



Bucknell Tennis

Fall 2005

A Publication for alumni, family and friends of Bucknell Tennis

Introducing...Coach Monge



A greeting to all fans, alumni and supporters of Bison Tennis. My name is Stephen Monge and I've recently been hired as the assistant coach for men's and women's tennis.

I'm sure most of you are wondering who I am, so let me give you a little background. For the past three seasons I served as the director of tennis and head men's and women's tennis coach at Limestone College, an NCAA Division II institution located in Gaffney, SC. Prior to my time at Limestone I worked for two years as

an assistant tennis professional at Palmetto Dunes Resort on Hilton Head Island. I am originally from Ashland, KY and graduated from college in 1998 with a BA in Philosophy from Transylvania University.

What you may have noticed is that I have lived my entire life in the South. Though we do have winters down there I am told they are not as fierce and brutal as the ones in Central PA. But please do not worry. I have been an avid skier my entire life and contrary to popular belief, it does snow in South Carolina. So I should be fine, right?

All kidding aside, my first few months here have been outstanding! It is my goal to help establish a

consistent foundation for success. I would like to thank Coach Helt for giving me such a great opportunity. I look forward to working close to her and tackling all of the challenges that lay ahead. I am also excited to meet each of you and I encourage you to come out and support Bison Tennis. See you on the courts!



Spring Schedule

1/28-30 W @ Cornell

2/12 M/W @ Quinnipiac

2/16 M @ Penn State

2/19 M @ St. Bona.

2/19 M vs. Buffalo

2/20 W @ St Bona.

2/25 M @ Washington C.

2/26 M @ Richmond

3/4 W @ Duquesne

3/5 M @ Duquesne

3/5 W @ Pitt

3/12-19 Spring Break

Orlando

3/13 W vs. Stephen F. Austin

3/13 M @ Stetson

3/14 M/W vs. Rhode Is./ Cleveland State

3/15 M/W vs. Eckerd

3/20 W vs. LOYOLA/ GEORGE MASON

3/23 M/W @ Delaware

3/26 M/W @ American

3/29 M @ Navy

4/2 M/W vs. ARMY

4/3 M/W @ Lehigh

4/7 W @ Villanova

4/8 W @ Colgate

4/9 M @ Colgate

4/10 M/W vs.

LAFAYETTE

4/13 M/W @ UMBC

4/16 M @ Villanova

4/16-17 W @ PL Champs

4/19 M/W @ Binghamt.

4/20 M/W @ Bloom.

4/23-24 M @ PL Champ

Coach's Corner



I can remember being a teenager and always wishing that time would "hurry up". It seemed the school year couldn't end fast enough, or that vacation couldn't come soon enough. I also remember my parents tell-

ing me that time would pass much quicker as I got older. Well, they were right!

I can hardly believe this is my eighth year at Bucknell and already my third year coaching both teams. But there's another cliché, ..."Time flies when you're having fun." I'd like to believe that the years have flown by because I am having fun, not

because I'm getting older.

We are well into our off-season training and at this time I'd like to take a moment to express my gratitude to our alumni, parents and friends who have contributed in many ways to our success. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Captains Corner: Nada Curcic



Greetings Bison tennis fans. My name is Nada Curcic and I'm a senior co-captain of this year's squad. After being a three-year starter and coming off of last season's All Patriot League first team hon-

ors, I am looking forward to a strong senior year.

My co-captain, Tanya Sichko and I are very excited about this year's team. Tanya, also a senior, has enjoyed a very successful career at

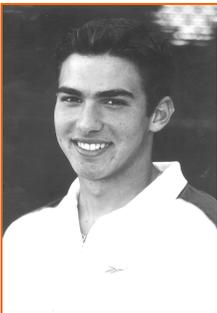
Bucknell, setting the record for most all-time singles and doubles wins last spring. One of the Bison's biggest strengths has always been our depth and that will continue into the 2004-2005 season as five of six starters will be returning, including Veronica Brown, Rhea Gaskin, Chelsea Mills, Tanya Sichko and myself. Although our former captain and another all-time leading scorer, Samantha Berthod, graduated, her example of success remains. Also returning is junior Jill Merselis, sophomores Kelly Porter, Rene Clinton and Leigh Pratt, all strong players who will challenge for spots in our starting line-up. In addition, we welcome two new promising freshmen, Daniella Shtemberg and

Caitie Baffa who are sure to impact the singles and doubles line-up.

This fall was a time of hard work and preparation for the months ahead. Some of our main goals are to work on strong doubles combinations and build our team's chemistry to ensure our readiness for Patriot League play. I am confident we will see the efforts of our hard work pay off and ultimately be a top contender for the Patriot League Championship.



Captain's Corner: Nick Denefrio



The 2004-2005 tennis season kicked off with a bang this fall at the Bloomsburg Invitational. The team, led by three seniors, took the competition by storm with a win over Villanova and a 7-0 thumping of host

team, Bloomsburg. If this fall is any indication of what is to come in the spring, it looks like this team is poised to make a run for the Patriot League Championship.

The freshmen this year remind me of my freshmen class from three years ago. The guys have the same enthusiasm and energy for the game and the team that we had when we came to Bucknell. While the team lost no players to graduation, it has picked up Ira Reibeisen, John Lashnits and Ben Young, all highly ranked junior tennis players in their sections. The additional strength and depth to the line-up has been more than obvious this fall. At the Brown Invitational, the team played spectacular and racked up some huge wins, putting Bucknell men's tennis on the map. The team posted wins over Patriot

League, Big East, ACC, MACC, and Ivy League teams. Reibeisen and Lashnits won their doubles flight at the three spot, while myself and Asher Salam lost in the finals to Brown in the second flight. In singles, senior Gerald DiChiara won his draw in the eighth flight and Lashnits lost in the finals in the seventh flight. Things are looking up as we approach the off-season. The team knows it has great potential to do very special things this year, but it will take discipline and hard work to achieve our goals.

For The Record...

Several **current** Bucknell tennis players have been making their way into the Bucknell tennis record books. Here's a look at where they stand...

Men's Singles: Most Wins

4. Joe Menezes, sr.
7. Gerald DiChiara, sr.
20. Asher Salam, jr.

Men's Doubles: Most Wins

5. Gerald DiChiara
6. Nick Denefrio, sr.
11. Asher Salam

Women's Singles: Most Wins

1. Tanya Sichko, sr
2. Nada Curcic, sr.
3. Veronica Brown, jr.
6. Rheanna Gaskin, jr.
11. Chelsea Mills, jr.

Women's Doubles: Most Wins

1. Nada Curcic
2. Tanya Sichko
3. Veronica Brown

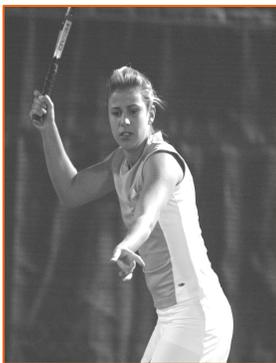
Men's All-Time Combined Wins

4. Gerald DiChiara
9. Nick Denefrio

Women's All-Time Combined Wins

1. Tanya Sichko
 2. Nada Curcic
 3. Veronica Brown
 7. Rheanna Gaskin
-
-

Player Spotlight: Nada Curcic



As if last year's stellar performance wasn't enough, (she was 32-4 in match play and named to the All-Patriot League First-Team), Curcic picked up right where she left off and dominated the competition this fall. Her winning streak of 12 straight singles matches ended at the ITA regional championships where she faced a player formerly ranked #50 in the International Tennis Federation. Despite falling to the highly

ranked player from Penn, Curcic posted impressive wins over other top players. During the Quinnipiac Invitational, Curcic knocked off four nationally ranked players to claim the "A" flight title. One of the wins was against a Rutgers player ranked #130 nationally in the USTA.

"Wins like that just confirm what I've always known about Nada; she is really good," boasted coach Rebecca Helt.

In addition to her strong singles play at the top spot, Curcic's performance in doubles has been equally impressive. Her and her partner, Veronica Brown, went 10-2 this fall and claimed the tournament title at Quinnipiac.

"Nada and the entire team really impressed me this fall," says Coach Helt. "While we'll continue to work hard on our strength and conditioning and skills over the winter, the most important thing this team needs to do is realize how good they really are. We need to eliminate any doubt that we are the most talented team in the Patriot League."



Introducing...Bucknell Tennis Freshmen



Caitlin Baffa, Dixon Hills, NY. Caitlin graduated from Half Hollow Hills High School. In her junior year she played #1 singles and was named all-league, all-county, and all-state. In her senior year she was again named all-league and all-county. Caitie reached a high ranking of 48 in the USTA girl's 18's Eastern Section Rankings.



Daniella Shtemberg, Franklin Lakes, NJ. A graduate of Ramapo Indian Hills High School, Daniella enjoyed a very impressive junior career, rising as high as 293 in the nation for Girl's 18's singles and as high as nine in the USTA Eastern Section.



John Lashnits, Chappaqua, NY. John is a graduate of Horace Greely High School. He was a four year letter winner playing number one singles his junior and senior year. He was also selected to the all-county and all-section teams in each of his four years. John reached a high ranking of 24 in the USTA Eastern Section and a national ranking of 420.



Ira Reibeisen, Armonk, NY. A graduate of Rye Country Day-Upper School, Ira was a highly ranked national player since he was 12. He reached a national ranking of four in boy's 12 and under, nine in boy's 14 and under and 89 in boy's 16 and under. While competing in the boy's national 18 and under, Ira reached a high ranking of 80 in the United States. He was a two-time winner of the McEnroe Cup in both 12's and 16's. In boy's 14's, Ira was a doubles winner at the USTA National Open. In boy's 16's, he was a finalist at the USTA National Open in Singles. He also earned a high ranking of 10 in the Eastern Section.



Ben Young, New Cannon, CT. Ben is a graduate of New Cannon High School. During his career at New Cannon, Ben played number one singles his sophomore, junior and senior year. As a senior, Ben captured the Connecticut State and New England Singles Titles.

Alumni Update

In the next Bison Tennis Newsletter, we'd like to include an alumni feature section. This section will be similar to the Class Notes section in Bucknell World. Please take a moment to fill out the short questionnaire below and return it in the envelop provided. Or, e-mail Rebecca Helt at: helt@bucknell.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

(please print)

Name: _____ Year Graduated _____

Residence City/State: _____

Married: yes no Spouses Name: _____

Children/Grandchildren/Ages: _____

Tell us about yourself: (work, hobbies, etc.) _____

Do you wish to have your e-mail address published? If so, e-mail address: _____

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