Aztec Water Polo

WELCOME TO SDSU





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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 2007 San Diego State University water polo media guide is a product of the Aztec media relations office. The publication was written, designed and edited by media relations assistant Jim Solien. Editorial assistance was provided by assistant media relations directors Darin Wong and Peggy Curtin. Covers were designed by Jim Solien.

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▶ General Information

Location	.San Diego, Calif.
Founded	
Enrollment	
Nickname	Aztecs
Colors	.Scarlet and Black
Conference Mountain Pacific	Sports Federation
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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. News releases, updated statistics, results, game recaps and player profiles can be found on the water polo page.

▶ 2007 Team Roster

No.	Player	Year	Position	Height	Hometown (Previous School)
1	Sarah Kilgore	Sr.	G	5-8	Rossmoor, Calif. (Los Alamitos HS)
1A	Heather Fenske	Jr.	G	5-10	Lompoc, Calif. (Lompoc HS)
1B	Kristin Guissanie	Fr.	G	5-10	Palm Desert, Calif. (Palm Desert HS)
2	Tristan Kennedy-Donohue	Fr.	DR	5-4	Oceanside, Calif. (Vista HS)
3	Patty Halmay	Jr.	2M	5-7	Lakeside, Calif. (Grossmont College)
4	Stacy Werner	Sr.	U	6-0	Lodi, Calif. (Lodi HS)
5	Elana Cervantes	Sr.	U	5-11	Davis, Calif. (Davis HS)
6	Jessica Pace	So.	DR	5-4	Santee, Calif. (Santana HS)
7	Erinn Greenwood	So.	2MD	5-10	Sanger, Calif. (Buchanan HS)
8	Erin Lester	So.	DR	5-2	Lake Forest, Calif. (El Toro HS)
9	Anna Gonzales	So.	U	5-11	Fresno, Calif. (Clovis West HS)
10	Ronni Gautschi	Fr.	2M	5-9	Morgan Hill, Calif. (Live Oak HS)
11	Hannah Klein	Fr.	U	6-0	Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Springbank HS)
12	Jamie Vessey	FrRS	DR	5-3	Redlands, Calif. (Redlands HS)
13	Jenna Schuster	So.	U	5-10	Upland, Calif. (Upland HS)
14	Danielle Pelke	Fr.	DR	5-9	Los Alamitos, Calif. (Los Alamitos HS)
15	Tiphanie Elliott	Jr.	DR	5-6	Porterville, Calif. (Monache HS)
17	Becca Ur	Jr.	2M	6-1	Lompoc, Calif. (Cabrillo HS)

Aztec Water Polo SEASON OUTLOOK

s the old saying goes, "there's no place like home." For the San Diego State water polo team, these time-tested words take on special significance as the 2007 season approaches. After toiling in relative anonymity at various off-campus venues throughout the program's successful 12-year history, SDSU's dream of competing in its own pool will become a reality this spring when the state-of-the-art Aztec Aquaplex opens its doors on Montezuma Mesa.

"It's hard to express how truly excited we are to finally play in our own facility," said ninth-year head coach Carin Crawford. "Many of our players were recruited with the promise that the new pool was going to be built, but without firm knowledge of when it would be completed.

"I am especially grateful to our alumni who have contributed to the greatness of our program during the years when we played off-campus. They have set the stage for a new era in San Diego State water polo and the Aztec Aquaplex is going to enable us to become a championship team."

To the casual observer, these postseason objectives may seem rather ambitious for the upcoming season. After all, SDSU lost two-time All-American Rachel Serna to graduation and return just three seniors from a team that finished the 2006 campaign with a 22-12 record and a No. 7 national ranking in the final collegiate coaches' poll. Yet despite its youthful makeup, Crawford believes this year's Aztec squad is among her deepest and most talented in her nine seasons on The Mesa.

"This team has vast potential," Crawford said. "We will have a well-rounded attack with strength at center, flanked by fast drivers and outstanding perimeter shooters. We are also strong up the middle defensively, and our depth is solid. This group will be fun to watch."

At the heart of San Diego State's powerful lineup are seniors Stacy Werner, Elana Cervantes and Sarah Kilgore, who bring a host of skills and experience, as well as invaluable leadership into their final collegiate campaigns.

Werner led the team with 43 goals in 2006 and tied for second with 31 assists. The Lodi, Calif., native also displayed great tenacity on defense by posting 87 steals, the fifth-highest season total in SDSU history. She had seven takeaways against Pacific to tie a school record and had six steals in four other games.

"Stacy's leadership on both sides of the ball will be a critical element of our success this season," Crawford said. "She is a proven scorer and one of the nation's premier 2-meter defenders."

Cervantes is also coming off a highly productive season in which she tallied a team-high 48 assists and ranked third with 39 goals and 36 steals. The Aztec co-captain is just two assists shy of becoming the school's all-time leader in that category.

"Elana sees the field extremely well and finds open teammates," Crawford said. "She directs our offense and is a scoring threat from anywhere in the pool."

Kilgore, meanwhile, will once again handle the goalkeeping responsibilities after recording a career-high 259 saves in her second season as a starter, the third-highest total in school history. The Rossmoor, Calif., product had 10 multiple-save games last season, including a career-high 17 stops at Arizona State.

"Sarah is a vocal leader on the defensive side who plays smart and puts herself in position to make saves," Crawford said. "She's also an excellent long passer to direct our counter-attack."

SDSU is expecting another sizable contribution from junior Becca Ur at the 2-meter position. The tallest player on the roster at 6-1, Ur notched 22 goals and drew a team-high 49 ejections in her first full season as a starter in 2006.

"Becca brings a unique blend of size and speed to her position," Crawford said of the Aztec co-captain. "She is a terrific shooter and sets up numerous scoring opportunities for other teammates with her ability to draw frequent ejections."

This year's projected starting lineup also features the talented sophomore trio of Anna Gonzales, Jenna Schuster and Erinn Greenwood, who all saw extensive playing time as freshmen in 2006.

A deadly perimeter shooter, Gonzales was the only rookie to start all 34 games last season, scoring 24 goals and chipping in 31 assists. The Fresno, Calif., native also flashed her defensive prowess with 24 steals.

Schuster enjoyed an impressive debut as well, equaling Gonzales' production with 24 scores of her own, including an incredible 13 goals on just 16 attempts during a six-game stretch last season.

Greenwood, meanwhile, displayed her versatility with 13 goals, 11 assists and 15 steals.



The Aztecs are expecting another banner season from senior utility player Stacy Werner, who led the team with 43 goals and 87 steals in 2006.

"Our sophomores are ready and able to assume a more prominent role for us this season," Crawford said. "The experience that they gained as freshmen will pay enormous dividends for us in the coming years."

This year's sophomore class also has capable reserves in Erin Lester and Jessica Pace, who are expected to be key contributors off the bench, along with redshirt freshman Jamie Vessey and junior Tiphanie Elliott.

Elliott, a three-year letterwinner with the San Diego State women's soccer team, brings plenty of speed and athleticism to the pool as she enters her first season of collegiate water polo.

Another quality recruiting class arrives on The Mesa this spring, featuring prized freshmen Ronni Gautschi and Danielle Pelke, who will both be given the opportunity to make an immediate impact after compiling impressive résumés in high school.

Gautschi tallied 198 goals as a senior at Live Oak High in Morgan Hill, Calif., capturing first-team all-CIF Central Coast Section honors, while Pelke was an all-conference performer with the highly successful Los Alamitos High program.

With all of the talent in place and the optimism surrounding the upcoming season, it's difficult to pinpoint any glaring weaknesses. However, the Aztecs will have to adjust to a longer game, which now features eight-minute quarters.

"One of my concerns is preparing the team to play a new style of offense to fit the changes," Crawford said. "We have good depth, so figuring out how to develop new personnel rotations and getting more reserves integrated into the offensive and defensive schemes is a priority in our preseason preparations."



Senior goalkeeper Sarah Kilgore posted SDSU's third-highest season save total in 2006, turning away 259 shots.