

"BREAK POINT"

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE BUCKNELL MEN'S TENNIS PROGRAM



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A NOTE FROM THE COACHES' CHAIR



Greetings Bison Tennis Fans!

We had a very successful and hard working fall, and are looking forward towards our competitive spring season. The fall also brought a new staff member to us in the weight room as Cody Miller came to us from Clemson University where he worked with many teams, but most specifically their men's tennis program. With the addition of Cody in the weight room alongside Coach Shreck, our group has refocused our efforts and we have already seen MAJOR gains in strength. The improvement in our team's strength and conditioning was already evident on the courts in the fall, and we are eager to start the next chapter of this season.



My main focus so far this spring semester has been to help the guys really develop a belief in their abilities. I believe and know that we have the talent to win the Patriot League Championship this year, it's now my job to get the guys to believe that. In such a short time they

have really come a long way and I am really looking forward to us putting it into action against the University of Delaware in our first competition on February 1st. This will be a good match for us to test where we currently stand and to help define what areas we need to improve upon.

We continue to strive to get better and have better results each and every match. Our schedule will allow us to have numerous tough matches indoors before we head down to Orlando, FL for our spring break trip. Down there we will get in some great matches, solid team building time, and numerous practice sessions. Once we head back we are looking forward to playing outdoors as much as possible. I believe we are a much better outdoor team because of fitness and strength. While playing indoors may not be our strength, the better we get at it, the easier playing outdoors will be for the team. Now that I've spent a full year as the men's head coach and with these student-athletes, I am excited about the direction of our program that these guys are starting to pave. Our large freshmen class is lucky to have such great leaders to look up too for guidance throughout the process.

I appreciate all the support I have personally received from our alumni, parents and friends this year. I hope you know that you are a major part of our program and we would not be able to provide the experience that we do here at Bucknell without your continued annual financial support of our Men's Tennis program. We are looking forward to starting the spring season and will keep you in the loop with our results and gains on and off the court. We hope to see each and every one of you at both our annual Alumni Weekend (March 27-29) and The Patriot League Championships (April 16-19), which is hosted by Bucknell this year. Have a great start to your 2015 year and please keep in touch! GO BISON!

Sincerely,
Craig Schwartz, Head Men's Tennis Coach

BUCKNELL TENNIS ALUMNI WEEKEND March 27-29, 2015

The 3rd Annual Bucknell Tennis Alumni weekend is scheduled for March 27-29, 2015. The initial two events were a big success, and we are hoping we can double our participation this spring.

Friday, March 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Pre-match past dinner with Teams in Zeller Lounge

Saturday March 28th, 11am-2pm

Casual Brunch under the tent
(located near tennis courts)

1:00 p.m. Men/Women vs. George Mason

8:00-11:00 p.m. Alumni/Family social at Brasserie Louis on Market Street

Sunday March 29th, 10:30

Coffee and donuts under the tent, near tennis courts

11:00 a.m.- ?? Social Tennis with Alumni family and current players

See ALUMNI WEEKEND, pg. 2

FORMER BISON BRIAN COHEN '07 JOINS ODU MEN'S TENNIS STAFF



Aljosa Piric, the head coach of the Old Dominion University men's tennis team, announced that Brian Cohen has been added to the Monarchs staff as an assistant coach.

"We are excited to have Brian join our coaching staff," explained Piric. "He fits perfectly with the vision for our program, and I have no doubt that he will be a great ambassador for ODU tennis and

the entire ODU community. He is a hard worker and he has a tremendous amount of passion for coaching. Our guys are not only getting a great coach, but also someone who will serve them as a mentor, and a great role model."

Cohen, former Bucknell University standout, will join Monarch Nation after spending three seasons as an assistant coach at Washington and Lee University. In his first three seasons at W&L, Cohen helped lead the Generals to a 52-16 overall record, three Old Dominion Athletic Conference titles and three trips to the NCAA Division III Tournament. In 2013, he also helped mentor a singles player and doubles team to the NCAA Championships en route to being named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Division III Atlantic South Region Assistant Coach of the Year.

"I am so grateful to Aljosa and the Old Dominion athletics department for giving me this amazing opportunity, and I am excited to work with such a talented and driven group of student-athletes," said Cohen. "ODU men's tennis has a history of success not only on the court, but in the classroom and the community as well; I look forward to helping the program reach even greater heights in each of these areas as we develop today's competitors and tomorrow's leaders."

Cohen ventured to Washington and Lee from Duke University, where he served as a graduate assistant for two seasons. During that time, Cohen helped lead the Blue Devils to a combined 42-19 record and two trips to the Round of 16 at the NCAA Division I Championships. In 2010-11, Duke finished with a 22-10 overall record (9-2 ACC) and was ranked 12th in the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Division I poll.

Cohen has been a tennis instructor since 2003, serving stints at Bethesda Country Club, Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club, the Bullis Tennis Training Center and the Chevy Chase Recreation Association.

Cohen graduated from Bucknell University in 2007 with a bachelor of arts in environmental studies. He was a four-year member of the Bison tennis team, earning ITA Scholar-Athlete and Patriot League Academic Honor Roll accolades. He also received a master of environmental management degree from Duke in May of 2011.

ALUMNI WEEKEND, cont. from page 1

REFLECTION ON LAST YEAR'S ALUMNI WEEKEND EVENT:

"It was fun to catch up with old friends and get a great tennis workout. I enjoyed interacting with current student athletes, coaches and meeting new tennis alums." – Scott Steiler '87

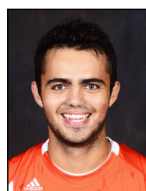
"Thanks very much for a fantastic 2014 tennis alumni weekend. It was an absolute blast catching up with old friends and team mates and watching the current men's and women's teams compete. It took about a week for my muscles and joints to fully recover from my thinking I was 30 years younger and playing way too much and way too hard, but it was a good pain. I'm very much looking forward to this year's event. Good luck to the teams this season." – Steve Haas '83

"It was really great to connect with fellow Bucknell tennis alum, and to watch some great tennis. Craig Schwartz has really impressed me and I feel confident that the Men's tennis program's future looks bright with him steering the ship." – Gerald DiChiara '05

"The most surefire way to confirm that your game and gear are outdated." – Peter Ochroch '85

"It was great reminiscing with the many Alumni that attended last year's events. I was very excited to see new faces and hear about their experiences at Bucknell. I especially enjoyed getting to hit with my old teammates and remembering what it felt like to play for the team. I look forward to attending this year and catching up with all of those that can make it." – Evan Zimmer '13

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Octavio Canibe
Senior
Spring, Texas
The John Cooper
School

"This year has been great so far being a captain for the Bucknell Men's Tennis Team. It has taught me a lot on how to be a leader and also who I am as an Individual. It is a great feeling to have underclassmen looking up to me when it wasn't that long ago I was in their shoes. We have a young team and it is very important that Nick and I shape and guide the younger guys so that one day they will be able to lead the Bucknell Tennis Team."

"It is both an honor and a privilege being a captain for the Bucknell Men's Tennis Team. It feels like just yesterday that I was a freshmen and sophomore looking up to the captains during those years, and being in their shoes now is an awesome feeling. We have a young team, and I am certain that Octavio and I will be able to lead them not just to better themselves athletically, but to better themselves as a whole. I am looking forward to what this season has in store for us"



Nick Bybel, Jr.
Lancaster, Pa.
Hilton Head
Christian
Academy (S.C.)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT WITH GERALD DiCHIARA '05

1. Bring us up to date -- current job, family, etc??

I am a Vice President - Senior Financial Advisor, at Merrill Lynch in New York. I manage approximately \$70 Million dollars in assets and have been with the firm since December 2008. Before joining Merrill, I worked as a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley. I received an MBA with a concentration in Finance from NYU Stern in 2013. I live in Manhattan with my girlfriend of 5 years, Anita, a VP in JPMorgan's Private Bank whom I met at NYU Stern. We have an awesome little dog, Vito, a Boston Terrier/Pug Mix. I am very close to my family (also in NY); my sister, an assistant District Attorney in the Bronx, my father, an attorney with a private practice in Manhattan (concentration in criminal defense), and my mother, a high school library/media director in Long Island.

2. How has your Bucknell men's tennis experience benefited you in your current career?

Playing a Division I sport while simultaneously being a full time student requires a lot of discipline, dedication and focus and it also demands the ability to prioritize what is important. I was not the most talented player on the team, so in order to stay in the top-6 at Bucknell for all four years, while at the same time maintaining good grades required a lot of hard work and also required me to make many sacrifices on the social side. The disciplined mindset I developed at Bucknell has been very useful in my career and life since college; I had to put in the same type of hard work and make the same types of sacrifices in order to complete my MBA and grow my business while remaining 100% focused on serving my clients.

3. What is your most memorable moment as a member of the Bison Men's Tennis team?

Becoming a Captain my senior year, that really meant a lot to me.



DiChiara during his days with the Orange and Blue

2015 MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

2/1	at Delaware	3:00 p.m.
2/7	at Princeton	9:00 a.m.
2/7	at Fordham	5:00 p.m.
2/8	at Hofstra	5:00 p.m.
2/15	at St. Peter's	2:00 p.m.
2/20	at St. Francis-Pa.	TBA
2/21	at Duquesne	5:00 p.m.
3/9	vs. Hampton (Orlando, Fla.)	TBA
3/10	vs. Bethune-Cookman (Orlando, Fla.)	TBA
3/11	vs. St. Cloud (Orlando, Fla.)	TBA
3/11	vs. Southern Mississippi (Orlando, Fla.)	TBA
3/12	vs. Creighton (Orlando, Fla.)	TBA
3/18	Mount St. Mary's	3:00 p.m.
3/19	Rider	2:00 p.m.
3/21	at St. Joseph's	1:00 p.m.
3/21	at Chestnut Hill	6:00 p.m.
3/24	Villanova	3:00 p.m.
3/28	George Mason	1:00 p.m.
4/2	Lafayette*	2:00 p.m.
4/4	at Colgate*	2:00 p.m.
4/5	at West Point*	1:00 p.m.
4/6	Lehigh*	3:00 p.m.
4/10	at Morgan State	TBA
4/11	at Loyola-Md.*	1:00 p.m.
4/12	at Coppin State	12:00 noon
4/14	at Bloomsburg	4:00 p.m.

Patriot League Tournament, Lewisburg, Pa.

4/16	PL Tournament First Round	TBA
4/17	PL Tournament Quarterfinals	TBA
4/18	PL Tournament Semifinals	TBA
4/19	PL Tournament Championship	TBA

4. Who do you remain in contact with from your playing days?

Garrett Neff, Asher Salam, Nick Deneffrio, Ira Reibeisen, along with others, including some Bucknell players that did not even play at the same time with such as Greg Cohenca (class of 2012)

5. Are you still playing any competitive tennis?

Yes. I captain a 5.0+ USTA Team in the NY Metro region. Former Bucknell players Nick Deneffrio and Greg Cohenca both played on my team last year. I have also played with both Asher Salam and Garrett Neff recently. I played with Asher at the amazing indoor tennis facility where he works; the match was audio/video taped and the technology at the facility recorded all of our statistics from the match, which was very interesting. Garrett has invited me to play in his country club's member/guest tournament for the last two years and I am happy to say that we won the tournament both years.

6. What advice would you give to the current members of the team?

Enjoy the time you have there, as it goes very fast. At the same time, focus hard on getting good grades and getting the best results you can get on that tennis court and in the classroom. You will cherish these memories (especially the on-court ones), and you only get one chance to be a college athlete.



Bucknell University
Men's Tennis Office
Lewisburg, PA 17837

BUCKNELL MEN'S TENNIS NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Energy, passion, and togetherness have been the hallmarks of the Bucknell Men's Tennis Program for many years. This has been true not only for the student-athletes on the court, but for the group of supporters who have helped our program each year. As most of you know, the University budget covers only a fraction of the operating expenses to run a competitive Division I men's tennis program.

Thanks to your assistance, last year we finished with \$25,000 in much needed support of the program. This year, we have been given a fundraising goal of \$34,000 to meet our program's budgetary needs. This money is spent in the three main areas of student-athlete recruitment, purchasing equipment to help train our team members, and covering the travel, lodging, and food costs for our team's travel. As you know, student-athlete recruitment is a year-round and highly competitive and intensive process that is of essential importance in fielding successful teams. In addition, we feel it is important to be able to travel safely, stay in quality hotels, and feed our student-athletes appropriately when we travel.

Our program needs your financial support to continue in our quest for excellence. Your earmarked contribution for men's tennis to the Bison Club will help make this a reality. We hope we can count on 100% participation from everyone on our support team. Thanks in advance for your assistance! -- Coach Craig Schwartz

Methods of Giving

Check or Cash: This is the most common way to give. When writing a check, make it out to Bucknell University and in the memo section note "Men's Tennis."

By Credit Card: The university accepts most major credit cards. Monthly payment plans can be arranged.

Gifts of Stock/Securities: To arrange a stock transfer, call the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 570-577-3200.

Pledges: You can set up a payment schedule when you make a pledge, and payment reminders will be sent to you.

Corporate matching gifts: Many corporations match their employees' charitable donations to nonprofit institutions. Check with your benefits department for matching gift information and to see if they will match gifts to athletics.

You can give on-line: www.BucknellBison.com.