

SPORTS NEWS



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Men's Tennis

For Immediate Release: October 14, 2002 • Contact: John Hartrick

Davidoff's indoor heroics lifts BU over Buffalo 4-3

In a thrilling five-hour match that began outdoors at the West Gym Courts and concluded indoors at the Binghamton Tennis Center, the Bearcats rallied for a 4-3 win over visiting Buffalo. It was the third straight match between the two schools that has gone to 4-3, with Binghamton winning the last two.

"The match was as good as it gets," 16-year head coach Michael Starke said. "The crowd was the biggest in my tenure here, and there were numerous momentum shifts. It was a sweet victory."

The three doubles matches were hotly contested, and three of the six singles matches went to three sets, including the deciding match at No. 2. There, senior **Brad Davidoff (Roslyn, N.Y.)** delivered a 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 win to give the Bearcats the team victory. Davidoff trailed 2-1 with darkness falling in the third set, so the match was moved indoors, along with the fourth singles match. Davidoff then fell behind 5-3 before rallying to force a tie-break. Davidoff then trailed 3-0 and 6-5 in the tie-break before pulling out an 8-6 win.

Other winners included sophomore No. 1 player **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)**, who remained unbeaten with a 6-3, 6-4 victory, junior No. 5 **Steve Spencer (Plantation, Fla./Nova)**, a 6-0, 6-0 winner, and freshman No. 6 **Jordan Steinberg (Suffern, N.Y.)**, who scored a 6-1, 6-3 win. Spencer also teamed with sophomore **Krishna Vallabhaneni (Poughkeepsie, N.Y./Arlington)** for an 8-6 win at second doubles. The pair trailed 5-2 before rallying.

Rao remains unbeaten in singles with 11-0 mark

Sophomore **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** raised his record to 11-0 in the fall. Rao, 25-5 in his two semesters of collegiate tennis, reversed another of his five defeats from a year ago with his straight-set win over Fery Kasiman of Buffalo. Earlier in the fall, Rao defeated Army's top player who had beaten him last spring.

Up Next: Season-ending ITA East Regional

The fall season will conclude with the ITA East Regional, October 25-29 at Penn. Sophomore **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** will represent the Bearcats in the singles draw, and **Rao** and senior **Brad Sherwood (Bronx, N.Y./Fordham Prep)** will enter the doubles competition.

2002 Schedule/Results (3-1)

SEPTEMBER

5 Thu.	ITHACA	W 7-0
7 Sat.-	@ Bloomsburg Duals	no scoring
8 Sun.	w/ Villanova, Lehigh	
17 Tue.	@ Siena	W 7-0
21 Sat.-	@ Cornell Invitational	no scoring
22 Sun.		

OCTOBER

6 Sun.	@ Williams	L 2-5
12 Sat.	BUFFALO	W 4-3
25 Fri.-	@ ITA East Regional	9 a.m.
29 Tue.	hosted by Penn	

Individual Records

Name	Pos.	Singles	Career
Akshay Rao	#1	11-0	25-5
Brad Davidoff	#2	5-3	55-35
Brad Sherwood	#3	3-3	30-25
Brian O'Connor	#4	4-4	4-4
Steve Spencer	#5	2-2	28-28
Jordan Steinberg	#6	6-3	6-3
Ryan Rosenthal	#6	5-1	23-15

Team	Pos.	Doubles
Rao/Sherwood	#1	5-2
Spencer/Vallabhaneni	#2	1-1
Davidoff/Rosenthal	#2-3	1-1
O'Connor/Steinberg	#3	1-4
Valle/Caiello	#3	1-2
O'Connor/Rosenthal	#3	0-1



Alumni Event a Success. On Saturday, October 12, the men's and women's tennis teams welcomed back some familiar faces, as the teams hosted their respective Alumni Matches. One night earlier, former women's tennis coach Curt Coutts (back row, second from left) was enshrined into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame.