

# AZTEC COACHING STAFF



*The all-time winningest coach at San Diego State, Kathy Van Wyk has 408 wins in 12 seasons, guiding the Aztecs to four NCAA tournament appearances and four MWC championships. Director of Operations Miranda Bleisch is entering her fourth year with SDSU, volunteer coach Forrest Levinson his third and assistant coach Steve Miner his second. Three-time U.S. Olympian and four-time UCLA All-American Stacey Nuveman joined the staff in August. (Pictured left to right: bottom - Stacey Nuveman, Kathy Van Wyk and Miranda Bleisch. Top - Steve Miner and Forrest Levinson.*

COACHES/STAFF

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# KATHY VAN WYK

HEAD COACH | 13TH SEASON AT SAN DIEGO STATE | 13TH SEASON OVERALL

408-293-1 (.582) | CAL STATE FULLERTON, 1983



One doesn't have to look hard to see what head coach Kathy Van Wyk has accomplished in her 12-year tenure with the San Diego State softball program. Consider her accolades below:

- Three-time Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year (2002, 2006, 2008)
- Four NCAA tournament appearances (2001, 2003, 2006, 2008)
- Four MWC regular season championships (2002, 2003, 2006, 2008)
- Two All-America selections
- 17 NFCA all-West Region selections
- 38 all-conference honorees (36 in MWC)
- Six MWC Pitcher of the Year awards
- Three Freshman of the Year awards
- 68 Player of the Week winners (61 in MWC)

Coming off a 2008 season in which the Aztecs set or tied school records in 11 categories, including wins (44) and win percentage (.721, 44-17), there is no doubt that SDSU softball is considered a national power.

Van Wyk, the school's all-time winningest coach, has guided SDSU to four MWC titles and four NCAA 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.

Since Van Wyk's arrival, the Aztecs have compiled a .600 or higher winning percentage in six of the last eight campaigns. In addition, SDSU has improved its winning percentage in seven of the last 10 seasons and has been .500 or better in 10 of Van Wyk's 12 years.

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

Last season, Van Wyk led the Aztecs to that 44-17 mark, despite playing a schedule that featured games against seven of the eight WCWS teams from the year before, seven of the top-10 RPI teams and 12 of the top-25 and 23 of the top-50.

SDSU even earned the praise of ESPN.com writer Graham Hays after a successful weekend at the Palm Springs Classic where the Aztecs knocked off back-to-back national champions Arizona and No. 2 Northwestern in consecutive games.

San Diego State, which was ranked as high as No. 17 in the ESPN.com/USA Softball national poll, went on to pick up 10 victories against nationally ranked teams, including a 5-2 mark against its seven 2007 WCWS opponents.

Other records set or tied by SDSU in 2008 include fewest home losses (5), best home winning percentage (.821), fewest road losses (4), best road winning percentage (.692), most MWC wins (15), most runs (243), most walks (169), most pitching strikeouts (394) and fewest triples allowed (4).

Four players landed on the all-conference team, including the MWC Pitcher of the Year Christina Ross, Erin Floros, Megan McDonald and Tamani Wells. Ross, who wrapped up her stellar career with a 30-14 record and 1.00 ERA, also became the second All-America selection in school history when she was named to the Easton second team.

Van Wyk was rewarded for the team's accomplishments when she was named the 2008 MWC Coach of the Year for the third time in her career. She also earned the 2006 and 2002 award.

In 2007, 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 All-American catcher Erin Floros 27 games into the season to a knee injury, 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 - Ross, Owens, Brittany Knudsen and Lindsey Marquez - earned all-MWC accolades.

Under Van Wyk's guidance, the Aztecs had their then 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 or tied numerous team records including four that still stand: conference winning percentage (.833), road winning percentage (.692), most MWC victories (15), and longest winning streak (13 games).

In addition, despite playing only 49 games (SDSU typically plays around 60 games), the Aztecs set many program records, including home runs (27), RBI (213), slugging percentage (.410) and on-base percentage (.379), all which still stand.

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

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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.

In her 12 seasons on The Mesa, Van Wyk has coached 17 NFCA all-West Region selections, including Ross in 2008, 38 all-conference members (36 MWC), 16 (15 MWC) all-conference tournament performers (discontinued) and 43 (36 MWC) academic all-league selections. In addition, she has had players earn pitcher or player of the week honors on 68 occasions (61 MWC).

Van Wyk's players have been tabbed MWC Pitcher-of-the-Year four consecutive years (2001-04) and again in 2006 and 2008. 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 Grahman'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.

On April 24, 2008, Ross broke two school records (career strikeouts and single-season strikeouts) to help SDSU manage a split at Brigham Young for Van Wyk's 400th career win.

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, 26 shutouts (ninth 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 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 Cal State 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*
2007	32	24	0	.571	MWC	8	12	.400
2008	44	17	0	.721	MWC	15	5	.750*
<b>MWC</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.619</b>	<b>9 YRS</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>.621</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.582</b>	<b>12 YRS</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>.582</b>

\*MWC Coach of the Year

### 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
- 400TH WIN:** at Brigham Young (Gm. 2) (4-0), April 24, 2008



# STACEY NUVEMAN

ASSISTANT COACH | FIRST SEASON AT SAN DIEGO STATE | UCLA, 2002



Stacey Nuveman enters her first season as an assistant coach with San Diego State.

Nuveman, a three-time U.S. Olympian, brings a host of softball experience and accolades to The Mesa.

In addition to her two Olympic gold medals (2000 and 2004) and silver medal in 2008, Nuveman has helped the United States National Team to a World Cup championship (2006), two World Championships (2002 and 2006) and two Pan American gold medals (1999 and 2003).

Nuveman will be the recruiting coordinator and will predominantly be working with the Aztec hitters.

"We could not be more excited to have Stacey on our coaching staff," Van Wyk said. "She brings a wealth of experience at every level of our game and will help us continue our rise up the rankings."

"I am thrilled with the opportunity to work at San Diego State University," Nuveman said. "Coach Van Wyk and her staff have done an incredible job with the program and I look forward to helping to continue that trend. I feel privileged and honored to be an Aztec."

Nuveman has worked at a variety of camps and clinics, and is highlighted in the instructional video entitled, "The Fundamentals of Catching." In addition, Nuveman has worked color commentary for ESPN, CSTV (now CBS College Sports Television) and FOX Sports.

Nuveman was a standout at UCLA, finishing her four-year career with four NCAA records - 90 home runs, .945 slugging percentage, 240 walks and 81 intentional walks. She was a four-time first-team NFCA All-American (1997, 1999, 2001-02) and a three-time Pac-10 Player of the Year (1999, 2001-02). Nuveman is also ranked first in school history in games played (264), total bases (653) and on-base percentage (.600).

Among the current all-time NCAA leaders, Nuveman ranks first in home runs (90),

first in slugging percentage (.945), first in intentional walks (81), second in walks (240), fourth in batting average (.466), fourth in RBI (299) and 21st in hits (322).

In 1999, Nuveman led the Bruins to a national championship, batting .446 during the season with 31 home runs and 91 RBI. For her efforts in the national title run, Nuveman was named to the all-Women's College World Series team.

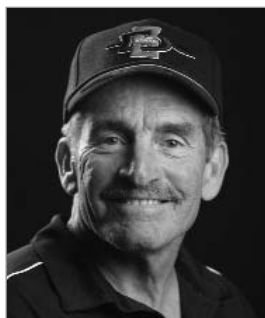
In addition to her on-field accomplishments, Nuveman also works with several organizations, including the Visalia Miracle League, the Women's Sports Foundation, and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Nuveman, 30, is married to Mark Deniz, has a son, Chase, who turned one on June 6.



# STEVE MINER

ASSISTANT COACH | SECOND SEASON AT SAN DIEGO STATE | SDSU, 1970



Entering his second season at San Diego State, Steve Miner brings 25 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 2007 after teaching high school math for 35 years.

Miner and his wife, Maureen, have been married for 40 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 second season as the team's director of operations and fourth season at SDSU. Bleisch, who has a wealth of international and collegiate experience under her belt, assists in all aspects of travel planning and alumni affairs.

Two years ago, 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 four in May, and a son, Bobby, who will turn two in March.



## Forrest Levinson

### Volunteer Assistant Coach

Forrest Levinson brings over 10 years of coaching experience as he enters his third 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 (21), Ashley (18) and Weston (12), and resides in Del Cerro.



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



**Dave Noll**  
Assistant Director of Facilities  
and Operations



**Don Oberhelman**  
Senior Associate  
Athletic Director



**Wendell Richards**  
Assistant Strength and  
Conditioning Coach



**Jessica Simmons**  
Academic Advisor



**Dave Smith**  
Graduate Assistant  
Athletic Trainer



## Megan McDonald

### Undergraduate Assistant Coach

Megan McDonald enters her first season working as an undergraduate assistant coach at SDSU.

McDonald starred at SDSU from 2005-08, leading the Aztecs to a 137-86 (.614) record in her four years, including two trips to the NCAA tournament. Last season, McDonald set career-highs in batting average (.284), games played (58), games started (57), at-bats (162), hits (46) and total bases (63). She also excelled in the field as the team's everyday catcher, committing just five errors in 398 chances for a .987 fielding percentage.

In her career, McDonald ranks among the top 10 in sac flies (1st, 8), hit by pitch (1st, 16), home runs (T-1st, 17), walks (2nd, 69), putouts (2nd, 945), RBI (4th, 96), chances (4th, 1,033), fielding percentage (6th, .984), games started (7th, 202), games played (T-7th, 213), extra-base hits (8th, 34), total bases (9th, 212) and at-bats (10th, 554).



## Christina Ross

### Undergraduate Assistant Coach

Christina Ross begins her first season as an undergraduate assistant coach with the Aztecs.

Ross had a storied three-year career on The Mesa, which culminated in 2008 when she became the second All-American in program history. Last season, she set or tied four school records and earned all-NFCA West Region honors and Mountain West Conference Pitcher of the Year accolades, each for the second time. She also picked up a league-record nine pitcher of the week awards and was named an all-conference selection for the third consecutive season.

Despite spending a year at Kansas, Ross still ranks among the SDSU top 10 in all 17 pitching categories, including strikeouts (1st, 612), solo shutouts (1st, 23), total shutouts (T-1st, 28), wins (2nd, 70), win percentage (2nd, .660), games started (2nd, 96), innings pitched (2nd, 691.2), complete games (2nd, 72), strikeouts-per-seven innings (3rd, 6.19), saves (3rd, 6), lowest opponents average (4th, .218), strikeout-to-walk ratio (4th, 3.97), appearances (T-4th, 129) and ERA (7th, 1.50).



## Jon Francis

### Strength & Conditioning Coach

Jon Francis is in his fifth year at San Diego State and first year working with the Aztec softball team.

Before arriving at Idaho, Francis was the assistant strength and conditioning coach at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. He worked with the university's football, basketball, baseball, wrestling, volleyball and men's soccer programs. He also served as a graduate assistant at Appalachian State.

Francis is a 1993 graduate of Appalachian State and completed his master of arts in sport management at the school in 2001. He is a member of the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association and is Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified (SCCC). He is also a member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association and has earned certification from USA Weightlifting.

His wife, Joy, is San Diego State's director of athletic development.



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