

2 0 0 8 C O A C H I N G S T A F F



Senior Kevin Werbner has played in 46 games over his three-year career, registering four points on one goal and two assists.

COACHING STAFF

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NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

1969, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2005, 2006

1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST

Lev Kirshner

Head Coach | Ninth Season as Head Coach | 12th Season Overall | Rutgers, 1991

- ▶ **Two NCAA tournament appearances**
 - ▶ **Two All-America Selections**
 - ▶ **Three Academic All-America picks**
 - ▶ **Eight professional players**
 - ▶ **Five all-Far West selections**
- ▶ **Four academic all-Far West picks**
 - ▶ **33 all-conference picks**
 - ▶ **25 academic all-conference selections**
 - ▶ **12 Player of the Week winners**
 - ▶ **Eight victories against nationally ranked foes**

Entering his ninth season at the helm of the SDSU men's soccer program, Lev Kirshner has brought the Aztecs back into the national spotlight.

Kirshner led last year's squad to its second consecutive runner-up finish in the Pac-10, despite being picked fifth in the preseason poll. The runner-up result comes on the heels of back-to-back trips to the NCAA tournament, a feat that hadn't been done at SDSU since the 1988 and 1989 seasons.

In addition, last year's 8-7-4 mark gave San Diego State its fourth winning campaign in five years and third consecutive, something that hadn't been done on the campus since 1990-92.

SDSU's 4-4-2 mark in the Pac-10 included three straight over nationally ranked foes UCLA, California and Stanford. The victory over the Bruins on Oct. 6 was the program's first since Oct. 11, 1989. With a tie later on in the season, the Aztecs won the season series between the two schools for the first time since 1969, their second season of Division I soccer.

San Diego State was 3-1-2 against nationally ranked teams, and were ranked as high as No. 18 by *Soccer America*, No. 20 by *Top Drawer Soccer*, No. 24 by *Soccer Times*, No. 24 by *College Soccer News* and No. 25 by NSCAA/adidas.



Kirshner orchestrated the team's move to the Pac-10 in 2005, arguably one of the top soccer conferences in the nation. The move gave SDSU its full allotment of scholarships for the first time in program history and the victories followed shortly thereafter.

Over the past three seasons since joining the Pac-10, the Aztecs have gone 26-17-14 (.579) and 11-9-10 (.533) in league play. San Diego State has posted six wins against nationally ranked teams and has earned six draws.

Kirshner believes that talented players and top-notch competition go hand-in-hand, so he wants his SDSU teams to be characterized by their success against quality opponents.

"When you start stepping up your competition, you need better players," Kirshner said. "I think that the two have complemented each other well and put us in position to not only play those teams, but actually beat them."

Kirshner's disciplined approach and motto of "One team, one family, one mission" combined to produce three top-40 recruiting classes from 2005-07. The Aztecs were ranked No. 39 by *College Soccer News* in 2005, No. 19 in 2006 and No. 17 in 2007, respectively.

Not afraid of playing the best each and every year, Kirshner's teams have gotten results (win or tie) against top-10 schools in five of the past six seasons, including a 3-2 win against Pac-10 champion California last year.

In 2006, Kirshner guided San Diego State to a 5-2-3 Pac-10 mark to give the team a second-place finish in just its second year in one of the toughest conferences in the nation. Included in the five league wins was a season sweep over eventual champion California. The team's nine goals allowed tied Stanford for the fewest given up in conference play.

The strong season catapulted SDSU into the NCAA tournament for the second straight season, where they would fall in the first round at eventual national champion UC Santa Barbara, 2-1.

The Aztecs went 2-0 in the inaugural The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic and 1-0-1 in the USD/SDSU Soccer Tournament, and defeated three nationally ranked foes.

Kirshner's senior goalkeeper Tally Hall was a M.A.C. Hermann Award semifinalist, an All-American for the second consecutive year, a Scholar-Athlete All-American, an all-Far West selection and a first-team all-Pac-10 selection.

Hall was joined on the all-conference team by Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Nick Cardenas and five others, making the seven selections the highest total in school history.

In 2005, Kirshner led SDSU to a 9-4-6 record, its best mark since 1991, and a trip to its first NCAA tournament since 1989, before falling at UC Santa Barbara, 2-0, in the first round.

Kirshner helped the Aztecs receive numerous honors in 2005. SDSU was nationally ranked by all four polls during the season and reached as high as No. 14 by *Soccer America* and *College Soccer News*. The Aztecs ranked first nationally with a 87.9 shots-on-goal save percentage and second in the country with a 0.54 goals against average. SDSU did not allow a goal in the first half the entire season.

Under Kirshner's tutelage, Hall became the first Aztec to receive All-American honors since National Soccer Hall of Fame member Marcelo Balboa did so in 1989.

In addition to Hall, four others were named to the all-Pacific 10 Conference team, including sophomore midfielder Kraig Chiles.

Kirshner didn't rest on his laurels in the offseason. Instead, he brought in the

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1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST

17th-best recruiting class in the country, according to *College Soccer News*.

No stranger to winning, Kirshner has a mold and a style that his players have bought into; one that has shown proven results when building programs.

Before coming to SDSU, Kirshner coached the women of Cañada College (Redwood City, Calif.) from 1992-95. During that time, he took over a program that had never won a conference game and led it to a 16-1-3 record his final year. The season would finish with a loss in penalty kicks in the California State Quarterfinals. For his efforts, he was named the Coast Conference Coach of the Year.

He also served as the men's assistant coach at Cañada and helped with their run to the state quarterfinals in 1992 and 1994.

From there, Kirshner moved to a head coaching position at Ohlone College (Fremont, Calif.) in the fall of 1995. At Ohlone, he helped take a team from a second-to-last place league finish the previous season to as high as a No. 15 state ranking.

Prior to his arrival at SDSU, Kirshner also served as the men's assistant coach at his alma mater, Rutgers. Kirshner helped the Scarlet Knights to the second round at the 1996 NCAA tournament, and a No. 13 national ranking and a 14-7-4 record.

Before taking over the Aztecs' head spot eight years ago, Kirshner spent three seasons as an assistant coach for the SDSU men's program under long-time head coach Chuck Clegg, the school's all-time winningest coach.

In his first season at SDSU's helm, Kirshner's team improved its win total from the previous year, despite playing top-ranked UCLA and traditional powers Washington, Portland and San Diego.

As a player at Rutgers, Kirshner was part of a 1987 NCAA quarterfinal team, a 1989 NCAA semifinal squad that lost to eventual co-champion Virginia and a runner-up finisher to UCLA in the 1990 championship match.

He received his undergraduate degree in communication while graduating with honors in 1991, and is listed as one of the soccer program's top 25 alumni.

"Lev was an outstanding player for us and a very integral part of a team that went to two Final Fours in his career," Rutgers head coach Bob Reasso said. "In my 25 years at Rutgers, Lev was one of the finest players ever to come through our program."

Following his collegiate career, Kirshner represented the United States in 1993, winning a bronze medal for the U.S. national Maccabiah team. In 1997, he returned to Israel as captain of the U.S. team, and led the only squad to defeat eventual gold-medalist Brazil.

Kirshner was selected as one of 250 domestic and international athletes to be assessed in the inaugural Major League Soccer combine in 1995. Kirshner also had a stint in the USISL starting for the Reno Rattlers. During that year, he trained with and played in several intrasquad reserve games for the MLS San Jose Clash.

Kirshner was named coach of the U.S. Maccabiah Pan-American U-20 soccer team in December 2003, where he won a bronze medal in Santiago, Chile. In the summer of 2005, Kirshner led the national Maccabiah squad to a second-place finish. Kirshner and his assistant, Amos Magee, became only the second and third



Lev Kirshner and his assistant, Amos Magee, celebrating their silver medal effort at the 2005 Maccabiah World Games in Israel.

members of the U.S. soccer delegation to have won two medals in the World Maccabiah Games. Additionally, Kirshner's squad earned the tournament's "Fair Play" Award, which is given to the team that exhibited the best sportsmanship.

Kirshner has valuable experience working with all levels of soccer having had stints with the Region IV Olympic Development Program (ODP) and serving as the interim head coach of the national runner-up West team during the 2001 U.S. regional championship. He was also as an assistant coach during the team's undefeated April 2002 tour of Australia.

Additionally, Kirshner worked as both an assistant and head coach with the Northern California ODP U-23 men's team during 1995 and 1996. He led those squads to consecutive Western Regional championships, including a third-place finish at the 1995 Donnelly Cup. He also won a Western Regional title with the under-15 ODP Northern California state team as the assistant coach of the 1984 age group.

Kirshner possesses a USSF A-License and has received the NSCAA Premiere Badge with distinguished honors; the highest accolade provided by that organization.

Recently, Kirshner was inducted to the first hall of fame class at his alma mater, Mission San Jose High School. While at Mission San Jose, he guided his soccer team to two North Coast Section (NCS) appearances. During his senior season, he led his squad to its school's first soccer league title en route to the NCS semifinals, where it fell to De La Salle on penalty kicks. Kirshner was a three-time all-league selection and led his team in points all four years. Adding to his list of prep achievements, Kirshner finished third in the NCS badminton championships his junior year, won the title as a senior and was a varsity cross country runner his sophomore and junior years.

Kirshner maintains ties with the community through his involvement with the Hotspurs Soccer Club, for which he was the director of soccer operations from 1999-2002. In addition, Kirshner has hosted numerous free clinics and seminars. Currently, Kirshner works for the PQ Premier coaching their U-12 boys team.

In his time away from soccer, Kirshner enjoys reading biographies of coaches. He is an avid golfer and resides in Pacific Beach.

KIRSHNER IN THE PAC-10

YEAR	OVERALL				YEAR	CONFERENCE			
	W	L	T	PCT		W	L	T	PCT
2005	9	4	6	.632 ^A	Pac-10	2	3	5	.450*
2006	9	6	4	.579 ^A	Pac-10	5	2	3	.650~*
2007	8	7	4	.526	Pac-10	4	4	2	.500~
PAC-10	26	17	14	.579	3-YRS	11	9	10	.533

^A Denotes NCAA tournament appearance

~ Finished second in Pac-10

* Led the league in goals against average

COACHING CAREER

Head Coach (Women's), Cañada College (1992-95)
 Assistant Coach (Men's), Cañada College (1992-95)
 Head Coach, Ohlone College (1995)
 Assistant Coach, Rutgers (1996-97)
 Assistant Coach, San Diego State (1998-2000)
 Head Coach, San Diego State (2000-Present)
 Head Coach, U.S. Maccabiah Pan-American U-20 (2003)
 Head Coach, U.S. Maccabiah National Team (2005)

PLAYING CAREER

Mission San Jose High School (1983-87)
 Rutgers University (1987-90)
 U.S. Maccabiah Team (1993, 1997)
 Reno Rattlers - USISL (1995-96)
 San Jose Clash (1995-96)

SDSU MILESTONE WINS

FIRST WIN AS HEAD COACH: vs. Christian Heritage (5-0), Sept. 1, 2000
FIRST WIN VS. RANKED TEAM: vs. (25) Denver (2-0), Oct. 12, 2001
50th WIN: vs. Cal State Bakersfield (2-0), Sept. 15, 2007

NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

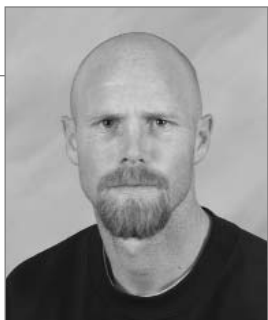
1969, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2005, 2006

1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST



Matt Hall

Assistant Coach | Ninth Season as Assistant Coach | San Diego, 2001



Matt Hall enters his ninth season as an assistant with the San Diego State men's soccer program. His primary duties are working with the goalkeepers. In addition to his goalkeeping duties, Hall coordinates the team's recruiting, and organizes and runs practice sessions.

Known as one of the top assistant coaches in the nation, Hall once again coached a goalkeeper to a postseason honor, something he has done in each of his eight seasons on The Mesa.

"I am so fortunate that Matt has become such a significant part of my personal and professional life," head coach Lev Kirshner said. "Since 1997, when Matt first played for me, I have enjoyed watching him mature as an adult and professional. Matt has become one of my closest friends and I am so blessed to have him as my assistant. This program would not be the same without him and neither would my life."

Last year, redshirt freshman Brad Byrns posted a 6-1-2 record with a 0.73 goals against average and amassed five shutouts before an injury sidelined him for the rest of the season. Despite missing 10 games, Byrns was still named to the Pac-10 all-conference team as an honorable mention selection. The feat was even more amazing as Byrns had the daunting task of having to replace two-time All-American Tally Hall.

Under Hall's guidance in 2006, Tally Hall became the first Aztec to earn All-America honors in consecutive years since National Soccer Hall of Famer member Marcelo Balboa accomplished the feat in 1988 and again in 1989.

Tally Hall also was a M.A.C. Hermann Award semifinalist, a Scholar All-American and a first-team all-West Region and all-Pac-10 performer.

In the 2006 campaign, Matt Hall helped the SDSU goalkeepers limit the opposition to just nine goals in Pac-10 play, tied with Stanford for the fewest in the conference.

A year before (2005), Tally Hall and the Aztecs led the nation with a 88.9 shots-on-goal save percentage and was second in the country with a 0.49 goals against average, both school records. For his efforts, he was named a first-team all-Far West selection and first-team all-Pac-10 pick.

In 2004, Hall earned all-academic honors by the MPSF, the same honor Colin Hanke won in 2003.

Brian Barnes broke his own single-season saves record in 2002 en route to being named a second-team all-MPSF selection and all-academic pick.

In 2001, Tim Edwards earned first-team all-MPSF honors after going 4-5-4 with a 1.56 goals against average and two shutouts. Edwards was even better in conference play, posting a 1.07 GAA in seven appearances.

Barnes, who would go onto become the school's all-time leader with 282 saves, was named to the MPSF Pacific Division first team in 2000 and was selected to the all-academic team after recording 90 saves.

Actively involved as the team's recruiting coordinator, Matt Hall helped San Diego State to consecutive top-20 nationally rated recruiting classes and three top-40 classes from 2005-07. The Aztecs were ranked No. 39 by *College Soccer News* in 2005, No. 19 in 2006 and No. 17 in 2007, respectively.

The accolades are not surprising since Hall helped Kirshner build the program back up to a national force. Hall helped SDSU earn a full allotment of scholarships for the first time in school history. In the process, the Aztecs joined the Pac-10, arguably one of the top soccer conferences in the nation.

Hall's efforts were recognized by *College Soccer News* in 2007, when he was named on of the top 12 assistant coaches in the nation. In the article, the website wrote that, "Some might overlook the contribution that Hall has made to the rise in prominence of the program at San Diego State over the past few years but that would be a mistake. The statistics regarding the effectiveness of the Aztec netminders over the past few years and the quality of the recruiting classes which San Diego State has attracted are proof positive of the contribution that Hall is mak-



ing." Hall is a familiar face to San Diego State soccer fans, having spent three years (1996-98) defending the Aztecs' net and beginning SDSU's recent tradition of nationally-renowned goalkeepers.

Hall is listed third on the school's season saves list, recording 89 during the 1998 campaign. He is ranked third on SDSU's career saves list with 213. Only Hall pupils Barnes (1999-2002) and Tally Hall (2003-06) are above Hall on the lists.

In June 1998, Hall represented SDSU at the adidas Summer League, a prestigious camp designed for the nation's top collegiate players. He was one of 15 goalkeepers from across the country invited to participate in the clinic.

He also had a solid professional career, starting for the San Diego Flash, which reached the quarterfinals of the A-League championships in 2001.

Hall completed his undergraduate degree at the University of San Diego in 2001, and holds a U.S.S.F. National "B" license.

He resides in San Diego with his wife Kelli, and their daughter, Madden Michele, who was welcomed into the Aztec family on Aug. 25, 2008.

"Although being a part of Matt and Kelli's wedding party was poignant," Kirshner said. "I have to say, being there for the birth of their first child, Madden Michele, is one of the greatest moments I have experienced as an Aztec soccer coach. The ability to see Matt's happy, beaming face, while holding Madden for the first time was...well, let's just say, I was a proud mentor, but really I am just a proud friend."



Kelli and Matt Hall's daughter, Madden Michele, born on Aug. 25, 2008.

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Sami B. Nedjar

Assistant Coach | First Season as Assistant Coach | USC, 1989

Sami B. Nedjar enters his first season at San Diego State, but brings 23 years of coaching experience to The Mesa, including 11 seasons at the collegiate level.

Over the past 17 years, Nedjar has worked as a professional coach for Hotspurs United Soccer Association, where he has developed 21 state Olympic Development Program (ODP) players, five regional and four youth national team players, including U.S. Olympic team member Sal Zizzo.

Besides his coaching duties, Nedjar will expand SDSU's recruiting efforts throughout the West Coast and the southern U.S. Nedjar will also be the Aztecs' special projects coordinator and camp clinic coordinator.

Nedjar was the head women's coach at Cuyamaca College (2000-04) where he guided the Coyotes to two straight Pacific Coast Conference championships (2001-02). The 2002 squad went 18-3 to finish with its best record in school history, while two of his teams (2001 and 2003) ended the year ranked among the top 20 in the nation.

While at Cuyamaca, Nedjar also coached both the Granite Hills High School boy's (1999-05) and the girl's squads (1996-2004). Nedjar led the boys team to four straight CIF San Diego Section championships and put together a 66-game unbeaten streak. Nedjar's squads managed to finish among the top 10 in the nation three consecutive years and a No. 1 ranking in 2003 with a 28-0-3 record.

Nedjar also led the Granite Hills girls team to six league titles.

Nedjar also worked three years at Occidental College, seeing time as the team's assistant coach (1988), co-coach (1989) and head coach (1990). In 1990, he led the Tigers to their first-ever .500 season in with a 6-6-2 mark and coached the league's most valuable player.

Nedjar got his start to coaching in 1986 when he co-founded USC's women's soccer club team. While at USC, Nedjar coached a competitive schedule with future Pac-10 rivals UCLA, Cal and Stanford.

Nedjar served as the director of coaching with Hotspurs from 1991-2007 where he supervised and evaluated a club with over 30 boys and girls teams. He also acted as a liaison between players and college coaches.

Nedjar holds a national youth license (2001), an 'A' license (1994) and 'B' license (1990) from the United States Soccer Federation. Nedjar was also awarded an advanced national diploma from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) in 1989.

Nedjar has received a number of accolades throughout his coaching career, including the High School Coaching Legend Award (2006) by the San Diego Hall of Champions and CIF San Diego Section, the California High School (large schools) Boys Coach of the Year (2004) by the NSCAA, and the National Youth Girls Coach of the Year (2001) by the NSCAA.

Nedjar graduated from USC in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in science and business administration.



Oscar Rodriguez

Assistant Coach | Fourth Season as Assistant Coach | Sixth Season Overall | San Diego State, 2001

Oscar Rodriguez enters his fourth season as an assistant coach at San Diego State after spending the previous three years as the program's Director of Soccer Operations.

Rodriguez began his collegiate playing career at De Anza College in northern California, before transferring to San Diego

State after two successful years in the junior college ranks.

While at De Anza, Rodriguez helped the team to a pair of state championship appearances in 1996 and 1997. In his second season, he captained the team to the state title after going 22-2-2. That year, the squad finished at No. 11 in the national poll.

Rodriguez ended his junior college career as a two-time all-Coast Conference selection, earning second-team honors in 1996 and first-team accolades in 1997.

Fresh off winning the 1997 California Junior College Championship, Rodriguez transferred to San Diego State and made an immediate impact. The defender from San Jose played in all 20 games, getting the starting nod 17 times.

His senior season was no different from his first on Montezuma Mesa, starting 14 of the 18 games in which he played.

Following his graduation from SDSU in 2001, Rodriguez has been a staple in the men's soccer program, beginning as the Director of Soccer Operations. His duties included being responsible for all administrative and organizational facets of the program.

He was promoted to assistant coach in 2005, and has helped coach numerous Aztecs to postseason accolades, including 18 selections to the all-Pac-10 team over the past three seasons.

When not assisting the men's soccer team, Rodriguez is protecting the city of San Diego, where he works as a firefighter.



Andrew DiCicco

Director of Soccer Operations | Second Season as Director of Soccer Ops. | San Diego State, 2008

Andrew DiCicco enters his second year as the Director of Soccer Operations at San Diego State.

A four-year letterwinner on The Mesa, DiCicco brings his experience and competitive background to the Aztec coaching staff.

Last February, DiCicco had a four-week try-out period with Major League Soccer's Kansas City Wizards. In his trials, DiCicco scored three goals, including two game-winners. However, a late injury sidelined DiCicco for the rest of training and he was left off the roster.

DiCicco, a captain in 2006 with SDSU, played a large role in bringing the Aztecs back to the national spotlight. He helped San Diego State to consecutive

NCAA appearances, something it hadn't done since the 1988 and 1989 seasons. SDSU posted a 18-10-10 record over his final two campaigns.

DiCicco had a breakout senior season in 2006, where he was second on the team with 14 points and tied for the team lead with four assists. DiCicco set single-season highs in goals (five), assists (four), points (14), shots (22) and shots on goal (12).

For his efforts, he was named to the Pac-10 all-conference team as a honorable mention selection. DiCicco was also named to the USD/SDSU Soccer Classic all-tournament team.

Over his four seasons, DiCicco tallied six goals and seven assists for 19 points.

DiCicco will graduate in Dec. 2007 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

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Support Staff



Dave Ohton

Strength & Conditioning Coach
23rd season at SDSU
Arizona State, 1984

David Ohton is in his 23rd year as a strength and conditioning coach.

Ohton came to San Diego State after serving as a graduate assistant in strength and conditioning at Arizona State in 1984-85, where he earned his bachelor's in physical education and psychology in 1984.

Following graduation, Ohton signed a free agent contract with the Kansas City Chiefs. He later played for the USFL's Arizona Wranglers, helping the team to the 1984 championship game in Tampa Bay, Fla.

As a certified member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), Ohton has published articles on strength training and coaching philosophies in the *NSCA Journal* and *Bigger and Faster Magazine*. In 2005, Ohton was invited to speak on the opening panel at the Association for Women in Sports Media conference held in San Diego about performance-enhancing drugs.

Ohton and his wife, Amy, reside in San Diego along with their two sons, Connor and Braxton.



Ryan Cook

Grad Asst. Athletic Trainer
First season at SDSU
Iowa State, 2007

Ryan Cook is in his first season as the athletic trainer for the Aztec men's soccer team.

Cook completed his undergraduate work at Iowa State in 2007, graduating with a bachelor's degree in health and human performance with an emphasis in athletic training. He is currently in his first year of the graduate program at San Diego State, working on his master's in kinesiology.

Cook worked with a variety of sports while he attended Iowa State, including football, women's gymnastics and wrestling.

After graduating from Iowa State, Cook worked one year as a professional internship at Colorado State, where he assisted with the men and women's cross country and track and field squads.

A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Cook is a certified athletic trainer (NATABOC) and first-aid/CPR instructor.

He currently resides in Mission Bay.



Courtney Bale
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



Tim Baron
Facilities and Operations Assistant



Angie Garza
Assistant Equipment Manager



Jamie McConeghy
Assistant Media Relations Director



Nick Petit
Associate Athletic Director



Kristie Smedrsud
Academic Advisor



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