



## Gene Carswell

Head Coach

Sixth Season

New Mexico '93

**G**ene Carswell does not mince words when asked about what his vision is for the San Diego State men's tennis program.

"We are looking to go after national championships as individuals and my goal as a head coach is to win the team national championship," Carswell said.

After his five seasons as an assistant helping lead San Diego State's men's tennis ease into the national spotlight, and a pair of regional assistant coach of the year honors, Gene Carswell begins his sixth season as the Aztecs' head coach.

Carswell had been an invaluable part of the program before taking over the helm in 2003. He teamed with then-head coach John Nelson to lead the Aztec program to four NCAA appearances in five seasons, including three trips to the second round and an appearance in the Sweet 16.

"We have set the bar high," Carswell said. "We have established a tradition of being at the top of our conference every year. We look to not only get to the NCAA Tournament, but to win matches and advance. Our goal year in and year out is to reach our potential."

In addition, Carswell has been a catalyst in the building of All-America players like Alex Waske, Oliver Maiberger, Ryan Redondo, Markus Dickhardt and Benedikt Stronk.

In his five seasons as an assistant coach from 1998-2003, the Aztec program reached unparalleled heights, posting an 80-44 (64.5 percent) record while playing one of the nation's most difficult schedules.

"In the years I have been here, we have been able to build something that is really special," Carswell said. "The support in the community has never been greater. People are excited about San Diego State tennis."

After advancing to the NCAA Tournament just one time in the program's history before his arrival, San Diego State has been a frequent visitor to the sport's center stage, advancing to the championships in five of the last seven seasons and winning five matches in the process.

San Diego State has also been a frequent recipient of Mountain West Conference titles. Under Carswell, the Aztecs won the MWC regular-season crown in 2005 and 2006 and reached the conference tournament final three times, winning it in 2005.

Thanks to much of the team's success on the court, the head coach was a back-to-back league coach of the year, earning the award in 2005 and 2006.

With so much tradition on Montezuma Mesa,

Carswell is looking to build on the program's recent success.

"I think the sky is the limit," Carswell said. "Here we are in beautiful San Diego. We can go after the very best players and part of that is possible because of the brand new facility. We play a fantastic schedule, a top-20 schedule every year. Our goal is to be part of the elite in college tennis."

Carswell attended Mt. Carmel High School and was a member of the Sun Devils' 1989 CIF championship tennis team. He then went on to the University of New Mexico, where he was named the 1990 Western Athletic Conference rookie of the year. A three-time all-WAC selection, Carswell helped lead New Mexico to three NCAA Tournament appearances. Individually, Carswell participated in the NCAA in indoor singles (1992) and doubles (1992 and 1993).

Carswell held an ATP world ranking for five consecutive years from 1992 through 1996. He is a four-time open division national champion.

Prior to joining San Diego State, Carswell coached the boys' tennis team at Poway High School in 1997 and 1998, leading the Titans to the '98 CIF finals.

Carswell is married to the former Lainie Spence and has three children, Spence, Duncan and Jori. The couple resides in La Jolla.

### Building a Dynasty

*SDSU men's tennis since 1998*

- 2 - ITA Regional Coach-of-the-Year awards
- 3 - Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year awards
- 2 - Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year awards
- 4 - All-America doubles honors claimed by SDSU players
- 4 - All-America singles honors claimed by SDSU players
- 5 - Conference player of the year awards
- 6 - NCAA team tournament appearances
- 12 - All-conference doubles awards
- 25 - All-conference singles awards
- 32 - MWC Player-of-the-Week awards claimed by SDSU players
- 167 - Victories (avg. of 15 wins per season)





## Ryan Redondo

Assistant Coach

Second Season

San Diego State '04

Head coach Gene Carswell welcomed back one of the program's best when he announced the hiring of former Aztec star Ryan Redondo as the team's new assistant coach in 2008.

A native of Carlsbad, Calif., Redondo returns to Montezuma Mesa after competing on the USTA, ITF and ATP professional tours. He also spent time prior to coaching the Aztecs, coaching privately in nearby Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., while completing his degree in religion at San Diego State.

"We are extremely happy and privileged to welcome Ryan back to the Aztec family," Carswell said. "We will benefit greatly from his wealth of collegiate and professional experience.

"As a coaching staff, we are looking forward to taking this team to new heights this season and beyond."

One of the most prolific players in Aztec history, Redondo garnered All-America accolades in 2002 and 2003 and still holds the school record with 59 career doubles victories, along with partner Oliver Maiberger.

"I'm very excited to be back at San Diego State coaching a talented group of players," Redondo said. "It's an honor to work with coach Carswell who has taught me so much on and off the court. There is nobody in the country I would want to work with more than him."

After spending one year at Pepperdine, Redondo transferred to SDSU in time for the 2001-02 campaign and made an immediate impact as he and Maiberger combined to win the National Collegiate Indoor Championship, the program's lone national title. Later that season,

the Aztec duo also reached the quarterfinal round of the NCAA Doubles Championship.

The following year in 2002-03, Redondo and Maiberger posted a remarkable 31-8 record, including 21 wins against ranked opponents. The tandem finished the season ranked No. 2 in the country after winning four matches in four days to reach the NCAA doubles finals where they lost to the Illinois pairing of Brian Wilson and Rajeev Ram.



## Larry Willens

Volunteer Assistant Coach

11th Season

San Jose State '67

Larry Willens enters his 11th season as a volunteer assistant coach for the San Diego State men's tennis team. He assists the Aztecs at team practices, one-on-one drills, on-court coaching at matches and tournament seeding at the various fall tournaments San Diego State plays host to.

In addition to his tennis expertise, Willens is a trained sports psychologist and works with athletes on the mental aspect of the game.

"I can't say enough about Larry," said head coach Gene Carswell. "He knows the game inside and out both physically and mentally. His vast knowledge and years of experience coaching at the college and professional level are almost unparalleled in San Diego. He's a tremendous resource for both the Aztec men's and women's teams."

In previous years, Willens has coached several professional tennis players including Gretchen Majors, Robin White and Kerry Reid. He also coached two professional World Team Tennis squads, the San Diego Friars and the Sacramento Capitols.

Willens received a bachelor's degree in physical education from San Jose State and a master's in physical education from San Diego State. He currently teaches in San Diego State's physical education department.

Willens has two sons: Richard, 36, and Alex, 22.

