) against teams from as far away as Hanover, New Hampshire (Dartmouth) and Orlando, Florida (Central Florida University).

The Aztec women's team

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## Rising California Junior Intends to Join Aztecs

Kennedy Davis of San Jose has signed a letter of intent to attend San Diego State in the Fall 2013. In October, she gained the USTA junior girl's 18 regional final in Aptos, CA.

Davis's older sister, Tayler, is in her fourth year on Cal Berkeley's women's team; their father played football at San Jose State, one uncle was assistant basketball coach at Cal; another uncle played basketball at UCLA and for Golden State in the NBA.



Davis

## Reunion Near, Aztecs Ponder Travel, Music

A little traveling music, please?

Eric Crabb, who played Aztec men's tennis in 1985-86, performs as Eric Sage, and whose band, *Uptown Groove*, has performed in Las Vegas, has volunteered to "play some music" at the Aztec tennis reunion in March.

"That is a great offer," said women's coach Peter Mattera, who looks at the globe as he and men's coach Gene Carswell plan the



Crabb

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## Aztec Christian Groh Takes to the Globe — Coaching Tommy Haas

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sent a text message: "Come to L.A. I'm looking for a good practice."

Groh, who maintains an apartment in San Diego, joined Haas for a workout. Afterward, the offer was immediate. "He said, 'Good, I like it. Come to Delray Beach,'" Groh said.

Since then, the two have traveled together almost constantly. Groh, 30, handles both coaching and hitting duties for Haas, 34, as they move from ATP tournaments to exhibitions (Brazil in December) and back to Los Angeles.

"It's a challenging job," Groh told *ATR*, describing his traveling and coaching duties.

"It's like we were married," Groh chuckled, "we're doing everything together. It's a lot of fun.

"I'm grateful that a guy like this gave me an



Groh (2007)

opportunity," Groh said.

With Groh at his side, Haas has earned more than \$750,000, defeated Roger Federer in the finals of the Halle grass court warm-up for Wimbledon and gained the finals at Hamburg and Washington. Haas lost to Novak Djokovic, the eventual winner, in the Shanghai quarterfinals.

In 2002, Haas ranked second in the world. In 16 years as a professional, he has earned more than \$11 million in prize money.

Groh is no stranger to the tour, at a different level. In 2001-2003, Groh played in ten Futures tournaments across Europe, North Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States, winning 6 of 16 matches and earning nearly \$1,800.

As a team, Groh and Haas can truthfully say they know tennis from top to bottom. — J.M.

## Aztec Tennis Teams Facing 43 Opponents in 91st Collegiate Season

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is led by Julia Wais of Goepingen, Germany, and Alicia Aguilar of Coatzacoalcos, Mexico. Their teammates are Laura Antonana of San Sebastian, Spain; Kristin Buth of Kaiserslautern, Germany; Michela Casanova of Arisdorf, Switzerland; Isabelle Hoorn of Soest, Netherlands; Tami Nguyen of Muntinlupa City, Philippines; and Dora Somoracz of Budapest, Hungary.

Aztec Women's Coach Peter Mattera praised Wais and Aguilar for strong efforts in singles and doubles. He said he was very pleased with Nguyen and Antonana for their fall performances.

Mattera called the women's schedule extremely difficult, declining to single out opponents, not wanting any foe "to get

hold of bulletin board material."

The Aztec men are led by Thorsten Bertsch of Mannheim, Germany, Hunter Nicholas of Park City, Utah, and Derek Siddiqui of Long Beach.

Their teammates are Juan Florez of Bogota, Columbia; Freddy Gelbrich of Isernhagen, Germany; Taylor Hawthorne of Toronto, Canada; Andranik Khachatryan of Burbank, Shiva Sangwan of Chandigarh, India; Spencer Simon of Santa Barbara, and Marvin Tawasi of Heidelberg, Germany.

Aztec Men's Coach Gene Carswell said Nicholas "put up good results" at the All American tournament in Tulsa in the fall. He described Bertsch and Siddiqui as team leaders.

Carswell said matches at USC

(Jan 25) and a home doubleheader against Cal Berkeley and Pepperdine (Feb 28) will be extremely difficult.

Carswell is in his 10th year, assisted by Jeff Thomsen and volunteer Larry Willens. The Aztec trainer, Catherine Ortiz, serves both teams.

Mattera, 2012 Mountain West Coach of the Year, is in his 31st season (19th as head coach). He is assisted by Lindsey Gamp and volunteer Holly Bagshaw.

In 2012, the Aztec men (15-8) finished the season ranked 65th by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association after standing as high as 47th.

The Aztec women (12-14) reached 48th in ITA rankings one week but finished out of the top 75.

## Tennis Reunion Near, Aztec Teammates Pondering Travel — and Some Music

*Continued from Page 1*

reunion, scheduled for March 22-24 at San Diego State.

Distances are vast. Julio Noriega, a member of the 1984-88 Aztec men's teams, lives 3,784 miles away in Lima, Peru. Indra Erichsen, a top 2002-2005 women's player, lives 5,717 miles away in Hamburg, Germany. Blair O'Hara, a member of the 1999-2000 men's teams, lives 7,939 miles away in Melbourne, Australia.

At another extreme, Steve Wellington of the 1983 men's team lives only 0.4 miles from campus. Scott Standlee, a 1976 teammate, lives a bare 2.6 miles from campus. Wellington and Standlee seem

certain to attend. Erichsen said she is booking her flights. Noriega said he was looking forward to hearing details. O'Hara, blocked by March meetings, asked if a global video hookup might be arranged for those who cannot attend.

Mattera and Carswell said they plan team matches on March 22-23, a Friday reception, and a Saturday dinner. Among the first to say they plan to attend are Ned Eames of Boston, John Nelson of Honolulu, Tim Schulz van Ender of Berlin, Oliver Maiberger of Tokyo and Californians

Mark Rifenbark of Pacific Palisades, Todd Harvey of Rancho Santa Margarita, and Shelley Susman, Mary Alice Hillier, and Larry Belinsky of San Diego,

**Aztec Tennis Reporter**

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# Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1922-2013)

## 1976 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

**Lance Miller:** I taught tennis at Clint Eastwood's Mission Ranch in Carmel, worked my way back to San Diego (via Orange County), and joined Shore Total Office, selling to the federal government. My wife, Laura, and I have two sons, Shane, 23, and Brad, 25, and twins Brooke and Sarah, 17.

**Stuart McDowell:** I've been a psychologist with Carmel Unified School District for 27 years, married to Caren for 31 years (she and I recently bicycled across the United States on a tandem!). I'm father of two, and grandparent to two toddler boys.

**Jon Toney:** I've been teaching tennis and playing senior tennis; my NorCal team finished 4th in the USTA nationals at Indian Wells.

**Don Goms:** I'm a retired biologist living in San Diego (after working throughout the state). I've been involved in tennis for years; now executive director (and head tester) for the San Diego division of the US Professional Tennis Association.

**Gary Druckman:** My wife, Marta, and I live in Gilbert, near Phoenix. Our daughters (14 and 11) play competitive volleyball and a little tennis. I've coached tennis for 30-plus years (one of my juniors, Linda Gates, won the NCAA singles and doubles at Stanford). I coached San Diego City College and UC Santa Barbara, directed player development for USTA/Southern California, now coach and travel with top juniors from USTA/Southwest and, oh yes, I manage Volkl/Becker tennis products in seven states.

**Mario Parker:** My teammates have lost track of me!

**Coach Gene Templeton**

lived and coached high school and college teams in Texas, Arizona, California and New Mexico. He is deceased.

**Vali Moezzi** flew Navy jets after his playing career as a top Aztec player. He died in an accident. His teammates mourn his passing.



**Craig Isaacs:** I'm a wealth manager working often with professional athletes. My wife, Betsy, and I live in Phoenix. My son, Tyler is 41; his son, Kylan, is 13.

**Gene Lachelt:** My wife, Vladka, and I live in Henderson, Nevada, adjacent to Las Vegas I'm still fishing summers in Alaska and doing remodeling work as a contractor the rest of the year in Nevada. My son is 12 and loves sports (baseball). I've been playing tennis just to stay in shape, and trying to modernize my long, deliberate strokes (but I'm stuck in the 20th Century)!

**Mystery Trio:** In the 36 years since SDSU, our teammates have lost touch with us. (From left, **Gil Hartson, Doug Wood,** and an unnamed Aztec player). Do you know us? Can you help *ATR* find us?

**Scott Standlee:** I've got a 9-to-5 government job in defense contracting in San Diego. I taught at John Newcombe's Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas, in 1978-79, then, while in graduate school, I taught at Vic Braden's Tennis Academy at El Toro. I received my MBA (accounting) at SDSU in 1982. My wife, Cheryl, and I live near campus and I often visit the ponds behind Scripps Cottage with our two children, Sara, 8, and Kevin, 5.

**Shawn Schraeger:** I'm a businessman and investor, living in San Diego and still playing competitive tennis. In July, I won the La Jolla Tennis Championships (55-and-over), beating another Aztec, top seed Kip Hutchison, in the semis. In September, I reached the finals of the San Diego District Championships. My wife, Julie, and I have a daughter, Hannah, who plays competitive volleyball.

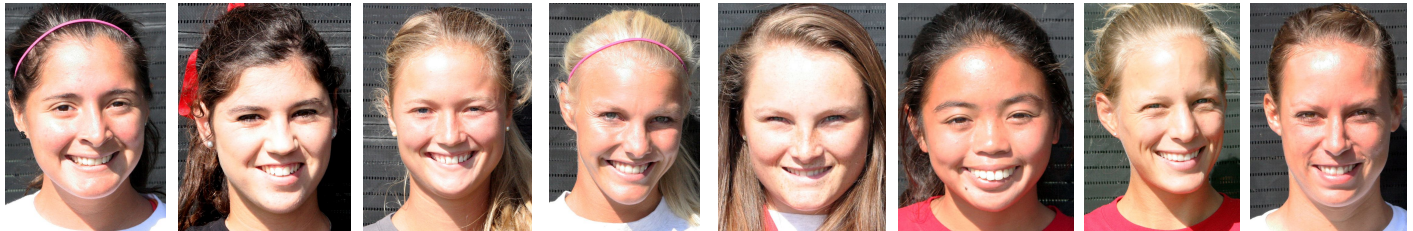
**Larry Belinsky:** I've retired from my family's furniture store business. I founded and chair the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame, now in its eighth year. I'm in my fifth year as assistant tennis coach at Canyon Crest Academy. The boys won the school's first boy's championship in 2011 (CIF Division 2), the girls were finalists this year.

**Tim Darling:** My teammates have lost track of me. They think I practiced dentistry in Orange County. Can you help *ATR* track me down?

**Aztec Team Photo Courtesy Don Goms**

## 2013 Aztec Tennis Schedules (Home and Away)

### AZTEC WOMEN

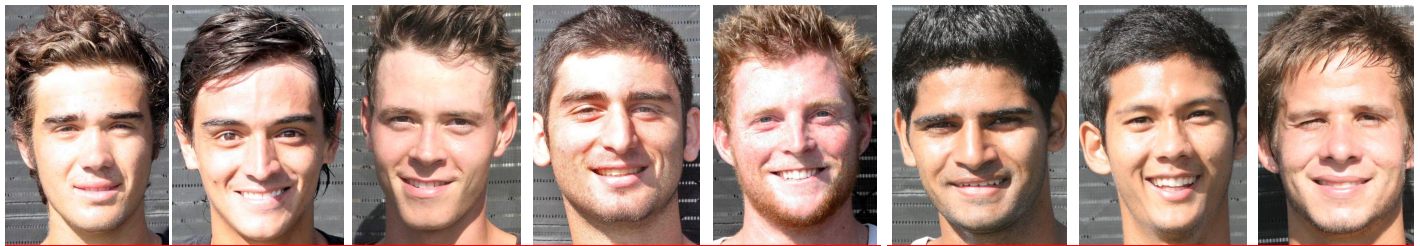


**Aguilar    Antonana    Buth    Casanova    Hoorn    Nguyen    Somoracz    Wais**

Jan 19 UC Riverside 9 a.m.  
           Cal State Fullerton 4 p.m.  
 Feb 1 Washington 2 p.m.  
 Feb 3 Saint Mary's 12 noon  
 Feb 8 Arizona 2 p.m.  
 Feb 15 Long Beach State 2 p.m.  
 Feb 23 Loyola Marymount 12 noon  
 Mar 8 Pepperdine 2 p.m.  
 Mar 15 Marquette 2 p.m.  
 Mar 17 California 12 noon  
 Mar 22 Dartmouth 2 p.m.  
 Mar 28 Sacramento State 2 p.m.

Apr 1 USD at USD 1:30 p.m.  
 Apr 5 UNLV 12 noon  
 Apr 6 New Mexico 12 noon  
 Apr 7 Boise State 10 a.m.  
 Apr 13 Fresno State at Las Vegas  
 Apr 14 UNLV at Las Vegas  
 Apr 18 Colorado State at Fort Collins, Colo.  
 Apr 19 Wyoming at Fort Collins, Colo.  
 Apr 20 Air Force at Fort Collins, Colo.  
 Apr 25-28  
 Mountain West Championships  
 at Fort Collins, Colorado

### AZTEC MEN



**Bertsch    Florez    Gelbrich    Khachatryan    Nicholas    Sangwan    Siddiqui    Simon**

Jan 18 UC San Diego 1 p.m./UC Riverside 5 p.m.  
 Jan 25 USC at Los Angeles  
 Jan 26 Fresno St./Georgia Tech at Los Angeles  
 Feb 2 Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo  
 Feb 9 Fresno State  
 Feb 10 Auburn at Fresno State  
 Feb 14 Hawai'i at Honolulu  
 Feb 15 Pacific at Honolulu  
 Feb 24 Boise State 10 a.m.  
 Feb 28 Cal Berkeley 9:30 a.m./Pepperdine 1 p.m.  
 Feb 28-Mar 3 Pacific Coast Doubles  
 at La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club all day

Mar 5 Central Florida 2 p.m.  
 Mar 9 UC Santa Barbara at Santa Barbara  
 Mar 10 Utah at Santa Barbara  
 Mar 21-23 SDSU/USD Invitational All Day  
 Mar 31 UNLV 10 a.m.  
 Apr 3 USD 4 p.m.  
 Apr 5 Santa Clara 3 p.m.  
 Apr 12 UC Irvine 1 p.m. /Air Force 5 p.m.  
 Apr 14 New Mexico 11 a.m.  
 Apr 23 Nevada at Reno  
 Apr 25-28 Mountain West Championships  
 at Air Force Academy, Colorado all day

**Aztec  
 Women's  
 Coaches**



**Bagshaw**



**Gamp**



**Mattera**



**Ortiz**



**Carswell**



**Thomsen**



**Willens**

**Aztec  
 Men's  
 Coaches**