

Aztec Tennis Reporter

VOL 16 NO 1

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1999

JANUARY 2015

STILL ALL ESPN ALL THE TIME?

By JOHN MARTIN

You read the news.

This fall, *The New York Times* reported that the Jacksonville Police and Florida State University gave favored treatment to a mega-star quarterback accused of sexual assault as well as to two FSU cornerbacks who fled their hit-and-run accident.

In October, the University of North Carolina confessed that officials looked the other way for 18 years while more than a thousand athletes took fictitious classes and got passing grades.

I thought back to a series of opinion articles *ATR* published 13 years ago.

That was the year (2001) that Indiana University professor Murray Sperber published "Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports is Crippling Undergraduate Education," (323 pp, Henry Holt & Co, New York).

Sperber charged that universities try to compensate for their lack of commitment to undergraduate education by fostering major athletic programs which act as a kind of

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Ahlborg



J. Buth



K. Buth



Davis



Diaz



Hoorn



Johnson



Larsson



Nguyen



Somoracz



2015
Aztec
Tennis
Teams



Bertsch



Boewer



Buehning



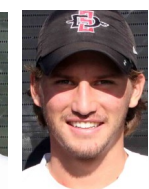
Cevallos



Gelbrich



Goles-Babic



Ianakiev



Jebens



Khachatryan



Meinzer

Aztec Teams Launch 93rd College Season

Twenty Aztec men and women open San Diego State's 2015 spring tennis season on two Saturdays, January 17 and 24, facing UC Riverside's women's and men's teams in the first of 31 home matches at the Aztec Tennis Center. (Schedule, Page 4).

Boasting a strong international flavor, the two Aztec squads take on Mountain West teams Nevada, Fresno State, San Jose State, New Mexico, Air Force, and UNLV and a medley of strong, nationally ranked foes, including Pepperdine, California, UCLA, USC, South Carolina, and Washington.

"We've got ten really great, hard-working players," said women's head coach Peter Mattera.

"They get along really well and they feed off each other in a positive way, which is fantastic."

The Aztec women are Felicia Ahlborg of Malmo, Sweden; sisters Jana and Kristin Buth of Kaiserslautern, Germany; Kennedy Davis of San Jose, CA; Paola Diaz de Regules of Mexico City; Isabelle Hoorn of Soest, the Netherlands; Hailey Johnson of Fallbrook, CA; Olivia Larsson of Ystad, Sweden; Tami Nguyen of Muntinlupa, the Philippines, and Dora Somoracz of Budapest.

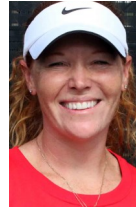
Aztec men's coach Gene Carswell said senior Thorsten Bertsch was playing at what he described as his highest level and that he believed that in 2015 he might achieve career-best results.

The Aztec men are Bertsch of Mannheim, Germany; Maximilian Boewer-Stelter of Berlin; Saxon Buehning of Essex Falls, NJ; Santiago Cevallos of Queretaro, Mexico; Freddy Gelbrich of Isernhagen, Germany; Marko Goles-Babic of Zagreb, Croatia; Milen Ianakiev

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Mattera



Gamp



Vinel



Carswell



Thomsen



Willens



Tami Nguyen



Hendrik Jebens



Santiago Cevallos



Paola Diaz de Regules

Two Aztec Teams Launching 93rd Season of College Tennis

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of Elz, Germany; Hendrik Jebens of Stuttgart; Germany; Andranik Khachatryan of Burbank, CA, and Jonas Meinzer of Buggingen, Germany.

Carswell cited Bertsch's fall upset of Ben Wagland of Georgia in the All American intercollegiate tournament in Tulsa as evidence of his top form.

He praised Bertsch and Golebabic for reaching the quarterfinals of the fall NCAA regionals.

The women's team is coached by Mattera, his assistant, Lindsey Hedberg Gamp, and a volunteer, former Santa Clara competitor Nicolas Vinel. The men are coached by Carswell, his assistant, Jeff Thomsen, as well as longtime volunteer Larry Willens, a respected pro tennis-level advisor.

Mattera is in his 22nd season as head coach, Carswell in his 12th.

In 2014, the men's team ranked 68th. The women were unranked.

Aztec women received a post-season NCAA invitation in 2013. One goal for the men, Carswell said, was to gain an invitation no matter which team wins the Mountain West tournament.

"I don't know that our conference gets enough respect yet," Carswell said, vowing to fight for more. In conference play he forecast a "dogfight:" between the Aztecs, Boise State and New Mexico.

Aztec tennis began 1922, when students formed an all-male tennis club.

In 2001, Big-Time College Sports Seemed Like 'All ESPN All the Time'

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opiate.

Was Sperber's analysis on target? In 2001, some students did get feloniously excited about The Big Game, The Play-Offs, and The Sweet 16. After they lost Final Four games, some Maryland fans set fires, Arizona fans rioted.

Sperber blamed universities for "their escalation of bigtime college sports." He indicted ESPN for its hip style and its inexhaustible weeknight appetite for college football and basketball. (Too bad Bristol U. has little hunger for tennis.)

Did Sperber have the goods on the suspects? Not entirely, said Andrew Hacker of the City University of New York.

Writing in *The New York Review of Books*, Hacker

had his own gripes (low grades among athletes, overcrowded classes, professorial indifference).

But he questioned Sperber's conclusions that the big universities are corrupt and that all most students are looking for is an easy degree.

Hacker insisted students want "a demanding education, with stimulating and committed teachers."

SDSU Athletic Director Rick Bay wrote: "Some of this concern is merited. Given the number of NCAA investigations annually,

college sports will never be devoid of abuses. But enough cynicism."

Bay argued that a "solid athletics program is a valuable asset to any university. Competitive sports is educational.

"Being a part of a school team" Bay said. "brings life lessons that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

"Teamwork, leadership, adherence to rules and self-sacrifice come from playing organized sports," Bay said.

Sperber acknowledged that by working in a sport for 30, 40, or more hours per

week, athletes earn their scholarships.

But other critics complained that schools pamper athletes academically.

"Everyone — that's everyone — lowers standards for athletes," wrote author John Feinstein writing in *The Washington Post*.

"Every era has its athletic villains," wrote *New York Times* sports columnist Robert Lipsyte in 2001, adding: "Current perceived villains are those faculty members, the tramp star professors and the tenured clock-watchers alike, who determinedly ignore the plagiarized papers, doctored grades, and fraudulent eligibilities that keep blue chips on the table."

You read the news. Has anything changed? E-mail your comments to aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com.

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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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 59th issue. To comment, correct, or subscribe, send an e-mail to aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com.



Editor: John Martin

Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1922-2015)

DOROTA WOZNIAK: I live in Tyler, Texas. I am very thankful and blessed in my life (I love studying the Bible). I have been married 13 years; my twin girls are 8. I'm very involved in their school and activities and substitute teach at a pre-school. I play tennis occasionally with my girls or husband. We follow my sister, **Aleksandra Wozniak**, on the WTA tour. My girls play sports, including tennis (Maybe one day they will play for SDSU! I miss my teammates! The best memories!

WHITNEY WELLS: I'm living in San Diego (Mission Hills area) and teaching PE (11 years), currently at Bonita Vista Middle School in Chula Vista. I've got a master's in Physical Education from Asuza Pacific University and an Administrative Credential (to be a principal) from San Diego State. No kids yet. I play tennis occasionally with my teammate Julie Chidley-Gerken (and my boyfriend). No, I haven't won the lottery — I wish!

PETER MATTERA: We're living in Cardiff and I'm still surfing every chance I get (several times a week). Last January, my daughter Kayley gave us a beautiful grandbaby named Ainsley. I'm in my 22d year as head coach, still loving what I do and knowing I'm the most fortunate man in San Diego to have such a great job surrounded by such wonderful student athletes.

MAGGIE COLE: ATR can't find me. Can you?



1999 Aztec Women's Tennis Team

Katey Becker: I'm a marketing director for a large HVAC company in Yorba Linda, CA. (I live in Tustin). I set down my racket after my last college match and just recently picked it up again. I'm really enjoying getting back into the sport. I also enjoy doing hot yoga, (picked it up 7 years ago).

LAURA AGUERO: I live in Westlake Village, sell real estate in Thousand Oaks (got MBA at Pepperdine in 2007 while working in finance for a hotel management firm). My husband, Antoni, and I (married 6+ years) have 2 children, Leonard, 3, and Laura Elizabeth, 7 months. I play mixed doubles occasionally and definitely will teach my kids to play. I love my teammates and coaches. Playing at SDSU was awesome!

Photo: 1999 Aztec Tennis Media Guide

SUSHEEL GULATI: I'm living in London and working as a metropolitan police officer and sometimes I play in the national police tennis championships!

GINA ALVARADO: I live in Pasadena and work as an ICU nurse and pharmaceutical nurse educator. My husband is a physician. We met in Las Vegas while training at a hospital. No kids yet. I play tennis occasionally for fun and stayactive physically with Pilates, running, and working out in the gym.

JULIE CHIDLEY: I'm living in Scripps Ranch San Diego. I married Greg Gerken in 2009. We have 2 boys Gavin (almost 4) and Evan, 2. I'm still in the tennis world as the Territory Manager Sales Rep for Wilson Sporting Goods. It's hard to play tennis a lot (working and parenting) but I hit with my kids (keeps me sharp!) Greg and I played National Husband/Wife Clay Courts in October and won the bronze ball (3rd place) 😊

LISA PAPI LAKOVICH: I live in Fresno (where I was born/raised) and am married to A.J. We have three children, Hannah 7, Lincoln 5, and June, 2. Raising our kids is my full-time job :) I can't believe it has been 15 years! Time flies!! I think about my time on the team often and cherish so much all the memories I have during my time as an Aztec.

SARA DONOVAN: I live in London and run my own business providing meals for the elderly. Not quite matching my kinesiology degree but it's a very rewarding way to spend my time. No kids yet, but hopefully soon. I'm also (non-playing) captain of a tennis team, and we are seven times national champions since I took the helm. I keep in touch with almost every one of my SDSU teammates, plus a trainer and some of the men's team, too. Life is good, and my time with the Aztecs is something I'll keep with me forever.

31 Aztec Men's and Women's Home Matches for 2015 Season

AZTEC WOMEN

Sat Jan 24 UC Riverside 9 a.m.
 Sat Jan 24 Cal State Fullerton 4 p.m.
 Sat Jan 31 Long Beach State 12 p.m.
 Fri Feb 6 Pepperdine 2 p.m.
 Fri Feb 13 Washington 2 p.m.
 Sun Feb 15 Saint Mary's 12 p.m.
 Fri Feb 20 Arizona 1p.m.
 Sun Feb 22 Kentucky 12 p.m.
 Sun Mar 8 North Texas 11 a.m.
 Fri Mar 13 California 2 p.m.
 Fri Mar 20 Princeton 2 p.m.
 Tue Mar 24 Sacramento State 2 p.m.
 Tue Apr 07 Cal State Northridge 2 p.m.
 Fri Apr 10 UNLV 2 p.m.
 Sun Apr 12 Fresno State 11 a.m.
 Wed Apr 15 San Diego (@USD) 1:30 p.m.
 Fri Apr 17 UC San Diego 2 p.m.
 Mountain West Championships
 Albuquerque, NM

AZTEC MEN

Sat Jan 17 UC Riverside TBA
 Fri Jan 30 Cal Poly 1 p.m.
 Sun Feb 15 Pacific 12 p.m.
 Fri Feb 20 South Carolina
 Tues Mar 3 Rice TBA
 Thurs Mar 5 California 11 a.m.
 Mar 5-8 Pacific Coast Doubles LBTC
 Sun Mar 8 Boise State 11 a.m.
 Tues Mar 10 St. John's 2 p.m.
 Wed Mar 11 William & Mary 2 p.m.
 Mon Mar 16 Iowa TBA
 Mar 19-21 SDSU/USD Invitational @USD
 Fri Mar 27 Santa Clara 1 p.m.
 Fri Apr 3 Fresno State 1 p.m.
 Sun Apr 5 Nevada 11 a.m.
 Wed Apr 8 San Diego 5 p.m.
 Sat Apr 18 UNLV 12 p.m.
 Mountain West Championships
 Albuquerque, NM

New Look: Aztec Tennis Center Clubhouse Honors 45 Players

Spectators attending the 31 Aztec tennis home matches will enter a refurbished clubhouse featuring an honor roll of five Aztec championship teams and the names of 45 all-conference players dating back 15 years

"We had some things we wanted to be prevalent," said Men's Head Coach Gene Carswell, citing "pride in what we do, pride in the university, and pride in the way we practice."

One image proclaims

the tennis center as "Home of the Aztecs."

Mounted plaques commemorate Aztec men's team conference championships in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2013, and the Aztec women's team conference title in 2013.

On a recent afternoon, an Aztec men's Mountain West Conference 2013 regular season championship trophy stood on a raised table near where racquets are strung.

The 22 All-Conference Aztec women's teammates honored are Katja Karrento,

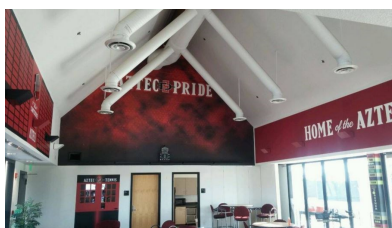
Lindsey Hedberg (Gamp), Indra Erichsen, Silvia Tornier, Katalina Romero, Whitney Wells, Julie Anna Chidley, Laura Aguero, Dita Hauerlandova, Eliska Krausova, Alesya Vidov, Esther Cadua, Holly Bagshaw, Julia Trunk, Roxanne Ellison, Sierra Ellison, Alicia Aguilar, Julia Wais, Laura Antonana Iriarte, Kristin Buth, Dora Somoracz, and Hailey Johnson.

The 23 All-Conference Aztec men's teammates honored are Alexander Waske, Adam Webster, Oliver Maiberger, Travis Hasson, Matt

Bere, Valentino Pest, Felix Hardt, Ryan Redondo, Achim Ceban (Vladimirschii), Juan Andres Gomez, Matan Shitrit, Giovanni Vaglietti, Bartosz Golas, Markus Dickhardt, Chris Groh, Benedikt Stronk, Armando Carrascosa, Daniel Jung, Dontia Hayes, Hunter Nicholas, Javier Pulgar, Derek Siddiqui, and Thorsten Bertsch, On the north wall, diagrams list years of Aztec post-season appearances in NCAA championships.

AZTEC WOMEN AWAY

Feb 7 UC Irvine Feb 27 Grand Canyon
 Feb 28 Hawai'i Mar 11 USC Mar 22 Loyola Marymount
 Mar 27 San Jose State
 Apr 29 Nevada Reno Apr 22-26 Mountain West Championships Albuquerque



AZTEC MEN AWAY

Jan 25 Utah State Feb 1 UCSB Feb 7 UCLA
 Feb 18 Pepperdine Apr 10 New Mexico
 Apr TBA Air Force Academy
 Aug 23-26 Mountain West Championships, Albuquerque