

# SPORTS NEWS



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## Men's Tennis

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### Rao leads Bearcats to pair of wins at Cornell

Sophomore No. 1 player **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** continued his winning ways, leading BU to wins over Niagara (5-2) and Bucknell (7-0) in a three-match set played at the Reis Tennis Center in Ithaca. Rao raised his overall 2002-03 record to an eye-popping 21-2 - and 12-1 in dual matches. He scored a 6-4, 6-3 win against Niagara, and then dropped just two games in a 6-1, 6-1 win against Bucknell. One day later, Rao was even more stingy, blanking his Marist opponent 6-0, 6-0. The Bearcats' only defeat was a 4-2 setback against Marist. In that match, the teams split the four completed singles matches, but Marist earned two points for a win in the lone doubles match. The final singles match was halted with the team outcome already determined. Freshman No. 4 **Brian O'Connor (New Rochelle, N.Y./Iona Prep)** led 5-2 in the third set and was closing in on a victory that would have made the final score 4-3.

### Rao named University's "Athlete of Week"

Sophomore sensation **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** has been named BU's Athlete of the Week for February 3-9. Rao won three more matches to improve to 21-2 on the year. At No. 1 singles, he posted straight-set victories over Niagara, Bucknell and Marist as the Bearcats went 2-1 in the weekend format. In the team's 4-2 loss to Marist, Rao didn't drop a single game in a 6-0, 6-0 rout. He is 12-1 in dual matches, and 35-7 for his short collegiate career.

"Akshay continues to wield magic with his magic wand," BU head coach Michael Starke said. "He has clearly established himself as a top 20 regional player, and his game has elevated to a level where anyone who is not at that level of play is in for a tough day."

### Captain Davidoff also goes undefeated for week

Senior No. 2 **Brad Davidoff (Roslyn, N.Y.)** battled through two three-set matches and also went undefeated on the weekend. Davidoff, the team's captain and four-year veteran, rallied for a 6-4, 2-6, 10-8 win against Niagara, and then posted a 6-1, 7-5 triumph over his Bucknell opponent. Against Marist, he again worked deep into the third set for a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 win. Davidoff is now 12-5 for the year, including a 10-3 dual match record. He has now won 62 career singles matches, which is tied for second on BU's all-time list. Davidoff, tied with Robby Polen (1995-99), trails only five-time Division III All-American Adam Marcus, who tallied 74 wins in four years.

"Brad is the classic example of what one can do when they commit themselves and put forth a full effort," BU head coach Michael Starke said. "As a senior captain, he has dedicated himself to be absolutely the best player he can be so the team might achieve a regional ranking and win the conference. Brad wants nothing more than success."

### 2002-03 Schedule/Results (8-5)

#### 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	no scoring
29 Tue.	hosted by Penn	

#### JANUARY

25 Sat.	@ Army	L 1-6
26 Sun.	+COLGATE	L 2-5

#### FEBRUARY

1 Sat.	^Buffalo	W 5-2
	^Rochester	W 7-0
2 Sun.	^Niagara	W 5-2
	@ St. Bonaventure	L 3-4
8 Sat.	!Niagara	W 5-2
	!Bucknell	W 7-0
9 Sun.	!Marist	L 2-4
21 Fri.	@ Cornell	1 p.m.

#### MARCH

9 Sun.	~ St. Louis	noon
11 Tue.	@ Stetson	2:30 p.m.
12 Wed.	~ Buffalo	8 a.m.
13 Thu.	~ Rhode Island	noon
21 Fri.	@ Manhattan	3 p.m.
22 Sat.	@ Concordia	8 p.m.

#### APRIL

5 Sat.	HARTFORD	1 p.m.
11 Fri.	STONY BROOK	3:30 p.m.
13 Sun.	VERMONT	10 a.m.
16 Wed.	BUCKNELL	1 p.m.
25 Fri.-	America East Champ.	9 a.m.
27 Sun.	played at Yale	

+ played indoors at Binghamton Tennis Center

~ played in Orlando, Fla.

! played at Cornell

^played at St. Bonaventure