

Aztec Tennis Reporter

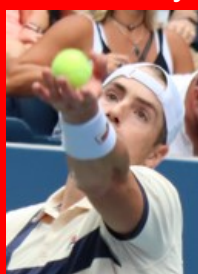
Founded 1999

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

DEC 2023

College Tennis Gets a Boost

It was a modest surprise: When John Isner, 38, retired at the 2023 U.S. Open, he immediately celebrated his



his four years (2003-2006) as a University of Georgia

ISNER

Georgia

Bulldog. He recounted his delight at playing his final college match before 6,000 fans in the 2006 NCAA team finals.

This from a guy who beat Roger and Novak and won history's longest match, 6-4, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 70-68.

Then the University of Florida's Ben Shelton, 20, reached the 2023 Open men's semifinals, barely a year after winning the NCAA singles title and leading his Florida Gator teammates to the NCAA team championship.

Bravo college tennis! Go Aztecs!

2024 AZTEC TEAMMATES

CANADA 1

ESTONIA 3

FRANCE 2

JAPAN 1

LUXEMBOURG 1

MOROCCO 1

ROMANIA 1

SERBIA 1

SOUTH AFRICA 1

SPAIN 1

TURKEY 1

USA 4



22 Home Matches Booked

The 2024 Aztec women play 10 home matches at the Aztec Tennis Center, beginning Jan 20: UCSD, Hawaii, Long Beach State, California, USD, Nevada, Wyoming, San Jose State, Colorado, and Fresno State

The 2024 Aztec men play 12 home matches, beginning Jan 11: BYU, Loyola Marymount, Sacramento State, Idaho, UC Riverside, Point Loma Nazareth, **Feb 29 TBA**, Gonzaga, Portland, Air Force Academy, New Mexico, and Utah State. *Full schedules, Pg 3*

Aztecs Attract 18 from Globe To Compete In 102d Season

As the 2024 season starts, San Diego State's two intercollegiate tennis teams will be competing with 18 students drawn from 13 countries spread across the world.

In 1922, the campus tennis club looked far different (no women).

Now women and men arrive from Canada (Liam Spiers), Estonia (Alexander Mandma, Robin Parts, and Johannes Seeman), France (Rania Azziz and Mathieu Josserand), Japan (Chikaya Sato), Luxembourg (Lenny Melzer), Morocco (Yasmine Kabaj), Romania (Andreea Velcea), Serbia (Andjela Skrobonja), South Africa (Myah Petchey), Spain (Gloria Alogo), Turkey (Bora Sengul), and United States (Zoe Olmos, Matt Che, Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice and Andre Saleh).

Aztec Time Travel: Aussie David Hough

When the NCAA tennis season shut down in 2019 because of covid, it turned the world upside down for 18 Aztec men and women, confronting them with the task of traveling often extraordinary distances at a time of risk and rapid change.



HOUGH

On the last day of March, Aztec senior David Hough left San Diego and flew to Los Angeles, then overnight to Melbourne, Australia on the last

Qantas flight before its international shutdown.

Hough had won Mountain West Player of the Week in January. He was met by his parents, who brought two cars to the airport. Their two-hour drive home to Traralong in separate vehicles symbolized the tumultuous nature of the new world order.

By driving alone, Hough was beginning a two-week quarantine that extended to a guest bedroom and separate meals for 14 days. Total travel distance: 8,300 miles.

Recently, *Aztec Tennis Reporter* invited Hough to tell us what he has experienced in the 58 months since.

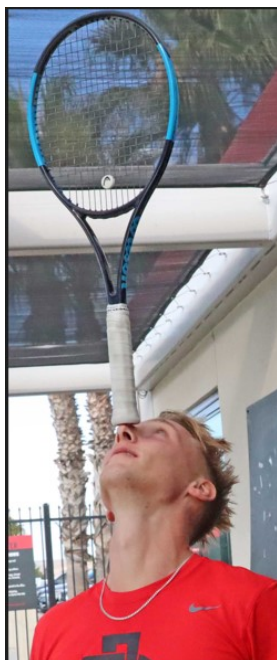
David Hough writes:

I'm missing San Diego a lot.

The plan was after graduation, to have a go at playing professionally as I'd never fully committed to tennis before.

After 1.5 years in lockdown and no tournaments, only being allowed to train, it was extremely frustrating but finally left for my first events at the end of 2021.

I traveled and competed for roughly 18 months having some



ATR Photo, Nov 23, 2019
David Hough (2017-19) displayed a remarkable sense of balance on this day in 2019.— and since.

decent results and achieved an ATP ranking in both singles and doubles, which was nice.

Around April this year I decided I had had enough of those ITF events. The atmosphere at them is pretty awful so I just wasn't enjoying it, and I had run out of funds. It's extremely expensive especially for Aussies having to fly across the world for most events.

I decided I really wanted to catch up with my friends and teammates from SDSU so I spent a few months coaching and saving money, before going to Europe for 2 months.

It was amazing to see Jan Kirchhoff in Berlin, Rafael Gonzalez in Madrid, Arnaud Restifo in Nice, France, Joel Popov in Tampere and Aaro Pollanen in Helsinki, Finland again. especially as it ended so suddenly at SDSU and we didn't get a proper goodbye.

Since returning from the trip a few weeks ago I am exploring the next steps career wise, and hope to find something that allows me to travel occasionally so I can get back to San Diego or see old teammates in Europe whenever the opportunity comes up.

I much prefer to play for the enjoyment these days which a team environment gives me. So I am currently living in Melbourne and playing at the highest level of team tennis here, for my club Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

**Kind regards,
David Hough
Melbourne,**



Gonzalez



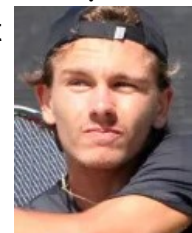
Kirchhoff



Pollanen



Popov



Restifo

2024 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS

Jan 20 SDSU vs UCSD @ SDSU 12 noon
 Jan 27-28 ITA Kickoff @ Pepperdine
 Feb 2 SDSU vs Arizona @ Tucson, AZ
 Feb 3 SDSU vs Maryland @ Tucson, AZ
 Feb 14 SDSU vs Hawaii @ SDSU 2 pm
 Feb 16 SDSU vs Long Beach @ SDSU 1 pm
 Feb 18 SDSU vs California @ SDSU 12 noon
 Feb 24 SDSU vs Portland @ University of Washington, Seattle, WA 1 pm
 Feb 25 SDSU vs Washington @ University of Washington 12 noon
 Mar 3 SDSU vs Utah @ SDSU 12 noon
 Mar 6 SDSU vs USD @ USD 2 pm
 Mar 15 SDSU vs Utah State @ Utah State
 Mar 17 SDSU vs Boise St. @ Boise State
 Mar 24 SDSU vs Nevada @ SDSU
 Mar 28 SDSU vs Wyoming @ SDSU
 Mar 30 SDSU vs San Jose State @ SDSU
 Apr 5 SDSU vs Air Force @ AF
 Apr 7 SDSU vs New Mexico @ New Mexico
 Apr 12 SDSU vs Colorado St. @ SDSU
 Apr 14 SDSU vs Fresno @ SDSU
 Apr 19 SDSU vs Las Vegas @ Las Vegas
 Apr 24 – 27 Mountain West Championships @ Las Vegas (Darling Tennis Center)

2024 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS

Jan 11 SDSU vs BYU @ SDSU 10 am
 Jan 12 National Collegiate Tennis Classic, Palm Desert, CA
 Jan 21 Loyola Marymount @ SDSU 10 am
 Jan 21 Sacramento State @ SDSU 3 pm
 Jan 27 UC Irvine @ Irvine
 Feb 3 Cal Poly @ San Luis Obispo
 Feb 16 University of Idaho @ SDSU 2 pm
 Feb 21 UC Riverside @ SDSU 2 pm
 Feb 21 Point Loma Nazareth @ SDSU 5 pm
 Feb 24 USF @ San Francisco
 Feb 25 St Mary's @ Moraga
 Feb 29-Mar 3 Pacific Coast Mens Doubles Championships @ LaJolla
 Feb 29 TBD @ SDSU 2 pm
 Mar 11 Gonzaga @ SDSU TBD
 Mar 15-17 SDSU Spring Invitational @ SDSU
 Mar 22 University of Portland @ SDSU 2 PM
 Mar 28 Boise State @ Boise
 Mar 30 University of Nevada @ Reno
 Apr 5 Air Force Academy @ SDSU 2 pm
 Apr 7 New Mexico @ SDSU Noon
 Apr 18 UNLV @ Las Vegas
 Apr 20 Utah State @ SDSU noon
 Apr 24-27 Mountain West Championships @ Las Vegas

Franklin Johnson: A Tennis Hero

Growing up in San Diego in the 1950s, Franklin Johnson was a tennis phenomenon. He held a national junior ranking and won the city's Ink Tennis Championship four consecutive years while attending St. Augustine High School.

By 1954, he and his Saints teammates were among Southern California's best high school tennis teams. In 1956, Johnson led his UCLA Bruin teammates to the NCAA national team title.

After graduate studies, he embarked on an executive accounting career in Los Angeles. For 22 years at Price Waterhouse, Johnson led a special unit that collected and

kept secret the Oscar ballots cast for the Academy Awards.

He also stayed active in tennis, serving on the USTA Board for 11 years. He is credited with helping place Billie Jean King's name on the national tennis center. He served as USTA Secretary Treasurer, then First Vice President and finally Chairman of the Board and USTA President (2005-06).

The current USTA Presi-



USTA PRESIDENT

dent Brian Hainline said he didn't believe Franklin missed a match on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court during this year's 2023 U.S. Open:

"He watched; he analyzed; he expressed wonder; he smiled. Franklin came home following an exceptional U.S. Open — an event...that he helped to shape forever."

In September, just days after the tournament ended, Franklin Johnson returned home to Los Angeles, where he passed away.

He was a tennis hero, a teammate, and a friend.

—John Martin

2024 Aztec Women's Tennis Team



ALOGO

AZZIZ

KABBAJ

OLMOS

PETCHEY

SKROBONJA

VELCEA

PLAYER PHOTOS, Michael Abbott, SDSU Athletic Department



MATTERA



VINEL

Peter Mattera has begun his 30th year as Women's Head Coach.

Nicolas Vinel is Associate Women's Head Coach.

2024 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

SDSU Athletic Department Photos



MELZER

MANDMA

JOSSERAND

PARTS

SATO

GONZALEZ

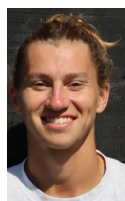
SPIERS

SALEH

Notre Dame photo



Gene Carswell is Aztec Men's Tennis Head Coach



SEEMAN



CHE



SENGUL

Jeff Thomsen is Aztec Men's Associate Head Coach

