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Aztec Pair Upsets Top-Seeded Foes In Pac Coast Test

San Diego State's Joel Popov and Arnaud Restifo upset co-top seeds Brandon Holt and Peter Smith of USC in the 129th Annual Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championship at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club in March.



Popov

Popov and Restifo staved off six match points to pull off the victory, 9-8, and 11-9, in a tiebreaker.

The Aztecs lost in the next (fourth) round.

Earlier, the unseeded Aztecs ousted San Diego's Jayson Blando and Michael Blando, 8-0, and Jens Sweany (Los Angeles) and Kwinta Krzysztof (Santa Monica), 8-6.

"We just kept pulling each other up and helping each other out," Restifo said about their dramatic triumph over



Restifo

Continued on Page 2

AZTEC MEN SHED WOES, STUN LOBOS

Hobbled by injury and discord and humbled by winning only five of twenty-four matches, the San Diego State men scored a 4-2 upset victory over New Mexico in the 2018 Mountain West Championships.

With the surprise, the Aztecs avenged a 4-3 regular season loss to the Lobos.

The Aztec men ended the season with a 6-26 record

Late Victory Salvages Aztec Pride



CLOSER: Raul de la Torre won three-set match for victory point.

but salvaged pride after an extremely difficult campaign.

"I'm really proud of our players," said Coach Gene Carswell. "There was just no stopping them."

Carswell praised his team's ability to experience and learn from failure..

"After removing our lone senior for behavior issues, we began a campaign to reinvent the identity of the team," he explained.

Aztec Raul de la Torre played a key role in the victory

Continued on Page 4

Epic Movie Explores 'Borg vs McEnroe'

It took the keen eye of Swedish Davis Cup Captain Lennart Bergelin to recognize something unique in the fiery and temperamental young Bjorn Borg. Like the old cowboy horse trainer of "Seabiscuit" lore, alone seeing the greatness in a gangly would-be racehorse, Bergelin took Borg under his wing, teaching him to play "one point at a time" and that play-



ing well is "all in the mind," or simply to "just get into it."

More crucially, he exacted a vow from Borg to never again show his emotion on court, and to take "all that rage, fear and panic" and "load it into every stroke."

Ah, so many sterling tidbits of tennis wisdom wrapped in one truly fabulous tennis movie.

Many players of a particular generation will surely recognize

Continued on Page 2

By Thomas Penner

IN THIS ISSUE
Where Now? Professor Indra 3
Aztec Women Snare Honors 4

Borg V McEnroe: Epic Movie Explores Reality of The Rivalry

Continued from Page 1

themselves in Borg, and also in John McEnroe. We junior players of the 70's worship those halcyon days when players were like rock stars with their long hair and headbands, the Italian-made short shorts, the monster truck quads, the gold-ten tan.

Borg was a god, a mystery, untouchable, like David Bowie, or Ingrid Bergman.

To this day the mystique of Borg lingers, and while "Borg vs. McEnroe" seeks to untangle some of the myths surrounding the troubled superstar, for me it only serves to mystify him further. Sentimental home-movie footage finds Borg in his youth hitting against a garage door, repeating over and over his legendary hockey slap shot two-handed back-hand while his father playfully commen-

tates: "Is that Davis Cup you're playing? Wimbledon?"

Much later in Borg's starry trajectory, standing atop the tennis world, he cannot recall which garage door it was and refuses to play along for a TV interview, stalking back to his limo.

He is a walking enigma and, well, a tennis-playing machine as tightly wound as the gut strings in his racquets. American nemesis McEnroe, on the other hand the newcomer, the 'Super Brat,' routinely leaves it all out on the court-- all the "rage, fear and panic" that Borg suppresses, minus perhaps the frequent f-bombs McEnroe hurls about like so many piercing volleys. While the media at-



'Vitas Gerulaitis'

tempts to paint the two out as complete opposites -- the Sledgehammer vs. the

Stiletto, the Gentleman vs. the Rebel, the Iceman & the Brash New Yorker -- we come to understand they are much cut from the same anxious, nay, neurotic strip of cloth.

"Borg vs. McEnroe," a Swedish production, then is deeply European in its probing of character, of human conflict and frailty, but it is also cinematically inventive, fluid, and even a touch Hollywood where the grand finale 1980 Wimbledon final between the two stars is concerned. The action, the period dressing, the verisimilitude in the player's styles --

the general filmic telling of that sublime 5-set match of yesteryear -- keeps us glued to our own stadium seats, even if we already know the outcome. Special props also to superb casting! Swedish actor Sverrir Gudnason, who plays Borg, is such a dead ringer you sit shaking your head, as is Robert Emms who plays the party-hearty Vitas Gerulaitis. That first glimpse of Gerulaitis at a press conference is an absolute shocker, because images and impressions of those cherished bygone days of tennis, especially for some of us who came of tennis-age during that time, are both haunting and glorious.

So is this greatest of tennis films.

-- Thomas Penner is an Aztec men's player (1982), tennis pro, and writer living in La Mirada, CA with wife Jenny and children Lily, James, and Milo)

Aztecs Popov and Restifo Stun Top-Seeded Foes in Pacific Coast Doubles Test

(Continued from Page 1)

Holt and Smith. "The other team was so good. We decided to just have fun and try our best. And it was such a fun match," Restifo told a reporter. In the Round of 16, Popov and Restifo lost to Zack Svajda and Uros Petronijevic, a

2016 All American at USD. Svajda's father, Tom, teaches at the Pacific Beach Tennis Club with Aztec Steve Adamson

In early rounds, SDSU coaches Gene Carswell and Jeff Thomsen defeated Joshua Gearou and Marko Mandic of Pomona-Pitzer, 8-4, but lost to Daniel Cukierman and Tanner Smith of USC, 8-2.

Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1922-2018)



Oberes Logo der Anzeigengruppe: Indra Erichsen, Handicap 6, weist einen der neuen Hybrid-Golfschläger



Aztec Indra Erichsen (2002-2005) has published her first article in Die Zeit, one of Germany's leading newspapers. Her topic, playing golf with a new, hybrid club. The story gets an attractive spread in the April, 2018 issue of *Zeit Golfen*, the paper's glossy golf magazine.

Translated, the headline over Indra's article promises to assess a hybrid "magic weapon" (zauberwaffe hybrid). Die Zeit's editors told readers that Indra, a six-handicap golfer, tested the new club by playing at her home golf club in Hamburg. A sub-headline read: "Früher kam solch ein Schläger nicht in einen Bag. Heute wollten ihn auch die besten Spieler nicht mehr missen." Indra's

Professor Erichsen Tees Off with a Hybrid!

Im Jahr 1999 suchten auf den Profiteuren erstmals zwei Ingenieure der Taylor-Made Golf Company mit sogenannten »Rescue« auf, »sind die zum Gartentrampeln, war die erste Reaktion der Golfprofis. Diese Einstellung änderte sich schlagartig, als die Bälle nur diesen Gort nicht nur mit Leichtigkeit über 190 Meter weit, sondern auch noch über die Mähen kornelliert fliegen. Heute, fast 20 Jahre später, nennt man sie Hybrid statt Rescue. Sie sind nämlich eine Mischung aus Eisen und Holz. Die Hybrid-Schläger im mittleren und hohen Bereich sind eher ein wenig leichter als die Eisen-Spieler regulär.

Auch wenn die meisten die schnelle Entwicklung von Golfschlägern immer weiter voranschreiten, lange Eisen (1-5) machen selbst für Fortgeschrittene zu schlagen. Deshalb werden bei den Damen häufig ab Eisen 5, bei den Herren ab Eisen 4 die Schläger mit leichter zu spielenden Hybriden ersetzt. Ein Hybrid benötigt weniger Schlagkraft, Geschwindigkeit, Kraft und Präzision als ein Eisenspieler. Er verzeiht Fehler und ermöglicht einen höheren Ballflug, sodass damit sehr auf das Grün gepunktet werden kann.

Inzwischen haben fast alle Hersteller Hybride im Angebot. Die Firma Titleist nicht nur ihrem 818 H1 auf denjenigen Spielern ab, dem Fehlerverzeihung und Länge wichtig sind und der das Aussehen eines Fairwayholzes bevorzugt. Wie weiter an den Ball kommt und für wen eine gewisse Eckens- und Schlaggeschwindigkeit sowie die schmale Schlagkopfform wichtig sind, für den ist der 818 H2 richtig. Titleist liefert beide



Hybrid-Golfschläger von Callaway und Titleist

Schläger mit SureFit-Head, bei dem 16 voneinander unabhängige Loft- und Lie-Einstellungen für einen optimierten und konstanten niedrigen Ballkontakt vorgenommen werden können. Über die SureFit-CEG-Gewichte lassen sich Schläge gezielt gestalten und damit die Flugkurven optimieren. Der H1-Hybrid ist erhältlich in fünf (19, 21, 23, 25 und 27 Grad), der H2 in vier Loftvarianten (17, 19, 21 und 23 Grad).

Für Titleist-Marketing-Manager Christopher Neumann-Marschall sind die 818-Hybride keine klassischen Rescue-Schläger mehr, sondern Scorop-Schläger, die zu einem besseren Ergebnis führen. Zielgruppe dieser einen Titleist-Hybrid zu spielen, muss man 299 Euro bezahlen.

In diesem Jahr öffnet aber auch Callaway mit einer Weiterentwicklung des Rogue-Hybrids. Die Firma schenkt auf die, an den Epic Divern bereits bekannte, Jailbreak-Technologie. Hierbei führen vertikale Stäbe im Schlägerkopf zu einer Versteifung der Schlagfläche und damit zur besseren Energieübertragung auf den Ball. Kombiniert mit der Hyper-Speed-Cap-Face-Technologie, einer noch dünneren Schlagfläche, ermöglicht der Rogue-Hybrid eine bessere Geschwindigkeitsentwicklung des Balls auf einer größeren Schlagfläche. Dies führt zu mehr Länge und hilft, Fehler zu vermeiden.

Im Vergleich mit dem Rogue-Hybrid, das Modell 2017, ist das Modell 2018 um einiges leichter und das Modell 2018 ist um einiges leichter. Er ermöglicht ein langsames Schwingen, mehr Schlagkopfgeschwindigkeit zu erreichen und damit die Länge zu optimieren. Der Standard-Rogue ist der kompakte Hybrid für effiziente Spielbarkeit. Der Rogue X hat einen größeren Schlägerkopf, verzeiht noch toleranter Fehler und maximiert die Länge. Illusion als aluminisches Head. Der Spaß mit diesem Schläger kostet 299 Euro.

Der W-Rogue ist erhältlich in sechs Loftvarianten (21, 24, 27, 30, 33 und 36 Grad), der Standard-Rogue in fünf (17, 19, 21, 24 und 27 Grad) und der größte Rogue X in sechs Varianten (19, 20, 24, 26, 29 und 32 Grad). Callaway's Produktexperte Stefan Rogge bezeichnet die neuen Hybride als »Mehrfunktionswaffe«, die man neben langen Schlägen auch sehr gut zum Chipping verwenden kann. Sie haben ein wichtiges Teil eines Golfsacks sein.

Die Hersteller haben mit diesen Hybriden erneut auf kreative Weise versucht, die zentralen Kriterien wie Schlagkopfform, Kornweite und Trajektorie weiter zu optimieren. Wenn Sie Ihre schwingen spielenden Eisen eigenhändig nur ab Blöckchen steuern, dann problematisieren Sie diese Hybride aus.

translation: "A couple years back nobody liked to play with this type of club. Today, everybody, even the pros, are playing with a hybrid."

The story, she said, "is that no matter if you are a high or low handicapper, this type of club is a great weapon for approaching shots, long shots and even chipping."

After earning a master's degree in international business from Columbia University, Indra worked in banking and hedge fund management for several years. Now, Professor Erichsen teaches business with "a focus on finance" at Hochschule Flenburg, a university of applied sciences about 90 miles north of Indra's hometown of Hamburg.

Aztec Women Collect Top Awards, Eye Strong Results in 2019

The Aztec women's team compiled a 10-13 won-loss record.

"We took a step forward this season," said Coach Peter Mattera, "not only with more wins, but the fact that we were in every match, while playing an aggressive schedule."

The team placed its top player on the All Mountain West team in her fourth and final year as a competitor for San Diego State.

Aztec Senior Jana Buth Germany won All Mountain West honors in singles and two con-



Buth

ference player of the week awards.

She scored two major upsets. Playing at number one singles, Buth defeated Genevieve Zeidan of Cal State Fullerton, ranked 125th in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, 4-6, 7-5, 6-0. She beat Aiwun Zhu of UNLV, ranked 53rd in the nation and Mountain West Player of the Year, 6-2, 6-1.

Aztec transfer Jenny Moinard of France was Mountain West Player of the Week.

In May, Aztec senior Paola Diaz de Regules of Mexico accepted the Arthur Ashe Jr.



Moinard

Sports Scholar Award, which honors excellence in academics and athletics and community activism by student-athletes of color. Diaz de Regules earned a 4.0 grade point average in her final semester and 3.69 average over four years.

Looking ahead. Coach Mattera forecast a strong effort in 2019: "We have a good solid nucleus of our team coming back next season, and are going to add a couple of difference makers to go with them."



Diaz

SHAKING OFF SEASON'S WOES, AZTEC MEN UPSET LOBOS, 4-2

Continued from Page 1

over New Mexico, winning matches at #2 doubles and #6 singles. His three-set singles triumph clinched the match for the Aztecs and sent his father, Raul Senior, dancing and grinning in glee along the sidelines.

The Aztecs won the doubles point when the top Aztec pair, Sander Gjoels-Andersen, a junior and Rafael Gonzalez Almazan, a sophomore, scored a 7-5 victory over Lobos Bart Van Leijsen and Jorge Escutia.

In a second winning appearance, Gonzalez Almazan defeated Lobo

Stepan Holis, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Aztec Arnaud Restifo, a sophomore, rallied from a set down to defeat Lobo Ricky Hernandez-Tong, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

A wrist injury sidelined Aztec sophomore Joel Popov, also a factor in 2018 results..

"This group fought their way through those tough mo-

ments," Carswell said, "they learned to be better competitors and took pride in being Aztecs."

Aztec Restifo won All Mountain West honors in singles, Gjoes-Anderson and Gonzalez Almazan won Mountain West honors in doubles.

One other bright result: In late February, the Aztecs upset the 28th ranked USD Toreros, 4-3, on their home courts at USD.

Aztec freshman Ignacio Martinez (nicknamed "nacho" by his teammates), trailed 5-4 in the final set, yet won the deciding match at #6 singles, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.



VICTORY REACH: Rafael Gonzalez Almazan