

2005 AZTEC SOCCER



www.goaztecs.com

INTRODUCTION

University Information

Location	San Diego, Calif.
Population	1,264,600 (2000 Census)
Founded	1897
Enrollment	32,936
Team Nickname	Aztecs
Colors	Scarlet and Black
Home Field	SDSU Sports Deck (1,000)
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Mountain West
University President	Dr. Stephen L. Weber
Athletics Director	Jeff Schemmel
Senior Woman Administrator	Kathy Van Wyk

Coaching Staff Information

Head Coach	Dr. Mike Giuliano (Tennessee Temple '81)
Record at San Diego State	8-7-6 (.524) (One season)
Career Collegiate Record	202-49-21 (.781) (12 seasons)
Office Phone	(619) 594-3749
E-mail	sdsusoccer@mail.sdsu.edu
Associate Head Coach	Mike Friesen (Sonoma State '96), second season
Assistant Coach	Erica Keus (San Diego State '04), first season

Team Information

2004 Record	8-7-6
Home Record	5-3-0
Away Record	1-3-4
Neutral Record	2-1-2
2004 Mountain West Record	3-1-2
2004 Mountain West Finish	Tied-Second
All-Time Record	162-113-23 (.582)
NCAA Tournament Berths	Two (1998-99)
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	12/7
Starters Returning/Lost	6/6
2005 Captains	Alexis Solovij and Amanda Swiader

Athletic Media Relations Information

Associate A.D./Media Relations	TBA
Media Relations Assistant/Women's Soccer Contact	Jamie McConeghy
Office Phone	(619) 594-4348
Cell Phone	(607) 435-5577
E-mail	jmcconeghy@projects.sdsu.edu
Fax	(619) 594-6541
Press Box Phone	(619) 594-3989
Mailing Address	San Diego State University Media Relations Office Department of Athletics 5500 Campanile Drive San Diego, CA 92182-4309
Official Website	www.goaztecs.com

Credits

The 2005 women's soccer media guide was written, designed and edited by media relations assistant Jamie McConeghy. Editorial and writing assistance provided by media relations students Tim Miguel and Mike Passanisi, assistant media relations director Peggy Curtin and associate media relations director Mike May.

Cover design by Darin Wong.

Photography by Stan Liu, Ken Jacques and SDSU photography.

Printing by SDSU ReproGraphic Services.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Roster	2
Schedule/Travel Locations	3
Season Outlook	4-5

COACHING STAFF

Dr. Mike Giuliano	6-7
Mike Friesen	8
Erica Keus	9
Aztec Soccer Mission Statement	10

PLAYERS

Ashley Cooper	11
Erica Lopez	12
Lisette Martinez	13
Alexis Solovij	14
Amanda Swiader	15
Gricelda Alvarez/Jennifer Klunder	16
Kristi Robusto/Heather Allen	17
Sami Beveridge/Cat Burson	18
Kelly Carter/Casey Davidson	19
Melissa Deckers/Tiphonie Elliott	20
Jessica Girdner/Lisa Nielsen	21
Ashley Tenn/Ashley Young	22
Millie Allen/Carrie Blankenbuhler	23
Adora DaCosta-Muniz/Jill Foss	24
Jen Mello/Megan Petrik	25
Alicia Piz/Jillian Riker	26
Becky Ryan/Kristen Seniura	27
Leann Sgobba/Mariko Strickland	28
Erika Sutton/Keri Thrush	29
Christi Yount	30

REVIEW

2004 Recap	31
2004 Results	32
2004 Statistics/Leaders	33

HISTORY

All-Time Leaders	34
All-Time Results	35-36
All-Time Records Vs. Opponents	36-37
All-Time Awards & Honors	38
All-Time Letterwinners	39

UNIVERSITY

2005 Opponents	40-41
Mountain West Conference	42
SDSU Sports Deck	43
Academics	44
University	45
Aztec Culture	46
Administration	47
San Diego	48



ROSTER



www.goaztecs.com

INTRODUCTION

Roster Breakdown

BY CLASS

Seniors (6) Alvarez, Cooper, Lopez, Martinez, Solovij, Swiader

Juniors (2) Klunder, Robusto

Sophomores (11) H. Allen, Beveridge, Burson, Carter, Davidson, Deckers, Elliott, Girdner, Nielsen, Tenn, Young

Freshmen (15) M. Allen, Blankenbuhler, DaCosta-Muniz, Foss, Mello, Petrik, Piz, Riker, Ryan, Seniura, Sgobba, Strickland, Sutton, Thrush, Yount

BY POSITION

Forwards (11) Cooper, DaCosta-Muniz, Davidson, Elliott, Klunder, Martinez, Mello, Petrik, Piz, Sgobba, Sutton

Midfielders (7) Blankenbuhler, Girdner, Nielsen, Robusto, Ryan, Strickland, Tenn

Defenders (10) H. Allen, M. Allen, Carter, Lopez, Riker, Seniura, Solovij, Swiader, Thrush, Young

Goalkeepers (6) Alvarez, Beveridge, Burson, Deckers, Foss, Yount

BY STATE

California (27) H. Allen, Alvarez, Beveridge, Burson, Carter, Cooper, DaCosta-Muniz, Davidson, Deckers, Elliott, Foss, Girdner, Klunder, Lopez, Martinez, Mello, Nielsen, Petrik, Riker, Robusto, Seniura, Sgobba, Solovij, Tenn, Thrush, Young, Yount

Colorado (4) M. Allen, Blankenbuhler, Piz, Sutton

Hawaii (1) Strickland

Illinois (1) Ryan

Virginia (1) Swiader

BY EXPERIENCE

3L (4) Cooper, Lopez, Solovij, Swiader

2L (2) Klunder, Martinez

1L (6) Carter, Davidson, Elliott, Girdner, Nielsen, Young

SQ (4) Alvarez, Beveridge, Deckers, Robusto

RS (1) Piz

TR (3) H. Allen, Burson, Tenn

HS (14) M. Allen, Blankenbuhler, DaCosta-Muniz, Foss, Mello, Petrik, Riker, Ryan, Seniura, Sgoba, Strickland, Sutton, Thrush, Yount

► 2005 San Diego State Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown/Last School
0	Jill Foss	GK	5-6	Fr.	HS	Oceanside, Calif./Carlsbad High
00	Sami Beveridge	GK	5-6	So.	SQ	Lakeside, Calif./El Capitan High
00	Christi Yount	GK	5-6	Fr.	HS	Mission Viejo, Calif./Capistrano Valley High
1	Cat Burson	GK	5-7	So.	TR	Poway, Calif./UC Santa Barbara
01	Gricelda Alvarez	GK	5-8	Sr.	SQ	San Jose, Calif./De Anza College
01	Melissa Deckers	GK	5-7	So.	SQ	Valencia, Calif./Hart High
2	Kelly Carter	D	5-6	So.	1L	Claremont, Calif./Claremont High
3	Ashley Tenn	M	5-8	So.-RS	TR	Bakersfield, Calif./Univ. of Nebraska
4	Tiphanie Elliott	F	5-6	So.	1L	Porterville, Calif./Monache High
5	Erica Lopez	D	5-5	Sr.	3L	Vista, Calif./Vista High
6	Millie Allen	D	5-4	Fr.	HS	Thornton, Colo./Horizon High
7	*Alexis Solovij	D	5-2	Sr.	3L	Santa Barbara, Calif./Dos Pueblos High
8	Alicia Piz	F/M	5-3	Fr.-RS	SQ	Morrison, Colo./Dakota Ridge High
9	Jen Mello	F/M	5-4	Fr.	HS	Pleasanton, Calif./Amador Valley High
10	Lisette Martinez	F	5-4	Sr.	2L	Chula Vista, Calif./Hilltop High
11	Kristi Robusto	M	5-3	Jr.	SQ	Claremont, Calif./Univ. of Idaho
12	Erika Sutton	F	5-3	Fr.	HS	Arvada, Colo./Ralston Valley High
13	Jen Klunder	F	5-9	Jr.	2L	La Mirada, Calif./La Mirada High
14	Becky Ryan	M/D	5-6	Fr.	HS	Batavia, Ill./Batavia High
15	*Amanda Swiader	D	5-9	Sr.	3L	Virginia Beach, Va./Frank W. Cox High
16	Jessica Girdner	M	5-10	So.	1L	San Diego, Calif./University City High
17	Mariko Strickland	M	5-5	Fr.	HS	Anahola, Hawaii/Mid-Pacific Institute High
18	Carrie Blankenbuhler	M/D	5-3	Fr.	HS	Littleton, Colo./Chatfield High
19	Jillian Riker	D	5-4	Fr.	HS	Carlsbad, Calif./Carlsbad High
20	Adora DaCosta-Muniz	F/D	5-5	Fr.	HS	Ramona, Calif./Ramona High
21	Ashley Young	D	5-4	So.	1L	Long Beach, Calif./Long Beach Poly High
22	Ashley Cooper	F	5-8	Sr.	3L	San Diego, Calif./Mira Mesa High
23	Casey Davidson	F	5-7	So.	1L	Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa High
24	Kristen Seniura	D	5-6	Fr.	HS	Mission Viejo, Calif./Capistrano Valley High
25	Megan Petrik	F	5-5	Fr.	HS	San Juan Capistrano, Calif./Capistrano Valley High
26	Lisa Nielsen	M	5-5	So.	1L	Santa Maria, Calif./Righetti High
27	Leann Sgobba	F	5-9	Fr.	HS	Los Olivos, Calif./Santa Ynez Valley Union High
28	Keri Thrush	D	5-6	Fr.	HS	Laguna Niguel, Calif./Dana Hills High
30	Heather Allen	D	5-5	So.-RS	TR	Orange, Calif./Westmont College

*Captains

Head Coach: Dr. Mike Giuliano (Tennessee Temple, 1981)

Associate Head Coach: Mike Friesen (Sonoma State, 1996)

Assistant Coach: Erica Keus (San Diego State, 2004)

Pronunciation Guide

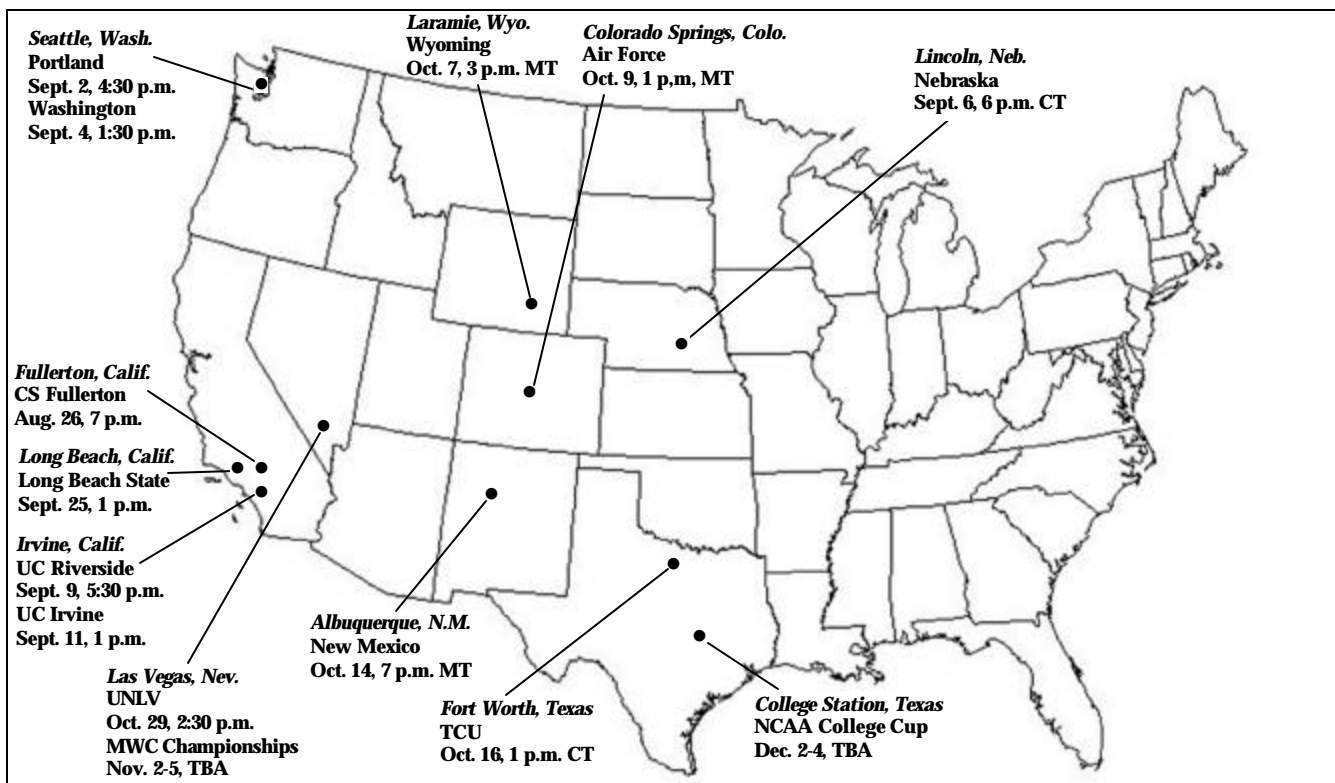
Carrie Blankenbuhler	blanken-BUE-ler
Tiphanie Elliott	TIFF-any
Mike Giuliano	JEW-lee-ano
Mike Friesen	FREE-sen
Erica Keus	KEWZ
Megan Petrik	PEE-trick
Alicia Piz	PEAS
Kristi Robusto	ro-BOO-sto
Kristen Seniura	sen-YURA
Leann Sgobba	sa-GO-ba
Alexis Solovij	so-lo-VEE
Mariko Strickland	ma-DEE-ko
Amanda Swiader	SWAY-der

SCHEDULE & TRAVEL LOCATIONS



www.goaztecs.com

INTRODUCTION



► 2005 San Diego State Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Site	Time
Aug. 26	Fri.	at CS Fullerton	Fullerton, Calif.	7 p.m. PT
Aug. 28	Sun.	NORTHERN ARIZONA	SDSU Sports Deck	Noon PT
Sept. 2	Fri.	vs. Portland	Seattle, Wash.	4:30 p.m. PT
Sept. 4	Sun.	at Washington	Seattle, Wash.	1:30 p.m. PT
Sept. 6	Tue.	at Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.	6 p.m. CT
Sept. 9	Fri.	vs. UC Riverside	Irvine, Calif.	5:30 p.m. PT
Sept. 11	Sun.	at UC Irvine	Irvine, Calif.	1 p.m. PT
Sept. 16	Fri.	GEORGE WASHINGTON	SDSU Sports Deck	4 p.m. PT
Sept. 19	Mon.	CS NORTHRIDGE	SDSU Sports Deck	4 p.m. PT
Sept. 23	Fri.	PACIFIC	SDSU Sports Deck	4 p.m. PT
Sept. 25	Sun.	at Long Beach State	Long Beach, Calif.	1 p.m. PT
Sept. 28	Wed.	SAN DIEGO	SDSU Sports Deck	4 p.m. PT
Oct. 1	Sat.	HAWAII	SDSU Sports Deck	Noon PT
Oct. 7	Fri.	*at Wyoming	Laramie, Wyo.	3 p.m. MT
Oct. 9	Sun.	*at Air Force	Colorado Springs, Colo.	1 p.m. MT
Oct. 14	Fri.	*at New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.	7 p.m. MT
Oct. 16	Sun.	*at TCU	Fort Worth, Texas	1 p.m. CT
Oct. 20	Thur.	*UTAH	SDSU Sports Deck	3:30 p.m. PT
Oct. 22	Sat.	*BRIGHAM YOUNG	SDSU Sports Deck	1 p.m. PT
Oct. 29	Sat.	*at UNLV	Las Vegas, Nev.	2:30 p.m. PT
Nov. 2-5	Wed.-Sat.	at Mountain West Conference Soccer Championships (Las Vegas, Nev.)		
Nov. 11-13	Fri.-Sun.	NCAA First/Second Rounds at Campus Sites		TBA
Nov. 18-20	Fri.-Sun.	NCAA Third Round at Campus Sites		TBA
Nov. 25-27	Fri.-Sun.	NCAA Quarterfinals at Campus Sites		TBA
Dec. 2-4	Fri.-Sun.	at NCAA College Cup	College Station, Texas	TBA

* - Mountain West Conference Game, CAPS - home games



Jen Klunder

SEASON OUTLOOK



www.goaztecs.com

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes a problem can be a good thing. With 12 returning letterwinners and 18 newcomers to the 2005 San Diego State women's soccer team, the Aztec coaching staff faces a major obstacle in the upcoming 2005 season - how to find enough playing time for all of the talented players?

Coming off the program's most successful season since 1999, which culminated in a shootout loss in the Mountain West Conference championship match, SDSU looks poised to make a run for an NCAA tournament berth in 2005.

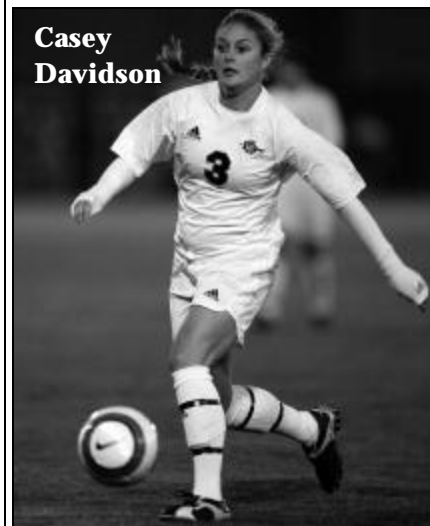
The Aztecs return MWC Defensive Player of the Year Alexis Solovij and two-time all-conference selection Amanda Swiader, and bring in their most talented recruiting class in recent memory to The Mesa.

"Our expectation is the NCAA tournament," second-year head coach Dr. Mike Giuliano said. "We have a team that, talent-wise, is definitely at the next level. The question is going to be experience. We have 15 freshmen coming (in the fall) and many could start. How quickly will they adjust to the college level?"

If the end of last year was any indication, the freshmen may settle in just fine. SDSU went 5-1-3 over its final nine games last season, despite carrying 14 newcomers on the roster. After struggling offensively most of the year and not scoring a single goal, the freshmen found their niche when it counted most - in the MWC tournament.

Three different freshmen scored four of the team's five tournament goals, including Tiphonie Elliott's tournament-leading two tallies.

"We want to be in a position at the (2005) MWC championship to have another chance for the (conference's) automatic bid," associate



Casey Davidson

San Diego State's recruiting class was ranked 19th in the nation by SoccerBuzz.

head coach Mike Friesen said. "We'll need contributions from everybody."

Forwards

After scoring only 17 goals in the 2004 season, the lowest total in the program's 16-year history, the coaching staff addressed the problem in the offseason by bringing in a list of highly touted prep stars.

Erika Sutton, rated as one of the top 50 recruits by *SoccerBuzz*, should make an immediate impact. Sutton is currently in the pool for the national team and has previously trained with the U.S. under-19 national team.

"Erica is one of the most explosive forwards in the country," Friesen said. "She has the potential to be one of the greatest players ever to wear the Aztec uniform."

Sutton's club teammate with the Colorado Rush, Jen Mello, should also compete for a starting spot. Giuliano rated her as the most tactical forward of the incoming recruits.

"Jen reads the game exceptionally well and is a true soccer player," added Friesen. "(Sutton and Mello) could combine to score more goals than our whole team last year."

Junior Jen Klunder, the team's leading scorer a year ago, will look to improve on her impressive resume of timely goals. Each of Klunder's four career goals have been game-winners.

"Klunder always seems to find a way to get the ball in the back of the net," said Friesen.

Sophomores Casey Davidson and Elliott are expected to see significant time up front as well.

"Casey had a great showing at the MWC tournament and a terrific spring," Friesen said. "She worked her tail off and was probably the most fit player. We are expecting her to help us out extensively this season."

"Tiphonie is a great in-the-air player and will help our offense out a great deal."

Seniors Ashley Cooper, who tied for the team lead with three assists a year ago, and Lisette Martinez, SDSU's all-time active scoring leader, will see playing time as well.

"Cooper is a returning player with starting experience and Lisette will add veteran leadership to our newcomers," said Giuliano.

Other players who could see playing time at the forward position include freshmen Adora DeCosta-Muniz, Megan Petrik, Alicia Piz and Leann Sgobba.

Midfielders

The midfielders will be led by Nebraska



transfer Ashley Tenn and sophomore Jessica Girdner.

Tenn played in 21 of 22 games for the NCAA participant Huskers in 2003, tallying one goal with six starts. One of the better shooters in the spring for the Aztecs, Tenn should control the central midfield in her first season on The Mesa.

"Tenn is dangerous from set starts because of her cannon-like shot," Giuliano said. "She's played at the highest levels and knows what it takes to win."

Girdner came on strong at the end of the season in 2004 and figures to play a significant role in a much-improved offensive team.

"Jessica was probably our best midfielder at the end of last season," said Friesen. "She always stays composed on the field, is good in the air and is a great finisher."

Piz, a redshirt freshman in 2004, will look to make a contribution if she can stay healthy after an impressive spring.

"Piz looked great for us in the spring," Giuliano said. "She is tactically sound, but is also very good on the dribble. She can play either at forward or midfield and her work-rate is second to none."

Carrie Blankenbuhler and Mariko Strickland highlight the incoming freshmen midfielders. Blankenbuhler helped lead the Colorado Rush to three consecutive state cups and her Chatfield High School team to a 2004 state championship from her defensive midfield position.

"Carrie is known for her stellar distribution of the ball," said Giuliano. "She will help us, especially in terms of organization, on the field."

Considered one of the top players to come out of Hawaii this year, Strickland brings a wealth of experience at the regional level to SDSU. She was a five-year member of the ODP state team and was a three-year member of the Regional IV squad.

SEASON OUTLOOK



www.goaztecs.com

INTRODUCTION

"Mariko is known for her amazing work rate, which allows her to control the game on both ends of the pitch," Giuliano said. "She also has great ball skills."

Junior Kristi Robusto, sophomore Lisa Nielsen and freshman Becky Ryan will add depth at midfield.

Defenders

Defense wins championships and once again, defense will be the strength of the 2005 squad. Despite losing first-team all-MWC defender Noelle Jouglet to graduation, SDSU returns reigning MWC Defensive Player of the Year Solovij and two-time all-MWC selection Swiader. The senior captains will lead an Aztec defense that should be its deepest in many years.

"It's great to have that senior leadership," Giuliano said.

Solovij also earned MWC all-tournament team honors and was named to her second consecutive all-MWC team.

"Solovij is a true sweeper," Giuliano said. "She reads the game so well and is a great tackler. She does an excellent job of organizing the defense and is a major reason why we will be successful this year."

Swiader joined Solovij on the MWC all-tournament team for her outstanding defensive play and earned second-team all-MWC accolades.

"Defensively, Swiader can shut almost anyone down," Giuliano said. "We are counting on her to provide us with more offense this year, too."

Millie Allen, ranked in the top 100 incoming recruits according to *SoccerBuzz*, should provide an immediate impact in 2005. Allen was a member of the U.S. U-16 2002 national team and a two-time Colorado state ODP pick. She also captained the Colorado Rush team, where she was a teammate of Sutton and Blankenbuhler.

"Allen is a fast, physical defender who will strengthen an already stellar back line," Giuliano said. "Millie's speed and athleticism will also allow her to be an offensive force out of the back."

Senior Erica Lopez, sophomore Kelly Carter, and freshman DaCosta-Muniz could also battle for a starting spot.

Lopez is a veteran starter of 40 career games and Carter is coming off an impressive spring. DaCosta-Muniz, who will also see playing time at forward, could be the wild card of the group because of her tremendous speed.

"(Adora) DaCosta-Muniz will be one of the fastest players ever to put on an Aztec uniform," said Giuliano. "Her speed will allow her to play numerous positions."

Sophomore Ashley Young, and freshmen Jillian Riker, Kristen Seniura and Keri Thrush could also see playing time in the backfield.

Goalkeepers

It will be tough to replace Sophia Perez, the 2004 MWC tournament Most Valuable Player and a first-team all-MWC selection between the pipes, but that doesn't mean a newcomer won't step up to the challenge.

There will be six goalkeepers fighting for the starting position without a clear-cut favorite heading into training camp.

"Goalkeeping duties will be a wide-open competition," Giuliano said. "It will be a first-class battle for the first, second and third spots."

Senior Gricelda Alvarez (92:36) and sophomore Melissa Deckers (4:34) played sparingly in 2004, but sophomore Sami Beveridge had an outstanding spring, giving her a chance to see time in 2005.

There are also three decorated standout athletes coming into camp with the ability to play right away.

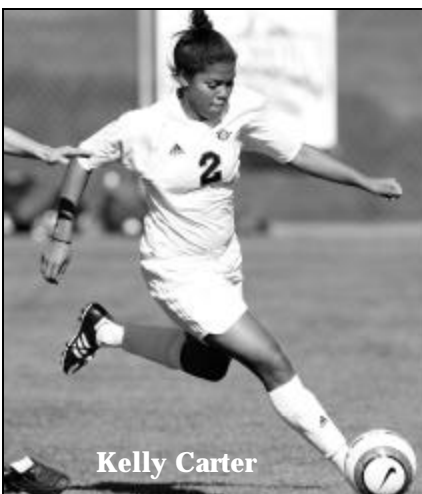
Christi Yount comes to The Mesa having experienced winning on many levels in the past. In 2002, Yount led the Slammers to a national club championship and earned the "Golden Glove Award," given to the top goalkeeper at the national tournament.

"Christi will challenge immediately for the starting spot and we expect great things from her," Giuliano said.

Jillian Foss could be the steal of the recruiting class, as coaches have raved her technique and work-rate.

"Jillian is tactically a great player and is very quick off the line," said Giuliano.

Cat Burson, a transfer from UC Santa Barbara, was arguably the best goalkeeper for the Gauchos in 2004. In 599:24 of play, Burson



Kelly Carter

made 27 saves with a 0.60 goals against average. She appeared in seven games, registering three shutouts.

"I'm excited to see what Cat can do in net," Giuliano said.

"(The competition) is definitely a good problem to have."

The Schedule

The coaching staff certainly didn't make things easy for the squad with a schedule that will feature several nationally prominent teams early. Out of its 20 games, SDSU will play six opponents who advanced to the 2004 NCAA soccer tournament.

The SDSU non-conference schedule includes early trips to Seattle, Wash., for games against Portland (Sept. 2) and Washington (Sept. 4), and Lincoln, Neb., for a meeting with Nebraska (Sept. 6) in successive games. The Pilots and Huskies each advanced to the quarterfinal round of the NAAs a year ago, while the Cornhuskers made it to the third round. The three schools finished the 2004 campaign with a combined record of 51-18-1.

"To play three consecutive top-10 teams early, not to mention two difficult games to start the season at Fullerton (Aug. 26) and our home opener against Northern Arizona (Aug. 28), is going to be tough," said Giuliano. "How we do early with our young team will really set the tone for the rest of the season."

The Aztecs will play host to seven non-conference home matches, including Cal State Northridge (Sept. 19), NCAA participant San Diego (Sept. 28) and Hawai'i (Oct. 1).

The Aztecs open conference play with four road games versus Wyoming (Oct. 7), Air Force (Oct. 9), New Mexico (Oct. 14) and, the newest member of the MWC, TCU on Oct. 16.

SDSU ends its MWC regular season schedule with its toughest three conference games of the season. The Aztecs play host to Utah (Oct. 20) and Brigham Young (Oct. 22) before traveling to UNLV on Oct. 29 for their conference finale. The Utes and Rebels made last year's NCAA field of 64, while the Cougars have won the MWC tournament on four different occasions.

The MWC championships will be played at Peter Johann Memorial Field in Las Vegas, Nev., on the campus of UNLV in early November. The MWC championship game is set for Nov. 5, but SDSU hopes to be playing past that date.

"We know the road to NAAs is going to be tough," Giuliano said, "but we are ready for the challenge."