

SDSU Quick Facts

Location: San Diego, Calif.
Population: 2,800,000 (county)
President: Dr. Stephen L. Weber
Director of Athletics: Jeff Schemmel
Founded: 1897
Enrollment: 34,174
Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Conference: Pacific-10
Nickname: Aztecs
Colors: Scarlet and Black
Home Facility: SDSU Sports Deck
Capacity: 1,000

Men's Soccer Information

Head CoachLev Kirshner
 (Rutgers '91), Sixth Year
Record at SDSU30-55-12
Career RecordSame
Office Phone(619) 594-0136
Assistant CoachMatt Hall
 (San Diego '01), Sixth Year
Office Phone(619) 594-0463
Assistant Coach ..Oscar Rodriguez
 (San Diego State '01), First Year
Assistant CoachKyle Smith
 (Santa Clara '99), Second Year
2004 Final Record4-13-2
2004 Conference Record4-7-1
2004 Conference Finish .Fifth (MPSF)
Starters Returning/Lost7/4
Letterwinners Returning/Lost 10/10
NCAA TournamentN/A
Team Captains ..Raul Bautista, Jr., F
 Matt Couch, Sr., D
 Heath Creager, Sr., F

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2005 Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.-Exp.	Hometown (Last School)
00	Luis Trejo	GK	6-1	180	Jr.-TR	San Jose, Calif. (De Anza College)
1	Ryan Bowie	GK	6-2	190	Fr.-RS	Chandler, Ariz. (Mountain Pointe HS)
2	Robbie Diaz	D	5-8	173	Jr.-2L	San Diego, Calif. (Univ. of San Diego HS)
3	David Dally	MF	5-9	150	So.-1L	San Jose, Calif. (Leland HS)
4	Eric Santiago	D	5-9	155	Sr.-1L	Las Vegas, Nev. (Yavapai College)
5	Nick Clemens	MF	5-9	157	Jr.-2L	San Diego, Calif. (Univ. of San Diego HS)
6	Kraig Chiles	MF	5-11	185	So.-1L	San Diego, Calif. (Poway HS)
7	Johann Helgason	MF	5-10	163	So.-TR	Akureyri, Iceland (Boston College)
8	Heath Creager	F	6-2	170	Sr.-2L	Glendale, Ariz. (Indiana Univ.)
9	Kevin Werbner	F	6-1	180	Fr.-HS	Manchester, Conn. (Manchester HS)
10	Raul Bautista	F	6-1	185	Jr.-2L	Salida, Calif. (Grace Davis HS)
11	Andrew DiCicco	MF	5-7	146	Jr.-2L	Wethersfield, Conn. (Wethersfield HS)
12	Freddy McDonald	D	6-2	175	So.-1L	Phoenix, Ariz. (Mountain Pointe HS)
13	Matt Couch	D	6-1	194	Sr.-3L	Tucson, Ariz. (Sabino HS)
14	Danny Ortiz	D	5-10	155	Fr.-HS	Palmdale, Calif. (Highland HS)
15	Mike Mercuriali	D	6-3	190	Sr.-2L	San Diego, Calif. (Horizon HS)
16	Cameron Brinitzer	F	5-9	165	Fr.-HS	Sacramento, Calif. (Folsom HS)
17	Eric Turner	MF	5-9	170	Fr.-RS	Tempe, Ariz. (Corona Del Sol HS)
18	Aaron Pinckney	D	5-11	165	Fr.-HS	Corona, Calif. (Santiago HS)
19	Jamel Wallace	F	6-0	165	Fr.-HS	Oceanside, Calif. (Oceanside HS)
20	Matt McManus	D	6-1	180	Fr.-HS	Santa Clarita, Calif. (Canyon HS)
21	Dennis Sanchez	MF	5-8	165	Fr.-HS	Redmond, Wash. (Bishop Manogue HS)
22	Tally Hall	GK	6-4	205	Jr.-2L	Gig Harbor, Wash. (Gig Harbor HS)
23	Omar Persad	F	5-7	150	Fr.-HS	Louisville, Ky. (Trinity HS)
24	Ryan Reott	D	5-7	140	Jr.-RS	Yorba Linda, Calif. (Irvine Valley College)
25	Nick Collins	MF	6-0	175	Fr.-RS	Paso Robles, Calif. (Paso Robles HS)
26	Chuck Anderson	D	6-1	185	Fr.-TR	Encinitas, Calif. (UC Santa Barbara)
27	Aaron Goetz	D	5-11	160	So.-TR	Bellaire, Texas (Univ. of Virginia)

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The California State University system is committed to providing equal opportunities to men and women CSU students in all campus programs, including intercollegiate athletics.

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SDSU MEN'S SOCCER

2005 AZTEC SEASON OUTLOOK

Over the years, the San Diego State men's soccer program has enjoyed success. From its six NCAA tournament berths to its 1987 appearance in the NCAA championship match, the 2005 campaign marks another significant achievement in Aztec soccer history.

Beginning this season, San Diego State becomes the newest member of the Pacific-10 Conference. SDSU joins the likes of traditional powerhouses California, Oregon State, Stanford, UCLA and Washington in the now six-member league.

A new conference means new opponents and new challenges, but Aztec head coach Lev Kirshner and his players are excited about the opportunity to play in one of the nation's premier men's soccer conferences.

"We are very thrilled about moving into the Pac-10, one of the top conferences in the country," said Kirshner, who is now in his sixth season at the helm. "At the same time, we are honored by the Pac-10's recognition of our vision and future success."

Stepping into a new conference also means starting out with a clean slate. After an injury-riddled 2004, a season that saw the Aztecs finish 4-13-2, SDSU comes into 2005 with a ton of experience and most importantly, in good health.

Returning for the Aztecs are senior co-captains Matt Couch and Heath Creager. Couch, a defender, is the top returning points leader and goal scorer from last season's squad. A three-year letterman,



Heath Creager

Couch will be looked upon to lead.

"Matt Couch will be a leader for us and is one of the best players in the country," Kirshner said. "We are really looking at him to lock down his center back position."

Creager, a two-year letterman and two-time all-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation selection, enters the year second among returning point leaders and goal scorers from 2004. In addition, Creager led the team in goals (seven) and points (16) in 2003.

"We are going to look for Heath Creager to be in an attacking role this season," Kirshner said. "He is our co-captain and our leading goal scorer from two years ago. He is going to be a cornerstone on our squad."

Joining Couch and Creager on the captain line is Raul Bautista. The junior is coming off a season in which he was just one of the many who was lost for the year after

"We are very excited about moving into the Pac-10, one of the top conferences in the country."

-Lev Kirshner

suffering a preseason injury. Despite not playing in 2004, Bautista enters the campaign having scored four goals and earning MPSF tournament team accolades after guiding the Aztecs to the semifinals back in 2003.

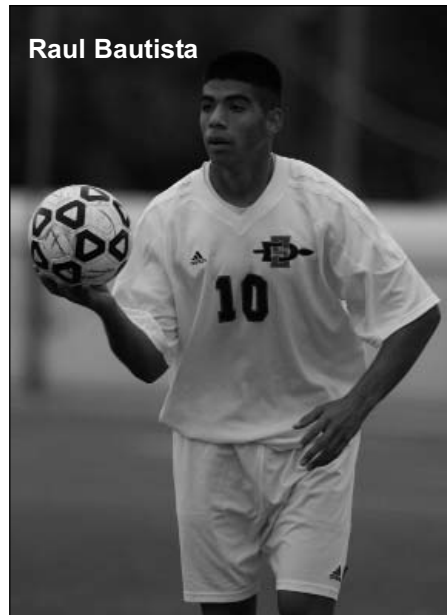
"Bautista will be the heart and soul of this squad in the central midfield. He was desperately missed last year and was one of the reasons why we had the season we had," Kirshner said. "Raul's return is going to be a huge asset to us as he showed in the spring when he was healthy and capable of playing."

In addition to the team's three captains, the Aztecs have a solid presence in net in Tally Hall. The junior from Washington has had two seasons to his credit, including a 2004 campaign in which he played every minute in goal. Kirshner is looking for Hall to have a breakout year.

"Tally Hall has been tremendous for us the last two seasons," Kirshner said. "He has two years of experience under his belt and should be a cultured and calming force in goal for us. Tally is just another in a long line of great goalkeepers to come out of our Aztec lineage."

Even with the abundance of experienced players returning, Kirshner, who believes that this is the most talented team

Raul Bautista



he has seen as a coach at SDSU, expects his 2005 incoming class to have a large impact on the season.

One of the jewels of this season's recruiting class is transfer Johann Helgason. The sophomore comes to Montezuma Mesa from a Boston College team that advanced to the round of 16 at the 2004 NCAA tournament. He brings an impressive resume, something that excites Kirshner.

"Helgason is a proven player from Boston College, who has been a starter on his U-17 and U-19 Icelandic National Team," Kirshner said. "Last year he was Boston College's assist leader and finished third on the team in points. He started all 20 games on a team that went to the round of 16. As far as incoming players, Johann tops the list because he has already shown he can play at this level."

Ahead for the Aztecs is what Kirshner describes as one of the best schedules in the country. With the addition of the 10 Pac-10 games to the schedule, SDSU has a tough, but welcoming task in front of it.

"The strength of schedule is going to be excellent. Every team we are playing is one of the top ones in their respective conferences," Kirshner said. "The diversity in the teams we are playing, the non-region opponents, in addition to our regional opponents, is excellent. Once again, we continue to put together one of the best schedules in the country."

"The season is going to be a very exciting one, a very challenging one, and we are certainly looking forward to it."

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Matt Couch



many goals from his midfield position, something that encouraged the coaching staff. Chiles, after playing in all 20 games in 2003, is coming off an injury that took away his 2004 campaign.

Those who will also be looked upon to contribute are junior Nick Clemens, sophomore David Dally and redshirt freshman Nick Collins.

The highly touted Helgason will be counted on to have the kind of year he had at Boston College last season and freshman Dennis Sanchez, an excellent passer, will also get a look in midfield.

"Midfield will be an absolute battle," Kirshner stated. "There is going to be fierce competition for positions."

Defenders

The backline is loaded with potential. Couch will be the centerpiece and the Aztecs have something they have not had in awhile and that is depth. When healthy, the sky is the limit, as the unit showed last spring. This season, Clemens, a tenacious defender, will get a shot at center back after learning the intricacies of the position at a quick rate during the spring season.

"Nick is a workman-like, tenacious defender who always gives us an honest effort. He is also a great leader in the back," Kirshner said.

The team will also welcome Ryan Reott, a junior college transfer who red-shirted last year. Reott's contributions are immeasurable as he brings many of the intangibles to the field. When in the lineup, the team played significantly better than when he was not.

Also returning is Eric Santiago, another candidate to get the final starting spot and Robbie Diaz, who played in 17 games in 2004.

Kirshner believes the incoming talent will push the veterans and have an impact right away.

Part of the aforementioned depth will feature freshmen Aaron Pinckney, who was in the under-18 U.S. national team pool, Danny Ortiz, Matt McManus and UC Santa Barbara transfer and 2004 NCAA tournament finalist Charles Anderson.

"There is going to be a great deal of competition back there," Kirshner noted.

Goalkeepers

In goal will be last year's staple, Hall. As a sophomore, Hall played every minute and will be counted on to log the majority of the minutes this year. Last season, he posted a goals against average of 1.73, while making 88 saves, good for fifth-most in Aztec season history.

Backing up Hall is Ryan Bowie, a red-shirt freshman who gained valuable knowledge from Hall and assistant coach Matt Hall. The third goalie in the mix is transfer Luis Trejo out of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and De Anza College. He will shore up the goalkeeping situation and provide experience should Kirshner call him into duty.

Below is a position-by-position breakdown.

Forwards

The forward line will be an interesting one for the Aztecs. Besides Creager leading the way, SDSU will rely heavily on its younger players. Freshmen Cameron Brinitzer, Omar Persad, Jamel Wallace and Kevin Werbner will all have an opportunity to play immediately.

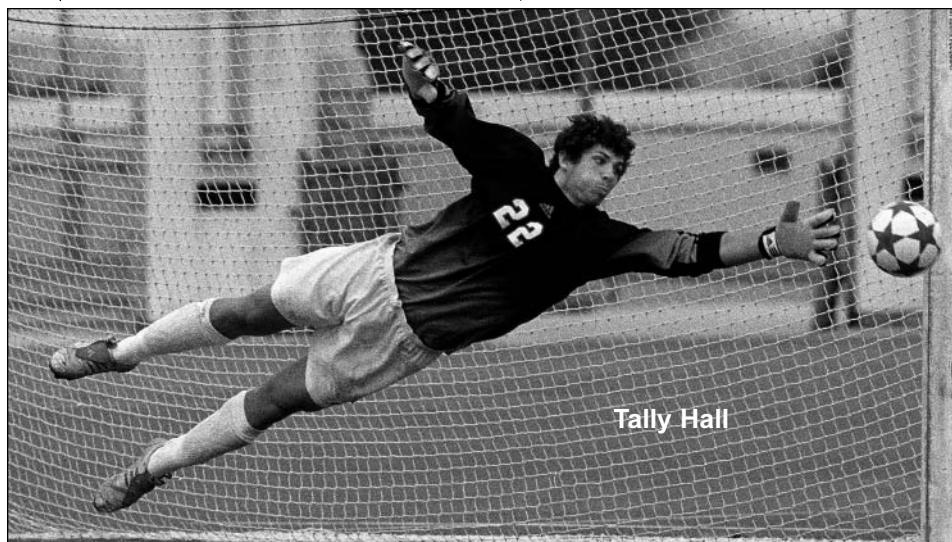
Despite the youth, Kirshner fully expects his young players to contribute from the outset.

"We are really expecting one of our younger players to come in and take care of goal scoring and goal creating. We have two players (Persad and Werbner) coming in with under-16 national team experience, as well as Jamel Wallace, the San Diego player of the year and an EA Sports All-American."

Midfielders

Bautista will anchor the midfield and be an integral part of the team's success. Behind Bautista will be a handful of talented players who will vie for playing time.

Returning from last year's squad is junior Andrew DiCicco and sophomore Kraig Chiles. DiCicco finished the regular and spring season on a strong note and was able to score



Tally Hall

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SDSU MEN'S SOCCER

LEV KIRSHNER HEAD COACH SIXTH YEAR RUTGERS '91



Entering his sixth season at the helm of the SDSU men's soccer program, Lev Kirshner has steered the Aztecs into position to return to the national spotlight.

In 2001, Kirshner's second season, the Aztecs were in contention for the conference title and finished the year 7-9-1 overall against some of the country's best teams.

Kirshner had his squad prepared for a return to national prominence in 2002, but the team was not able to recover from a rash of injuries at the beginning and throughout the season.

The 2003 season, however, brought SDSU its first winning campaign since 1994, going 9-8-3. Last year, the injury bug once again bit the Aztecs before the season started. By the time mid-season rolled around, SDSU was without six of its key starters.

This year, the team begins a new era in the Pac-10 Conference and will be seeking its seventh NCAA tournament berth.

Kirshner has continued to put SDSU in a position to win by bringing in a nationally recognized recruiting class. No stranger to winning, Kirshner has a mold and a style that his players have bought into; one that has shown proven results on the field.

Before coming to SDSU, Kirshner coached the women of Cañada College (Redwood City, Calif.) from 1992-95. During that time, he took a team that had never won a conference game prior to his arrival and led it to a 16-1-3 record and a trip to the California state quarterfinals his third year. For his efforts, he was named the Coast Conference coach of the year. He also served as the men's assistant at Cañada and helped with their run to the state quarterfinals in 1992 and 1994.

From there, he 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 last place league finish the previous season to a No. 15 state ranking in his first year.

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

Kirshner's philosophy is 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."

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

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 round of 16 at the 1996 NCAA tournament and a No. 13 national ranking.

As a player at Rutgers, Kirshner guided the program to a 1987 NCAA quarterfinal appearance, a 1989 NCAA semifinal loss to eventual champion Virginia and a runner-up finish to UCLA in the 1990 championship match. He received his undergraduate degree in communication in 1991, and is listed as one of the 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, the only squad to defeat eventual gold-medalist Brazil.

Kirshner was selected to coach the U.S. Maccabiah Pan-American U-20 soccer team in December 2003, winning a bronze medal. This past summer, Kirshner led the national Maccabiah team to a second-place finish. Kirshner and his assistant became only the second and third members of the U.S. to have won two medals in Maccabiah action. The squad also earned the tournament's "Fair Play" Award, which is given to the team that exhibited the best sportsmanship.

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

Kirshner keeps in tune with the west coast's most talented soccer products by working with the Region IV Olympic Development Program (ODP) and lending his knowledge to some of the country's finest young players. He served as the interim head coach of the national runner-up West team during the 2001 U.S. regional championship and also served as an assistant coach during the team's undefeated April 2002 tour of Australia.

He worked as both an assistant and head coach with the Northern California ODP U-23 men's team during 1995-96. He led those squads to consecutive Western Regional championships and 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 gives back to the local soccer community through his involvement with the Hotspurs Soccer Club, for which he was the director of soccer operations in 2002.

Kirshner owns a USSF A-License, which is the highest license attainable for soccer coaches in the U.S. He also 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 the North Coast Section (NCS) finals twice. During his senior season, he led his squad to its first league title en route to the NCS semifinals, where it fell to De La Salle on penalty kicks. In addition to winning the league title, the three-time all-league selection was the leading point-getter all four years and was the assist leader his sophomore season. 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.

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



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

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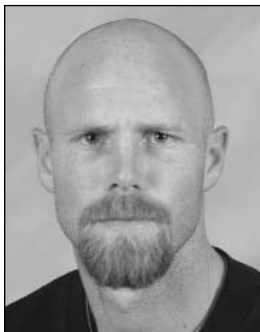
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MATT HALL

ASSISTANT COACH
SIXTH YEAR
SAN DIEGO '01



Matt Hall enters his sixth season as an assistant with the San Diego State men's soccer program and his primary duties are coordinating the team's recruiting and working with the goalkeepers.

With Hall's assistance, three different Aztec keepers have earned postseason all-MPSF honors in the last five years. Under Hall's direction, Brian Barnes set the school's single season saves record in both 2000 and 2002. Barnes recorded 90 saves in 2000 and 98 saves in his final season.

Hall is a familiar face to SDSU soccer fans, having spent three years (1996-98) defending the Aztecs' net and beginning the Aztecs' 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 listed second on SDSU's career saves list with 213.

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 strong professional career, playing with 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. He resides in San Diego with his wife Kelli.

OSCAR RODRIGUEZ

ASSISTANT COACH
FIRST YEAR
SAN DIEGO STATE '01



Oscar Rodriguez enters his first season as assistant coach at San Diego State after spending the past 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 as director of soccer operations. His duties included being responsible for all administrative and organizational facets of the program.

When not assisting the men's soccer team, Rodriguez is busy working as a fireman for the city of San Diego.

KYLE SMITH

ASSISTANT COACH
SECOND YEAR
SANTA CLARA '99



Kyle Smith enters his second season as an assistant coach at San Diego State.

Smith started his playing career at San Diego State in 1996, before transferring to the Santa Clara for three seasons (1997-1999), splitting time at defender and midfielder.

While on Montezuma Mesa, Smith was a teammate of current assistant coach Matt Hall in 1996. Smith saw action in 15 games, receiving the start in nine of those contests and scoring one goal in the process.

At Santa Clara, Smith helped the Broncos advance to the College Cup twice, reaching the national title match in 1999. He is a two-time all-West Coast Conference honorable mention selection and was named the 1999 Diadora Classic MVP. Smith played in 60 career matches, starting 58 of them.

In 2001, Smith joined the Seattle Sounders professional team out of the A-League in the United Soccer League. He showed himself to be an offensive force when he led the 2003 team in scoring with 19 points in 27 games. When not playing professionally, Smith was the head coach of two programs, the Evergreen Soccer Academy and Mercury Soccer Club.

The San Jose native makes his home in San Diego, where he lives with his wife Colleen and soon-to-be daughter Kaylee.



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