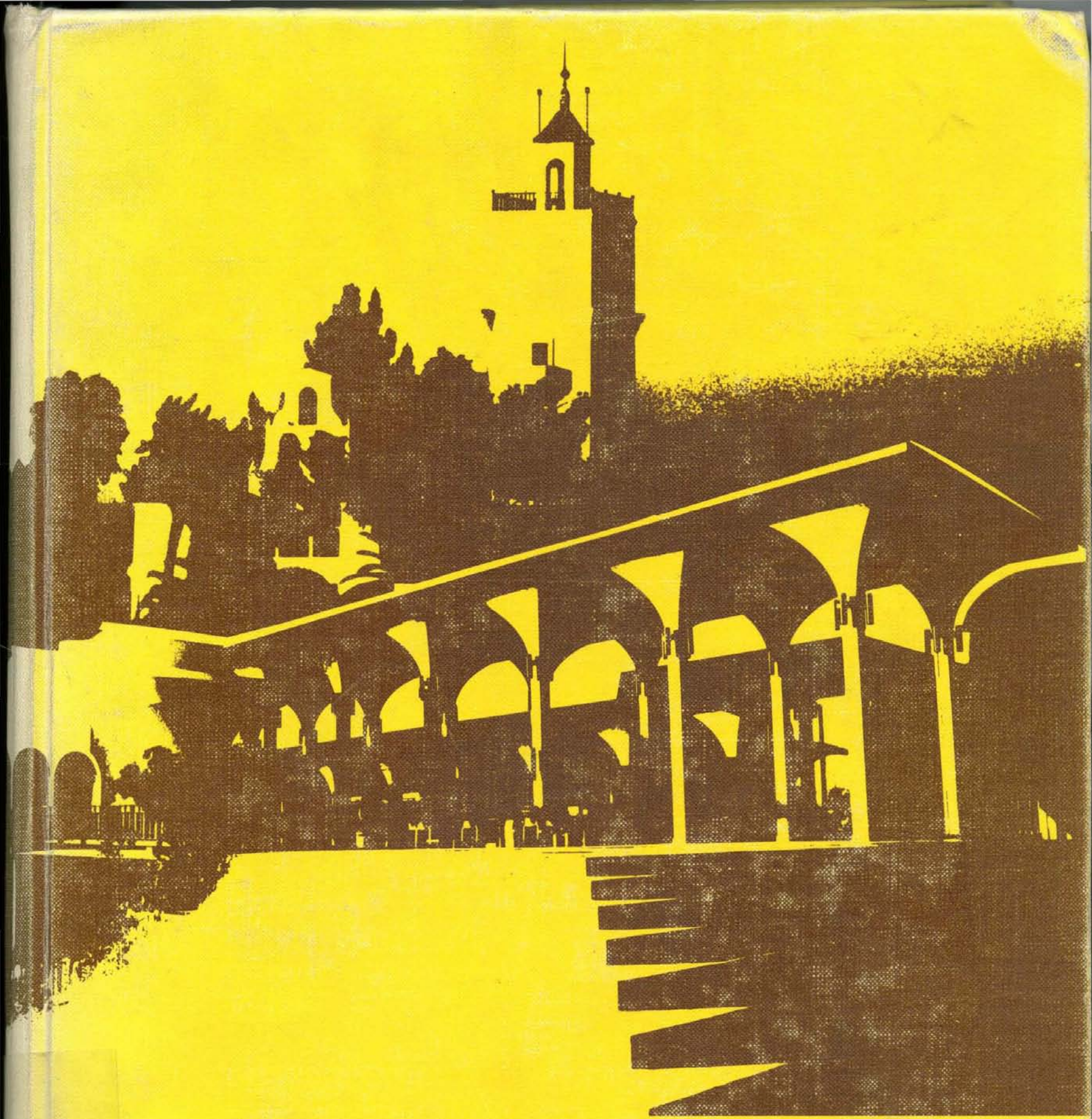




del sudoeste 1969



San Diego State's 1968 cross country squad placed sixth in the university division national championships. The team consisted of, front row, left to right: Larry Mann, Ralph Lopez, Scott Claypoole, Tom Davidson. Second row, Bob Raleigh, Roger Friend, Mike Cour, Don Ludwig. Third row, John Jacobsen, Pete Virgadamo, Ben Holt, Al Leverenz. Fourth row, Jeff King, John Becker, Dave Hamblen, Bob Messina. Back row, Coach Tony Sucec, Lynn Buehler, Chuck Winsor, Dennis Smith and Tim Danielson. Skip Crowley and manager Sal Norton are not pictured. One of State's more dependable performers, right, was Alan Leverenz, trailing Leverenz is Pete Virgadamo.

Harriers Finish Sixth In University Nationals



San Diego State had its best cross country team in four years, but for the first time in that period the Aztecs failed to win a national championship. The reason is that State moved up from the college division to university classification. Still, the Aztecs performed quite well competing with the major universities for the first time. San Diego finished sixth in the national finals after defeating powerful San Jose 29-30 for the Pacific Coast Athletic Association title. State could have finished much higher in the nationals, but two Aztec runners were knocked down at the beginning of the race. The Aztecs won team titles in the Whittier Invitational, the Inglewood Invitational and the Mt. San Antonio Invitational. State finished second in the Long Beach and Aztec Invitionals. In the only dual meet action of the season, the Aztecs defeated San Diego Track Club and Pacific Coast Track Club.

Leading the pack of runners up a grade on State's course in Shepard Canyon is Aztec Ralph Lopez. Dennis Smith is behind Lopez while Tim Danielson is on the outside.



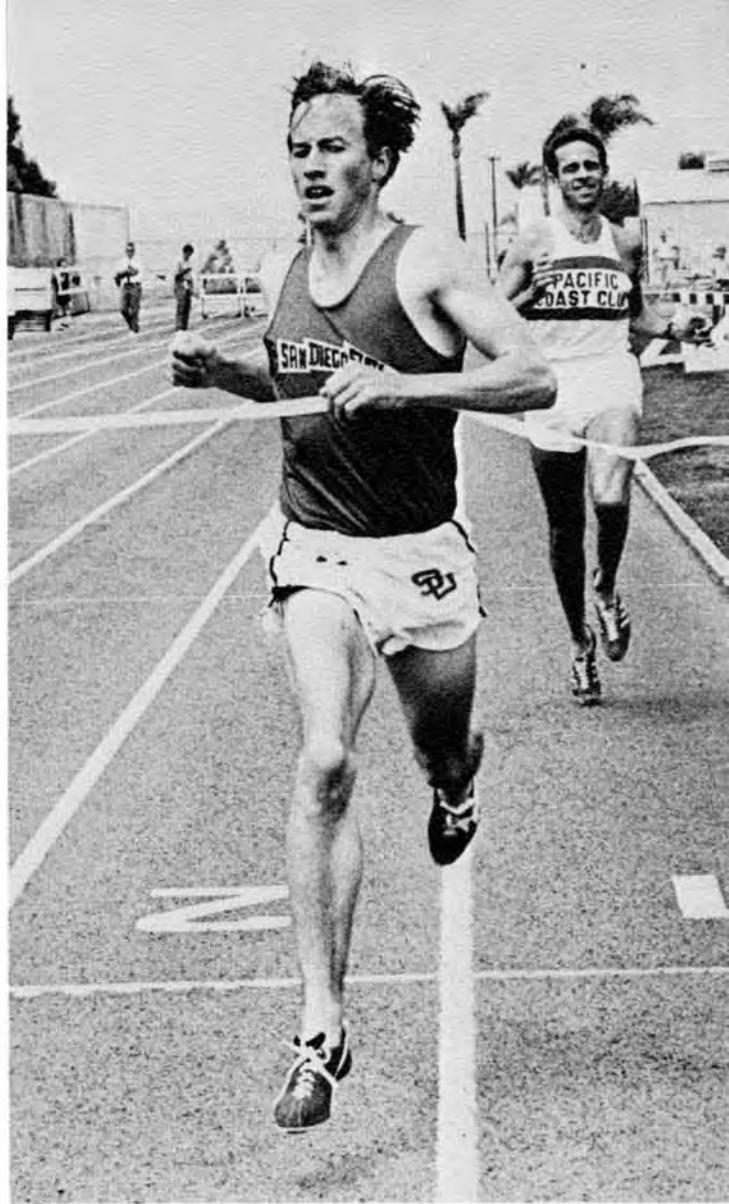


San Diego State had what Coach Dick Wells called the Aztecs strongest squad since the 1966 team that won the national college division championship. Competing on State's team were, front row left to right, Mickey Craven, John Becker, Dick Watson, Bob Messina, Wes Williams, Dennis Dolby, John Roberts, Larry Gillham, Gene Carter, Floyd Mills. Second row, Coach Dick Wells, Lee Johnson, Skip Crowley, Biff Newman, Al Leverenz, Byron Olander, John Jacobsen, Dan Patton, Mike Bushey, John Schnarr, Alan Handley, Ron Hawkins, Dave Buehner, Byron Up-ham, John Wolfe, Coach Tony Sucec. Back row, Sam Fernandez, Mike Johnson, John Haley, Chuck Windsor, Rick Ziegler, Byron Gutwein, John Spurrier, Howie Wollitz, Pete Virgadama, Terry Pershall, Dave Milne and Roger Friend. Aztec long jumper below, flies through air in action against Long Beach.

Aztec Tracksters Field Top Team Since 1966

San Diego State's track team, despite losing a few meets, had a remarkably successful season. Head Coach Dick Wells and assistant Coach Tony Sucec, with an extremely limited number of scholarships, built the Aztecs' strongest team since 1966 when State won the national college division championship. Such star performers as Tim Danielson, Wes Williams, John Koch and Dan Patton kept the Aztecs competitive in their first season in the university division. Danielson, the second prep athlete ever to run a sub-four-minute mile, is world ranked in several distance events. Williams, Koch and Skip Crowley all established school records. Williams triple-jumped 47-7½, Koch went 15-2½ in the pole vault and Crowley ran 9:27.6 in the steeplechase. Other top performers for State were sprinter Byron Olander, 9.8 in the 100-yard dash; Patton, 21.6 220; Byron Gutwein, 24-7¾ in the long jump and John Becker, 4:11.1 in the mile. With the exception of Crowley and Olander, all these athletes will be back to compete next year, a highly encouraging note for Aztec track fans. Wells, in fact, can hardly wait for next season to roll around. "We're really looking forward to next season," said Wells. "The majority of our top people from this year are returning and we've talked to some outstanding athletes who are interested in coming here. We should be very tough."





Aztec pole vaulter Mickey Craven, upper left, clears bar in action against Los Angeles State and Northern Arizona. Tim Danielson, upper right, defeats Pacific Coast Club's George Scott in top mile run of year. Below, Aztec sprinters Byron Olander, center, and Gene Carter, left, compete in 100 yard dash.





Mike Johnson, upper left, heaves discus in action against Long Beach State. Above, Aztec steeplechasers Skip Crowley, left, and Tom Davidson lead race against Pacific Coast Track Club. Crowley set school steeplechase record. Two of San Diego's mile relay runners, upper right, were Biff Newman, left, and Dick Watson. The Aztecs' most versatile athlete was Wes Williams, lower left. He set school record of 47-7½ in triple jump. Williams was State's top man in the high hurdles, intermediate hurdles, 440, and triple jump. Dave Litell, lower right, was top Aztec high jumper. Litell cleared 6'8".

