

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999 SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY JANUARY 2025

## AZTECS LAUNCH SAN DIEGO STATE'S 103d TENNIS SEASON



### Two Squads Book 24 Home Matches

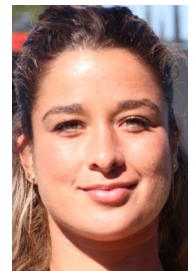
San Diego State's two college teams have drawn 17 students from 8 countries to play in the Aztecs' 103rd tennis season.

Among their top opponents in 2025 are Harvard, Duke, UCLA, USC, Cal Berkeley, Oklahoma, and Washington.

The women are Gloria Alogo of Mallorca, Spain; Jo-Yee Chan of Sugar Hill, GA; Vesa Gjinaj of Vushtrri, Kosovo; Yasmine Kabbaj of Fes, Morocco; Ninon Martinache of Dunkirk, France; Zoe Olmos of Fremont, CA; Charlotte Roesch of Stuttgart, Germany, and Liisa Varul of Tartu, Estonia.

"We are very excited for the spring season of Aztec women's tennis," said Coach Peter Mattera. "We have eight very solid players that all have been working very hard this Fall. The team is really looking forward to the challenge of repeating as conference champions and making a run in the NCAAs."

Mattera and Associate Coach Nicolas Vinel have asked Andreea Velcea, a former player, to help as a third coach.



**Velcea**

### Aztec Tennis Reporter Photos

**EYES ON PRIZE:** Aztecs Zoe Olmos, left, Paul Janson, and Gloria Alogo. The SDSU women have won the Mountain West Conference women's title two years out of the last three.

### Tenacious Aztec Alum Ned Eames Scores Triumph

Ned Eames played Aztec tennis from 1979 to 1983, then returned to Boston and established Tenacity, a charity for inner-city children built around tennis and Boston public schools. Recently, Eames revealed Te-



nacity has received a stunning \$500,000 private donation to attract matching funds. If you are interested,

contact: [nedeames@tenacity.org](mailto:nedeames@tenacity.org).

### College Sports: What Lies Ahead?

By JOHN MARTIN

Several years ago, riding by car into Bangkok from the airport, I spotted a giant billboard with a message in English.

"Winning is the spirit of life," it said, the words floating amid im-

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### 2025 AZTEC TEAMMATES

- SPAIN 1
- KOSOVO 1
- FRANCE 3
- ESTONIA 3
- GERMANY 4
- MOROCCO 1
- CANADA 1
- USA 3

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# WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR COLLEGE SPORTS (ESPECIALLY TENNIS)?

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 ages of smiling soccer players promoting a commercial product.

Days later, it was gone, replaced by messages for other products.

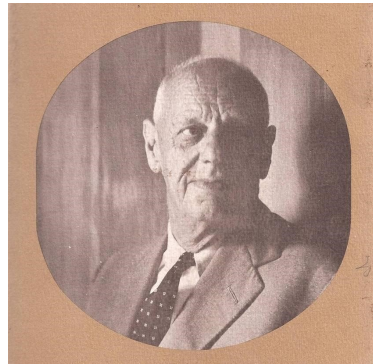
Years later, that Thai billboard still haunts me. Is winning truly at the center of our lives? If so, aren't we missing the point?

This comes to mind in the wake of the continuing scramble of Mountain West and Pac 12 lineups and confusing uncertainties of what lies ahead for college sports which earn no revenue.

Actually, the future prospects for college sports big and small sounds dire at every turn.

Consider this recent quote from respected *New York Times* sports writer and essayist John Branch:

"We are witnessing the biggest upheaval in college sports history. Some annual college athletic budgets surge past \$200 million. Television contracts balloon into the billions. Conference alliances are erased and redrawn as with an Etch A Sketch. Players transfer from school to school, mercenaries open to the highest bidders. The organizational scaffolding of the NCAA, fussy and obsolete, is in a useless pile."



**John R. Tunis  
(1889-1975)**

It happens at a time when students come from all over the world to play college tennis. They participate in the ritual of the transfer portal, switching schools, freed from NCAA restrictions that once made transfers routinely difficult without losing a year of eligibility.

As a modest aspiring jock in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (delighted to be playing Aztec tennis and earning my red-and-black letterman's jacket), I never imagined what the future held for college athletes.

Even so, the notion that winning can become an obsession, sometimes overwhelming our good sense about our lives and our health, is not exactly a new idea.

In 1928, John R. Tunis, a sports-writer and author with a Harvard degree and study at Columbia Law School, sounded an alarm:

"The plain truth is that highly organized competitive sport is not character-building," Tunis wrote in a *Harper's Monthly* article.

Four years later, Tunis identified a root cause of abuse. In an *Atlantic Monthly* essay, he wrote: "With the huge superstructures they

have built up and the vast sums of money they involve...intercollegiate athletics can never be freed from the intense desire for victory."

Tunis knew professional and amateur sport first hand. He played college tennis at Harvard, covered professional baseball and college football for *The Boston Globe* and *the New York Evening Post*. He broadcast international tennis from Wimbledon and Forest Hills for NBC Radio.

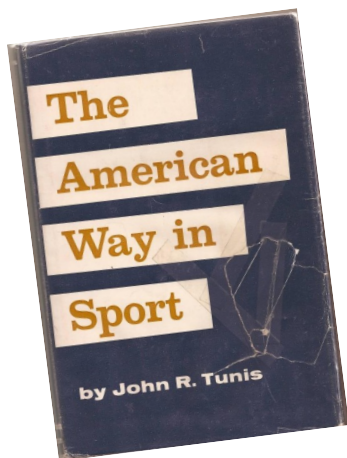
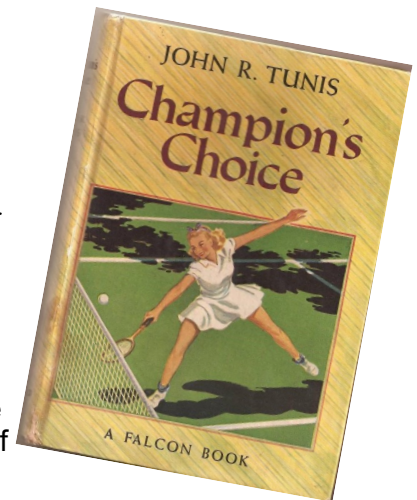
Tunis argued that the result of too much concentration on victory, was the loss of the love of sport for its own sake. The culprit, he wrote, was "the competitive spirit," which he said drove sports-obsessed Americans of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century more ruthlessly than citizens of any other country.

"Competition is the bedrock of democracy and capitalism so it's not surprising, perhaps, that the desire to win embeds itself in the minds of millions who compete in athletics."

In his day, Tunis's criticism of big-time sports was dismissed as naive and excessively idealistic.

Today, he might seem a scold, hopelessly out of touch with modern sports reality.

In hindsight, we see he was all too aware of it.



**Editor's Note: ATR invites readers to share their opinions at [jjm2144@gmail.com](mailto:jjm2144@gmail.com).  
 John Martin, editor**



JO-YEE CHAN of Sugar Hill, Georgia, USA

MARC KLEBER of Saarbrucken, Germany

### Aztecs Launch 103rd Tennis Season, Schedule 24 Home Matches

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The men’s players are Philipp Bosse of Bonn, Germany; Louis Chusseau of La Saus-saye, France; Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice of San Diego; Paul Janson of Munich, Germa-ny; Mathieu Josserand of Neuilly sur Seine, France; Marc Kleber of Saarbrucken, Germa-ny; Liam Spiers of Calgary, Canada, and Alex Mandma and Denis Maijorov of Tallinn, Estonia.

in one match of reaching the conference finals, re-gaining a competitive position in the Mountain West Conference. Five of this year’s teammates are newcomers; raising Coach Gene Carswell’s expectations.

“Experience-wise, these guys are learning on the fly right now and I expect a ton of growth” Carswell said.

“The goal is always to compete for the confer-ence championship. It was nice last year finishing in the national ranking, and I think we’ve got a little bit of momentum and these guys have a good taste in their mouth from what happened.”

Last season, the Aztec men surged to with-

### Racing Sideline to Sideline, Aztecs Build Strength, Conditioning



At the direction of Adam Hall, the men and women quick shuffle (above) and run back and forth to build their strength, conditioning and balance. Hall directs the Athletic Department conditioning pro-gram for all teams at San



Diego State. At left, the two Aztec men running are Marc Kleber, far left, and Paul Janson.



Adam Hall

**2025 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS**  
Tentative

Jan 18 SDSU vs Point Loma Nazarene @ SDSU  
 Jan 24 SDSU vs Oklahoma @ Berkeley, CA  
 Jan 25 SDSU vs Grand Canyon/California @ Berkeley, CA  
 Feb 8 SDSU vs Baylor @ SDSU  
 Feb 9 SDSU vs Denver @ SDSU  
 Feb 16 SDSU vs Long Beach @ Long Beach  
 Feb 20 SDSU vs Hawaii @ SDSU  
 Feb 22 SDSU vs Washington @ SDSU  
 Mar 1 SDSU vs UCLA @ SDSU  
 TBD SDSU vs USD @ SDSU  
 TBD SDSU vs Utah @ Salt Lake City, UT  
 Mar 13 SDSU vs Duke @ SDSU  
 Mar 14 SDSU vs Air Force @ SDSU  
 Mar 21 SDSU vs Nevada @ Reno, NV  
 Mar 23 SDSU vs Boise State @ SDSU  
 Mar 28 SDSU vs Wyoming St. @ Laramie, WY  
 Mar 30 SDSU vs Colorado St. @ Fort Collins, CO  
 Apr 4 SDSU vs Fresno ST. @ Fresno, CA  
 Apr 6 SDSU vs San Jose St. @ San Jose  
 Apr 11 SDSU vs Utah St. @ SDSU  
 Apr 13 SDSU vs New Mexico @ SDSU  
 Apr 17 SDSU vs Las Vegas @ SDSU  
 Apr 23-26 Mountain West Championships @ Las Vegas

**2025 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS**  
Tentative

Jan 3-5 National Collegiate Tennis Classic @ Palm Springs  
 Jan 11 SDSU vs UCSD, @ SDSU noon  
 Jan 19 @ SDSU vs USC @ Los Angeles  
 Jan 25 SDSU vs UC Irvine, @ SDSU noon  
 Feb 14 SDSU vs Weber St @ Ogden, Utah  
 Feb 16 SDSU vs Utah St @ Logan, Utah  
 Feb 26 SDSU vs Cal Poly @ SDSU, 2pm  
 Feb 27 SDSU vs TBD, @ SDSU 2pm  
 Feb 27-Mar 3 Pacific Coast Men's Doubles @ La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club  
 March 7-9 SDSU Spring Invitational  
 March 13 SDSU vs Idaho @ SDSU  
 March 18 SDSU vs Harvard @ SDSU  
 March 21 SDSU vs Wichita St @ SDSU  
 March 28 SDSU vs UNLV @ SDSU  
 April 3 SDSU vs Grand Canyon @ SDSU  
 April 6 SDSU vs Boise State @ SDSU, noon  
 April 11 SDSU vs New Mexico @ Albuquerque, NM  
 April 13 SDSU vs Air Force Academy @ Colorado Springs  
 April 19 SDSU vs Nevada @ SDSU, noon  
 April 23-25 Mountain West Championship @ Darling Tennis Club, Las Vegas  
 May 2-4 NCAA Regional



**PETER MATTERA**



**NICOLAS VINEL**



**ADAM HALL**



**JEFF THOMSEN**



**GENE CARSWELL**

**Peter Mattera and Nico Vinel** return to coach the women.

**Adam Hall** directs both teams in strength and conditioning.

**Gene Carswell and Jeff Thomsen** coach the men.

# 2025 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM



GLORIA ALOGO



JO-YEE CHAN



VESA GJINAJ



YASMINE KABBAJ



PETER MATTERA



NINON MARTINACHE



ZOE OLMOS



CHARLOTTE ROESCH



LIISA VARUL



NICOLAS VINEL

# 2025 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS TEAM



PHILIPP BOSSE



LOUIS CHUSSEAU



EUGENIO GONZALEZ



PAUL JANSON



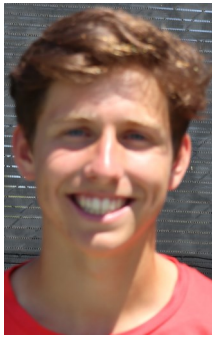
MATHIEU JOSSERAND



GENE CARSWELL



MARC KLEBER



DENIS MAJOROV



ALEX MANDMA



LIAM SPIERS



JEFF THOMSEN