

BREAKPOINT

The Official Newsletter of the Bucknell Men's Tennis Program

www.bucknellbison.com



NOTES FROM COACH Bruce Myers

It is hard to believe that I have started my second season leading the Bison men's tennis program. As I fondly look back upon my first season at Bucknell, it makes me even more excited to officially start our spring practices on January 13!

Our Athletics Department has made a number of improvements that my program took advantage of this fall, helping us gain an edge over the competition. My son and I spent this summer renovating the men's tennis locker room and the feedback has been wonderful. Bucknell Athletics has hired sports psychologist Dave Yukelson, formerly of Penn State, and my players meet with him on a weekly basis to work on the mental preparation side of tennis. Bucknell has also hired nutrition specialist Tanya Williams and in conjunction with the opening of the completely renovated Zeller Lounge, Bucknell Athletics recently launched its first all-sports "BISON FUEL" nutrition station for student-athletes. The fueling station, open weekdays from 2-4 p.m., features a variety

of healthy snack and Powerade product offerings available free of charge to all Bison student-athletes. My players have utilized this on a daily basis.

Looking ahead to the 2018 season, I can say with great confidence, that no Patriot League program, let alone mid-major men's tennis program, has put together as competitive of a schedule as the Bison will face this spring. We open with NCAA

runner-up University of North Carolina, and travel the same weekend to play Big Ten powerhouse Penn State. In early February when the Lewisburg weather is less than balmy, the team will travel south to play the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL for a weekend of training and playing. We will once again travel to California over our spring break to train and compete in matches including a match against, the always nationally ranked, Pepperdine. We return to campus to play yet another Big Ten powerhouse Michigan State. All the while playing all eight Patriot

League schools during our regular season.

I would not be able to put together such a competitive and daunting schedule without the constant support of our alumni and friends of the program. I am probably one of the few coaches who enlists the assistance of my players parents on almost every trip we take – no

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less than five of our away trips the team will be hosted and fed by our parents which helps stretch our

budget. I cannot thank everyone enough for their willingness to help on so many levels. Because of the unpredictable Lewisburg weather, and the simple fact we do not have access to an indoor facility near campus, we will play 29 of our 30 matches away from Lewisburg.

One aspect of the program I would like to work on improving is our relationship with former Bucknell men's tennis players. I have received a list of former players, and I believe we are missing players who we might have lost touch with somewhere along the way. I would like to make certain that we have

information in regards to every former player and would like to keep them involved in the program. We obviously welcome and appreciate any gifts to the program we receive, but also the potential relationships between former and current players can be even more valuable to my current student-athletes, all of whom would love to gain knowledge and experience from the professional lives of former student-athletes. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at bruce.myers@bucknell.edu to inform me of any move or professional life changes. If you are in touch with any former teammates, please forward me their information so I can update our files.

I hope to see many of you at our spring matches – we love and appreciate the Bison support system!

Have a great start to your 2018!



Sincerely,
Bruce Myers

Reflections

Our senior student-athletes reflect on their time at Bucknell and it's impact on them as they look to the future



Timber Erskine



Dan Wright



Max Kane



Ben Gerber

Q As you reflect on your time as a student-athlete at Bucknell, what memories are at the forefront?

"Patriot League tournament wins over Lehigh and Colgate were awesome. We lost to both of them in the regular season and were underdogs when we faced them in the postseason but we were able to redeem ourselves and it made all the hard work pay off."

- Timber Erskine

"Beating Boston University 4-3 in the Patriot League Quarterfinals two years ago and beating Lehigh 4-3 at the same stage last year. In both matches we were somewhat big underdogs being the 6th seed against the 3rd seed. These matches were really enjoyable to play and represent some of the best moments in my college tennis career. The immense jubilation gained from winning these matches was one of the best feelings ever and it will always stay with me."

- Dan Wright

"Looking back at my time as a student-athlete at Bucknell, upsetting Colgate our freshman year, Boston University our sophomore year and Lehigh our junior year in the Patriot League tournament were the most memorable moments for me. I also loved every meal we've ever had together as a team."

- Max Kane
"Our team bonding experiences like the bus rides to matches have always been very memorable."

- Ben Gerber

Q What would you like the legacy of the senior class to be to all current and future Bison tennis players?

"I want our class to be remembered as a group that encouraged everyone to grow, on and off the court, through hard work, good attitudes and an invincible spirit."

- Timber Erskine
"I want the senior class to be remembered for our outstanding work ethic, great commitment, and how much we improved and impacted the program over our four years. We all have grown so much as tennis players and people in general, and I believe

that the deep connection formed between us has allowed us to thrive at Bucknell. I hope that all current and future Bison tennis players will look at this senior class and use that to strive to improve day in and day out."

- Dan Wright

"I would like to impart our closeness as a class. The four of us really stuck together throughout our college career and I look forward to being incredibly close to these guys for the rest of my life. I hope that classes below us can follow suit and form great relationships with guys on the team after we're gone."

- Max Kane

"That we facilitate an all-inclusive team and that we believe everybody plays a vital role in chasing the Patriot League Championship."

- Ben Gerber

Q How was your overall experience at Bucknell enhanced by the men's tennis program?

"Having 10 guys who will always be there for you is great. Also, there are many distractions in college and the men's tennis program has given me the structure and discipline I need to succeed on and off the court, in and outside of the classroom."

- Timber Erskine

"Being a member of the men's tennis program here at Bucknell helped me develop a very close knit group of friends that will stay with me after I graduate. Being constantly tested in the classroom, in the weight room, and on the court has always helped to break my limits and to push me to new heights that I did not know were even possible."

- Dan Wright

"Being a student-athlete at Bucknell has taught me incredible time management skills. Nothing taught me more discipline than playing a spring match and coming back to study for an exams the very next day. We have also had the toughest workouts I've ever done in my life at Bucknell. There were some conditioning sessions where I pushed myself harder than I ever thought I could. That

said, getting through workouts like that make everything else in life much easier because we know that we've been through worse."

- Max Kane

"My student-athlete experience at Bucknell could not have been better, thanks to all of the support the tennis team has given me throughout my years here."

- Ben Gerber

Q How has the program changed during your four years at Bucknell?

"I think the team has grown closer every single year I've been here. I also think as a team we've gotten smarter and more academically focused as well."

- Timber Erskine

"Over my four years the program has become more like a family to me, where I have been able to connect with each guy on a deeper level. I also feel like the team has become more competitive over the years and this has only given me more motivation to get better every single day."

- Dan Wright
"When I entered Bucknell as a freshman, Nick Bybel, the best tennis player to ever play at Bucknell, was a junior on the team. Bybel was always an automatic win for us at #1 singles. When he left, the entire team had to step up because we no longer had guaranteed wins in singles and doubles. This team has certainly changed over the last four years - we've become grittier and we give everything we have into every match. We know there is no guarantee for any matches we play and in order to win we have to find it within ourselves and each other."

- Max Kane
"We went through a coaching change going into my junior year and as such have had a newfound perspective on how to play competitively at a Division I level."

- Ben Gerber

Q What are your team and personal goals going into your final semester at Bucknell?

"I would love to contribute to a winning season, hopefully a bunch of good doubles wins and the season

ending with a Patriot League Championship!"

- Timber Erskine
"My team goals for this final semester are to win the Patriot League and to beat Army and/or Navy. There is no doubt that it will be challenging but we have the work ethic, talent, and mental fortitude needed to attain this goal. My personal goals are to be Patriot League Player of the Year and to get 1st Team All-Patriot League."

- Dan Wright

"The first and foremost goal for Bucknell men's tennis will always be to win a Patriot League title. We are always so close, losing in the semis to a military academy every year. In the future, what will set us apart and get us that win will be an actual indoor facility. We are at such a disadvantage competing with teams such as Army, Navy and Lehigh because we are also competing with their amazing tennis facilities. In order to become a serious contender for the Patriot League title, we need better facilities."

- Max Kane
"Team goals are to win a PLC and my individual goal is to get Bison Athlete of the Week before Dan Wright."

- Ben Gerber

Q What piece of advice would you give to all future Bison tennis players?

"Realize that there have been so many great scholars, athletes, gentlemen and leaders that have come before you. Push yourself to be better just as everyone else before you did and understand what an honor it is to call yourself a Bucknell Bison tennis player."

- Timber Erskine
"Understanding 'why' you do what you do in life will enable you to reach that next level you did not think was possible."

- Dan Wright
"Four years go by fast, so give your all in everything that you do here. Be smart and don't do anything that Dan Wright wouldn't do."

- Max Kane
"Trust the process."
- Ben Gerber ■



2018 SCHEDULE

Catching up

with Rick Koplik '68

Bring us up-to-date.



I graduated from Bucknell in 1968 and I'm now 70 years old. I retired from a small IT services company (Anscot Systems) that I founded in 1981. I'm married to Dana Sarjeant Koplik (aka Dannie, '70) and we have two sons, Andy and Scott, both of whom played college sports (Andy basketball and Scott baseball). We have two grandchildren - a boy and a girl... Trevor, five and Cameron, aka CJ, two. Dannie and I spend six months in New York City and six months in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

How has your Bucknell men's tennis experience benefited you personally and professionally?

Playing college tennis (even the small amount that I played) gave me confidence and enabled a comfort level for me when on job-related road trips. I could always participate in athletic endeavors and feel comfortable with my ability to compete. Even one time when a Stanford tennis player (far better than I ever was) was looking for a game, I competed well enough to "keep him busy!"

What was your most memorable moment as a student-athlete at Bucknell University?

During my junior year we took a spring trip to Virginia. We played at William & Mary and Randolph Macon. It was the first time I had ever traveled over night with a team and fostered a camaraderie that I never had experienced.

Are you still involved with tennis?

I grew up watching very high level tennis and have followed tennis for my entire life. I had a very close high school friend who played on the tour & whose brother was a semifinalist at Wimbledon (1/4's at US Open) and played Davis Cup for the US. I am friendly with him to this day.

What advice would you give to current Bison tennis players?

I would recommend that players enjoy the game and use it to their advantage going forward. Everyone has a collection of assets. A varsity athletic experience is one that most people lack. It can enhance both personal and professional life following college. ■

Sat, Jan 20	North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	10:00 AM
Sat, Jan 20	Wofford	Chapel Hill, N.C.	2:00 PM
Sun, Jan 21	Penn State	University Park, Pa.	4:00 PM
Sat, Jan 27	NJIT Winter Invitational	Newark, N.J.	TBA
Sun, Jan 28	NJIT Winter Invitational	Newark, N.J.	TBA
Sat, Feb 03	La Salle	Hershey, Pa.	4:45 PM
Sun, Feb 11	Miami FL	Coral Gables, Fla.	4:00 PM
Fri, Feb 16	Saint Francis (PA)	Loretto, Pa.	4:00 PM
Sat, Feb 17	Butler	Cleveland, Ohio	10:00 AM
Sat, Feb 17	Youngstown State	Boardman, Ohio	5:00 PM
Sun, Feb 18	Cleveland State	Cleveland, Ohio	10:00 AM
Sun, Feb 25	Delaware	Wilmington, Del.	3:00 PM
Fri, Mar 02	Siena	Hershey, Pa.	12:00 PM
Sat, Mar 03	Colgate *	Hershey, Pa.	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 04	Saint Joseph's	Merion Station, Pa.	12:00 PM
Sun, Mar 04	Drexel	Philadelphia, Pa.	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 11	UC San Diego	San Diego, Calif.	1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 12	UC Riverside	Riverside, Calif.	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 12	Point Loma Nazarene Univ.	San Diego, Calif.	6:30 PM
Wed, Mar 14	Cypress College	Cypress, Calif.	1:30 PM
Wed, Mar 14	Pepperdine	Malibu, Calif.	9:30 PM
Sun, Mar 18	Michigan State	University Park, Pa.	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 21	Mount St. Mary's - MD	Emmitsburg, Md.	3:00 PM
Sat, Mar 24	Holy Cross *	West Point, N.Y.	3:00 PM
Sat, Mar 24	Lafayette *	West Point, N.Y.	5:30 PM
Sun, Mar 25	Army West Point *	West Point, N.Y.	11:30 AM
Wed, Apr 11	Lehigh *	Bethlehem, Pa.	3:30 PM
Sat, Apr 14	Navy *	Annapolis, Md.	11:00 AM
Sun, Apr 15	Loyola (Md.) *	Baltimore, Md.	3:00 PM
Sat, Apr 21	Boston University *	Lewisburg, Pa.	10:00 AM

All dates and times tentative and subject to change.
*Conference Games



Click here for an up-to-date schedule

www.BucknellBison.com



Attend Games, Earn Points

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