

# Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999 SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY December 2025

## Aztecs Launching 104th Season of College Tennis



Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice

### 16 Aztecs Drawn From Across Globe

San Diego State's two intercollegiate tennis teams will be competing in 2026 with 16 students drawn from eight countries spread across the globe.

In 1922, a new campus tennis club was limited to males. Aztec women began competing in Southern California tournaments by themselves within a year or two.

This season, more than a century later, Aztec women and men

### 2026 AZTEC TEAMMATES



USA 7

ESTONIA 2

FINLAND 1

FRANCE 1

GERMANY 2

KOSOVO 1

MALAYSIA 1

SPAIN 1

arrive from far across the globe. A tennis ball serves as a visual metaphor: Estonia (Liisa Varul and Denis Maijorov), Finland (Aleksi Lofman), France (Ninon Martinache), Germany (Lars Johann and Marc Kleber), Kosovo (Vesa Gjinaj) Malaysia (Imran Daniel Hazli), Spain (Gloria Alogo), and the United States (Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice, Brock Anderson, William Kleege, Jo-Yee Chan, Jayna Clemens, Teja Tirunelveli, and Vessa Turley.

### Where Are Aztecs — and College Tennis — Headed?

As opening day approaches. San Diego State's tennis coaches are predicting success.

"We have a good team," said Aztec Women's Coach Nico Vinel.

"We've got work to do," said Aztec Men's Coach Gene Carswell, while pointing to a raft of excellent players he sees contending for a conference championship.

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CARSWELL



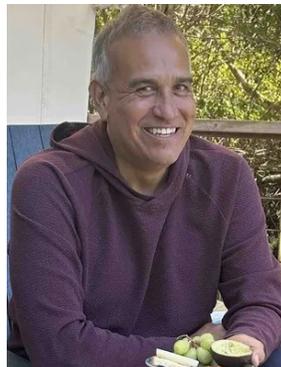
VINEL

### ALEX OLMEDO JR: AN AZTEC TENNIS PASSING OF NOTE

In June, Alex Olmedo Junior, who played Aztec Tennis in the 1980s, was struck and seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver on a street in Chicago. He died in September.

Olmedo's death is a sad chapter in a remarkable story of international tennis.

Born in Peru, Olmedo's father,



Alex Olmedo Jr

Family photo

Alex Senior, won Wimbledon and the Australian Championships in 1959 after playing college tennis at USC, where he won the NCAA singles and doubles titles. He won the U.S. Open doubles title in 1958 and was the head teaching pro for 30 years at the Beverly Hills Hotel. He died in 2020.

His son, Alex Junior, played col-

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## Aztec Women Earn NCAA Championship Berth

Two Aztec women earned a berth in their first NCAA national championship in November.

Senior Jo-Yee Chan and freshman Vessa Turley reached the Round of 32 in Orlando.

They scored a successful fall season, according to the team website, which reported “an 11-2 record, capturing a Mountain West Fall Qualifier championship as



**ENROUTE TO NCAAAs:** Vessa Turley, rear, and Jo-Yee Chan swept the draw at San Diego’s Barnes Tennis Center in November, paving the way for their entry in NCAA Championships at Orlando, Fl.

well as an ITA Conference Masters title to earn San Diego

State’s 15<sup>th</sup> NCAA berth.

The official Aztec website continued: “The Aztecs faced Grace Levelston and Kendall Kovick out of BYU in the opening round. Despite battling in each game, Chan and Turley were unable to maintain the momentum and were ultimately tripped up 6-1, 6-1 by the Cougar duo.”

## Coaches Vinel, Carswell Assess Strengths, Struggles Coming in College Tennis

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What nobody knows for certain is how the money question will play out. Fund raising by teams and money raising by players who are able to earn money in various ways are developing as the Aztecs are believed to be playing their final season in the Mountain West Conference.

Whatever the dynamics, the result seems likely to change the very nature of how college tennis will evolve.

Coach Carswell saw the mix progressing this way: “So much has evolved and continues to

change in college sports regarding NIL (name, image, likeness) and revenue share.

“Top college tennis players are getting paid above and beyond a scholarship to compete for university. In order to keep pace, fundraising is becoming a larger part of a coach’s job to be competitive at the Division One level.”

Coach Vinel agreed: “Yes, that’s exactly that. That’s perfectly written. With this new age of NIL, revenue sharing, now you have to fund raise more than ever.”

## AZTEC ALEX OLMEDO JR.: A SAD CHAPTER IN A REMARKABLE STORY

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lege tennis at San Diego State. His son, Alex III, also attended San Diego State.

Alex III praised his father, Alex Jr., for playing a vital role in the family’s transition to life in the United States,

“My dad has been, and will always be, one of the greatest men I have ever known,” he wrote in a note to *Aztec Tennis Reporter*

readers and friends from whom he sought financial support for his father’s medical expenses:

He added: “He is a pillar of our family and loved by his friends, family, and even strangers because he truly is just such a wonderful man, friend, uncle, brother, cousin, son, and father.”

At year’s end, the passing of Alex Olmedo Jr. remains a painful moment.

— John Martin

**2026 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS**

Jan 17 SDSU vs Point Loma @ SDSU 10:30 am  
 Jan 18th SDSU vs UCLA at UCLA 1pm  
 Jan 24-25 SDSU vs Washington State  
 and Georgia or Maryland @ Athens, Ga  
 Jan 31 SDSU vs UCSD @ SDSU 10:30 am  
 Feb 8 SDSU vs Long Beach State  
 @ SDSU 1 pm  
 Feb 16 SDSU vs Hawaii @ SDSU 11 am  
 Feb 22 SDSU vs Sacramento State  
 @SDSU 11 am  
 Feb 28 SDSU vs University of San Diego  
 @USD  
 Mar 6 SDSU vs CAL POLY @ SDSU 10:30 am  
 Mar 13 SDSU vs Fresno State  
 @SDSU 10 am  
 Mar 15 SDSU vs San Jose State @ SDSU 10 am  
 March 20 SDSU vs Utah State  
 @Utah State  
 March 22 SDSU vs Boise State  
 @Boise State  
 March 26 SDSU vs SMU @SDSU 10:30 am  
 March 27 SDSU vs New Mexico  
 @SDSU @ 11 AM  
 March 29 SDSU vs Air Force @ SDSU 10:30  
 April 2nd SDSU vs UNLV @UNLV 10 am  
 April 4 SDSU vs Nevada @ Nevada 12 pm  
 April 10 SDSU vs Wyoming @SDSU 10 am  
 April 12 SDSU vs Colorado State @ Colorado  
 State 10:30 am  
 April 17 SDSU (Senior Day) vs Grand Canyon  
 @SDSU 11 am  
 April 22-25 Mountain West Championship  
 Las Vegas (Darling Tennis Center)

**2026 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS**

Jan 11 DOUBLE HEADER:  
 SDSU vs USC@ USC 10 am  
 SDSU vs UCSD 1 pm  
 Jan 15 SDSU vs Stanford @ Stanford  
 Jan 16 SDSU vs Cal @ Cal  
 Jan 18 SDSU vs Santa Clara @ Santa Clara  
 Jan 25 SDSU vs Loyola Marymount @ SDSU 12  
 noon  
 Feb 6 SDSU vs Arkansas @ Arkansas  
 Feb 8 SDSU vs Tulsa @ Tulsa  
 Feb 14 SDSU vs Utah @ SDSU 2 pm  
 Feb 22 SDSU vs UC Irvine @ Irvine  
 Feb 26 SDSU vs UC Davis @ SDSU noon  
 Feb 26 SDSU vs UC Riverside  
 @ SDSU 3 pm  
 Feb 26-Mar 1 Pacific Coast Doubles  
 @ La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club  
 Mar 6 SDSU vs Cal Poly @ Cal Poly  
 Mar 7 SDSU vs University of Pacific @ Cal Poly  
 Mar 17 SDSU vs Harvard @ USD courts 2 pm  
 Mar 22 SDSU vs Air Force Academy  
 @ SDSU 12 noon  
 Mar 27 SDSU vs UNLV @ UNLV 2 pm  
 Mar 29 SDSU vs Nevada @ Nevada  
 Apr 2 SDSU vs Utah State @ SDSU noon  
 Apr 4 SDSU vs Boise State @ Boise State  
 April 11 SDSU vs Grand Canyon @ SDSU  
 April 19 SDSU (Senior Day) vs University of  
 New Mexico @ SDSU  
 April 22-24 Mountain West Championship  
 Las Vegas (Darling Tennis Center)

# 2026 Aztec Women's Tennis Team



**ALOGO**



**CHAN**



**CLEMENS**



**GJINAJ**



**MARTINACHE**



**TIRUNELVELI**



**TURLEY**



**VARUL**



**PARSLEY**



**VINEL**

# 2026 Aztec Men's Tennis Team



**ANDERSON**



**GONZALEZ**



**DANIEL HAZLI**



**JOHANN**



**KLEBER**



**KLEEGE**



**LOFMAN**



**MAIJOROV**



**CARSWELL**



**THOMSEN**