

2007 COACHING STAFF



Head coach Lev Kirshner and assistant coach Matt Hall enter their eighth season on The Mesa.

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Lev Kirshner	14-15
Assistant Coach Matt Hall	16
Assistant Coach Kevin Sapanli	16
Assistant Coach Oscar Rodriguez	17
Director of Oper. Andrew DiCicco	17
Aztec Support Staff	18

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

AZTEC SOCCER

HEAD COACH

Lev Kirshner

Head Coach
Eighth Season as Head Coach
11th Season at SDSU
Rutgers, 1991
B.A., Communication

- ▶ **Back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances**
- ▶ **Two All-America selections**
- ▶ **Two Academic All-America picks**
- ▶ **Four all-Far West selections**
- ▶ **Four academic all-Far West selections**
- ▶ **Twenty-seven all-conference picks**

Entering his eighth season at the helm of the SDSU men's soccer program, Lev Kirshner has brought the Aztecs back into the national spotlight.

Kirshner led the 2006 Aztecs to their second consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament; a feat SDSU hadn't done since the 1988 and 1989 seasons. Although the Aztecs would fall to eventual NCAA champion UC Santa Barbara, last year has to be deemed a success.

Consider the following:

- ▶ In just its second year of play in the highly competitive Pac-10 Conference, Kirshner and San Diego State went on to finish second with a 5-2-3 record. Included in the five conference victories was a sweep over conference champion California.
- ▶ SDSU went 2-0 in the inaugural The Soccer Post/Aztec Classic and finished runner-up with a 1-0-1 record at the USD/SDSU Soccer Tournament.
- ▶ The Aztecs allowed just nine goals in league play, tied with Stanford for the lowest in the conference, and had six shutouts.
- ▶ San Diego State defeated three nationally ranked teams in 2006, including two top-10 opponents.
- ▶ SDSU went 8-1-1 at SDSU Sports Deck. The eight home wins are the most since 1992, when the Aztecs also won eight times.
- ▶ The Aztecs were ranked as high as No. 21 by *College Soccer News*, No. 22 by NSCAA and No. 25 by *Soccer America*.
- ▶ Senior goalkeeper Tally Hall was a M.A.C. Hermann Award semifinalist, an All-American for the second consecutive year, an Scholar All-American, an all-Far West Region performer and a first-team all-Pac-10 selection.
- ▶ Hall joined six others on the all-conference team, SDSU's highest total in school

history, including Pac-10 Freshman of the Year Nick Cardenas.

In 2005, Kirshner led SDSU to a 9-4-6 record, its best mark since 1991, and a trip to its first NCAA tournament since 1989, before falling at UC Santa Barbara, 2-0, in the first round.

Kirshner's disciplined approach helped the Aztecs receive numerous honors in 2005. SDSU was nationally ranked by all four polls during the season and reached as high as No. 14 by *Soccer America* and *College Soccer News*. The Aztecs ranked first nationally with a 87.9 shots-on-goal save percentage and second in the country with a 0.54 goals against average. SDSU did not allow a goal in the first half the entire season.

Under Kirshner's tutelage, Hall became the first Aztec to receive All-American honors since National Soccer Hall of Fame member Marcelo Balboa did so in 1989.

In addition to Hall, four others were named to the all-Pacific 10 Conference team, including sophomore midfielder Kraig Chiles.

Kirshner didn't rest on his laurels in the offseason. Instead, he brought in the 17th-best recruiting class in the country, according to *College Soccer News*.

No stranger to winning, Kirshner has a mold and a style that his players have bought into; one that has shown proven results when building programs.

Before coming to SDSU, Kirshner coached the women of Cañada College (Redwood City, Calif.) from 1992-95. During that time, he took a team that had never won a conference game prior to his arrival and led it to a 16-1-3 record and a trip to the California state quarterfinals his third year. For his efforts, he was named the Coast Conference coach of the year. He also served as the men's assistant coach at Cañada and helped with their run to the state quarterfinals in



INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

THIS IS SDSU

HISTORY/RECORDS



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



AZTEC SOCCER

HEAD COACH KIRSHNER



Lev Kirshner and his assistant, Amos Magee, celebrating their silver medal effort at the 2005 Maccabiah World Games in Israel.

1992 and 1994.

From there, he moved to a head coaching position at Ohlone College (Fremont, Calif.) in the fall of 1995. At Ohlone, he helped take a team from a second-to-last place league finish the previous season to a No. 15 state ranking.

Prior to his arrival at SDSU, Kirshner also served as the men's assistant coach at his alma mater, Rutgers. Kirshner helped the Scarlet Knights to the second round at the 1996 NCAA tournament, and a No. 13 national ranking and a 14-7-4 record.

Before taking over the Aztecs' head spot five years ago, Kirshner spent three seasons as an assistant coach for the SDSU men's program under long-time head coach Chuck Clegg, the school's all-time winningest coach.

In his first season at SDSU's helm, Kirshner's team improved its win total from the previous year, despite playing top-ranked UCLA and traditional powers Washington, Portland and San Diego.

Kirshner believes that talented players and top-notch competition go hand-in-hand, so he wants his SDSU teams to be characterized by their success against quality opponents.

"When you start stepping up your competition, you need better players," Kirshner said. "I think that the two have complemented each other well and put us in position to not only play those teams, but actually beat them."

As a player at Rutgers, Kirshner was part of the 1987 NCAA quarterfinal team, a 1989 NCAA semifinal squad that lost to eventual co-champion Virginia and a runner-up finisher to UCLA in the 1990 championship match.

He received his undergraduate degree in communication while graduating with honors in 1991, and is listed as one of the soccer program's top 25 alumni.

"Lev was an outstanding player for us and a very integral part of a team that went to two Final Fours in his career," Rutgers head coach Bob Reasso said. "In my 25 years at Rutgers, Lev was one of the finest players ever to come through our program."

Following his collegiate career, Kirshner represented the United States in 1993, winning a bronze medal for the U.S. national Maccabiah team. In 1997, he returned to Israel as captain of the U.S. team, and led the only squad to defeat eventual gold-medalist Brazil.

Kirshner was selected as one of 250 domestic and international athletes to be assessed in the inaugural Major League Soccer combine in 1995. Kirshner also had a stint in the USISL starting for the Reno Rattlers. During that year, he trained with and played in several intrasquad reserve games for the MLS San Jose Clash.

Kirshner was named coach of the U.S. Maccabiah Pan-American U-20 soccer team in December 2003, where he won a bronze medal in Santiago, Chile. In the summer of 2005, Kirshner led the national Maccabiah squad to a second-place finish. Kirshner and his assistant, Amos Magee, became only the second and third members of the U.S. soccer delegation to have won two medals in the World Maccabiah Games. Additionally, Kirshner's squad earned the tournament's "Fair Play" Award, which is given to the team that exhibited the best sportsmanship.

Kirshner has valuable experience working with all levels of soccer having had stints with the Region IV Olympic Development Program (ODP) and serving as the

interim head coach of the national runner-up West team during the 2001 U.S. regional championship. He was also as an assistant coach during the team's undefeated April 2002 tour of Australia.

Additionally, Kirshner has worked as both an assistant and head coach with the Northern California ODP U-23 men's team during 1995 and 1996. He led those squads to consecutive Western Regional championships, including a third-place finish at the 1995 Donnelly Cup. He also won a Western Regional title with the under-15 ODP Northern California state team as the assistant coach of the 1984 age group.

Kirshner maintains ties with the community through his involvement with the Hotspurs Soccer Club, for which he was the director of soccer operations from 1999-2002. Currently, Kirshner works for the PQ Premier coaching their U-12 boys team.

Kirshner owns a USSF A-License, which is the highest license attainable for soccer coaches in the U.S. He also received the NSCAA Premiere Badge with distinguished honors, the highest accolade provided by that organization.

Recently, Kirshner was inducted to the first hall of fame class at his alma mater, Mission San Jose High School. While at Mission San Jose, he guided his soccer team to two North Coast Section (NCS) appearances. During his senior season, he led his squad to its school's first soccer league title en route to the NCS semi-finals, where it fell to De La Salle on penalty kicks. Kirshner was a three-time all-league selection and led his team in points all four years. Adding to his list of prep achievements, Kirshner finished third in the NCS badminton championships his junior year, won the title as a senior and was a varsity cross country runner his sophomore and junior years.

In his time away from soccer, Kirshner enjoys reading biographies of coaches. He is an avid golfer and resides in Pacific Beach.

KIRSHNER IN THE PAC-10

YEAR	OVERALL				YEAR	CONFERENCE			
	W	L	T	PCT		W	L	T	PCT
2005	9	4	6	.632 [^]	Pac-10	2	3	5	.450
2006	9	6	4	.579 [^]	Pac-10	5	2	3	.650~
PAC-10	18	10	10	.605	2-YRS	7	5	8	.550

[^] Denotes NCAA tournament appearance

~ Finished second in Pac-10; SDSU had lowest GAA both seasons

COACHING CAREER

Head Coach (Women's), Cañada College (1992-95)
 Assistant Coach (Men's), Cañada College (1992-95)
 Head Coach, Ohlone College (1995)
 Assistant Coach, Rutgers (1996-97)
 Assistant Coach, San Diego State (1998-2000)
 Head Coach, San Diego State (2000-Present)
 Head Coach, U.S. Maccabiah Pan-American U-20 (2003)
 Head Coach, U.S. Maccabiah National Team (2005)

PLAYING CAREER

Mission San Jose High School (1983-87)
 Rutgers University (1987-90)
 U.S. Maccabiah Team (1993, 1997)
 Reno Rattlers - USISL (1995-96)
 San Jose Clash (1995-96)

SDSU MILESTONE WINS

FIRST WIN AS HEAD COACH: vs. Christian Heritage (5-0), Sept. 1, 2000
FIRST HOME WIN: vs. Christian Heritage (5-0), Sept. 1, 2000
FIRST CONFERENCE WIN: vs. UNLV (1-0), Oct. 29, 2000
FIRST ROAD WIN: at Christian Heritage (3-0), Sept. 19, 2001
FIRST OVERTIME WIN: vs. Brown (2-1), Sept. 30, 2001
FIRST WIN VS. RANKED TEAM: vs. (25) Denver (2-0), Oct. 12, 2001
10TH WIN: vs. Christian Heritage (7-0), Oct. 4, 2001
20TH WIN: vs. UC Riverside (2-1), Sept. 13, 2003
30TH WIN: vs. UNLV (4-2), Nov. 14, 2004
40TH WIN: vs. Albany (3-2), Aug. 25, 2006

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

THIS IS SDSU

HISTORY/RECORDS



NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES
 1969, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2005, 2006
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AZTEC SOCCER

ASSISTANT COACHES

Matt Hall

**Assistant Coach
Eighth Season as Assistant Coach
Eighth Season at SDSU
San Diego, 2001**



Matt Hall enters his eighth season as an assistant with the San Diego State men's soccer program. His primary duties are coordinating the team's recruiting and working with the goalkeepers.

Under Hall's guidance last season, Tally Hall became the first Aztec to earn All-America honors in consecutive years since National Soccer Hall of Famer member Marcelo Balboa accomplished the feat in 1988 and again in 1989.

Tally Hall also was a M.A.C. Hermann Award semifinalist, a Scholar All-American and a first-team all-West Region and all-Pac-10 performer.

Matt Hall helped the SDSU goalkeepers limit the opposition to just nine goals in Pac-10 play, tied with Stanford for the fewest in the conference.

A year before (2005), Tally Hall led the nation with a 88.9 shots-on-goal save percentage and was second in the country with a 0.49 goals against average, both school records.

With Matt Hall's assistance, four different SDSU keepers have earned postseason all-conference honors each of his seven years.

Brian Barnes set the school's single season saves record in both 2000, and 2002. Barnes recorded 90

saves in 2000 and 98 saves in his final season.

Actively involved in recruiting, Matt Hall has helped San Diego State to consecutive top-20 nationally rated recruiting classes.

Hall is a familiar face to San Diego State soccer fans, having spent three years (1996-98) defending the Aztecs' net and beginning SDSU's recent tradition of nationally-renowned goalkeepers.

Hall is listed third on the school's season saves list, recording 89 during the 1998 campaign. He is ranked third on SDSU's career saves list with 213.

In June 1998, Hall represented SDSU at the adidas Summer League, a prestigious camp designed for the nation's top collegiate players. He was one of 15 goalkeepers from across the country invited to participate in the clinic. He also had a solid professional career, starting for the San Diego Flash, which reached the quarterfinals of the A-League championships in 2001.

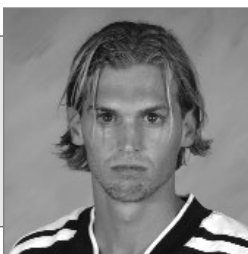
Hall completed his undergraduate degree at the University of San Diego in 2001, and holds a U.S.S.F. National "B" license.

He resides in San Diego with his wife Kelli.



Kevin Sapanli

**Assistant Coach
Third Season as Assistant Coach
Third Season at SDSU
San Diego State, 2006**



Kevin Sapanli enters his third season as an assistant coach after playing for head coach Lev Kirshner and the Aztecs for three seasons (2000-01, 03).

In his three years on The Mesa, Sapanli registered 15 goals and seven assists for 37 points. For his efforts, he was named second-team all-Mountain

Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) in both 2001 and 2003.

In 2001, Sapanli became the first Aztec since 1988 (Kyle Whittemore) to be named an Academic All-American and did so again in 2003.

An extensive traveler in Europe, Sapanli speaks five languages - English, Spanish, Turkish, Croatian

and Italian.

Sapanli graduated in 2006 with a major in international business with an emphasis in Spanish and finance, and a minor in Italian.

He currently resides in Pacific Beach.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

THIS IS SDSU

HISTORY/RECORDS

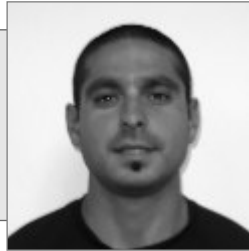


AZTEC SOCCER

ASSISTANT COACHES

Oscar Rodriguez

Assistant Coach
Third Season as Assistant Coach
Sixth Season at SDSU
San Diego State, 2001



Oscar Rodriguez enters his third season as an assistant coach at San Diego State after spending the previous three years as the program's director of soccer operations.

Rodriguez began his collegiate playing career at De Anza College in northern California, before transferring to San Diego State after two successful years in the junior college ranks.

While at De Anza, Rodriguez helped the team to a pair of state championship appearances in 1996 and 1997. In his second season, he captained the team to the state title after going 22-2-2. That year, the squad finished at No. 11 in the national poll.

Rodriguez ended his junior college career as a two-time all-Coast Conference selection, earning second-team honors in 1996 and first-team accolades in 1997.

Fresh off winning the 1997 California Junior

College Championship, Rodriguez transferred to San Diego State and made an immediate impact. The defender from San Jose played in all 20 games, getting the starting nod 17 times.

His senior season was no different from his first on Montezuma Mesa, starting 14 of the 18 games in which he played.

Following his graduation from SDSU in 2001, Rodriguez has been a staple in the men's soccer program as director of soccer operations. His duties included being responsible for all administrative and organizational facets of the program.

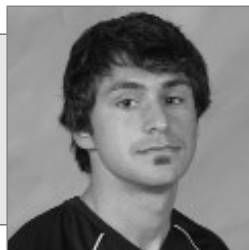
He was promoted to assistant coach in 2005, and has helped coach numerous Aztecs to postseason accolades.

When not assisting the men's soccer team, Rodriguez is protecting the city of San Diego, where he works as a firefighter.



Andrew DiCicco

Director of Soccer Operations
First Season as Director of Operations
First Season at SDSU
San Diego State, 2007



Andrew DiCicco enters his first year as the Director of Soccer Operations at San Diego State. A four-year letterwinner on The Mesa, DiCicco will bring his experience and competitive background to the Aztec coaching staff.

DiCicco, a captain last season with SDSU, played a large role in bringing the Aztecs back to the national spotlight. He helped San Diego State to consecu-

tive NCAA appearances, something it hadn't done since the 1988 and 1989 seasons. SDSU posted a 18-10-10 record over his final two campaigns.

DiCicco had a breakout senior season in 2007, where was second on the team with 14 points and tied for the team lead with four assists. DiCicco set single-season highs in goals (five), assists (four), points (14), shots (22) and shots on goal (12).

For his efforts, he was named to the Pac-10 all-conference team as a honorable mention selection. DiCicco was also named to the USD/SDSU Soccer Classic all-tournament team.

Over his four seasons, DiCicco tallied six goals and seven assists for 19 points.

DiCicco graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

THIS IS SDSU

HISTORY/RECORDS



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



AZTEC SOCCER

SUPPORT STAFF

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

COACHING STAFF

PLAYERS

THIS IS SDSU

HISTORY/RECORDS



Dave Ohton

Strength & Conditioning Coach
22nd season at SDSU
Arizona State, 1984

David Ohton is in his 22nd year as a strength and conditioning coach.

Ohton came to San Diego State after serving as a graduate assistant in strength and conditioning at Arizona State in 1984-85, where he earned his bachelor's in physical education and psychology in 1984.

Following graduation, Ohton signed a free agent contract with the Kansas City Chiefs. He later played for the USFL's Arizona Wranglers, helping the team to the 1984 championship game in Tampa Bay, Fla.

As a certified member of the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), Ohton has published articles on strength training and coaching philosophies in the *NSCA Journal* and *Bigger and Faster Magazine*. In 2005, Ohton was invited to speak on the opening panel at the Association for Women in Sports Media conference held in San Diego about performance-enhancing drugs.

Ohton and his wife, Amy, reside in San Diego along with their two sons, Connor and Braxton.



Ashley Thelen

Grad Asst. Athletic Trainer
Second season at SDSU
Quinnipiac, 2006

Ashley Thelen is in her second season as the athletic trainer for the Aztec men's soccer team. Thelen also works with the water polo squad in the spring.

Thelen completed her undergraduate work at Quinnipiac in 2006, graduating with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. She is currently in her second year of the graduate program at San Diego State, working on her master's in kinesiology.

Thelen worked with a variety of sports while she attended Quinnipiac, including men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's tennis, men's hockey and baseball.

A native of Boston, Mass., Thelen is a certified athletic trainer (NATABOC) and first-aid/CPR instructor.

She currently resides in Ocean Beach.



Steve Becvar
 Executive Associate Athletic Director



Courtney Bale
 Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach



Tim Baran
 Event Management Assistant



Angie Garza
 Assistant Equipment Manager



Jamie McConeghy
 Assistant Media Relations Director - M. Soccer



Kristie Smedrsud
 Academic Advisor - M. Soccer

