

Aztec Coaching Staff



The all-time winningest coach at San Diego State, Kathy Van Wyk needs just 36 victories for 400 in her illustrious career. Entering her 12th season, Van Wyk has guided the Aztecs to three NCAA tournament appearances and three MWC championships. She has coached one All-American, 16 NFCA all-West Region selections, 34 all-conference honorees and five MWC Pitchers of the Year.

AZTEC COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Kathy Van Wyk	24-25
Assistant Coach Sara Hayes	26
Assistant Coach Steve Miner	26
Dir. of Ops. Miranda Bleisch	27
Support Staff	27



Kathy Van Wyk

Head Coach | 12th Season at SDSU | 12th Season Overall | 364-276-1 (.569) | Cal State Fullerton, 1983

- ▶ Two-time MWC Coach of the Year (2002, 2006)
- ▶ Three NCAA tournament appearances
- ▶ One All-American
- ▶ 16 NFCA all-West Region selections
- ▶ 34 all-conference honorees (32 in MWC)
- ▶ Five MWC Pitcher of the Year awards
- ▶ Three Freshman of the Year awards
- ▶ 56 Player of the Week winners (51 in MWC)

Kathy Van Wyk begins her 12th season as head coach of the San Diego State softball team in 2008 having transformed the Aztec softball program into, not just a West Coast power, but a team that annually competes with the best nationally.

Van Wyk, the school's all-time winningest coach, has guided SDSU to three NCAA tournament appearances, including the magical 2001 season when it 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 seven (2002, 2003, 2006) Mountain West Conference regular-season titles, advanced to the NCAA tournament three times in the past seven seasons, including regional runner-up finishes in 2001 and 2006, and compiled a .600 or higher winning percentage in five of the last seven campaigns. SDSU has improved its winning percentage in six of the last nine seasons and has been .500 or better in nine of Van Wyk's 11 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.

Last season, she led a young, and often injured Aztec squad to a 32-24 mark, the team's seventh 30-win season in eight years. Despite losing sophomore All-American catcher Erin Floros 27 games into the season to a knee injury, classmate all-MWC selection Melissa Owens for six contests during the conference season, and 2006 all-MWC pick Monica Alnes for five games, SDSU still managed to set school records in batting average (.296), runs (238) and total bases (593).

San Diego State also defeated six nationally ranked teams, including No. 6 Oregon

State, 10th-ranked Texas and had a two-game sweep over No. 20 Georgia Tech.

The inexperience and injuries, however, caught up to the Aztecs. SDSU committed an uncharacteristic 98 errors after making just 53 miscues the previous season. as the Aztecs used 50 different batting lineups in 56 games and 39 different defensive lineups.

Four Aztecs - junior Christina Ross, Owens, freshman Brittany Knudsen and freshman Lindsey Marquez - earned all-MWC accolades, while Alnes and Knudsen were joined on the all-academic MWC squad by freshmen Katy Erickson and Stefanie Qui-chocho-Rosario.

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 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 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).

SDSU also 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, Floros became the first All-American in Aztec history 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.





Ross garnered MWC Pitcher-of-the-Year accolades, and Floros and Ross were joined on the all-conference team by Alnes, Meagan Hartung and Celena Velasquez.

Van Wyk was rewarded for the team's accomplishments when she was named the 2006 MWC Coach of the Year for the second time in her career. She also 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 11 seasons on The Mesa, Van Wyk has coached 16 NFCA all-West Region selections, including Knudsen in 2007, 34 all-conference members (32 MWC), 16 (15 MWC) all-conference tournament performers and 39 (32 MWC) academic all-league selections. In addition, she has had players earn pitcher or player of the week honors on 56 occasions (49 MWC).

Van Wyk's players have been tabbed MWC Pitcher-of-the-Year four consecutive years (2001-04) and again in 2007. 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 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 2006 Campbell-Cartier Classic, Ross, making her first start as an Aztec, pitched a complete game five-hit shutout, en route to five strikeouts and a 1-0 victory over Massachusetts, giving 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-American 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 was inducted into 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
WAC	78	89	0	.467	3 YRS	44	43	.506
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
2007	32	24	0	.571	MWC	8	12	.400
MWC	286	187	1	.604	8 YRS	90	59	.604
Totals	364	276	1	.569	11 YRS	134	102	.568

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
350TH WIN: vs. Iona (9-4), March 18, 2007



Sara Hayes

Assistant Coach | Second Season at SDSU | Notre Dame, 1995

Sara Hayes enters her second 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 of experience as a head coach, including a two-year stint at Indiana from

2003-04.

She works primarily with the Aztec hitters, and assists head coach Kathy Van Wyk in all aspects of recruiting.

Hayes, a former star at Notre Dame, immediately helped improve an already strong SDSU offense. Under Hayes, the 2007 Aztecs set school records in batting average (.296), runs (238) and total bases (593). All of this was accomplished despite losing All-American catcher Erin Floros 27 games into the season and playing with a lineup that featured just two seniors.

The 2007 Aztecs also registered seven double-digit run games after recording four the previous season. In addition, SDSU posted 16 double-digit hit contests, up one from the 2006 NCAA tournament squad.

Two freshmen - Brittany Knudsen and Lindsey Marquez - earned all-MWC honors under the tutelage of Hayes. Knudsen batted .386, just percentage points behind Kellie Nordhagen's school-record .389 average set in 2000. In addition, Knudsen ranked among the school's single-season leaders in on-base percentage (2nd, .464), runs (3rd, 39), slugging percentage (5th, .524), hits (T-5th, 64), total bases (T-5th, 87), walks (T-5th, 24) and home runs (T-7th, 4).

Marquez had a spectacular MWC season, hitting a team-best .404 with a .558 slugging percentage over 19 games.

Hayes, who helped the University of the Pacific to its 11th consecutive winning season in 2006, came to The Mesa in August 2006. Hayes, a native of nearby Rancho Sante Fe, Calif., had been the Tigers' top assistant coach the previous two seasons, helping the squad to a 56-50 record.

"We are excited to have Sara on 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 ex-

cellent role model for our student-athletes and will represent San Diego State in the highest fashion."

"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."

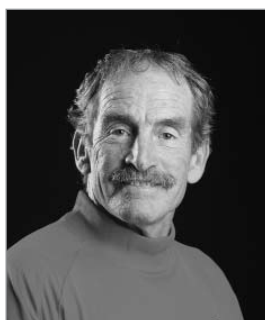
Prior to going to Pacific, Hayes served as the Hoosiers' head softball coach from 2003-04. She compiled a 51-62 overall record in her two years, including a 32-31 mark in 2004, the team's first winning campaign since 1996.

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.



Steve Miner

Assistant Coach | First Season at SDSU | San Diego State, 1970

Entering his first season at San Diego State, Steve Miner brings 24 years of coaching experience to The Mesa.

"We're very excited to have the experience that Steve brings to the program," Van Wyk said. "He'll

have an immediate impact by helping out with the infield and working with our slap-hitters."

Miner has been a head coach at the collegiate level for four years and has two decades worth of experience in the high school ranks. He coached Alliant International (then U.S. International) in 1983 and was a three-year coach at Southwestern College (1998-2000), where he led the squad to two state regional berths.

Miner's success at the high school level has been even more impressive. Over his 20 seasons as a head coach, Miner's teams have gone 206-84 (.710). During that span, he guided his teams to 11 league championships, three CIF championships and three CIF runner-ups.

Miner, a 1970 San Diego State graduate who played freshman basketball (1965-66) and volleyball (1967-69) for the Aztecs, played fast-pitch softball at the national level for 23 years and has been a part of three national runner-up teams (1979, 1991-92), as well as two third-place squads (1991 and 1994).

At the national level, Miner was a four-time All-American (1979, 1988-90), a seven-time Western Softball Congress all-league selection (1975-81) and the 1975 AAA San

Diego Player of the Year. In addition, he set the WSC batting average record in 1979 and hit a national tournament record .793 in 1988.

Miner may be best known in the softball world as the first player to try crossover slap-hitting at the men's national fast-pitch level, a technique that is widely used in the women's game today. In fact, last year's Aztecs had six slap-hitters on the team.

Miner has also had success as a high school football coach with various schools in San Diego County. He led Clairemont High School to five consecutive CIF playoffs and a 1981 CIF championship. As an offensive coordinator at Kearny High School, Miner helped the team win four league championships, five CIF playoff berths and a runner-up finish in the CIF championship game in 1990. Since 2004, Miner has been an assistant coach with Madison High, after leading the school to a 2002 league championship as a head coach.

Miner, who earned his master's at Azusa Pacific in 1978, retired in June after teaching high school math for 35 years.

Miner and his wife, Maureen, have been married for 39 years. They have one daughter, Amy, who was a former Aztec assistant coach for two years and San Diego CIF Player of the Year.



Miranda Bleisch

Director of Softball Operations

Miranda Bleisch, a native of Wassenaarr, Netherlands, is in her first season as the team's director of operations and third season at SDSU. Bleisch, who has a wealth of international and collegiate experience under her belt, will assist in all aspects of travel

planning and alumni affairs.

Last season, Bleisch once again helped with the pitching staff, leading SDSU to a league-low ERA of 2.13. Junior Christina Ross, an all-MWC selection for the second straight year, along with sophomore Melissa Owens were each named MWC Pitcher of the Week on two occasions.

In 2006, then 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 a .245 batting average. The staff struck out 286 batters while issuing only 62 walks for a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 4.6.

In addition, three Aztecs (Owens, 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. She earned NAIA first-team All-America honors in 2002 and was selected to the second team in 2003.

Bleisch still ranks among the top five in Point Loma Nazarene history in ERA (1st, 0.81), wins (3rd, 46), strikeouts (4th, 235) and innings pitched (5th, 357.3), 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, 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, a football player for San Jose State in the late 1980s. The couple are proud parents of a daughter, Hayleigh, who will turn three in May, and a son, Bobby, who will turn one in March.



Forrest Levinson

Volunteer Assistant Coach

Forrest Levinson brings over 10 years of coaching experience as he enters his second season with the Aztecs.

Levinson, who currently coaches the San Diego Aztecs 18-Gold squad, has spent most of the past decade with various travelling club teams around the San Diego area. Prior to the San Diego Aztecs, Levinson was with the San Diego Breakers (one year), 3rd Degree Softball (two years) and the San Diego Extreme (five years).

Levinson also assisted with the Patrick Henry High School varsity squad for two seasons, helping the Patriots to the 2005 CIF Division II championship. He was an assistant for the junior varsity Patriot team for four seasons as well.

Levinson, a retired Prison Industry Authority (PIA), graduated from Crawford High in San Diego. Levinson has three children, Brittany (20), Ashley (17) and Weston (11), and resides in Del Cerro.



Wendell Richards

Asst. Strength & Conditioning Coach

Wendell Richards is in his second 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. 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 Idaho.



Sarah Domurat

Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer

Sarah Domurat is in her first season as the athletic trainer for the Aztec softball team after working with the volleyball squad in the fall.

Domurat completed her undergraduate work at Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colo.) in 2006, graduating with a bachelor's degree in exercise science. She is currently in the graduate program at San Diego State, working on her master's in exercise physiology and nutritional science.

While at Fort Lewis, Domurat worked extensively with all 11 Skyhawk teams.

Prior to Fort Lewis, Domurat earned two bachelor degrees at University of Colorado at Boulder in 2002 in communications and in sociology.

A native of San Diego, Domurat is a certified athletic trainer (NATABOC) and is first aid and CPR certified.

Domurat resides in the Hillcrest area.



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
Assistant Director of Facilities
and Operations



Don Oberhelman
Senior Associate
Athletic Director



Jessica Simmons
Academic Advisor - Softball

PLAY WITH IT. OR AGAINST IT.



EASTON®

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF CHAMPIONSHIP SOFTBALL

eastonsports.com