

Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

MAY 2025

Aztec Women's Winning Streak Ends at 9 in Mountain West Semifinal



Jo-Yee Chan Trailing 3-1, Aztec Women Revive, Stun #30 UCLA 4-3

In the middle of a season filled with success, the Aztec women scored a remarkable comeback triumph over number 30th ranked UCLA Bruins.

Guided by Head

Coach Peter Mattera and Associate Head Coach Nico Vinel, the Aztecs refused to let the scoreboard forecast their defeat.

Aztec Liisa Varul took a singles victory

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In one of its most successful seasons in recent years, San Diego State's women's tennis team scored a nine-match winning streak that included victories over UCLA and crosstown rival USD.

Fueled by their streak, the Aztecs were top-seeded in the conference championship in Las Vegas but fell to Boise State, 4-3, in the semi-finals.

Three Aztec women won all Mountain West honors: Jo-Yee Chan and Yasmine Kabbaj in singles and Kabbaj and Ninon Martinache in doubles.

With 10 victories and only 2 defeats, Kabbaj and Martinache led the Aztecs, scoring victories against doubles teams from Duke (8), Washington (18), and Baylor (22).

Kabbaj was 2024 Mountain West Player of the year.

The Aztec men ended the season with a 9-13 win-loss record and a first round 4-1 loss to Utah State in the Mountain West Championships.



Yasmine Kabbaj

Three Aztec men won all conference honors: Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice in singles and Alexander Mandma and Mathieu Josserand in doubles.



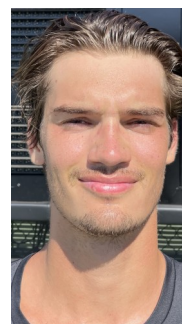
Aztec Tennis Fan Luna Vinel

"Luna is a hard-core Aztec (and Padres) fan," said her grandfather, Dennis Wagner, an award-winning journalist at the *Arizona Republic* and *USA Today*. Her grandmother, Linda Wagner, is a tennis teaching professional who played on the

Aztec women's team in 1973-76. Luna's parents both competed in college tennis at the University of Santa Clara. Her mother, Kacie, is a lawyer. Her father, Nico, is associate Aztec women's tennis coach. Luna speaks French and is four and a half years old!



FITZMAURICE



JOSSERAND



MANDMA

How a Stunning Aztec Upset of #30 UCLA Unfolded

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1 lead, Aztec associate head coach Nicolas Vinel saw victory within reach. "I was confident," he said. "I thought we were going to win."

"We were winning on most of the courts. I was confident because we did that a week earlier, against Washington, and we almost beat Washington."

Vinel said he told the Aztec teammates they could still win. "I actually told the girls after we lost the doubles, I told them, 'Girls, I love all the match-ups that we're having, all of them.'" Aztec Liisa Varul took a singles point.

Vinel's forecast proved accurate. As the Official Recap observed (online):

"Coming down to the final three courts, the Aztecs were able to pull off a massive rally in three sets on courts two, four and five."

(Ninon) "Martinache inched the Aztecs closer, winning on court four over (Bianca) Fernandez."

"After capturing the first set 6-1, the Aztec junior dropped the second set 6-0, but found the momentum to take the third set 6-4."

"Jo-Yee Chan captured another must-win, taking down (Kimmi) Hance in the second spot, 6-2, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4."



Aztec Zoe Olmos

down to Aztec Zoe Olmos and Bruin Ahmani Guichard on court five. The Aztec took the first set 6-4, but came up short 6-3 to Guichard in the second. It was a tiebreaker that decided the outcome. Olmos clinched the victory for the Scarlet and Black with a 7-6 (7-3) win in the third set."

As the regular season ended,

the Aztecs added an eight-match winning streak that included a 4-0 victory over crosstown rival University of San Diego, ranked 43rd in the NCAA Division One.

As the season was ending, ATR I asked Coach Peter Mattera: "Did you say that the victory over the UCLA Bruins was one of the highlights of your 25-plus years as a coach?"

"It was," he said. "That hasn't happened in an awfully long while, and it was a little on the unexpected side, and the fact that we were able to beat the Bruins was a very big deal. ATR: And how did you do it?"

Mattera:

"Well, we've got a very good team, we're very deep, and I think we played, on that day, quite fearlessly, and weren't afraid of the consequences, just



Liisa Varul

went out there and played tennis, and when you do that, good things can happen."

ATR: What do you see for next year?

Mattera: "We've got a good returning group from this year's team. We lose two. We lose Yasmine and Zoe, and we've already got one very good freshman coming. We will be active on the transfer portal when it opens. We've brought in a few visits. I think next year we're going to be quite good."



Aztec Ninon Martinache

After Difficult Season, Men's Coach Carswell Looks Back and Ahead

AZTEC TENNIS REPORTER:

We're here at the last match of the regular season. What have you taken from it? What do you want your players to take from it?

GENE CARSWELL: "Well, I can say this. While we haven't come out on the top side of all the matches that we would've liked to have, we've been learning throughout this process. We've got a lot of youth in the lineup. We've dealt with some adversity, with some injuries. We know that within our conference, there's not a team that isn't beatable.

"And so, a lot of what we've got in front of us is within our control, and that's not a bad place to be. Having the guys believe that, and understand that, and continue to make the improvement, so they see that when they're making improvements, it impacts how we do and how we end up at the end of a match is really paramount to our future success. And so, I'll just say this: Don't count us out.

ATR: What are the prospects for the league championship tournament now?

GENE CARSWELL: I really feel like our destiny is in our hands. Boise State is probably going to be the one seed. I mean, it still will be determined by what happens today, but I believe they're going to be the one seed. We won the doubles point against them.

And we had...4 matches that were in 3 sets. So, even if we didn't win the doubles point, if we can find a way to win matches where we win one set, we end up winning the match. So, I feel like, you know, with our



Aztec Denis Majjorov



Aztec Mathieu Josserand

young group, that's what you get. Sometimes you get some elevated, excited results, where the guys really perform maybe a little bit above where you think they might be, and then sometimes, because they're young, sometimes they don't quite make the mark that you thought they were going to make. But my goal for the guys is to peak at

the end of the season, and that's always been what we want to do, and we're continuing to work towards that, and hopefully, we see

ATR: How do you view your prospects for next year?

GENE CARSWELL: Very good. We already have, actually, a couple commitments that are going to help this team significantly, and we're not even at the point where the transfer portal is open. So, We'll have more, probably, to report...give me about 4, 5, 6 weeks, and we'll see who all will be joining this team.

ATR: And you have one new recruit from San Diego.

GENE CARSWELL: We do. Yes. We signed William Kleege. William just made the finals of Easter Bowl doubles, which Easter Bowl is one of the US National Championships, San Diego kid, great to keep a San Diego kid at home. William's going to be, I think, a fantastic addition, just from the standpoint of big kid. I think he's like 6 foot 6 or 7, already very, very proficient on the doubles side, and he's just going to keep blossoming in the college game.

GENE CARSWELL:

We've got some big guys on the team. Sometimes it works like that. We've had some height on the team in the past, as well, but we are excited about the addition of William.

ATR: Was that by accident or were you looking for tall people?

GENE CARSWELL: We're looking for good people, and William's good.



Aztec Women's Coach Peter Mattera

**2025 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS
17-7**

SDSU def Point Loma Nazarene 6-1
 Oklahoma def SDSU 4-0
 SDSU def Grand Canyon 5-1
 Baylor def SDSU 6-1
 SDSU def Denver 4-2
 SDSU def Utah 4-1
 Long Beach State def SDSU 4-2
 Washington def SDSU 4-3
 SDSU def Hawaii 4-2
 SDSU def UCLA 4-3
 SDSU def USD 4-0
 Duke def SDSU 4-0
 SDSU def Air Force 4-0
 Nevada def SDSU 4-3
 SDSU def Boise State 4-2
 SDSU def Wyoming State 4-2
 SDSU def Colorado State 4-2
 SDSU def Fresno State 4-0
 SDSU def San Jose State 4-1
 SDSU def Utah State 4-1
 SDSU def New Mexico 4-0
 SDSU def UNLV 4-3

Mountain West Championships @ Las Vegas:
 SDSU def Wyoming 4-0
 Boise State def SDSU 4-3

**2025 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS
9-13**

SDSU def UCSD 4-1
 SDSU def UCSD 4-2
 USC def SDSU 7-0
 UC Irvine def SDSU 4-3
 SDSU def Weber State 5-2
 Utah State def SDSU 4-0
 SDSU def Cal Poly 4-1
 SDSU def Pomona-Pitzer 5-2
 Utah def SDSU 4-2
 SDSU def Tulane 4-2
 Texas Tech def SDSU 4-2
 Gonzaga def SDSU 4-3
 Idaho def SDSU 4-3
 Harvard def SDSU 7-0
 Wichita State def SDSU 5-2
 SDSU def UNLV 4-2
 SDSU def Grand Canyon, 4-3
 Boise State def SDSU 4-1
 New Mexico def SDSU 4-0
 Air Force Academy def SDSU 4-0
 SDSU def Nevada 4-2

Mountain West Championship @ Las Vegas
 Utah State def SDSU 4-1



**Aztec Associate Men's Coach Jeff Thomsen
&
Aztec Philipp Bosse**