

Aztec Tennis Reporter

VOL 14 NO 2

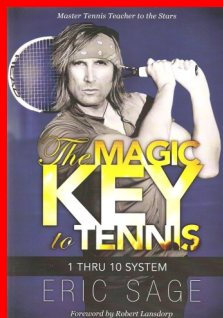
SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1999

APRIL 2013

SONG OF ERIC: TENNIS, MUSIC JOINED IN BOOK

Aztec Eric Crabb has written a love song to tennis and music.

Part memoir, part music tutorial, part tennis instructional, *The Magic Key to Tennis: 1 Thru 10 System* is a vision of how players — tennis players and music players — learn to connect mind and body to strokes and notes.



Magic Key

Crabb played Aztec tennis in the mid-1980s, then spent four years as a touring pro. When an auto accident ended his career, he became an actor (the guitar salesman in “Wayne’s World”) and a professional singer and musician (stage name: Eric Sage). All along, he continued teaching tennis, often to Hollywood stars (George Clooney), producers, and writers.

In 33 fast-moving chapters, Sage intersperses how-to-hit lessons (“The Physics of Top Spin,” “Reading the Ball”) with his real-life experience teaching “Howie”, a middle-aged businessman who discovers the games’ beauty and complexity from a master coach.

The Magic Key to Tennis turns out to be a fine collection of Sage advice. — J.M.

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Tennis Reunion Draws 100



Stan Liu Photo for Aztec Tennis Reporter

REUNITED: Carol Plunkett (1976-1993), the most successful Aztec tennis coach, welcomed by Shelley Susman (1983-1984).

Photos, Pages 2-3

More than 100 Aztec tennis players, friends, and family members returned to the San Diego State campus in March for a two-day reunion.

Traveling from as far away as Britain and Germany, Boston and Colorado Springs, they watched matches, played social doubles, and listened, often noisily, as coaches and teammates praised an SDSU tennis legacy now in its 91st year.

On the first night, teammates embraced, laughed, and chatted in the Aztec Athletic Hall of Fame, listening to comments from Coach Carol Plunkett (1976-1993), whose 1984 team ranked 4th in the nation; Indra Erichsen (2002-05), four times all-conference in doubles; Ned Eames (1980-83), whose Boston-based Tenacity helps 5,000 underprivileged students gain

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Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

BEAR TRAPPER: Aztec Thorsten Bertsch strokes backhand in three-set upset of Cal’s Christoffer Konigsfeldt, 34th in U.S.

Aztec Men Topple 16th-Ranked Cal, Women Win 8 of 9

Scrambling from far behind, San Diego State’s men’s tennis team defeated the 16th ranked California Golden Bears, 4-3, in a stunning upset that was the highlight of an early season of promising results.

The Aztec women, led by Coach Peter Mattera, scored eight triumphs in nine matches beginning in late February, claiming victories over Loyola Marymount, Xavier, Hawaii, and Marquette, dropping a match against California, then scoring four more victories, over Pepperdine, Dartmouth, Sacramento State, and a 4-3 upset of city rival USD.

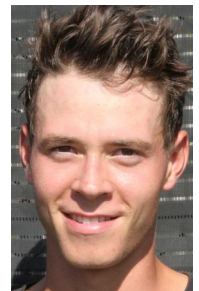
By early April, the Aztec women had won 11 of 15 matches and ranked 55th in the nation.

The Aztec men ranked 43rd, winning 13 of 19 matches, including a 4-3 victory over UNLV, the Rebels’ first loss at home.

Despite an earlier 4-0 shellacking by Pepperdine and a pair of 4-1 losses (Harvard and Memphis), Coach Gene Carswell remained hopeful of a conference title and an NCAA playoff berth.

This, despite the loss for the season of a top Aztec player, Freddy Gelbrich, who broke his wrist in Germany over the winter.

The SDSU victory over Cal Berkeley came after the Aztec men trailed, 3-0. That was when Aztecs Juan Florez, Andranik Khachatryan, and Thorsten



Gelbrich

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100 Players, Friends, Family Members Attend Aztec Tennis Reunion

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tennis skills and scholarship habits, and Ann Lebedeff (1972-74), who won the national college women's doubles crown in 1974 with Karen Reinke Bishop (1973-74), the first Aztec national tennis title.

With Bishop standing beside her, Lebedeff reminded her teammates that Aztec women faced extraordinary obstacles when female athletic teams began forming in the 1970s, previously relegated to intramural status and often denied lockers and basic assistance.

Clustered around serving tables, the listeners included Steve Adamson (1995-98), who first suggested the reunion a year ago; Jim Ault (1986-88), Paige McMurray (1989-93), Perry Durning (1967), Steve Wellington (1983), Jim Bacon (1961), Nguay Lay (1995-99), Eric Faulk (1994-98), Larry Belinsky (1975-76), Eric Crabb (1985), Milana Yusupov (2006-09), Julia Trunk (2008-11), Don Goms (1975), Tim Schulz van Endert (2008-11), Catherine Berry (1983-86), Dr. Jenny Rens Keller (1982-83), Laura Agüero (1999-2000), Jean Dillingham (1981-84), Jim Kellogg (1983-85), Kerry Safdie (1990-91, 93) and Taunya Moen (1989-92).

As she spoke, Plunkett said, she was "awed by the talent, and personal and professional success of those in front of me. The room felt electric with energy and goodness and I am so pleased to have been a part of it all."

The next morning, about 20 teammates played a two-hour doubles competition staged by assistant women's coach Lindsey Hedberg Gamp (2000-03).

Directed by head coach Peter Mattera, Gamp had helped arrange the program and compile lists of teammates planning to attend.

The doubles players included Belinsky, Erichsen,



REUNITED: Hugh McArthur, 101, led his 1932 Aztec men's tennis team and returned during reunion to watch his current teammates battle Memphis.

Yusupov, and Eames, Julia Wais (2010-13), Kristin Buth (2012-13), Tami Nguyen (2013), Adam Webster (1999-2001), Maurice Altshuler (1956), Jennifer Nguyen (1993-95), John Martin (1957), Susheel Gulati (1992-93), Tom Penner (1992-93), Penny Finders (1992-94 team manager), Kolo Rosenthal (1998), Christy Propstra (1993-96), Tenley Treat Gritts (1982-85) and Jean Dillingham (1981-84).

At mid-morning, the Aztec men's team competed in the final rounds of an 8-team SDSU/USD tournament.

Among spectators during the day were Graham Espley-Jones (1983), Tad Yamaguchi (1958), Bernie Feldman (1970-71), Shelley Susman (1983-84), and Hugh McArthur (1932).

"The power!" McArthur said, telling his daughter and son-in-law, Susie and Don Cordt, that the change in play was dramatic.

They watched tournament matches for more than an hour.

McArthur, who celebrated his 101st birthday in September, found himself saluted by a parade of players and coaches, including Mattera, Gene Carswell, Jeff Thomsen, Derek Siddiqui, Marvin Ta-

wasi, and Hunter Nicholas.

"Very nice to meet you," Nicholas said, smiling and shaking hands.

"Thank you very much," McArthur said, "wonderful to see you."

That night, about two dozen teammates gathered at McGregor's pub in Mission Valley for a farewell reception. A smaller group, some with underage children,

met at Café Coyote in Old Town: Katey Becker (1999-02), Julie Chidley Gerken (1999-02), Dorota Wozniak Miller (1998-99) and Gulati, Gamp, Agüero, and Erichsen



Lindsey Gamp

At McGregor's, sitting at the bar, Pat Kearney (1979), Todd Harvey (1979), and Lance Miller (1975), looked up and greeted Scott Stanlee (1975-76), who had just arrived by car from out-of-town work.

"San Diego tennis royalty," proclaimed Mike Paradowski (1992-95), a teaching pro at San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club.

As the numbers grew,

Nicholas (2011-13) and Shiva Sangwan (2011-13) chatted with teammate Schulz van Endert, who had traveled from Berlin to join the reunion.

At one table, Crabb, a professional singer and musician whose stage name is Eric Sage, talked of a book he has written, *The Magic Key to Tennis, 1 Thru 10 System*.

At an outside table, Altshuler chatted with Dr. Neil Olson (1957-58) and Dick Smith (1958).

As evening's end, Olson, who had traveled from Colorado Springs, where he practiced medicine for many years, said proudly that he

had saved every issue he received in nearly 14 years as a reader of the *Aztec Tennis Reporter*.



Hugh McArthur (1932)



Eric Crabb (1985)

Aztec Tennis Reporter April 2013
Aztec Tennis Reporter is a newsletter created in 1999 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 54th issue. To comment, correct, or subscribe, email aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com. Editor: John Martin (1957)

Where Are We Now? The Aztec Tennis Reunion (1922-2013)



DISCOVERY: Aztec Women's Coach Peter Mattera (1993-2013) and Taunya Johnson Moen (1989-1992) reconnect.



Carol Plunkett (1976-93)



Indra Erichsen (2002-2005)



Ann Lebedeff (1972-74)



Ned Eames (1980-1983)



CLICK: Penny Finders (1992-94) captures Coach Plunkett and self.



Paige McMurray (1989-1993)



Jim Ault (1986-88), Gene Carswell, Jeff Thomsen

Stan Liu Photos for Aztec Tennis Reporter



OMG: Is Dr Jenny Rens (1982-1983) listed in Coach Peter Mattera's lineup?



HUGSVILLE: Nguey Lay (1995-1999), left, and Steve Wellington (1983) embracing the Aztec tennis reunion spirit.



Coach Larry Willens meets Baby Gerken with mother, Julie Chidley Gerken (1999-2002).



Milana Yusupov (2006-2009), left, and Julia Trunk (2008-2011)

Aztec Women Fashion 8-1 Winning Streak in a Surge at Mid-Season

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Bertsch each won three-set singles victories to tie the score at 3-3, with the doubles point still to be decided.

The Aztecs claimed the winning point by winning all three doubles matches, each by a thin margin.

Aztecs Nicholas and Bertsch defeated 18th-ranked Campbell Johnson and Christoffer Konigsfeldt in a tiebreaker, 9-8 (8-5). Aztecs Khachatryan and Derek Siddiqui defeated Mads Engsted and Ben McLachlan, 9-8 (8-6). Florez and Marvin Tawasi beat Gregory Bayne and Chase Melton. 8-6.

California Coach Peter Wright told *ATR* that his squad had lost to “the best Aztec men’s team in several years.” UCLA Coach Billy Martin called the upset “a fantastic victory.”

By the end of March, Julia Wais had been named Mountain West Player of the Week twice, her fourth and fifth career awards. In early March, according to an appraisal by goaztecs.com, Wais was honored for winning



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photo

CONTACT: Aztec Julia Wais slams backhand, winning 6-0, 7-6 (1), over Dartmouth’s Sarah Leonard, amid SDSU win streak of 8 triumphs in 9 matches.

all four of her matches in a road trip to Hawaii, where the Aztecs defeated Xavier and Hawaii. Wais was honored again in late March for helping the Aztecs defeat Marquette with victories in singles and doubles and a doubles victory in the Aztec women’s loss to California.

Three Aztec men won Mountain West Player of the Week honors. In late January, Siddiqui was chosen for winning six of seven singles and doubles matches. In mid-February, Nicholas was honored for a pair of three-set singles victories against Hawaii

and Pacific.

Bertsch won the Mountain West Player of the Week award twice. In late February, he was honored for scoring the deciding point in a 5-2 victory over Boise State, then ranked 39th in the nation. In early March, the conference chose Bertsch as Player of the Week for winning four of five matches against California and Central Florida. His upset defeat of California’s 34h-ranked Konigsfeldt was cited for special mention.

In a Crowded Field, Aztec Coaches, Men Vie for Pacific Coast Glory

Led by Aztec Coaches Gene Carswell, Jeff Thomsen, and Larry Wilens, five Aztec doubles teams appeared in the 128-team field of the Pacific Coast Men’s Doubles Championship.

Hunter Nicholas and Derek Siddiqui defeated Michael McGinnis and Jonathan Raude 6-1, 6-1, and lost to Ace Matias and Johan Schoeman 6-3, 6-3. Shiva Sangwan

and Spencer Simon defeated Damian Gryzelko and Kento Tanaka Tamaki, 6-3, 6-2, and lost to Billy Rowe and Riley Smith 7-5, 2-6, 10-8 (tiebreak). Thorsten

Bertsch and Marvin Tawasi lost to Andrew Malozsak and Parker Kelley, 6-4, 6-0. Juan Florez and Andranik Khachatryan lost to Thomas Bennett and Adam

Gustafsson, 4-6, 6-2, 10-8 (tiebreak). Carswell and Thomsen defeated Kevin Chu and Max Franklin 6-3, 6-4, and lost to Michael Grant and Johnny Wang, 6-4, 6-2,



Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos

NET GAIN: Aztec Coaches Gene Carswell, left, Jeff Thomsen, center, and Aztec Shiva Sangwan, right, line up shots in the 124th Pacific Coast Men’s Doubles Championship, open to all comers. In the final, Dennis Novikov and Marcos Giron of UCLA defeated Max de Vroome and Eric Johnson of USC, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4.