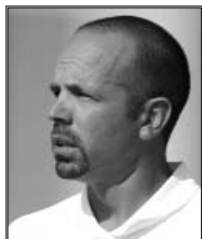




HEAD COACH



LEV KIRSHNER

**Head Coach
Seventh Season
Rutgers, 1991**

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

Backed by a move to the competitive Pac-10 Conference, the addition a nationally ranked recruiting class and the return of seven starters, Kirshner led SDSU to a 9-4-6 record, its best mark since 1991, and a trip to its first NCAA tournament since 1989.

Although the Aztecs fell on the road to UC Santa Barbara, 2-0, in the first round of the tournament, Aztec soccer is back.

Kirshner's disciplined approach 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, goalkeeper Tally 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 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 building programs.

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

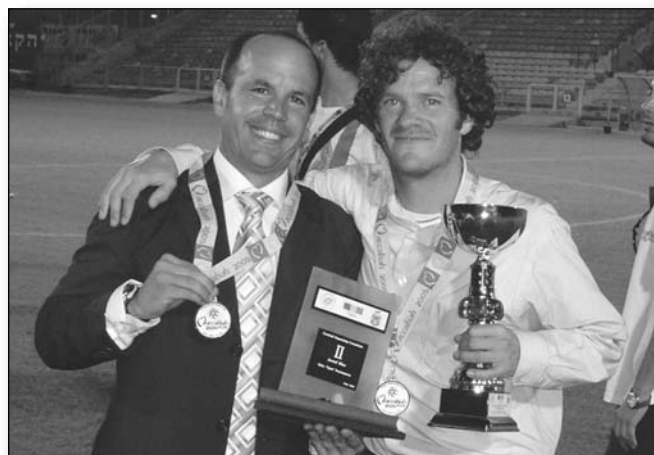
As a player at Rutgers, Kirshner guided the program to a 1987 NCAA quarterfinal appearance, a 1989 NCAA semifinal loss to eventual champion Virginia and a runner-up finish to UCLA in the 1990 championship match. He received his undergraduate degree in communication in 1991, and is listed as one of the program's top 25 alums.

"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 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 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, winning a bronze medal in Santiago, Chile. In the summer of 2005, Kirshner led the national Maccabiah team to a second-place finish. Kirshner and his assistant became only the second and third members of the



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





HEAD COACH/ASSISTANT COACH

INTRODUCTION

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

REVIEW

HISTORY

THIS IS SDSU



U.S. to have won two medals in Macabiah action. The squad also earned the tournament's "Fair Play" Award, which is given to the team that exhibited the best sportsmanship.

Kirshner keeps in tune with the west coast's most talented soccer products after working with the Region

IV Olympic Development Program (ODP) for many years. 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.

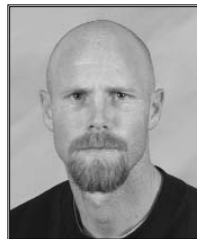
He worked as both an assistant and head coach with the Northern California ODP U-23 men's team during 1995-96. He led those squads to consecutive Western Regional championships and a third-place finish at the 1995 Donnelly Cup. He also won a Western Regional title with the under-15 ODP Northern California 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.



MATT HALL

**Assistant Coach
Seventh Season
San Diego, 2001**

Matt Hall enters his seventh 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.

Under Hall's guidance last season, Tally Hall became the first SDSU goalkeeper to ever earn All-America honors and the first Aztec to be nationally recognized since 1989 (Marcelo Balboa). Hall 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 marks are school records.

With Hall's assistance, four different SDSU keepers have earned postseason all-conference honors in the last six years, including Tally Hall's selection to the all-Pacific-10 Conference first team in 2005.

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 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 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.





ASSISTANT COACHES/COACHING STAFF



OSCAR RODRIGUEZ

**Assistant Coach
Second Season
San Diego State, 2001**

Oscar Rodriguez enters his second season as 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 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.



KEVIN SAPANLI

**Assistant Coach
Second Season
San Diego State, 2006**

Kevin Sapanli enters his second season as an assistant coach after playing for head coach Lev Kirshner and the Aztecs for three seasons (2000-01, 03).

In his three years on The Mesa, Sapanli registered 15 goals and seven assists for 37 points. For his efforts, he was named second-team all-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in both 2001 and 2003.

In 2001, Sapanli became the first Aztec since 1988 (Kyle Whittemore) to be named an Academic All-American and he won the award again in 2003.

An extensive traveler in Europe, Sapanli speaks five languages - English, Spanish, Turkish, Croatian and Italian.

Sapanli graduated in 2006 with a major in international business with emphasis in Spanish and finance, and a minor in Italian.

He currently resides in Pacific Beach.



KYLE SMITH

**Dir. of Soccer Operations
Third Season
Santa Clara, 1999**

Kyle Smith enters his second season as the director of operations and third season overall at San Diego State. Smith was an assistant coach in his first season at SDSU.

Smith started his playing career at San Diego State in 1996, before transferring to 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 daughter Kaylee.



INTRODUCTION

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

REVIEW

HISTORY

THIS IS SDSU

