



## WELCOME TO SDSU



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water polo

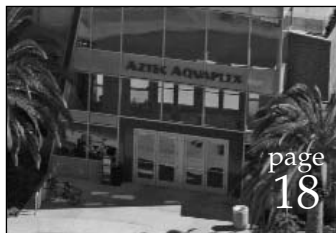
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### ► General Information

Location .....San Diego, Calif.  
Founded .....1897  
Enrollment .....34,360  
Nickname .....Aztecs  
Colors .....Scarlet and Black  
Conference .....Mountain Pacific Sports Federation  
President .....Dr. Stephen L. Weber  
Director of Athletics .....Jeff Schemmel  
Faculty Representative .....Dr. Roger Caves  
Senior Woman Administrator .....Jenny Bramer

### ► Women's Water Polo Team Information

Head Coach ...Carin Crawford (UCSD '89), 11th year  
Assistant Coach .....Allison Gregory, Fourth year  
Volunteer Coach ...Stephanie Lombardo, Third year  
Water Polo Office Phone .....(619) 594-0649  
Home Facility .....Aztec Aquaplex  
2008 Record (MPFS) .....31-7 (8-4)  
2008 Final National Ranking .....5th  
Letterwinners Returning/Lost .....8/6

### ► 2009 Team Roster

| No. | Player                | Year | Position | Height | Hometown (Previous School)                       |
|-----|-----------------------|------|----------|--------|--|
| 1   | Kelly Campoli         | Fr.  | G        | 5-7    | Lake Forest, Calif. (El Toro HS)                 |
| 1   | Katie Bentley         | Sr.  | G        | 5-9    | Poway, Calif. (UC Irvine)                        |
| 1   | Katie Avetoom         | Fr.  | G        | 5-9    | Tustin, Calif. (Foothill HS)                     |
| 2   | Sarah Brady           | So.  | D        | 5-6    | Los Alamitos, Calif. (Los Alamitos HS)           |
| 3   | Ashley Novack         | So.  | 2M       | 5-6    | San Juan Capistrano, Calif. (Santa Margarita HS) |
| 4   | Kierstin Hill         | So.  | U        | 5-7    | Oceanside, Calif. (Vista HS)                     |
| 5   | Melissa de Jonckheere | Jr.  | D        | 5-6    | Riverside, Calif. (Riverside CC)                 |
| 6   | Leanne Ford           | Fr.  | 2MD      | 5-9    | Upland, Calif. (Upland HS)                       |
| 7   | Erinn Greenwood       | Sr.  | 2M       | 5-10   | Sanger, Calif. (Buchanan HS)                     |
| 8   | Erin Lester           | Sr.  | D        | 5-2    | Lake Forest, Calif. (El Toro HS)                 |
| 9   | Anna Gonzales         | Sr.  | U        | 5-11   | Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West HS)                  |
| 10  | Ronni Gautschi        | Jr.  | 2M       | 5-9    | Morgan Hill, Calif. (Live Oak HS)                |
| 11  | Fallon Newman         | So.  | D        | 5-8    | Poway, Calif. (Poway High)                       |
| 12  | Kimmy Keach           | Fr.  | D        | 5-5    | La Mesa, Calif. (Grossmont HS)                   |
| 13  | Jenna Schuster        | Sr.  | D        | 5-10   | Upland, Calif. (Upland HS)                       |
| 14  | Danielle Pelke        | Jr.  | D        | 5-9    | Los Alamitos, Calif. (Los Alamitos HS)           |
| 15  | Brooke Vessey         | So.  | D        | 5-2    | Redlands, Calif. (Redlands HS)                   |
| 16  | Lindsey Morris        | Fr.  | U        | 5-9    | Fremont, Calif. (Mission San Jose HS)            |
| 17  | Meghann Pedersen      | Fr.  | C        | 6-0    | Los Gatos, Calif. (Los Gatos HS)                 |
| 18  | Meaghan Poland        | Fr.  | U        | 5-10   | Wildomar, Calif. (Lake Elsinore HS)              |
| 19  | Jenn Needham          | Fr.  | 2MD      | 5-10   | San Jose, Calif. (Archbishop Mitty HS)           |
| 20  | Hilary Whelan         | Fr.  | D        | 5-6    | Clovis, Calif. (Buchanan HS)                     |
| 21  | Alana Burgess         | Fr.  | D        | 5-7    | Coronado, Calif. (Coronado HS)                   |
|     | Jenna Natalizio       | Jr.  | U        | 5-7    | Irvine, Calif. (Santa Ana CC)                    |
|     | Katie Teets           | Fr.  | C        | 5-9    | Murrieta, Calif. (Murrieta Valley HS)            |
|     | Ashley de Goede       | Jr.  | U        | 5-10   | Arroyo Grande, Calif. (Cuesta C.C.)              |

### ► Media Information

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### ► Aztecs On The Internet

For the most up-to-date information on San Diego State water polo, check out the official web site of Aztecs athletics at [www.GoAztecs.com](http://www.GoAztecs.com). News releases, updated statistics, results, game recaps and player profiles can be found on the water polo page.

### MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE

The San Diego State University athletic department would like to welcome members of the media in their coverage of the San Diego State water polo program. We hope this media guide will be useful in your coverage of San Diego State.

If you have any questions this season, please feel free to contact the San Diego State media relations office.

### CREDITS

The 2009 San Diego State University water polo media guide is a product of the Aztec media relations office. The publication was written and edited by media relations assistant Andrea Ohta.

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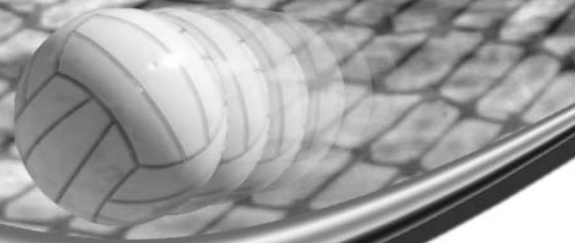
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## SEASON OUTLOOK

Most athletes can do extraordinary things if they have one thing - confidence. Fortunately for the San Diego State water polo team, confidence is the one thing they are not lacking.

After a breakout 2007 season, the Aztecs followed it up with an even better one in 2008. Riding the momentum of appearing in their first-ever trip to the NCAA s, the Scarlet and Black came back to Montezuma Mesa and established a school record for wins in a season and earned the program's second consecutive trip to the national championships.

"When you have that kind of success it's absolutely contagious; it's something that you want to repeat," said 11th-year head coach Carin Crawford. "It has raised the overall level of performance and commitment and hard work in the practices and it's raised the level of expectations we all have of each other."

Despite losing three key contributors to graduation, SDSU will return a wealth of experience with eight letterwinners back from the 2008 squad that finished the year with a program-best 31-7 mark and a fifth-place finish at the NCAA tournament. Add in a highly decorated recruiting class and the Aztecs will once again be in position to make a run for the national title.

Leading the way for the Scarlet and Black this season will be the powerful pair of seniors in two-time All-Americans Jenna Schuster and Anna Gonzales. From the moment they stepped onto The Mesa, Schuster and Gonzales have been a force to be reckoned with.

"Jenna Schuster and Anna Gonzales are a dynamic pair and give us a really strong two-pronged attack," Crawford said. "Jenna plays most effectively close to the goal, whereas Anna is probably one of the best perimeter shooters in the nation. When defenses collapse onto Jenna that often opens up opportunities for Anna and vice versa; if Anna is pressed out, then Jenna has a little bit more isolation."

SDSU's top returning scorer, Schuster followed

up an impressive sophomore campaign with 83 goals, 29 assists and 53 steals during her junior season. With her performance, Schuster garnered second-team All-America honors and was selected to the all-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation second team.

"Jenna Schuster creates offensive opportunities with her stellar defensive play. She is a very quick and explosive player and can create scoring opportunities off the drive as well as any player in the nation," Crawford said. "She has a high water polo IQ and we rely on her leadership as a co-captain. She is extremely focused and always brings great intensity to her game."

The Aztecs other top scoring threat is Gonzales, who earned honorable mention All-America and second-team all-MPSF honors after an impressive junior season in which she amassed 77 goals, 52 steals, 39 assists and 37 ejections drawn. Gonzales garnered second-team NCAA tournament team accolades for the second year in a row after racking up a pair of hat tricks during the championships.

"Anna is an imposing presence on both sides of the ball," said Crawford. "She is an aggressive defender who can handle tough matchups, but is also one of the top scorers in the nation. Her outside shot is hard and accurate, and she is always a threat when the ball is in her hand."

Rounding out the senior class is Erin Greenwood, Erin Lester and Katie Bentley. In 2008, Greenwood set a school single-season record with 121 ejections drawn while adding 52 goals, 38 steals and 35 assists. Both Lester and Bentley will be looked upon for more contributions in 2009, after playing in reserve roles last year.

Returning juniors Danielle Pelke and Ronni Gautschi are expected to produce more than ever in the pool this year. Pelke, a 2009 co-captain with Schuster, tallied 48 goals, 31 steals and 26 assists in 2008. Gautschi contributed to the Aztecs' success as she totaled 29 goals, 19 assists, 13 steals and 42 ejections drawn.

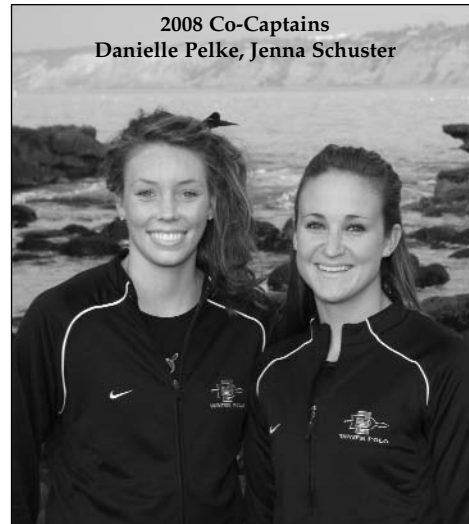
"Danielle Pelke is one of the most accurate perimeter shooters that I've ever coached," Crawford said. "She has tremendous focus on the goal. I'm expecting her, as a junior co-captain, to turn in her best season ever."

"Ronni Gautschi had a phenomenal season last year as a sophomore," said Crawford. "We have the ability to create a lot of scoring opportunities at two-meters by having our sets draw ejections and giving us power play opportunities. I'm looking forward to seeing her step up into a bigger role for us this season."

With one year under its belt, the Aztecs' sophomore class is expected to contribute even more this year. Utility Kierstin Hill and driver Brooke Vessey will be looked at to fill roles left open by the graduating class. Hill found the back of the net twice in the seven games she saw action in last year, while Vessey came off the bench in 25 games as a true freshman and totaled four goals, nine steals and four assists.

"I think Kierstin Hill is a versatile utility player who we will expect to see more minutes this sea-

2008 Co-Captains  
Danielle Pelke, Jenna Schuster



son," Crawford said. "Brooke Vessey shoots, drives and attacks the goal effectively."

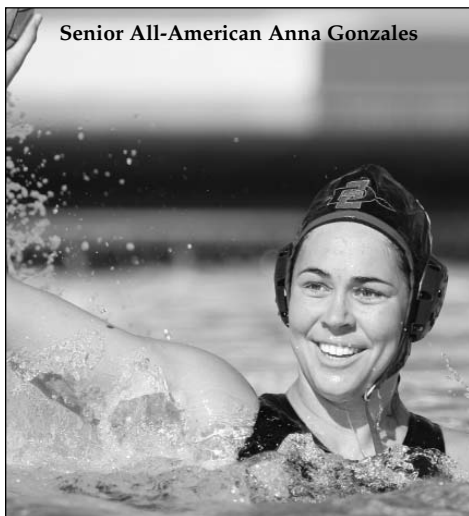
With the addition of 15 newcomers to The Mesa, SDSU will have more depth than ever in 2009. Expected to have an immediate impact are recruits Melissa de Jonckheere, Kelly Campoli, Leanne Ford, Alana Burgess and Meaghan Poland.

De Jonckheere led Riverside Community College to an undefeated record and a state championship in 2007. Campoli will look to share time in goal with Bentley, as she was one of the top goalies in the nation coming out of high school, garnering all-CIF honors twice and was twice named league MVP. Ford comes in as an experienced two-meter guard and has earned gold medals at both the 2008 Junior Olympics and the 2008 US Club Championships. Burgess comes to SDSU with great vision of the pool, evident as she led her high school team to four CIF San Diego Section Division II finals and came away with the team crown in 2008. Poland will be a versatile addition for the Aztecs after completing her prep career acquiring first-team and second-team all-CIF honors and all-Sunbelt League accolades.

"Melissa de Jonckheere is very fast," Crawford said. "She is a great shooter and has a great offensive mindset. She is expected to help us immediately and help us to fill in for the loss of seniors." "I think our freshmen have a strong sense of the burden of expectation that is on them," said Crawford.

With confidence at a high point and more depth on the team than there has ever been, the Aztecs look poised to make another run at the NCAA championship crown.

"In many ways we will be more experienced and deeper in all of the key positions," Crawford said. "We have more confidence and faith in our own ability to prove that we are one of the elite teams in the nation. I feel like that confidence will really carry us this year."



Senior All-American Anna Gonzales