

sdsu water polo



page
3

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water polo

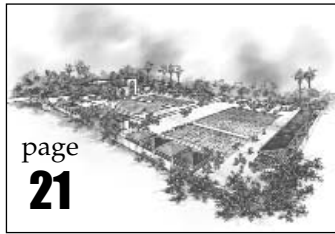
Table of Contents1
2006 Team Roster1
Season Outlook2
Coaching Staff3
Meet The Aztecs4-9



page
4

program
history

2005 Review10
All-time Honors ..11-12
All-time Records13
All-time Results14-15
Letterwinners16
Harper Cup17



page
21

the
university

The University18
SDSU Academics19
SDSU Leadership20
SDSU Aquaplex21
Aztec Facilities22
Aztec Culture23
City of San Diego24

► General Information

LocationSan Diego, Calif.
Founded1897
Enrollment35,887
NicknameAztecs
ColorsScarlet and Black
ConferenceMountain Pacific Sports Federation
PresidentDr. Stephen L. Weber
Director of AthleticsJeff Schemmel
Faculty RepresentativeDr. Roger Caves
Senior Woman AdministratorKathy Van Wyk

► Women's Water Polo Team Information

Head Coach ...Carin Crawford (UCSD '89), 8th year
Assistant Coach .Allison Gregory (SDSU '00), 1st year
Volunteer Coach .Alexis Muecke (UC Davis '02), 1st year
Water Polo Office Phone(619) 594-0649
Home FacilityThe Salvation Army Kroc Center
2005 Record (MPSF)16-18 (3-9)
2005 Final National RankingNo. 11
Letterwinners Returning/Lost10/4

► 2006 Team Roster

No.	Player	Year	Position	Height	Hometown (Previous School)
1	Sarah Kilgore	Jr.	G	5-8	Rossmoor, Calif. (Los Alamitos HS)
1A	Heather Fenske	So.	G	5-10	Lompoc, Calif. (Lompoc HS)
2	Cia Cobb	Sr.	U	5-9	Yorba Linda, Calif. (Long Beach CC)
3	Savanah Kelley	Sr.	U	5-8	Modesto, Calif. (Johansen HS)
4	Stacy Werner	Jr.	U	5-11	Lodi, Calif. (Lodi HS)
5	Elana Cervantes	Jr.	U	5-11	Davis, Calif. (Davis HS)
6	Ashling Taylor	Fr.	2M	5-11	Newport Beach, Calif. (Newport Harbor HS)
7	Rachel Serna	Sr.	DR	5-6	Coronado, Calif. (Coronado HS)
8	Erin Lester	Fr.	DR	5-2	Lake Forest, Calif. (El Toro HS)
9	Anna Gonzales	Fr.	2MD	5-11	Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West HS)
10	Susan Stivers	Sr.	DR	5-4	El Cajon, Calif. (El Cajon Valley HS)
11	Ashley McCullum	Jr.	2MD	5-10	Poway, Calif. (Univ. of Michigan)
12	Cassie Zebisch	Sr.	2M	5-9	Anaheim Hills, Calif. (Long Beach CC)
13	Jenna Schuster	Fr.	U	5-10	Upland, Calif. (Upland HS)
14	Erinn Greenwood	Fr.	2MD	5-10	Clovis, Calif. (Buchanan HS)
15	Lacy Luehrs	Fr.	2MD	5-9	Kahuku, Hawaii (Kahuku HS)
16	Nicole Louie	Fr.	DR	5-6	Santa Barbara, Calif. (Santa Barbara HS)
17	Becca Ur	So.	2M	6-1	Lompoc, Calif. (Cabrillo HS)
18	Jessica Pace	Fr.	DR	5-4	Santee, Calif. (Santana HS)
19	Catie Boswell	Fr.	U	5-8	Ventura, Calif. (Ventura HS)
20	Patty Halmay	Jr.	2M	5-7	Lakeside, Calif. (Grossmont College)
21	Jamie Vessey	Fr.	DR	5-3	Redlands, Calif. (Redlands HS)
22	Rachel Rife	Jr.	DR	5-6	Rocklin, Calif. (Sierra College)
23	Bekah Rife	Jr.	DR	5-6	Rocklin, Calif. (Sierra College)

► Media Information

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► Aztecs On The Internet

For the most up-to-date information on San Diego State water polo, check out the official web site of Aztecs athletics at www.goaztecs.com. News releases, updated statistics, results, game recaps and player profiles can be found on the water polo page.

AZTECS WATER POLO

Media Relations Office

The San Diego State University athletic department would like to welcome members of the media in their coverage of the San Diego State water polo program. We hope this media guide will be useful in your coverage of San Diego State.

If you have any questions this season, please feel free to contact the San Diego State media relations office.

Credits

The 2006 San Diego State University water polo media guide is a product of the Aztec media relations office. The publication was written, edited and designed by media relations assistant Darin Wong. Covers were designed by Darin Wong.

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San Diego State water polo would like to thank TYR and Reef for their support.





season outlook

AZTECS WATER POLO

Like every season, the San Diego State women's water polo team enters its 12th year with high expectations. All signs point toward a successful season with 77 percent of last year's scoring returning, a seasoned group of players and one of the best recruiting classes in recent memory stepping foot on Montezuma Mesa this year.

Finishing atop the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, arguably the toughest conference in America, and earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament will be no easy task. But with 12 players coming back from last year, the odds are definitely in the Aztecs' favor.

"With a solid core of experienced returners and probably our best recruiting class in years, we will be aiming to finish at the top of the MPSF and make the NCAA field," said eighth-year head coach Carin Crawford.

"Our team has speed, size and strength down the middle," Crawford said. "We have improved our depth significantly and have experience in all the key positions to be a threat in all aspects of the game, from forcing turnovers on defense, pushing the tempo in the counter-attack and into the front court offense."

Leading the way for the Aztecs offensively is 2005 All-America selection senior Rachel Serna. The Coronado, Calif., native is coming off a sea-

son in which she tallied 65 goals, the eighth-highest single-season mark in San Diego State history and is a scoring threat whenever she is in the pool.

Classmate Savannah Kelley brings a wealth of experience as she has only missed four games in her first three seasons. After being primarily a two-meter defender early in her career, the senior co-captain has turned into an exceptional all-around player who is able to contribute at any position.

Other key returning letterwinners are senior Susan Stivers and juniors Elana Cervantes and Stacy Werner.

Stivers, a local product out of El Cajon, Calif., is a driver who has seen action in her previous three seasons and provides experience and senior leadership in and out of the pool. Last year, she tallied 15 goals and 14 assists and will be counted on to produce the same numbers this season.

Cervantes enters her third season after putting her mark on the school record book in 2005. The junior tied the Aztec record with her five assists against UC Santa Barbara and ended the season atop the school's single-season assist chart with 56. She also added 35 goals, third-most on the team in 2005.

Werner, like Cervantes, is coming off a strong season in which she also tied the Aztec record for assists in a game. The Lodi, Calif., native had an exceptional season last year as she tallied 36 goals, 33 assists and 53 steals. SDSU will be expecting more of the same this year from both juniors as it vies for a berth in the postseason.

Anchoring the defense will be a pair of experienced letterwinners in senior Cia Cobb and junior Ashley McCullum along with two game-ready freshmen in Anna Gonzales and Erinn Greenwood.

"Our defenders are the backbone of our team," said Crawford. "We are talented and deep at the position and we expect to score goals in transition due to our defense this season."

Two-meter offense, led by senior Cassie Zebisch, is another strong area for the Aztecs. A year ago, Zebisch played in 28 games, drew 26 ejections and completed a great off-season.

"Cassie is playing the best water polo of her career right now and I am looking forward to a strong senior season from her," said Crawford of her co-captain.

Sophomore Becca Ur and freshman Ashling Taylor are two others who will see plenty of action. Last year, Ur played in 30 games, drew a team-high 63 ejections and scored 15 goals.

"Our two-meter players are the core of the offense. They are all scoring threats, but each has a unique and different set of strengths and tendencies," Crawford said. "Becca and Ashling are two of the top center players in the collegiate



Senior Rachel Serna returns after a 2005 season that saw her score 65 goals en route to earning All-America honors.

game and it is very exciting to have such young talent in the program."

In goal for San Diego State will be junior Sarah Kilgore, who is coming off an outstanding sophomore campaign. She made 225 saves, third-most in Aztec history, in her first year as a starter.

"Sarah Kilgore knows the game well," Crawford said. "Her steady demeanor and vocal style of play helps the defense all the way through to the transition game."

Also competing for time in net is sophomore Heather Fenske. She saw action last year and will provide tremendous depth at the goalkeeper position.

As noted before, the recruiting class is one of the best in recent memory with a number expected to compete immediately. In addition to Gonzales and Taylor, both members of the USA Junior Team, and Greenwood, expect Jenna Schuster to make an impact right away.

Other freshmen to look out for this season are drivers Erin Lester, Nicole Louie and San Diego area native Jessica Pace.

"We have some amazing young talent in the program this season with 13 newcomers," Crawford said. "These young players are the foundation for the future."

With the experience returning this year coupled with the program's new faces, the foundation is set not only for 2006, but for the future as well.



Senior co-captains Savannah Kelley (left) and Cassie Zebisch (right) will try to guide the Aztecs to the NCAA tournament this season.