

Aztec Tennis Reporter

Founded 1999

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY

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Aztec Women Capture 2026 Mountain West Championship

Aztec Coach Vinel Wins Conference Honor for Year

San Diego State's women's tennis team scored one of its most successful seasons this year, winning the Mountain West Conference championship tournament.

The conference selected Head Coach Nicolas Vinel as Mountain West coach of the year. Born in France, he played college tennis in the United States and served 11 years as assistant coach to Peter Mattera, who retired a year ago.

Among players, six Aztec women were selected as Mountain West players of the year.

Aztec Jo-Yee Chan won Mountain West Player of the Week honors three times this season and conference Player of the Year as well as tournament Most Valuable Player. Aztec Vessa Turley earned the conference Freshman of the Week award.

Senior Gloria Alogo won all-tournament honors in singles and doubles.

The Aztec women defeated Grand Canyon, 4-2, and Wyoming, 4-0 enroute to the tournament final in Las Vegas. There, the Aztecs triumphed, 4-1, over UNLV in the finals, winning three three-set singles matches.

Chan and Turley won the doubles point clincher.

Vesa Gjinaj won a straight set singles victory to help the Aztecs capture the team title. In the NCAA tournament that followed, the Aztecs fell to the UCLA Bruins, 4-3.

The Aztecs finished the season with 21 victories and 4 losses, their best record in 13 seasons.



Aztec Tennis Reporter photos by John Martin

BACKHAND CRUSH: Aztec Jo-Yee Chan keeps eyes on ball as she helps her teammates to 21-3 record and a 4-1 victory over UNLV in MW championship finals.



MARATHON: Aztec Aleks Lofman lines up his backhand. Against Harvard, Lofman and William Kleege won doubles point to open play. Aztecs lost the match, 4-3.

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2026 SCOREBOARD PAGE 6

Late Surge Pulls Aztec Men Upward But Short of Title

The Aztec men's team staged a dramatic recovery from an early season struggle but fell to Boise State, 4-0, in the semifinals of the championship tournament.

Three Aztec men, Eugenio Gonzalez Fitzmaurice, Aleks Lofman and William Kleege, were named to this year's All-Mountain West team.

A junior-year transfer from LSU, Lofman won Mountain West Player of the Week honors twice in the early stages of the season.

His teammates struggled through their early season, losing seven of their first eight matches. By mid-April, they were 10-11 leading into the conference championships in Las Vegas.

There, Boise State turned the tables on the Aztecs, defeating them, 4-0, after losing to them, 4-3, in the regular season.

Still, the men's late-season recovery hints at better days in 2027.

AZTEC EYES ON TARGET



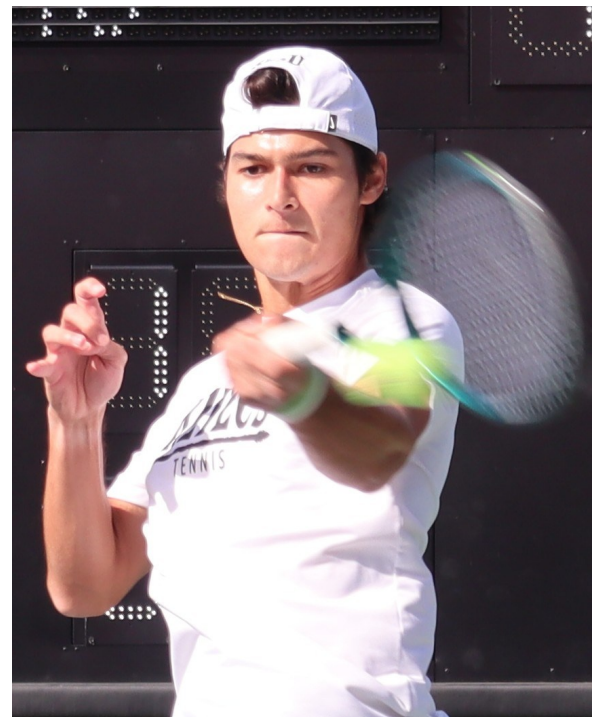
LARS JOHANN



DENIS MAIJOROV



GLORIA ALOGO



IMRAN HAZLI

Founded in 1999, Aztec Tennis Reporter is an independent newsletter reporting on the men's and women's tennis teams at San Diego State University. Neither the university nor its athletic department is responsible for its content. Established in 1922 as a men's tennis club, the sport of tennis holds a respected position on the campus.

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AZTECS HIT BACKHAND BARRAGE



NINON MARTINACHE



JO-YEE CHAN



JAYNA CLEMENS



LIISA VARUL



VESA GJINAJ

Aztec Winning Streaks and the Coaches Behind Them



**MEN'S COACH GENE CARSWELL
& EUGENIO GONZALEZ
FITZMAURICE**



**ASSOCIATE HEAD MEN'S COACH
JEFF THOMSEN**

MOUNTAIN WEST COACH OF THE YEAR NICO VINEL



VESA GJINAJ



**HEAD WOMEN'S COACH NICO VINEL, LEFT,
AND ASSISTANT COACH DYLAN PARSLEY**

Where Are We Now? The Great Search Continues (1922-2003)

1957 Aztec Men's Tennis Team

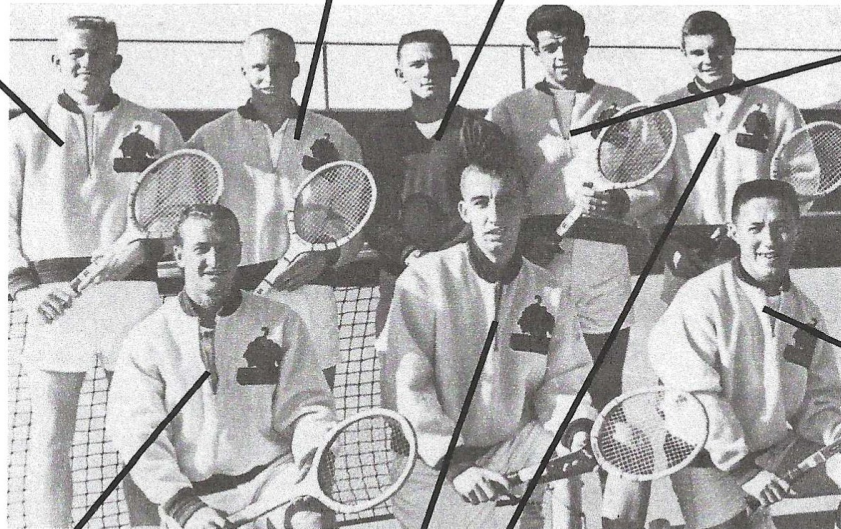
Jerry Shepherd (1957): I've been teaching history (American and world) for 37 years at Helix High School; before that I taught geography and English at Hilltop Junior High in Chula Vista. (I transferred to UC Berkeley after two years at San Diego State and majored in political science). My daughter, Pamela, who has a degree from Harvard, is a psychotherapist in Woodenville, WA. I've played tennis virtually all my life, competing at Hoover High and then at SDSC, then playing at every USTA level I could find (I'm tackling the 65-and-over category this year). I specialize in doubles (thanks to Fred Kinne, the San Diego Union-Tribune editor who coached kids in after-school clinics at Morley Field). Cindy Ursich and I were the number one open mixed doubles team in San Diego County about 1980, and Molly Danielson and I were the senior mixed doubles' champs in San Diego and ninth in our USTA section in the 1980s.

Bill Jack (1957-60): I'm a banker (retired), living in La Canada, CA. I worked many years for Bank of America and the Industrial Bank of Japan. My wife, Mary, and I have two sons and a daughter. One son, Mike, played the ATP satellite tour for a year. I've started playing tennis again after many years — dare I say it? — on the golf course.

Jim Hunt (Coach, 1957): I was assigned to coach the tennis team even though track was my sport. (I ran the 880 and mile relay as an undergraduate athlete). My players have lost track of me. Can you help ATR find me?



Hunt



Del Sud 1957, 1952 (Hunt)

D. Graham: My teammates have lost sight of me. Can you help?

J. Whitfield: ATR can't find me. Can you help?

John Martin (1957): I'm a journalist teaching at Columbia University in New York City. I worked as a reporter and editor (*The San Diego Union, Augusta, GA Chronicle, and The New York Times*) and as a correspondent (KCRA News, Sacramento; ABC News, New York and Washington). Bill Jack (above), Tom Mullen (1959-60), and I started playing tennis on the same day in 1952 (yes, I'm still looking for my first USTA gold ball). I have two daughters, Sophie and Claire. My wife, Katherine Fitzhugh, and I live in Washington, D.C., where I started publishing *Aztec Tennis Reporter* in 1999 to support the men's and women's teams. Writing it has helped me reconnect with lots of teammates and caused me to marvel at the remarkable 81-year history of Aztec tennis.

Bill Reeves: I coached tennis and basketball at La Jolla High and Mesa College and basketball at UC San Diego. In 1999, I was inducted into the High School Coaching Legends of San Diego County. I'm retired but still teaching at Mesa. My wife, Mary (a retired nurse) and I have been married 50 years. Our son, Bill, coaches cross country at Azusa Pacific University; our daughter, Sharon, teaches math. (I have a Ph.D. in human behavior from USIU). I still hit regularly at the La Jolla Community Center, where I learned to play tennis in 1945.

Bill Ereneta (1956-57): After graduation, I became a Marine Corps jet fighter pilot (1960-64), worked on the engineering effort to build an American supersonic transport, then became Deputy Director of the San Jose, CA International Airport for 10 years. I'm retired, living in Los Gatos, CA, singing professionally in musical theater (14-plus productions) and rehearsing with the San Jose Opera. I discovered I could sing when I took lessons to perform at a son's wedding in 1996 (I wanted to express myself with more than just a dinner speech). I have two sons and a grandson, especially in the Marines, and still follow it closely. I once taped an Agassi-Sampras match so I could watch it after I got home — at 2:30 a.m.!

Photos, SDSU Library, Special Collections

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2003-2026 Update: Bill Jack: Mary and I have traveled extensively. Our trips have included Japan, Korea, China, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa (Tanzania) and a cruise through the Baltic Sea to St. Petersburg. Until recently, we have enjoyed most summers fly fishing several great trout fly fishing streams and

western United States. I've been requested to admit that Mary catches the biggest fish. Last but not least, in 2017, our granddaughter Devon and a college friend won the USTA National Women's Doubles Hardcourts Open, played in San Diego. All the best!



Bill Ereneta

2026 Update: Bill Ereneta: Great to hear from you! I am well. Moved to an independent assisted living memory care facility (Marbella, San Jose) about a year and half ago. Still very independent; going to theatre once a week, playing bridge, and traveling to NYC, Cabo San Lucas, South Lake Tahoe, and Palm Springs.

AZTEC TENNIS REPORTER SPRING 2026 RUNNING SCHEDULE RESULTS

2026 AZTEC WOMEN'S TENNIS

SDSU 7 POINT LOMA NAZARINE 0

UCLA 5 SDSU 2

SDSU 4 UCSD 0

SDSU 4 LONG BEACH STATE 0

SDSU 4 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT 2

SDSU 4 HAWAII 0

SDSU 5 SACRAMENTO STATE 2

SDSU 4 USD 3

SDSU 5 CAL POLY 2

SDSU 4 FRESNO STATE 0

SDSU 4 SAN JOSE STATE 0

SDSU 4 UTAH STATE 0

BOISE STATE 4 SDSU 1

SMU 4 SDSU 0

SDSU 4 NEW MEXICO 0

SDSU 4 AIR FORCE ACADEMY 1

SDSU 4 UNLV 2

SDSU 4 WYOMING 0

*MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

SDSU 4 GRAND CANYON 2

*MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

SDSU 4 UNLV 1

*MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

UCLA 4 SDSU 3

2026 AZTEC MEN'S TENNIS

USC 4 SDSU 0

SDSU 4 UC SAN DIEGO 0

STANFORD 4 SDSU 1

CALIFORNIA 4 SDSU 1

SANTA CLARA 5 SDSU 2

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT 4 SDSU 3

ARKANSAS 4 SDSU 0

TULSA 4 SDSU 0

SDSU 4 UTAH 3

UC IRVINE 4 SDSU 3

SDSU 4 UC DAVIS 1

SDSU 4 UC RIVERSIDE 0

SDSU 4 CAL POLY 2

SDSU 4 UNIVERSITY OF PACIFIC 0

HARVARD 4 SDSU 3

SDSU 4 AIR FORCE 2

SDSU 4 UNLV 3

SDSU 4 NEVADA 3

UTAH STATE 4 SDSU 0

SDSU 4 BOISE STATE 3

GRAND CANYON 4 SDSU 1

SDSU 4 NEW MEXICO 0

SDSU 4 AIR FORCE 1

*MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOISE STATE 4 SDSU 0

*MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS