

2007 OUTLOOK AND 2006 SEASON REVIEW



Andrew DiCicco (2003-06) had a career-high 14 points last season on five goals and four assists. He enters his first year as an assistant coach with

OUTLOOK AND REVIEW

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AZTEC SOCCER

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Following another successful season in which the San Diego State men's soccer team finished second in the Pac-10 and advanced the NCAA tournament in back-to-back years for the first time since 1988-89, one must ask what can the 2007 Aztecs do for an encore?

When you consider that SDSU has 18 letterwinners and seven starters returning, including four all-conference selections, and a second straight top-20 nationally ranked recruiting class, the Aztecs don't look to be leaving the national spotlight anytime soon.

San Diego State went 9-6-4 last season and 5-2-3 in the Pac-10 to finish second in only its second year in the league. Three of its nine victories came against nationally ranked opponents, including a sweep of the Pac-10 champion California and another win over No. 4 Washington.

The Aztecs nearly defeated eventual national champion UC Santa Barbara in the first round on the road before giving up two goals in the final 25 minutes in a 2-1 loss. It was the second consecutive season San Diego State made the tournament but fell on the road to the Gauchos.

"If before the 2006 season someone offered me a first round loss to the eventual national champion, I would have gladly taken that," eighth-year head coach Lev Kirshner said. "What ultimately transpired is that we thought we had a chance to go deep into the tournament and we showed that by leading (UC Santa Barbara) more than an hour into the match. There is a belief on this squad that we are better than a first round and out team. Our goal every year is to be a Pac-10 champion and a national champion."

Below is a position-by-position breakdown of the 2007 San Diego State men's soccer team:



Steve Beitashour

GOALKEEPERS

After losing two-time All-American, 2006 M.A.C. Hermann Trophy semifinalist and three-year starter Tally Hall to graduation, one might think that goalkeeping would be a major obstacle for San Diego State to climb in order to reach its third consecutive NCAA tournament.

Kirshner and assistant/goalkeeping coach Matt Hall, however, have a very strong seven-year track record that has seen Aztec goalkeepers garner all-conference accolades in each of the seven seasons.

"Our goalkeeping has never been an issue here," Kirshner said. "We have had postseason honors every single year that Matt (Hall) and I have been here. You lose a lot in Tally Hall as a human being and obviously his goalkeeping is something we will sorely miss, but we won't be deficient in goal. We will have very good goalkeeper again, the only concern is experience."

And a big concern it is considering each of the four goalkeepers - junior Ryan Bowie, junior Jorge Rosales, redshirt freshman Brad Byrns and true freshman Morgan Maestas - has not played a single minute at SDSU. Only Cañada junior transfer Rosales has seen college action.

"Ryan (Bowie) has been here and has put in his time," Kirshner said. "He will be the one who has to be beaten out, but the competitive level of our goalkeeping is going to create a fierce competition for the starting job."

DEFENDERS

With all four starters, three of whom garnered all-conference honors, returning from the No. 1 defense (fewest goals allowed) in the Pac-10, the SDSU defense has to be considered a major strength of the 2007 squad.

The Aztec backline gave up seven goals in conference play in 2005 to lead the Pac-10 and the following year yielded nine tallies with two sophomores and two freshmen manning the backfield.

"The great thing about this defense is all four starters return," Kirshner said. "We potentially have a backline that will play together for three years."

Sophomore Nick Cardenas anchors the defense after putting together one of the finest SDSU freshman seasons in recent memory. The 6-5 back was named a second-team NSCAA/adidas all-Far West selection and second-team all-Pac-10 pick in addition to being named the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year. A U.S. U-20 National Team Camp call-up, Cardenas tied for the team lead with six goals en route to earning *Top Drawer Soccer* all-rookie team honors and *College Soccer News* all-freshmen accolades.

"What Cardenas supplied us with was a proven ball-winner in the middle of our defense," Kirshner said. "What we're now getting from Nick is a more cultured player, one who makes better decisions with the soccer ball and one who reads the game quicker. Those things will make him a more influential player on our team."

Junior honorable mention all-Pac-10 performers



Dennis Sanchez

Dennis Sanchez and Danny Ortiz will also carry much of the load in the back. Sanchez, who started all 18 games he appeared in, had three assists, while Ortiz started 18 of 19 matches and contributed one assist.

"Dennis Sanchez has all the characteristics needed to win games," Kirshner said. "His drive, his effort and willingness to win at anything he does happens in every environment we put him in."

"Danny (Ortiz) is one of the best leaders we have in our program and he showed that last year as a sophomore by taking over an extremely young backline," Kirshner said. "Danny is a very good soccer player, but when you put his competitive drive and his ability to lead players together, he becomes an integral part of this program."

Another defender who Kirshner has high hopes for is redshirt sophomore Steve Beitashour. Beitashour started 10 times in 18 games, and saw playing time in both the midfield and backline.

"(Beitashour) is one young man who, the more he plays at a higher level, the better he is going to be," Kirshner said. "Athletically, he is capable of playing with any professional in this country. He has pace, he has strength, he has skill and he can play with both feet. Beita's growth is in playing more games to get a stronger tactical sense of the game."

MIDFIELDERS

Kirshner thinks the 2007 midfield corps could be the best of his seven-year tenure. With so many talented players to choose from, including two-time all-Pac-10 performer and senior co-captain Craig Chiles, Kirshner is faced with a minor problem. How does he find enough playing time for everybody?

"I think this is going to be the strongest and deepest midfield we have ever possessed," Kirshner said. "It is going to be extremely difficult to decide on our

NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

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

1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST



AZTEC SOCCER

2007 OUTLOOK

starters - one, because we are so talented and two, because our players are so much alike. It's going to come down to what kind of form they are in, whether they are healthy and how much pride they take in defending."

Chiles, who has led the team in scoring each of the past two seasons, returns after being the only Aztec to start all 19 games in 2006.

"Kraig (Chiles) has one of the best soccer minds we have in this program," Kirshner said. "His long-range shooting as well as his effective passing abilities are essential in keeping our team in a good rhythm. When Kraig is on the ball and creating plays, we are very difficult to beat."

Sophomore Evan Toft is another Aztec who will be given more responsibilities in his second season. Toft, a *Top Drawer Soccer* all-rookie team selection a year ago, had four assists, which tied with two others for most on the team.

"We brought Evan (Toft) (to SDSU) to make our attack that more dangerous and he did that in his freshman year," Kirshner said. "We'll look for that on a more consistent basis than he showed last season. He has that in him and I'm sure he will live up to our expectations and take on our challenge. That's just his character."

FORWARDS

With the loss of all-conference player Andrew DiCicco (five goals, four assists) to graduation, Kirshner admits if there is one question mark on the 2007 Aztecs, the forward line could be that.

"This is a spot that is going to be very important to our team," Kirshner said. "It is important is that we are attacking, creating chances and scoring goals. Whoever ends up being our leading scorer this year isn't important. There are a number of players within our program who are capable of doing that, but we really need a player to have a breakout season."

Senior co-captain and three-year starter Freddy McDonald is hoping to be that player, just one season after tallying a career-high three goals, including one in SDSU's 2-1 loss to eventual national champion UC Santa Barbara in the NAAs.

"Freddy has been a three-year starter here and is the model of what we are looking for in an Aztec soccer player," Kirshner said. "He has earned the arm band which is a very high honor within our program. With his intelligence and charisma, it was a natural fit to make him our captain. We expect him to score goals for us and lead the team from that spot."

Another forward who is expected to make a big jump this season is sophomore Daniel Ortega. Last season, Ortega scored twice and assisted on another, but it was his accuracy that might have been the most impressive. Sixty percent of Ortega's shots were on goal, the highest mark on the squad.

"(Daniel) Ortega is a very-gifted player who has the ability to do just about anything on the offensive side of the ball," Kirshner said. "He can strike balls with both feet and his greatest strength comes from his distance with power."



Daniel Ortega

Senior Matt Lemire had two assists in his first season on The Mesa after transferring from UMass. Kirshner, however, is optimistic that after a year of learning SDSU's style of play, he could be a bigger threat in 2007.

"Matt (Lemire) did a very good job for us last season but really found his form with us in the spring," Kirshner said. "I think he was just a bit overwhelmed with the learning curve coming from UMass. He is much more comfortable now."

With three career goals over two seasons and international experience from playing on the U-20 Jamaican National Team last January, junior Omar Persad could be ready for a breakthrough campaign

in 2007.

"We were very excited that Omar was able to represent his national team in the U-20 World Cup," Kirshner said. "He improved his attacking qualities and we hope this translates to more goals for us this upcoming season."

SCHEDULE

The Aztecs have once against put together one of the toughest schedules on the West Coast, including road contests against 2006 NCAA tournament participants Creighton, UCLA, Washington and California.

"We are excited for what will be another tough schedule," head coach Lev Kirshner said. "The strong non-conference portion will get us ready for the challenge of Pac-10 play."

SDSU will also play host to the second annual The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic in early September. The Aztecs, who won both their games at the inaugural classic a year ago, including a 1-0 overtime victory over NCAA tournament bound Rutgers, will face New Jersey Institute of Technology on Sept. 7, and then Farleigh Dickinson on Sept. 9.

In addition to The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic, San Diego State will participate in the UNLV Tournament in Las Vegas, Nev. The Aztecs will play games in back-to-back days on Sept. 21 versus Missouri State and Sept. 22 against Drake.

Arguably the biggest weekend for San Diego State will be its annual Alumni, Family and Friends Weekend on Oct. 6-7. The Aztecs welcome 2006 NCAA runner-up UCLA on Oct. 6, before playing in their annual alumni contest the following day (Oct. 7). This year, SDSU men's soccer will celebrate the 20-year anniversary of its 1987 NCAA runner-up squad.



NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES
1969, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2005, 2006
1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST



AZTEC SOCCER

2006 RESULTS / STATISTICS

RESULTS

Overall Record: 9-6-4 (Home: 8-1-1, Away: 1-5-3, Neutral: 0-0-0);
 Pac-10 Record: 5-2-3 (Home: 4-1-0, Away: 1-1-3, Neutral: 0-0-0)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Streak	Overall Record	Pac-10 Record	Shots SDSU-Opp.	Corners SDSU-Opp.	Fouls SDSU-Opp.	Saves SDSU-Opp.
Aug. 25	^ ALBANY	W	3-2	W1	1-0-0		22-6	2-1	13-15	1-9
Aug. 27	^ RUTGERS	W	1-0	W2	2-0-0		20-7	3-3	11-12	4-5
Sept. 2	at UC Santa Barbara	L	0-1	L1	2-1-0		10-11	3-5	5-15	5-5
Sept. 6	at UC Riverside	L	2-3	L2	2-2-0		17-11	7-1	14-28	4-4
Sept. 9	UNLV	W	4-2	W1	3-2-0		18-7	5-1	23-22	2-4
Sept. 15	\$ RIDER	T	0-0	T1	3-2-1		28-7	8-1	19-21	2-7
Sept. 17	\$ LONG ISLAND	W	2-1	W1	4-2-1		21-5	4-0	16-25	2-8
Sept. 22	* at Stanford	L	1-2	L1	4-3-1	0-1-0	5-7	3-2	14-12	2-3
Sept. 24	* at California	W	2-0	W1	5-3-1	1-1-0	8-18	1-9	11-12	11-3
Sept. 29	* OREGON STATE	W	2-1	W2	6-3-1	2-1-0	17-8	6-2	15-16	2-5
Oct. 1	* WASHINGTON	W	1-0	W3	7-3-1	3-1-0	15-11	2-6	20-22	6-4
Oct. 8	* UCLA	L	1-2	L1	7-4-1	3-2-0	10-11	4-6	18-16	6-4
Oct. 14	at UC Irvine	L	1-2	W1	7-5-1		9-17	1-14	17-18	8-6
Oct. 20	* at Washington	T	0-0	T1	7-5-2	3-2-1	6-20	3-6	15-16	2-2
Oct. 22	* at Oregon State	T	2-2	T2	7-5-3	3-2-2	15-18	7-5	22-25	6-6
Oct. 27	* CALIFORNIA	W	3-1	W1	8-5-3	4-2-2	14-15	5-4	17-13	4-6
Oct. 29	* STANFORD	W	1-0	W2	9-5-3	5-2-2	9-4	6-0	9-13	2-3
Nov. 3	* at UCLA	T	1-1	T1	9-5-4	5-2-3	7-12	2-6	27-18	5-4
Nov. 11	! at UC Santa Barbara	L	1-2	L1	9-6-4		10-20	4-4	10-12	9-5

^ - The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic, \$ - USD/SDSU Soccer Tournament, * - Pac-10 Conference match, ! - NCAA tournament game (Santa Barbara, Calif.),
 All home games in CAPS played at SDSU Sports Deck

STATISTICS

Name	OVERALL												CONFERENCE				
	GP	GS	G	A	Pts.	Sh.	Shot Pct.	SOG	SOG Pct.	GW	PK	YC-RC	GP	GS	G	A	Pts.
Chiles, Kraig	19	19	6	4	16	43	.140	23	.535	3	3-3	4-0	10	10	3	2	8
DiCicco, Andrew	19	18	5	4	14	22	.227	12	.545	1	0-0	1-0	10	9	1	3	5
Cardenas, Nick	18	18	6	0	12	24	.250	10	.417	2	0-0	4-0	10	10	4	0	8
Toft, Evan	19	15	2	4	8	26	.077	12	.462	0	0-0	0-0	10	8	2	3	7
McDonald, Freddy	19	18	3	0	6	27	.111	13	.481	0	0-0	4-0	10	9	0	0	0
Bautista, Raul	16	16	2	2	6	24	.083	11	.458	1	0-0	4-1	10	10	2	2	6
Persad, Omar	19	3	2	2	6	17	.118	6	.353	1	0-0	0-0	10	1	2	0	4
Ortega, Daniel	18	7	2	1	5	20	.100	12	.600	1	0-0	1-0	9	5	0	1	1
Sanchez, Dennis	18	18	0	3	3	6	.000	2	.333	0	0-0	3-0	10	10	0	1	1
Lemire, Matt	18	5	0	2	2	12	.000	6	.500	0	0-0	1-0	9	1	0	0	0
Beitashour, Steve	18	10	0	2	2	8	.000	3	.375	0	0-0	3-0	9	4	0	2	2
Reott, Ryan	18	13	0	1	1	11	.000	5	.455	0	0-0	2-1	9	7	0	0	0
Collins, Nick	14	3	0	1	1	6	.000	3	.500	0	0-0	0-0	7	0	0	0	0
Clemens, Nick	10	8	0	1	1	2	.000	1	.500	0	0-0	1-1	7	6	0	1	1
Ortiz, Danny	19	18	0	1	1	1	.000	0	.000	0	0-0	4-0	10	9	0	0	0
Crain, Kyle	12	0	0	0	0	7	.000	0	.000	0	0-0	0-0	6	0	0	0	0
Webner, Kevin	14	0	0	0	0	3	.000	1	.333	0	0-0	2-0	7	0	0	0	0
Pernicano, Santo	5	0	0	0	0	1	.000	0	.000	0	0-0	0-0	3	0	0	0	0
Dally, David	4	0	0	0	0	1	.000	1	1.000	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
Brinitzer, Cameron	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Diaz, Robbie	3	1	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0	0
SDSU TOTALS	19		28	28	84	261	.107	121	.464	9	3-3	36-3	10	14	15	43	
OPPONENTS	19		22	21	65	215	.102	105	.488	6	1-2	29-1	10	9	7	25	

Name	OVERALL										CONFERENCE					
	GP	GS	Min.	GA	GAA	Sv.	Pct.	W	L	T	Sho.	GP	GS	Min.	GA	GAA
Hall, Tally	18	18	1729:26	20	1.04	80	.800	9	5	4	6	9	9	870:00	7	0.72
Trejo, Luis	1	1	90:00	2	2.00	2	.500	0	1	0	0	1	1	90:00	2	2.00
SDSU TOTALS	19		1819:26	22	1.09	83	.790	9	6	4	6	10		960:00	9	0.84
OPPONENTS	19		1819:26	28	1.39	93	.769	6	9	4	3	10		960:00	14	1.31

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2006 PAC-10 REVIEW

PAC-10 FINAL STANDINGS

Pl. Team	Conference				Overall				Home	Away	Neutral	Streak		
	W	L	T	Pts.	W	L	T	Pct.						
1. California	7	3	0	21	4-1-0	3-2-0	13	6	1	.675	7-2-0	4-4-1	2-0-0	Lost 1
2. San Diego State	5	2	3	18	4-1-0	1-1-3	9	6	4	.579	7-1-0	1-5-3	1-0-1	Lost 1
3. Stanford	5	3	2	17	3-1-1	2-1-1	7	7	4	.500	3-3-2	3-3-2	1-1-0	Won 1
4. UCLA	4	3	3	15	2-1-2	2-2-1	14	6	4	.667	7-1-3	5-4-1	2-1-0	Lost 1
5. Washington	4	5	1	13	2-2-1	2-3-0	13	7	1	.643	7-0-1-	3-7-0	3-0-0	Lost 1
6. Oregon State	0	9	1	1	0-4-1	0-5-0	5	12	2	.316	3-5-1	1-6-0	1-1-1	Lost 2

PAC-10 MEN'S SOCCER STATS

Points Per Game

Name	G	GL	AST	PTS	PPG
1. Forrest, Kevin (WASH)	19	16	1	33	1.74
2. Ayala-Hill, Javier (CAL)	20	12	2	26	1.30
3. Estrada, David (UCLA)	23	12	4	28	1.22
4. Allen, Ely (WASH)	19	7	6	20	1.05
5. Zizzo, Sal (UCLA)	23	7	9	23	1.00
6. Findley, Robbie (OSU)	19	6	5	17	0.89
7. Leopoldo, Jason (UCLA)	24	8	5	21	0.88
8. Chiles, Kraig (SDSU)	19	6	4	16	0.84
9. Cox, Raphael (WASH)	21	4	9	17	0.81
10. DiCicco, Andrew (SDSU)	19	5	4	14	0.74

Goals Per Game

Name	G	GL	AVG
1. Forrest, Kevin (WASH)	19	16	0.84
2. Ayala-Hill, Javier (CAL)	20	12	0.60
3. Estrada, David (UCLA)	23	12	0.52
4. Allen, Ely (WASH)	19	7	0.37
5. Leopoldo, Jason (UCLA)	24	8	0.33
Cardenas, Nick (SDSU)	18	6	0.33
7. Chiles, Kraig (SDSU)	19	6	0.32
Findley, Robbie (OSU)	19	6	0.32
9. Zizzo, Sal (UCLA)	23	7	0.30
10. Morgan, Evan (STAN)	18	5	0.28

Assists Per Game

Name	G	AST	AVG
1. Cox, Raphael (WASH)	21	9	0.43
2. Zizzo, Sal (UCLA)	23	9	0.39
3. Nakazawa, Kyle (UCLA)	24	8	0.33
Katz, Jo Jo (WASH)	21	7	0.33
5. Allen, Ely (WASH)	19	6	0.32
6. Jimenez, Hector (CAL)	20	6	0.30
7. Findley, Robbie (OSU)	19	5	0.26
8. Luke, Sassano (CAL)	20	5	0.25
9. John, George (WASH)	21	5	0.24
10. Thompson, Galen (STAN)	18	4	0.22
Sanchez, Dennis (SDSU)	18	4	0.22

Shots Per Game

Name	G	SH	AVG
1. Forrest, Kevin (WASH)	19	104	5.47
2. Findley, Robbie (OSU)	19	71	3.74
3. Allen, Ely (WASH)	19	54	2.84
4. Jacobson, Andrew (CAL)	20	49	2.45
5. Leopoldo, Jason (UCLA)	24	55	2.29
6. Chiles, Kraig (SDSU)	19	43	2.26
7. Ayala-Hill, Javier (CAL)	20	45	2.25
8. Zizzo, Sal (UCLA)	23	51	2.22
9. John, George (WASH)	21	42	2.00
10. Jordon, Bryan (OSU)	19	36	1.89

Goals Against Average

Name	G	GA	MIN	GAA
1. Myers, Justin (CAL)	15	13	1350:26	0.87
2. Moore, John (STAN)	15	14	1365:00	0.92
3. Hawkins, Rylan (WASH)	18	19	1678:27	1.02
4. Hall, Tally (SDSU)	18	20	1729:26	1.04
5. Reed, Eric (UCLA)	17	19	1550:30	1.10
6. Deenihan, Packy (OSU)	13	20	1165:42	1.54

Saves Per Game

Name	G	SV	AVG
1. Hall, Tally (SDSU)	18	80	4.44
2. Moore, John (STAN)	15	56	3.73
3. Reed, Eric (UCLA)	17	62	3.65
4. Myers, Justin (CAL)	15	53	3.53
5. Hawkins, Rylan (WASH)	18	58	3.22
6. Deenihan, Packy (OSU)	13	41	3.15

ALL-PAC-10 TEAMS

► First Team

Ely Allen, F, Sr., WASH
 Javier Ayala-Hill, F, Jr., CAL
 Eric Ebert, MF, Sr., CAL
 Robbie Findley, F, Sr., OSU
 Kevin Forrest, F, RsJr., WASH
Tally Hall, GK, Sr., SDSU
 Ty Harden, D, Sr., WASH
 Andrew Jacobson, MF, RsJr., CAL
 Steve Purdy, D, Sr., CAL
 Mike Zaher, D, Jr., UCLA
 Sal, Zizzo, D, So., UCLA

► Second Team

Raul Bautista, MF, RS-Sr., SDSU
 Scott Bolkan, D, Jr., STAN
Nick Cardenas, D, Fr., SDSU
 David Estrada, F, Fr., UCLA
 Matt Fischer, D, Sr., WASH
 George John, MF, So., WASH
 Jason Leopoldo, MF/F So., UCLA
 Kiel McClung, D, Sr., UCLA
 Evan Morgan, MF, Jr., STAN
 Michael Stickland, MF, Fr., STAN
 Galen Thompson, MF/D, Sr., STAN

► Honorable Mention (SDSU only)

Andrew DiCicco, Sr., F, SDSU
 Kraig Chiles, RS-Jr., MF, SDSU
 Danny Ortiz, So., D, SDSU
 Dennis Sanchez, So., D, SDSU



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A second straight trip to the NCAA tournament in 2006 proved that the San Diego State men's soccer team is back and here to stay. The Aztecs finished 9-6-4 on the season, a year after going 9-4-6, to make consecutive trips to the national tournament for the first time since 1988-89.

SDSU, which was picked to finish fourth in the Pac-10, was one of four Pac-10 schools to earn a bid to the NCAA tournament after going 5-2-3 in league play, good enough for second place. San Diego State's 18 points trailed only California (21), a team the Aztecs beat twice on the season.

Along the way, the Aztecs received numerous individual honors. The squad also showed its talent by defeating or tying five nationally ranked opponents during its run to the postseason, one more than the 2005 squad.

SDSU wasted no time in proving itself as it came out of the gate with two wins at The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic. San Diego State opened the season with a 3-2 win over Albany. Freshman Daniel Ortega took a pass from sophomore Omar Persad in the 72nd minute and blasted a ball into the left side of the net from 24 yards out for the game-winner. Junior Freddy McDonald and freshman Nick Cardenas also scored for the Aztecs, who outshot the Great Danes, 22-6, in the match, including a 14-1 advantage in the second half.

Two days later against perennial power and SDSU head coach Lev Kirshner's alma mater Rutgers, it put up 20 shots to the Scarlet Knights' 7, no shot was bigger than senior Andrew DiCicco's game-winning goal 1:12 into overtime off a pass from Persad. Senior goalkeeper Tally Hall made four saves en route to being named the tournament's co-most valuable player. Cardenas, junior midfielder Kraig Chiles and McDonald joined Hall on the all-tournament team.

San Diego State followed its runner-up finish at The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic (based on goal differential) with two one-goal road losses to Big West schools UC Santa Barbara (1-0) and UC Riverside (3-2). The Aztecs once again got their shots in, outshooting the two teams, 27-22, with their goals coming from DiCicco and McDonald, but the results

showed otherwise.

SDSU bounced back with a 4-2 win over UNLV on Sept. 9, thanks in part to two goals and an assist from Chiles. Then, the Aztecs had a runner-up finish at the USD-SDSU Soccer Classic on Sept. 15 and 17. San Diego State outshot Rider, 28-7, in a 0-0, double-overtime tie, before defeating Long Island, 2-1, in overtime. Raul Bautista, DiCicco and Hall each were named to the all-tournament team.

After dropping a 2-1 decision at Stanford to start Pac-10 play, the Aztecs rebounded to shut out No. 16 California, 2-0, in Berkeley behind goals by Cardenas and Persad. Hall recorded a season-high 11 saves. For his efforts, Hall was named the Pac-10 Player of the Week for the first time in his illustrious career.

SDSU continued its hot start to league play with a pair of home wins, defeating Oregon State, 2-1, and upsetting No. 4 Washington, 1-0. Against the Beavers, Chiles gave San Diego State a 1-0 lead in the 36th minute with a header off a cross from Bautista. Following an Oregon State goal in the 66th minute, Persad tallied the game-winner in a brilliant goal when he beat a defender and ripped a shot into the left corner from 10 yards out.

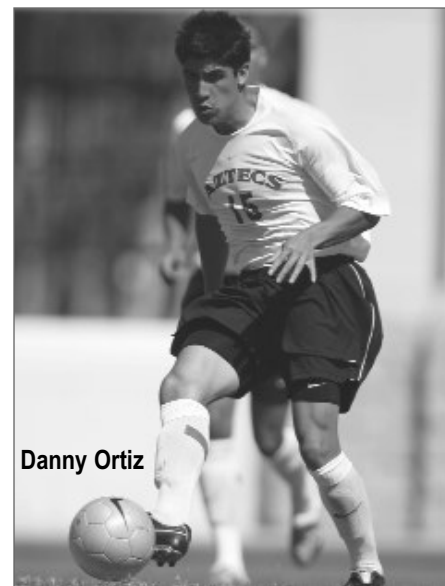
Against the No. 4 Huskies, the Aztecs played the final 75:48 a man short after senior Nick Clemens was given a red card just 14:12 into the match. SDSU responded with a goal minutes later, however, when freshman Evan Toft slid a pass to Chiles who sent a perfectly-placed cross to Bautista who headed the ball into the left from 10 yards out. The San Diego State defense – senior Ryan Reott, sophomores Danny Ortiz and Dennis Sanchez, and Cardenas – kept the high-powered Washington offense in check most of the game. The quartet limited the Huskies, who came into the match leading the Pac-10 in goals (24), assists (21) and shots per game (17.25), to just 11 shots (six on goal) in the match.

After the great weekend, Hall was named to the *College Soccer News* National Team of the Week, while Bautista earned Pac-10 Player of the Week and *Soccer America* Team of the Week honors.

With the wins, SDSU earned a No. 22 ranking in the NSCAA/adidas poll and bolted to first place in the Pac-10 with a meeting set for No. 16 UCLA at home. For the second consecutive game, the Aztecs were forced to play a man down for most of the contest after Bautista was issued his second yellow card late in the first half. San Diego State fell behind, 2-0, until DiCicco weaved past two UCLA defenders and blasted a shot into the left corner. The Aztecs arguably outplayed the Bruins, despite being a man short, but fell, 2-1. Ten of the final 15 shots in the game were by San Diego State. It was only SDSU's second loss at home in its last 20 home matches.

Following a non-conference 2-1 loss to nationally ranked UC Irvine on the road, San Diego State began a five-game unbeaten streak in conference play that ultimately led to its second-place finish in just its second season in the Pac-10. The Aztecs started their streak with a pair of ties in the Pacific Northwest against Washington (0-0) and Oregon State (2-2).

San Diego State continued its momentum the following weekend by defeating No. 6 California, 3-1, at home and knocking off Stanford on senior day, 1-0. Against the Bears, who came into the match with a 6-1 record and their only loss against SDSU, Cardenas got the Aztecs on the board with a header off a cross



Danny Ortiz

from sophomore Dennis Sanchez. Chiles scored the final two goals, including a penalty kick in the 88th minute. Hall made four saves and only let in a late penalty kick goal at 88:03.

Cardenas headed in a corner kick off the foot of Toft in the 88th minute to help San Diego State defeat the Cardinal on senior day, 1-0. Cardenas, who left the match in the 26th minute after colliding with teammate Bautista inside Stanford's 18-yard box, came back at 78:43 and scored his fifth goal of the season less than nine minutes later.

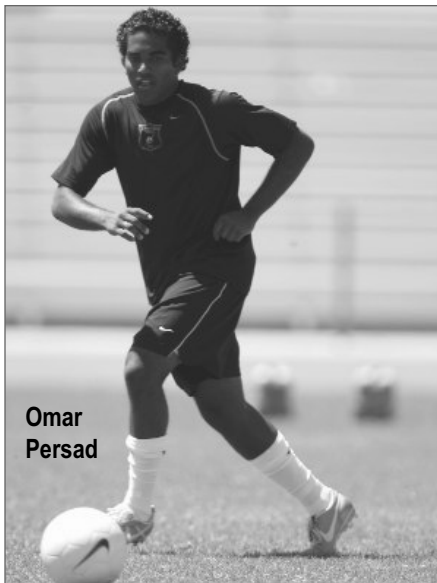
Cardenas was honored for his fine performance over the weekend by earning NSCAA/adidas National Player of the Week and Pac-10 Player-of-the-Week accolades. He was also named to the *College Soccer News* and *Soccer America* team of the week.

SDSU ended its regular season with an impressive 1-1, double-overtime tie at No. 10 UCLA, to clinch second place outright. Cardenas scored the Aztecs' goal, while Hall made a game-high five saves.

With a regular season mark of 9-5-4 and 5-2-3 finish in the Pac-10, San Diego State received an invitation to play against UC Santa Barbara in the NCAA tournament, a rematch of last season's first round game. SDSU ended up falling on the road, 2-1, to the eventual national champions after taking a 1-0 lead on a tally by McDonald in the 55th minute.

San Diego State received a number of individual awards at the conclusion of the 2006 campaign. Foremost among the honorees was goalkeeper Tally Hall, who was named a M.A.C. Hermann Award semifinalist and an All-American by two groups (NSCAA/adidas – second team and *College Soccer News* – third team).

Hall earned first-team all-Pac-10 honors, while Bautista and Cardenas, who also was named the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, garnered second-team accolades. Hall would go on to be drafted by the Los Angeles Galaxy in the fourth round of the Major League Soccer Super Draft, but would eventually sign with Holland's Esbjerg FB. Bautista was selected by Chivas USA in the second round of the MLS Supplemental Draft.



Omar Persad



NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

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

1987 NCAA NATIONAL FINALIST

