

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999 SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY SUMMER 2025

## ATR SALUTES PETER MATTERA

After some 40 years at the helm (or nearby), Peter Mattera has retired as Aztec Women's Head Coach.

In a series of announcements praising his achievements (including two recent 17-7 seasons), the Aztec athletic department declared its pride in his accomplishments over 33 seasons as head coach. Simultaneously,

Nico Vinel has been promoted from Associate Head Coach to Head Coach.

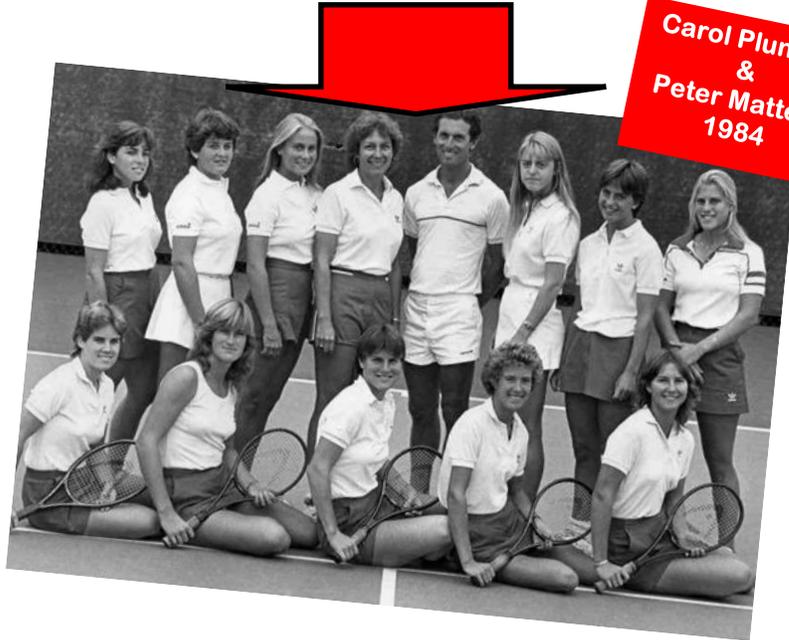
"Since taking over as head coach in 1993," said an SDSU statement, "Mattera guided San Diego State to 22 winning seasons and 14 berths in the last 28 NCAA tournaments."

Aztec athletic director John David Wicker declared:

"During Mattera's tenure with the Aztecs, the women's tennis program has been one of the nation's best, winning 13 conference championships."

*Aztec Tennis Reporter* salutes Coach Mattera for his achievements, including his team winning the 2025 Mountain West regular season championship.

Aztec women's tennis is an extraordinary story in NCAA tennis. From 1976 to 1994, the Aztec women's head coach was Carol Plunkett, a remarkably talented leader. Her teams won 299 matches and 14 of her players took All Ameri-



Carol Plunkett  
&  
Peter Mattera  
1984



2025  
Head Coach  
Peter Mattera

can honors 24 times, leading to her election to the Aztec Athletic Hall of Fame.

Her assistant, Mattera, the son of a teaching pro at the famed Hotel del Coronado, praised her in his retirement remarks:

"I want to thank Aztec Hall of Famer Carol Plunkett, who took a chance on me and offered me a job as her assistant.

"She taught me so much, not just how to do the job, but how to do it with grace, compassion, and gratitude. I'll be forever grateful to her for her kindness and mentorship. I tried to incorporate the things she taught me in my career, and I hope I was successful."

Mattera praised Vinel in a statement released by the SDSU Athletic Department: "Nico is a wonderful coach and has been incredible to work with the last 11 years," said Mattera. "He's the right person for the job, and I feel very confident that he will take this program and do great things. I'm excited to follow Aztec Tennis in the future under his leadership."



Vinel

# “Happy Retirement, Peter!”

By CAROL PLUNKETT

I chose Peter as my assistant coach the same way I chose my players, by their character, ability, and their desire to work hard and improve. He nailed them all!

Working from a meagre budget Peter’s first years were as a volunteer with minimal rewards, but that did not stop him from staying after practice to wash the courts, pick up the balls, or give a player an extra hit. He was ever so patient. I certainly learned a lot working alongside Peter.



**Plunkett**

As our program grew Peter was invaluable. I could find him in the office doing paperwork, talking to recruits or making travel reservations. I was so happy

he could drive the state vans or cars on travel days. They could provide a challenge and we always hoped that the team that used them before us left them clean!

After a morning surf, multiple-mile run, he would show up and hit with the players for hours. really motivated me and everyone else.

Peter’s behavior around the women athletes was impeccable and he represented our University with dignity. He was always proud to be an Aztec!

After a morning surf, multiple-mile run, he would show up and hit with the players for hours. He really motivated me and everyone else to stay fit and strong.

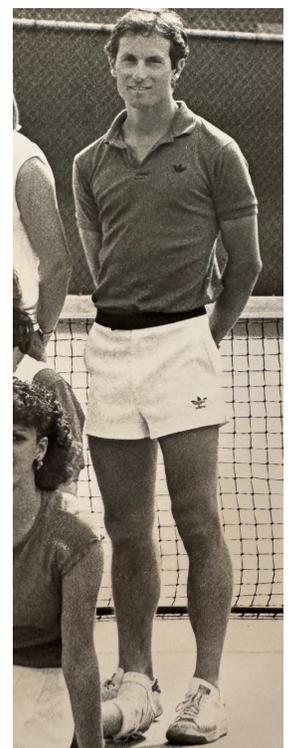
I’m not sure we all loved the run up Cowles Mountain but his fun energetic attitude helped a lot. I’m pretty sure some of our players went on to become distance runners.

Peter was the best and I am so happy to have had the opportunity to call him a friend and fellow coach.

Happy retirement, Peter!



**1984**  
**Head Coach Carol Plunkett**  
**Assistant Coach**



**1985**  
**Assistant Coach Peter Mattera**

Thank you, Peter,  
for your remarkable  
leadership  
over so many years.

**AZTEC TENNIS REPORTER**