

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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The Final Match: When a College Drops All Teams

The tennis team at Spelman College in Atlanta was the last to go.

It disappeared in late April. Its 11 tennis players were among 80 Jaguar student athletes whose seven Division III sports were costing Spelman roughly \$900,000 a year.



York Times in April.

But tennis coach Sara Redd, who captained the Jaguars in 2006, said: "I think it's a good idea."

The reason? In place of its NCAA-governed athletic team competitions, Spelman will expand its offerings of physical activities to all of its 2,100 students. At less expense.

A Spelman fitness and wellness program will cover everything from kickboxing to Zumba, all optional, but emphasizing tennis, golf, swimming, running, yoga, and Pilates as life-sustaining sports.

"It truly makes sense," Athletic Director Germain McAuley told *The Times*, ending 25 years of NCAA coaching.

Amid tears and fears, Jaguar tennis is history. It's over. Has something new begun?

—John Martin

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Aztecs Dominate Mountain West Foes



GoAztecs.com

STANDOUT: Aztec Alicia Aguilar strokes backhand in singles victory against Baylor.

Win Streaks: 3 Aztecs Deliver

Winning matches from down in the lineup can be hard, anonymous work, but three Aztec



Antonana

women found regular-season success at that level in 2013.

Playing third singles, Aztec Laura Antonana won 21 of 24 matches, including 15 consecutive victories.

Playing all but one match at sixth singles, Aztec Michela Casanova won 19 of 23 matches, including a dozen consecutive triumphs.

Playing fifth singles in her freshman year, Aztec Tami Nguyen won 25 of 33 matches. Her aunt, Eva Olivarez, played Aztec tennis in 1988-1991, qualifying for NCAA tournament singles play in her senior season.



Casanova



COACH OF THE YEAR: Peter Mattera makes a point with Aztec Tami Nguyen.

SDSU Teams Unbeaten In Conference Season; Women Fall to Baylor In NCAA Playoff Match

San Diego State's women's tennis team scored its greatest number of victories in a decade, stumbled in the Mountain West Conference tournament finals, but gained an invitation to the NCAA playoffs, where it lost, 4-1, to Baylor University's Bears.

"I am so proud of our team and our season," Aztec coach Peter Mattera told goaztecs.com after the Baylor contest in Evanston, IL.

"This was such a highly competitive match and the quality of tennis played today was great," he said. "The Aztecs were in every match, competing for each point. I cannot express how proud I am of this team."

The Aztec men's and women's tennis teams swept the Mountain West Conference regular season, compiling unbeaten 6-0 and 8-0 records, respectively.

In the conference women's tournament final in Colorado Springs, the UNLV Rebels reversed an earlier loss to the Aztecs and captured the title with a

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Mattera, Carswell Win Coach of Year Honors

For the dominant play of their teams in regular season matches, Aztec Coaches Peter Mattera and Gene Carswell were honored as coaches of the year by the Mountain West Conference.

It was Mattera's second consecutive year as the league's top women's coach and Carswell's fourth award in ten years.

Dear ATR: Reflections on the 2013 San Diego State Tennis Reunion

Dear ATR: I cannot tell you what an honor it was for me to attend the reunion! I could not have been made to feel more welcomed. Of course I am proud of the accomplishments we had, but all would have been impossible without the players in that room.

As I was giving my toast I looked around the room and 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.

It was fun to watch the doubles play Saturday morning. I really do think that the serves and quickness of some of the players are still impressive. :) Every one had such a good time.

Carol Plunkett

The writer was Aztec women's tennis coach from 1976-1993.

Dear ATR: Another great issue. Glad to see that the reunion was so successful.

Stephen L. Weber

The writer was president of San Diego State University (1996 to 2011).

Dear ATR: The reunion sounded GREAT!!

Dick Gould

The writer is John L. Hines Director of Tennis at Stanford University.

Dear ATR: We all had the most wonderful afternoon. You all did so much for us and I know what a wonderful time my Dad had. He just loved seeing how hard the ball is hit and having all the team and coaches come over made him very emotional. I know he felt very special. As we know he dislikes attention but I think he honestly enjoyed meeting all those who stopped by to shake his



COACH'S GREETING: Carol Plunkett, whose Aztec teams won 312 matches, was coach to 18 All-American players.

hand. Thank you!!!!

Susie and Don Cordt

The writers are daughter and son-in-law of Aztec Hugh McArthur, 101, who led the 1932 San Diego State men's tennis team and returned to watch matches during the 2013 reunion.

Dear ATR: After the tennis on Saturday morning, Carol (Plunkett) came up to Christy and I and said "If you two are thinking of playing league together, then one of you has to step up and cover the middle!" It was classic Carol and we felt just like we did back in college!

Penny Finders

The writer managed the women's team in 1992-94 and plays USTA tennis in Los Angeles with Christy Propstra Panter, who played Aztec tennis in 1993-96.



McArthur

Dear ATR: This reunion issue is a great piece again.

Felix Hardt

The writer played Aztec men's tennis in the 2000s.

Dear ATR: Such a great reunion! I really enjoyed it and it was great to see so many people I haven't seen in years and

to meet so many others.

Taunya Moen

The writer played Aztec tennis in 1989-1992.

Dear ATR: It was truly a blast -- meeting new faces, seeing old faces, playing the doubles Saturday morning, and also I wound up watching the men's teams competition in the afternoon -- which was awesome. It made me feel really proud to be a part of it all.

Tom Penner

The writer is a screenwriter and teaching pro who played Aztec tennis in 1992-93.

Dear ATR: It was interesting to see how many alumni I saw and knew that I didn't know played for SDSU: Shelly Susman, Larry Belinsky, Steve and Noel Adamson.

Mary Alice Hillier

The writer played Aztec women's tennis in 1973-74.

Dear ATR: It was such a lovely "do" as they say in the UK!

Shelley Susman

The writer played Aztec women's tennis in 1983-84.

Dear ATR: Looked -- and read -- like a heck of a reunion.

Greg Bishop

The writer is a national sportswriter for The New York Times.

Dear ATR: The reunion article was very moving.

Mike Bauer

The writer is the Director of the San Diego District Tennis Association

Dear ATR: It was a great event. I couldn't make it Friday night but I got to see everyone on Saturday.

**Graham Espley-Jones
Newport Beach, CA**

The writer played Aztec men's tennis in 1981-1984, won the 1984 Western Athletic Conference singles title, and represented San Diego State in the NCAA Championships in Athens, Georgia.

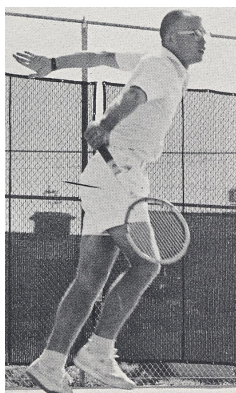
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Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1922-2013) Continues

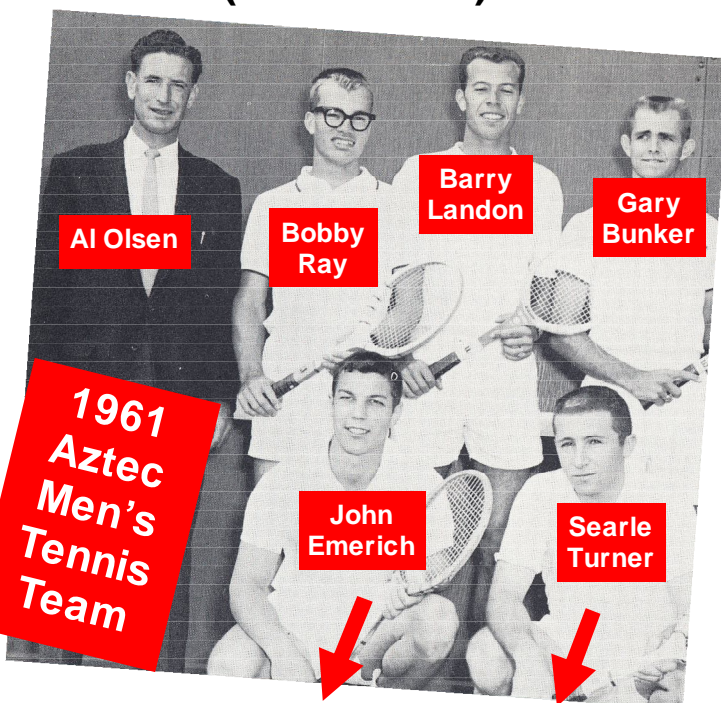
Bobby Ray: I played Aztec tennis briefly (freshman and sophomore years). Gary Bunker and I won the California Collegiate Athletic Association doubles both years. We alternated at #1 & 2. The two times I got to play Gary I won. The second time was at a tournament in Pasadena, I won 6-0, 6-0. It was the last match either of us played for San Diego State College. Gary graduated and I was disqualified for teaching tennis for money. I served as a U.S. Navy engineering officer in and around Vietnam, met and married my wife, Hiroko, and returned to San Diego, where we opened Ray's Tennis at Morley Field in 1969. We sell tennis



Bobby Ray

equipment and clothing, string racquets and offer advice. Hiroko, my son, Roger, and my daughter, Sophie, have helped operate the business. We've been located on University Avenue for 34 years. I still play tennis and keep track of what's going on at Morley Field. I attended the reunion at MacGregor's but left because my hearing is not so good when it's too noisy!

John Lehton: I didn't play enough to win a tennis letter here in 1962 but played in 1963-65. I was Aztec team MVP in 1964 and 1965. Perry Durning was



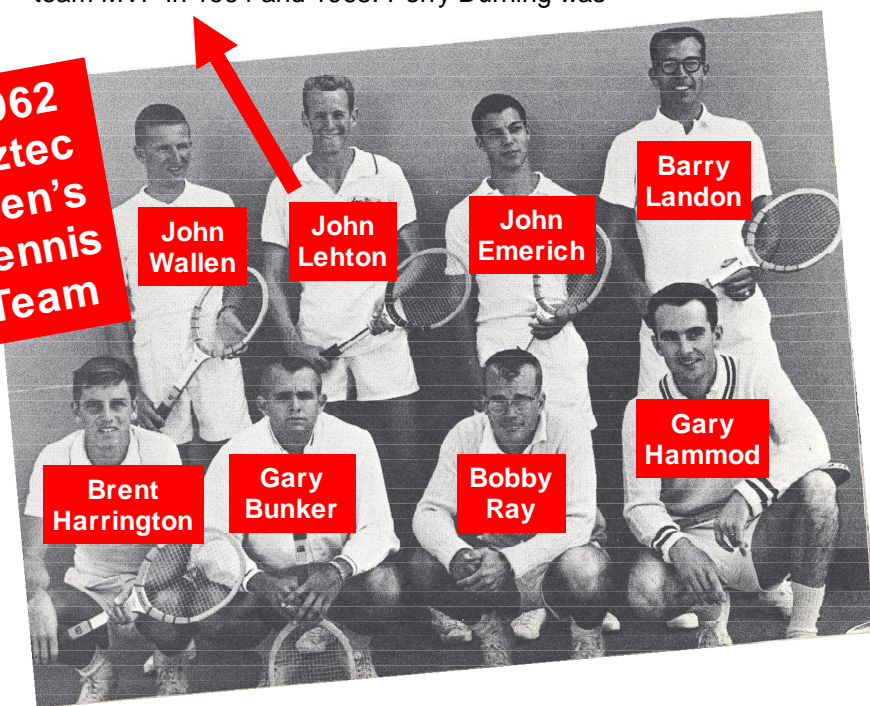
1961 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

John Emerick: My teammates say I became a doctor in Mexico. Can you help ATR find me?

Searle Turner: My teammates say I became a doctor in Del Mar. Find me!

younger than I but he was our coach. After graduation, I taught social sciences for 43 years in El Centro at Central Union High School (I coached tennis and basketball; in 1976, after reaching several finals, we won our CIF Southern Section tennis title!).

1962 Aztec Men's Tennis Team



Aztec **Tad Thompson** (not pictured) is believed living in Dallas. ATR continues to search for Aztecs **Emerick, Turner, Thompson, Barry Landon, Brent Harrington, and Gary Hammond.** Three teammates are deceased: **Gary Bunker, John Wallen** and Coach **Al Olsen**, a professional baseball player and professional educator who became a much respected and beloved Director of Athletics at San Diego State.

Jim Bacon (not pictured): I played in only two matches for San Diego State in 1962. (I was pre-med and too busy). I moved to San Diego City College where I played two years. Coach Odus Morgan helped me get a tennis scholarship to the University of Wyoming. I spent my career as a mortgage banker in San Diego. I'm retired. Now I tune pianos. No, not just mine. I tune one or two pianos a week!

Photos: Courtesy SDSU Library, Special Collections

From Positions Down in Lineup, Aztec Women Build Winning Streaks



SPREE AT THREE: Aztec Laura Antonana won 21 of 24 matches playing at number three in singles lineup and collected 15 consecutive victories, a team high.



SUCCESS AT SIX: Aztec Micaela Casanova won 19 of 23 matches playing all but one match in the sixth singles position for the San Diego State women.

Aztecs Dominate Mountain West Foes, Both Coaches Earn Honors

Continued from Page 1

4-1 victory.

“Our girls really were hungry for the title,” said UNLV Coach Kevin Cory. “Fortunately we came out playing really well in the doubles and I think that gave us the momentum we needed.”

In the Mountain West men’s tournament semi-finals at the Air Force Academy, the New Mexico Lobos reversed a regular season loss to the Aztecs with a 4-2 victory, then fell in the finals to Boise State, 4-3. The Broncos won automatic entry in the NCAA Championships, the only Mountain West men’s team invited.

“Very tough in our conference to beat anyone twice,” said New Mexico men’s coach Alan Dils, referring to the Aztecs’ 4-3 victory over the Lobos 13 days earlier in San Diego.

“To beat SDSU we just had to believe we could and take pride in ourselves as a team,” he said in an email response to *Aztec Tennis Reporter*.

By the end of the regular season, the Aztec women had won 13 consecutive matches and 17 victories in 18 contests. Their 20-4 record boosted them to 39th in the national rankings. They improved to 22-4 with tournament victories over

Colorado State and Nevada.

“We have had a good season,” said Aztec women’s coach Peter Mattera, “the girls have done a great job.”

At 22-5, it was the best Aztec women’s season since 2003, when Mattera’s team won 22 of 28 matches.

Against Baylor, Aztec Alicia Aguilar scored the lone victory, defeating Victoria Kisialeva, 6-1, 6-4. Two other singles matches were in their third sets. Aztec Tami Nguyen led 5-1 in the final set of her match when the Bears won their fourth point for victory.

Both Aztec squads went on victory streaks in the regular season, winning a combined total of 31 of 36 final matches to enter their season-ending tournaments as undisputed top seeds.

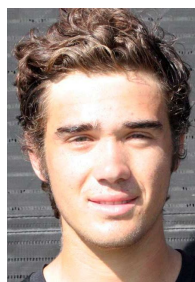
The Aztec men won their five final regular season matches and six of the final seven, which put their record at 18-7, with a ranking of 43rd in the nation.

The Mountain West Conference season title was the first regular-season championship for Carswell’s teams since 2007.

Aztecs Julia Wais and Alicia Aguilar were chosen for the All-Mountain West women’s team. Aztecs Derek Siddiqui and Thorsten Bertsch won All-Mountain West first-team men’s singles honors. Bertsch and Hunter Nicholas won first-team doubles honors.



Aguilar



Bertsch



Siddiqui



Wais



COACH OF THE YEAR: Gene Carswell offers his advice to Aztec Andranik Khachatryan.