

Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999 SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY JANUARY 2023

THE DAY AN AZTEC HIT WITH RAFA

By JOHN MARTIN

One year at the start of the Australian Open, Rafael Nadal introduced a racket carrying a computer chip in its handle.

The chip told players where each stroke was hitting their strings. He invited journalists to hit with him. I took my camera to get some shots.

When one struggling writer laid down his racket beside me, I put down my camera and picked up the Babolat. "Hey, Rafa!" I shouted.

I began hitting him volleys as I walked forward. Rafa returned my shots and I tapped half volleys back. (I love half volleys).

Suddenly, a press agent shouted "Time to go." Rafa took the cue.

With his strings facing flat he sliced a shot across the net. As I leaned forward to hit it, his reverse spin caused the ball to jump back across the net out of my reach.

Game, set, match, Rafa Nadal!!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Where Are We Now? Pg 3

Aztec Global Tennis Mix Deepens in 101st Year

18 Players Converge From 11 Countries Across the World

San Diego State's tennis realm has expanded around the globe in the 101 years since a men's tennis club was formed on campus in 1922.

For the 2023 spring season, the men's and women's rosters are stocked with five students from the United States and thirteen students from ten other countries.

This mix of cultures and athletes is not new.

In 1984, for example, Aztec Men's Coach Skip Redondo recruited a single foreign player. (Pg 3)

By 2000, when the Aztec men's team reached the NCAA Sweet Sixteen, Germans Alex Waske and Oliver Maiberger ranked 18th and 57th in the nation. Waske and Adam Webster ranked 25th in doubles. Foreigners accounted for 66 of the top 100 men's singles players in NCAA's Division One

This season, Aztec coaches followed a now-familiar practice of searching the Internet for rankings of the world's top college-eligible players seeking to study in the USA (See Pg. 4)

2023 AZTEC TEAMMATES

CANADA 1

ESTONIA 2

FRANCE 3

JAPAN 1

KAZAKHSTAN 1

LUXEMBOURG 1

ROMANIA 1

SERBIA 1

SWITZERLAND 1

TURKEY 1

USA 5

Aztecs Book 21 Home Matches

Drawing teams from the East (Harvard), to Midwest (Wisconsin) to Farthest West (Hawaii), San Diego State's two intercollegiate tennis teams have scheduled 21 home matches, beginning in January.

The Aztec women open January 23 in Los Angeles against USC's Trojans, then come home to face Alabama's Crimson Tide January 27 at Aztec Tennis Center.

The Aztec men open slightly off-campus in LaJolla against Arkansas's Razorbacks on January 14, then face San

Continued on Page 2

COURTS! CAMERAS! MATCHES!

Coaches have installed cameras on six Aztec Tennis Center courts.

To view matches, Aztec fans go to <https://goaztecs.com/>.

Associate Aztec coach Nico Vinel said he is happy to assist ATR readers seeking technical help. His email address is nicovinel@gmail.com.

Aztecs Book 21 Home Matches for Spring 2023 Season

Continued from Page One

Francisco's Dons on January 21 at the Aztec Tennis Center.

In March, the Aztec men meet Harvard's Crimson at SDSU on the 13th and Wisconsin's Badgers on the 15th, also at home.

The Aztec women play a string of five home matches in March. They face USD's Toreros (Mar 5), Furman's Paladins (Mar 8), Tulsa's Golden Hurricane (Mar 12), Purdue's Boilermakers (Mar 18), and Dartmouth's Big Green (Mar 21).

Then the Aztec women vanish until mid-April, traveling to six road matches in three locations: New Mexico and Air Force at Las Vegas (Mar 25-26), Utah State and Boise State at Boise (April 1-2), and Colorado State and Wyoming at Laramie (April 7-8).

For the Aztec women, their final two home matches are against UNLV's Rebels (Apr 14)



WINNER: Aztec Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice.

and Fresno State's Bulldogs (April 16).

The Aztec men play five home matches scattered through their seven final regular season encounters: University of Texas San Antonio Roadrunners at SDSU (Mar 31), Boise State Broncos (April 2), UNLV Rebels (April 6), Nevada Wolf Pack (April 16), and Air Force Falcons (April 22)

The Mountain West Championships are scheduled for Las Vegas, the women for April 26-29, the men for April 26-28.

The NCAA Division One Men's and Women's Tennis Championships are scheduled May 14-27 at the United State Tennis Association national training campus in Orlando, FL.

Virginia is the defending NCAA Division 1 men's champion, Texas is the defending NCAA Division 1 women's champion.

- 2023 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS
- JAN 14 ARKANSAS LAJOLLA
- JAN 21 USF SDSU
- FEB 11 SANTA CLARA SDSU
- FEB 17 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT LOS ANGELES
- FEB 18 UTAH LOS ANGELES
- MAR 2 UC SANTA BARBARA SDSU
- MAR 2-5 PACIFIC COAST DOUBLES LAJOLLA
- MAR 13 HARVARD SDSU
- MAR 15 WISCONSIN SDSU
- MAR 17-19 SPRING INVITATIONAL SDSU
- MAR 31 UTSA SDSU
- APR 2 BOISE STATE SDSU
- APR 6 UNLV SDSU
- APR 8 UTAH STATE LOGAN, UTAH
- APR 16 NEVADA SDSU
- APR 20 NEW MEXICO ALBUQUERQUE
- APR 22 AIR FORCE SDSU
- APR 26-28 MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS LAS VEGAS

- 2023 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS
- JAN 23 USC LOS ANGELES
- JAN 27 ALABAMA SDSU
- FEB 4 UC SAN DIEGO SDSU
- FEB 11 RICE SDSU
- FEB 15 HAWAII SDSU
- FEB 18 LONG BEACH STATE LONG BEACH
- FEB 24 UC BERKELEY BERKELEY
- MAR 4 USD SDSU
- MAR 8 FURMAN SDSU
- MAR 12 TULSA SDSU
- MAR 17 PURDUE SDSU
- MAR 21 DARTMOUTH SDSU
- MAR 25 NEW MEXICO LAS VEGAS
- MAR 26 AIR FORCE LAS VEGAS
- APR 1 UTAH STATE BOISE
- APR 2 BOISE STATE BOISE
- APR 7 COLORADO STATE LARAMIE WYO
- APR 8 WYOMING LARAMIE
- APR 14 UNLV SDSU
- APR 16 FRESNO STATE SDSU
- APR 21 SAN JOSE STATE LAS VEGAS
- APR 22 NEVADA LAS VEGAS
- APR 26-29 MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS LAS VEGAS

San Diego State
the Aztecs



SKIP REDONDO
HEAD TENNIS COACH
ASSISTANT: Matt landalo

DEAR 1984 AZTEC MEN:
We'd love to know your latest news. Would you drop us a note? jjm2144@gmail.com
Thank you!
— John Martin, *ATR* Editor

1984 AZTEC ROSTER

Graham Espley-Jones 5-10, 165, Walkerville, S. Africa
Nicky Getz 5-9, 150, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY
Jim Kellogg 6-0, 155 Fullerton, CA
Dave LaFranchi 5-9 1/2 165 Rancho Palos Verde, CA
Mark Rifembark 5-9 150 Pacific Palisades, CA
Glen Stephan 5-8 160 San Diego, CA
Brent Zimmerman 6-0 170 Vail, CO



GRAHAM ESLEY-JONES
#1 SINGLES



JIM KELLOGG
#1 DOUBLES



NICKY GETZ



DAVE LAFRANCHI



MARK RIFENBARK



GLENN STEPHAN



BRENT ZIMMERMAN

2022-23 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM



ARNOLD



AZZIZ



DETKOVSKAYA



JORDAN



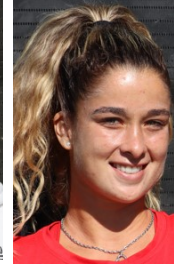
MELOSCH



MORIN



SKROBONJA



VELCEA



MATTERA



VON TERSCH
POHRER



VINEL

18 Students from 11 Countries Converge to Compete in 2023 Aztec Tennis Season

Coached by Peter Mattera and Nico Vinel, the Aztec women are Tamara Arnold of Olten, Switzerland; Rania Azziz of Decines, France; Dariya Detkovskaya of Almaty, Kazakhstan; Julia Jordan of Long Beach, CA; Alicia Melosch of La Jolla, CA; Cecile Morin of Bouc Bel Air, France; Andjela Skrobonja of Sombor, Serbia; Andreea Velcea of Timisoara, Romania, and Alexandria Von Tersch Pohrer of Orange, CA.

Coached by Gene Carswell and Jeff Thomsen, the Aztec men are Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice of San Diego; Mathieu Josserand of Neuilly sur Seine, France; Alexander Mandma of Tallinn, Estonia; Lenny Melzer of Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; Andre Saleh of Newport Beach, CA; Chikaya Sato of Tokyo, Japan; Johannes Seeman of Pamu, Estonia; Bora Sengul of Istanbul, Turkey, and Liam Spiers of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

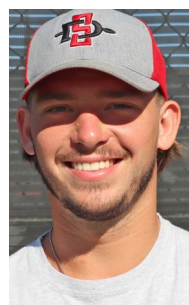
2022-23 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS TEAM



GONZALEZ
FITZMAURICE



JOSSERAND



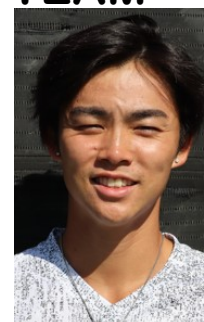
MANDMA



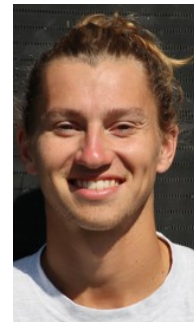
MELZER



SALEH



SATO



SEEMAN



CARSWELL



SENGUL



SPIERS



THOMSEN