



Head Coach Kathy Van Wyk

**AZTEC COACHING STAFF**

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# Kathy Van Wyk

**Head Coach**  
**11th season at SDSU**  
**11th season overall**  
**Record: 332-252-1 (.568)**  
**CS Fullerton, 1983**



- ▶ **Two-time MWC Coach of the Year (2002, '06)**
- ▶ **Three NCAA tournament appearances**
- ▶ **One All-American**
- ▶ **15 NFCA all-West Region selections**
- ▶ **30 all-conference honorees (28 in MWC)**
- ▶ **Five MWC Pitcher of the Year awards**
- ▶ **Three MWC Freshman of the Year awards**
- ▶ **51 Player of the Week winners (46 in MWC)**

Kathy Van Wyk, San Diego State's all-time winningest coach, has transformed the Aztec softball program into not just a West Coast power, but a team that annually competes with the best nationally. Under her guidance, SDSU has become perennial Mountain West Conference champions, and in 2001, came within a hair's-length of its first-ever Women's College World Series berth.

Prior to Van Wyk's inaugural head coaching season in 1997, the San Diego State softball program had losing records in 18 of its previous 20 years. SDSU boasted just a .413 winning percentage up to that point with a 400-569-5 record.

Things are different now.

Under Van Wyk's leadership, the Aztecs have won three of the last six (2002, 2003, 2006) Mountain West Conference regular-season titles, advanced to the NCAA tournament three times in the past six seasons, including regional runner-up finishes in 2001 and 2006, and compiled a .600 or higher winning percentage in five of the last six campaigns. SDSU has improved its winning percentage in six of the last eight seasons and have been .500 or better in eight of Van Wyk's 10 years.

Van Wyk is also the first Aztec softball coach to achieve a top-25 ranking, two 40-win seasons and is the fastest to both 100 and 200 career wins in the history of the program.

Under Van Wyk's guidance, the Aztecs had their best season in school history

in 2006 with a 34-15 record, culminating with a runner-up finish to host UCLA in the NCAA Regional. En route to its third MWC regular season championship in the last six seasons, SDSU set numerous team records including winning percentage (.694), conference winning percentage (.833), home winning percentage (.769), road winning percentage (.692), most Mountain West Conference victories (15), and its 13-game winning streak was tied for the longest in school history.

In addition, despite playing only 49 games (SDSU typically plays around 60 games), the Aztecs set program records in batting average (.293), runs (234), home runs (27), RBI (213), slugging percentage (.410), walks (161) and on-base percentage (.379).

Also, SDSU was ranked as high as No. 24 in the nation by ESPN/USA Softball, its highest ranking ever and, on April 26, boasted an RPI rating of 17th in the nation out of 275 schools.

Under Van Wyk's tutelage, sophomore Erin Floros became the first All-American in Aztec history last year when she was named to the Easton-Bell Sports first team. She was also a third-team selection by Louisville Slugger/NFCA and earned MWC Freshman-of-the-Year honors. Transfer Christina Ross garnered MWC Pitcher-of-the-Year accolades, and Floros and Ross were joined on the all-conference team by Monica Alnes, Meagan Hartung and Celena Velasquez.

Her accomplishments were rewarded when she was named the 2006 MWC





Coch of the Year for the second time in her career. Van Wyk earned 2002 MWC Coach of the Year honors after leading SDSU to its second 40-win campaign (41-22-1) and a regular season MWC championship.

In her 10 seasons on The Mesa, Van Wyk has coached 15 NFCA all-West Region selections, including Floros and Ross in 2006, 30 all-conference members (28 MWC), 16 (15 MWC) all-conference tournament performers and 35 (28 MWC) academic all-league selections. In addition, she has had players earn pitcher or player of the week honors on 51 occasions (44 MWC).

Van Wyk's players also were tabbed MWC Pitcher-of-the-Year honors four consecutive years (2001-04) and last season (2006). Aztecs were named MWC Freshman of the Year two straight seasons (2002-03) and in 2006.

She won her 200th game in memorable fashion on Feb. 15, 2003, when catcher Amber Grahlman's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth scored first baseman Jacque Vaca, giving the Aztecs a 2-1 victory over No. 4 Michigan in the Campbell/Cartier Classic.

When SDSU softball first baseman Lacey Craft finished off a ground-ball double play and the Buffalo Bulls for a 6-0 victory on March 21, 2004, Van Wyk won her 254th career game, more than any Aztec softball coach.

In the Campbell-Cartier Classic last season, Christina Ross, making her first start as an Aztec, pitched a complete game five-hit shutout, striking out five to give SDSU a 1-0 victory over Massachusetts to give Van Wyk her 300th career coaching victory.

Prior to San Diego State, Van Wyk spent 10 seasons as a player and an assistant coach at Cal State Fullerton. She was an assistant coach from 1983-87, helping the Titans to the 1986 NCAA national title.

After leaving Fullerton, she became a pitching instructor at the Rod Carew Baseball School in Anaheim, Calif., from 1987-89.

In 1989, she moved to Azzano Decimo, Italy, where she was the head coach and pitcher for the Azzanese club. She guided a team that had recorded just one win the previous season to its first playoff berth.

From January to March 1990, she was the pitching coach for the Walkerville

Softball Club in Adelaide, Australia. She then returned to CS Fullerton as an assistant for the 1991 season.

In addition to coaching the Aztec softball team, she was the pitching coach for the Dutch national team leading up to and during the 1998 World Championships in Japan.

As a player, Van Wyk established herself as one of the top pitchers in the history of collegiate softball, enjoying a phenomenal 1982 season with a 35-1 mark and a 0.18 ERA. The victories remain a school single-season record and her .972 winning percentage was an NCAA Division I record (30 or more decisions) until 2001 when Jennie Finch of Arizona went 32-0. Her ERA is still eighth-best in Division I history and her 33-game winning streak remains a record for consecutive victories. Her phenomenal season included four no-hitters, six one-hitters, back-to-back perfect games, 27 shutouts (sixth most in NCAA history in a single season) and 270 strikeouts.

Throughout her career, she won numerous awards, including All-America honors and the Broderick Award, which is given annually to the nation's top collegiate player. She was also named the WCAA Player of the Year, Orange County Athlete of the Month and won an NCAA postgraduate scholarship with a 3.43 grade-point average. Van Wyk was a member of the U.S. softball team in 1985 and 1989 and is a five-time Amateur Softball Association All-American.

Van Wyk began her collegiate playing career at Texas Women's University, where she garnered 1979 Texas AIAW Player of the Year accolades and is a member of the TWU Hall of Fame. She transferred to CS Fullerton in 1981 after TWU dropped its softball program.

A 1983 graduate of CS Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in physical education, Van Wyk completed her master's degree in education in 1993 at Azusa Pacific.

**VAN WYK YEAR-BY-YEAR**

YEAR	OVERALL				CONFERENCE			
	W	L	T	PCT	CONF	W	L	PCT.
1997	30	30	0	.500	WAC	14	18	.438
1998	24	35	0	.407	WAC	14	17	.452
1999	24	24	0	.500	WAC	16	8	.667
<b>WAC</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.467</b>	<b>3-YRS</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>.506</b>
2000	35	27	0	.565	MWC	13	7	.650
2001	41	25	0	.621	MWC	10	8	.556
2002	41	22	1	.648	MWC	14	4	.778
2003	39	21	0	.650	MWC	12	3	.800
2004	37	23	0	.617	MWC	14	6	.700
2005	27	30	0	.474	MWC	4	16	.200
2006	34	15	0	.694	MWC	15	3	.833
<b>MWC</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.609</b>	<b>7-YRS</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>.636</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.568</b>	<b>10-YRS</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>.583</b>

**COACHING CAREER**

- Assistant Coach, Cal State Fullerton (1983-87, 91-94)
- Pitching Instructor, Rod Carew Baseball School (1987-89)
- Head Coach/Player, Azzanese (Italy) (1989)
- Pitching Coach, Walkerville Softball Club (Adelaide, Australia) (1990)
- Co-Head Coach, San Diego State (1995-96)
- Dutch National Team, Pitching Coach (1996)
- Head Coach, San Diego State (1997-present)

**MILESTONE WINS**

- FIRST WIN AS CO-HEAD COACH:** vs. Saint Mary's (6-1), Feb. 12, 1995
- FIRST WIN AS HEAD COACH:** vs. San Diego (6-0), Feb. 14, 1996
- FIRST CONFERENCE WIN:** at UNLV (1-0), March 7, 1997
- FIRST NCAA TOURNEY WIN:** vs. Cal State Northridge (2-0), May 17, 2001
- 100TH WIN:** vs. CS Fullerton (1-0), April 9, 2000
- 200TH WIN:** vs. Michigan (2-1), Feb. 15, 2003
- SDSU RECORD 254TH WIN:** vs. Buffalo (6-0), March 21, 2004
- 300TH WIN:** vs. Massachusetts (1-0), Feb. 12, 2006



## Sara Hayes

**Assistant Coach**  
**1st season at SDSU**  
**Notre Dame, 1995**

Sara Hayes enters her first season as an assistant coach at San Diego State after spending the previous two years as the top assistant at Pacific. Hayes also has four years experience as a head coach, including a two-year stint at Indiana from 2003-04.

Hayes, who helped the University of the Pacific to its 11th consecutive winning season in 2006, came to The Mesa in late August. She will work primarily with the hitters, and will assist head coach Kathy Van Wyk in all aspects of coaching and recruiting.

"We are excited to add Sara to the Aztec staff," Van Wyk said. "She has a great deal of coaching experience at the college level, both as an assistant and as a head coach, and has done a tremendous job wherever she has been. She will be an excellent role model for our student-athletes and will represent San Diego State in the highest fashion."

Hayes, a native of nearby Rancho Sante Fe, Calif., has been the Tigers' top assistant coach for the past two seasons, helping the squad to a 56-50 record.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Aztec family," Hayes said. "San Diego State softball has such a rich tradition and I look forward to furthering the success of the program."

Prior to going to Pacific, Hayes served as the Hoosiers' head softball coach from 2003-04. She compiled a 51-62 overall record in her two years, including a 32-31 mark in 2004, the team's first winning campaign since 1996.

Hayes previously served as head coach at Northern Iowa from 2001-02, where she logged a 58-59 record. In 2002, she led the Panthers to their first winning season since 1998, and coached a third baseman to the program's first All-America first team selection.

As an assistant coach at DePaul from 1996-2000, Hayes helped lead the Blue Demons to a 265-101 (.742) record, five NCAA Regional appearances and two Women's College World Series (WCWS) bids, the first two WCWS trips in school history. She was part of the coaching staff that was named NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year in 1999 and NFCA Midwest Coaching Staff of the Year in 1998 and 2000.

As a player, Hayes was a standout at the University of Notre Dame as a catcher, third baseman and outfielder. She was the 1995 Midwestern Collegiate Conference Player of the Year and a three-time all-mideast region selection. Hayes was the Irish MVP as a junior and senior when the team earned trips to the NCAA regionals. She left Notre Dame as the school's all-time leader in 10 offensive categories and the holder of eight single-season school records. Hayes earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Notre Dame in 1995.



Sara Hayes



## Miranda Bleisch

**Assistant Coach**  
**2nd season at SDSU**  
**Point Loma Nazarene, 2004**

Miranda Bleisch, a native of Wassenaarr, Netherlands, is in her second season as an SDSU assistant coach. Bleisch, who has a wealth of international and collegiate experience under her belt, will once again work with the Aztec pitching staff and will assist in all aspects of recruiting.

Last season, Bleisch, the former Miranda van der Voort, helped the Aztecs' pitching staff record a conference-low ERA of 2.34. The staff went 34-15 in 2006, tossed nine shutouts and limited opponents to hit just .245. The staff struck out 286 batters while issuing only 62 walks, a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 4.6.

In addition, three Aztecs (Melissa Owens, Christina Ross and Celena Velasquez) earned MWC Pitcher of the Week honors and Ross was named the conference's pitcher of the year.

Bleisch was a standout at nearby Point Loma Nazarene and became one of the most dominant pitchers in Sea Lion history. Bleisch earned NAAIA first-team All-America honors in 2002 and was selected to the second team in 2003.

Bleisch ranks among the top five in Point Loma Nazarene history in ERA (1st, 0.81), wins (2nd, 46), strikeouts (3rd, 235) and innings pitched (4th), despite only playing two seasons for the Sea Lions. In her two years, she dominated opposing batters and swept all pitching awards both seasons, including GSAC Pitcher of the Year, all-GSAC and all-Region II.

In 2002, Bleisch went 26-3 with a 0.74 ERA. She also had 24 complete games and 117 strikeouts in 198.1 innings.

Prior to attending Point Loma Nazarene, Bleisch played two seasons at Southwestern Junior College.

Before coming to the states, Bleisch excelled internationally as well, competing for the Dutch National Team from 1997-99, and played for the team at the 1998 World Championships in Japan.

Bleisch, who majored in physical education at Point Loma Nazarene, is married to Robert, an all-state football player for San Jose State in the late 1980s. Miranda and Robert are proud parents of a one-year, 20-month old daughter, Hayleigh, and are expecting their second child in April.



Miranda Bleisch



## Wendell Richards

**Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach  
1st season at SDSU  
Appalachian State, 2001**

Wendell Richards is in his first season as the strength and conditioning coach for the Aztec softball team.

Richards came to San Diego State after nearly five years at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, where he was a graduate assistant from 2001-02, and an assistant strength and conditioning coach from 2002-06. He worked with the Vandals' women's basketball, women's soccer, golf, tennis, track and field and volleyball programs. In addition, Richards also assisted with football and men's basketball teams.

Prior to his stay in Idaho, the Broadalbin, N.Y. native first worked as an undergraduate strength coach at Appalachian State in Boone, N.C. As a senior, he focused primarily on men's tennis and assisted with the Mountaineers' 20 other varsity sports.

Richards, who is certified by the CSCCa, earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Appalachian State (2001) and a master's degree in physical education (2003) from the University of Idaho.



## Debra Flores

**Assistant Athletic Trainer  
2nd season at SDSU  
Fresno State, 2005**

Debra Flores is in her first season as the athletic trainer for the Aztec softball team after working with the volleyball squad in the fall and the men and women's tennis teams last spring.

Flores completed her undergraduate work at Fresno State in 2005, graduating with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. She is currently in the graduate program at San Diego State, working on her master's in kinesiology.

Flores worked with a variety of sports while she attended Fresno State, including football, softball and men's tennis.

A native of Phelan, Calif., Flores is a certified athletic trainer (NATABOC) and a first-aid/CPR instructor.

Flores, who is engaged to be married to Gunnar Avinelis in June, resides in Mira Mesa.



**Jenny Bramer**  
Associate A.D. -  
Senior Woman Administrator



**Chris Carlson**  
Director of Marketing and  
Ticket Sales



**Jamie McConeghy**  
Assistant Media Relations  
Director - Softball



**Dave Noll**  
Event Management Assistant



**Jessica Simmons**  
Academic Advisor - Softball





**Craig Thompson**

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**Becky Motchan**

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**THIS IS THE MOUNTAIN WEST**

From its inception in 1999, the Mountain West Conference has been committed to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, while promoting the academic missions of its member institutions. Progressive in its approach, the MWC continues to cultivate opportunities for student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while fostering academic achievement and sportsmanship. Now in its eighth year, the MWC has been assertive in its involvement with the NCAA governance structure and has taken a leadership role in the administration of intercollegiate athletics.

The Mountain West Conference is noted for its geographic diversity. Some of the most beautiful terrain and landscapes in the nation can be found within Mountain West Conference boundaries, including the majestic Rocky Mountain range, which borders four MWC schools (Utah, Brigham Young, Air Force and Colorado State). The high plains of Wyoming (elevation 7,220 feet – the highest Division I campus in the nation) contrast with the desert city of Las Vegas (the fastest growing metropolitan area in the West) and the Pacific Ocean locale of San Diego State. The southwestern flavor of New Mexico complements the western heritage and culture of Fort Worth, Texas, home of the MWC's newest member, TCU.

**HISTORY**

The Mountain West Conference was conceived on May 26, 1998, when the presidents of eight institutions — Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, New Mexico, San Diego State, UNLV, Utah and Wyoming — decided to form a new NCAA Division I-A intercollegiate athletic conference.

The split from the former 16-team conference re-established continuity and stability among the membership within the new league and signaled the continuation of its tradition-rich, long-standing athletic rivalries. Five of the MWC's eight original members have been conference rivals since the 1960s (BYU, Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado State), while San Diego State (1978) and Air Force (1980) were longtime members as well. UNLV entered the fold in 1996 and TCU began its first year of competition in 2005-06, completing the membership in the MWC as it stands today.

When the MWC officially began operations on July 1, 1999, the new league had in place a seven-year contract with ESPN, giving the broadcaster exclusive national television rights to MWC football and men's basketball; and three-year agreements to send the league's football champion to the Liberty Bowl and a second team to the Las Vegas Bowl. Thompson also arranged a third bowl tie-in each of the first three years (1999 Motor City, 2000 Silicon Valley, 2001 New Orleans) before securing a four-year deal with the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco in 2002. An innovator in the postseason bowl structure, the MWC engineered many "firsts," as league teams will have participated in four inaugural bowl games (2000 Silicon Valley, 2001 New Orleans, 2002 San Francisco (Emerald), 2005 Poinsettia Bowl),

as well as placing the first nonautomatic-qualifying BCS team into a BCS bowl game with Utah's appearance in the 2005 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

**2005-06 IN REVIEW**

The 2005-06 academic year concluded with several significant achievements in the sport of softball.

Despite only having six teams in the conference, the MWC sent three of them - San Diego State, Brigham Young and Utah - to the NCAA tournament for the first time in league history. The Aztecs and the Utes each advanced to their respective NCAA Regional final before falling to eventual Women's College World Series teams UCLA and Texas, respectively.

The MWC was also recognized nationally, as both San Diego State and Brigham Young were nationally ranked by one of the two polls during the season.

In addition, the MWC finished with an RPI rating, which measures the strength of a school and/or conference based on such factors as winning percentage and opponents' schedule, of No. 6 out of 31 collegiate conferences across the nation.

**EXPOSURE**

A new era began in the fall of 2006 as College Sports Television (CSTV) became the official television partner for the Conference. The MWC forged a potential 14-year agreement with CSTV, giving the fastest-growing independent cable network exclusive rights to Mountain West Conference football and men's basketball, plus coverage for all other MWC sports. With a "fans first" focus, CSTV has assured that MWC constituents will see more MWC sports at more convenient times and in more media platforms than ever before.

The agreement incorporates all conference related media and marketing rights, including all television, national over-the-air and satellite radio, video-on-demand, and online and broadband rights. The multimedia partnership also includes The mtn., the first-ever regional sports network dedicated solely to an intercollegiate athletic conference.

The MWC has remained steadfast in its mission to promote the league's athletic events to national and regional television audiences. ESPN served as the league's inaugural official television partner, while in-house productions guaranteed coverage for several MWC Olympic sports. Through the league's first seven years, excluding institutional local packages, 778 football, volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball events have aired on television, with 142 football games and over 115 men's basketball contests broadcast nationally. The MWC is the only conference to have televised all contests from its volleyball and women's basketball championships five of the past six years, while baseball, softball and women's soccer have had selected games from their respective championships televised in that span.

In 2007, several Aztec games have the chance to be broadcast on either the .mtn or CSTV.

**OPPORTUNITY**

The MWC provides a first-class athletic and academic experience for over 4,000 student-athletes each year. The past four years, 12 MWC studentathletes have earned NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, and since the league's inception in 1999, an additional 14 student-athletes were named MWC Student-Athlete of the Year and awarded league-sponsored postgraduate scholarships. Two student-athletes have earned distinction as Rhodes Scholars.

**ACHIEVEMENT**

The MWC has produced over 450 All-America selections among its 19 sponsored sports in the last seven years, including a league record 84 All-America honorees in 2004-05. Over 70 MWC student-athletes have also earned Academic All-America accolades. The MWC has sent at least 30 teams to NCAA postseason events each of the past seven years with women's basketball tallying 18 NCAA bids, four Sweet 16 appearances and one Elite Eight berth since 2000.

