

Phil Chamberlain

University of Memphis, 1976



Since taking over the head coaching duties of his alma mater in 1999, Memphis Head Coach Phil Chamberlain has been trying to return the Tigers to the national prominence they enjoyed when he wore a Tiger uniform from 1973-76. A native of Perth, Australia, Chamberlain played for then-head coach Tommy Buford at No. 1 singles. With Chamberlain at the No. 1 singles spot, the 1975 Tiger team was ranked as high as 18th in the nation. That all came full circle in 2001 when the Tigers broke back into the national rankings for the first time in 26 years in Chamberlain's third season. By the time Chamberlain was wrapping up his fourth year at the helm of the Tiger program in 2002, the University of Memphis had spent the entire season in the national rankings and had a nationally-ranked men's doubles team.

A Metro Conference Singles and Doubles Champion in 1975 and 1976, Chamberlain was also an outstanding doubles player, teaming with Keith West to win the NCAA Southern Doubles Championship in 1974.

Before coming to Memphis, Chamberlain won the Australian Team Championship, the Linton Cup, in 1972. After arriving in Memphis, Chamberlain quickly began to make a name for himself in the Tennessee and national tennis circuits. He was the top-ranked player in the Tennessee Open Men's Doubles from 1975 through 1980. During the same time period, he was ranked between first and fourth in the Tennessee Open Men's Singles.

From 1972 to 1982, Chamberlain filled his personal trophy case with 14 Singles USTA sanctioned titles, and 37 Doubles USTA sanctioned titles. In 1989, he finished third among the 35's in the Tennessee Southern Cup Challenge.

After finishing his eligibility at the University of Memphis, Chamberlain began a long and prosperous coaching career in Memphis. From 1976-1980, he coached three people to number one rankings in the United States. He also coached 12 collegiate All-Americans, 240 sectionally-ranked juniors, and led 104 juniors to collegiate scholarships. Chamberlain has also coached seven touring professionals, including Jimmy and Ricky Brown, Audra Keller, Keith Evans, David Pollack, Stacey Schefflin and Susan Gilchrist.

Chamberlain served as assistant coach to Buford during the 1979 and 1980 seasons. He also coached the Tennessee Junior Davis Cup in 1983, and coached the Tennessee Junior Davis and Wightman Cup teams from 1984-1988, with his 1988 Wightman Cup team winning the championship. Chamberlain also coached the STA Girls Intersectional team, which won the National Championship during the 1990-91 season.

Chamberlain has filled several tennis-related administrative positions in Memphis. He is currently the assistant tournament director of the ATP/WTA Kroger/St. Jude International. The tournament is held at the Racquet Club of Memphis every February and welcomes member of both the men's and women's professional tennis tours. He has served as tournament director for the NCAA Division II and III Championships, the Junior College Championships and the NAIA Championships.

Chamberlain and his wife, Ginger, have three children, a son Michael, and two daughters, Kristin and Kara. Michael was a two-year letterwinner for the Tigers from 2001-2002 and played for his dad after transferring to Memphis from Middle Tennessee State prior to his junior year. His transfer marked the second time a father coached his son for the Tigers, following Tommy and Tiger Buford.

In 2001, Chamberlain was inducted into the Tennessee Tennis Hall of Fame.

THE CHAMBERLAIN FILE

HOMETOWN

Perth, Australia

ALMA MATER

Memphis State, 1976
(Health & Physical Education, Cum Laude)

COLLEGIATE PLAYING HONORS

- Metro Conference singles and doubles champion in 1975 and '76.
- Teamed with Keith West to win NCAA Southern Doubles Championship in 1974.

TENNIS HONORS

- Inducted into the Tennessee Tennis Hall of Fame in 2001

USTA HONORS

- Won 14 USTA singles titles and 37 USTA Doubles titles between 1972-1982.
- Finished third among the 35's in the Tennessee Southern Cup Challenge in 1989.

ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND

- Assistant Tournament Director, ATP Kroger/St. Jude International.
- Tournament Director for NCAA Division II and III Championships, the Junior College Championships and the NAIA Championships.
- USTA National 18 Girls Clay Court Championships Tournament Director.

COACHING BACKGROUND

- Director of Tennis, The Racquet Club of Memphis
- Assistant Coach, The University of Memphis, 1998
- Head Coach USTA Cross Sectional Training Camp (Top 16 Juniors)
- Chairman Southern Player Development.
- Chairman Tennessee Player Development, 1989-1996.
- Memphis City Amateur Hall of Fame, 1992.
- University of Memphis Hall of Fame, 1991.
- Head Coach STA Girls Intersectional Team, 1990-91 (Team won the season in 1990-91).
- Head Coach Tennessee Junior Davis and Wightman Cup teams, 1984-1998 (1998 Wightman Cup team won the championship).
- Head Coach Tennessee Junior Davis Cup, 1983.
- STA Professional of the Year Educational Merit Award, 1982.
- Tennessee "Professional of the Year" Award in 1979 and 1982.
- Head Professional, The Racquet Club of Memphis, 1978-1982.
- The University of Memphis, Asst. Coach, 1979-1980.
- Head Professional and Manager, Shelby Tennis Club, 1976-1978.
- Assistant Professional, The University Club, 1972-73.
- Assistant Professional, Greenville Tennis Club, Perth, 1970-72.
- Coached 12 collegiate All-Americans, 240 sectionally-ranked juniors and led 104 juniors to collegiate scholarships.
- Coached seven touring professionals.

2003 Memphis Tennis

TIGER ALL-TIME COACHING RECORD

Year	Head Coach	W	L	T	Tour. Finish	Year	Head Coach	W	L	T	Tour Finish
1948	Robert Crane	6	4	0		1978	Tommy Buford	23	8	0	First
1949	Robert Crane	6	6	0		1979	Tommy Buford	22	2	0	First
1950	Kraft & Smith	3	7	0		1980	Tommy Buford	16	7	0	First
1951	Jennings & Markle	5	7	0		1981	Tommy Buford	12	9	0	Second
1952	Jennings & Markle	6	7	0		1982	Tommy Buford	14	4	0	Second
1953	Lambert & Markle	3	6	2		1983	Tommy Buford	12	6	0	Second
1954	Eugene Lambert		0	9	0	1984	Tommy Buford	8	11	0	Third
1955	Eugene Lambert		3	4	0	1985	Tommy Buford	14	10	0	Second
1956	Paul Davis	1	3	0		1986	Tommy Buford	15	10	0	Third
1957	Tom Colwell	5	4	0		1987	Tommy Buford	4	15	0	Third
1958	Paul Davis	0	3	0		1988	Tommy Buford	14	7	0	First
1959	Dr. E.B. Scott	1	3	0		1989	Tommy Buford	11	11	1	Fourth
1960	Dr. E.B. Scott	1	3	0		1990	Tommy Buford	9	10	0	Fourth
1961	No Team					1991	Tommy Buford	6	12	0	Seventh
1962	William Walker	2	4	0		GREAT MIDWEST CONFERENCE					
1963	Gene Jernigan	7	5	0		1992	Tommy Buford	6	19	0	T-Fourth
1964	Gene Jernigan	0	8	0		1993	Tommy Buford	10	14	0	Fourth
1965	Murray Armstrong	4	5	0		1994	Tommy Buford	17	10	0	Third
1966	No Team					1995	Tommy Buford	17	10	0	Third
MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE						CONFERENCE USA					
1967	Tommy Buford	11	6	2		1996	Tommy Buford	13	9	0	Ninth
1968	Tommy Buford	12	4	0		1997	Tommy Buford	10	5	0	Ninth
1969	Tommy Buford	17	4	0	Second	1998	Tommy Buford	20	6	0	
1970	Tommy Buford	13	3	0	Third	Buford's Career Record					
1971	Tommy Buford	13	5	0	Fourth	1999	Phil Chamberlain	20	8	0	Fourth
1972	Tommy Buford	15	9	0	Second	2000	Phil Chamberlain	16	15	0	Sixth
1973	Tommy Buford	12	12	0	Third	2001	Phil Chamberlain	16	9	0	Fifth
DIVISION I INDEPENDENT						2002	Phil Chamberlain	18	8	0	Seventh
1974	Tommy Buford	20	8	0		Chamberlain's Career Record 70 40 0					
1975	Tommy Buford	11	9	0		Memphis All-Time Record					
METRO CONFERENCE											
1976	Tommy Buford	22	2	0	First						
1977	Tommy Buford	22	3	0	First						



Assistant Coach Paul Goebel

Paul Goebel starts his fourth season as an assistant coach in 2002-2003. Goebel joined the Tigers in 2000 and immediately made an impact on all of the players. Goebel, an All-American while at Middle Tennessee State, gives each Tiger a high level practice match, workout or private lesson.

Goebel played at MTSU from 1990-1994. He was an All-American in 1994 and served as the Blue Raiders' team captain from 1992-1994. A four-time all-conference player, Goebel was the student athlete of the year in 1994.

Following his playing career at MTSU, Goebel served as a student assistant coach in 1995 and also played professionally. In 1999, Goebel was ranked No. 1 in the nation in the Men's 25 and over age group.

Goebel moved to Memphis and became a tennis professional at The Racquet Club of Memphis beginning in 1996. At The Racquet Club, Goebel has taught top national and southern-ranked juniors and has coached in a variety of area training centers, zonals and national team events.

A native of Hendersonville, North Carolina, Goebel and his wife, Shelly Ann, have a four-year-old son, Reed, and recently welcomed a daughter, Isabel.

A Q&A WITH COACH CHAMBERLAIN

- 1. You put together a difficult schedule last year to move Memphis into the national rankings for the entire year. With seven more nationally-ranked non-conference opponents on the 2003 schedule, talk about your scheduling philosophy and how this builds your program?**

Our spring schedule will be tough again this year. The spring break road trip through Virginia will really be a big test. We're hoping that working so hard this fall has helped us get ready for the spring schedule. Our biggest difficulty in growing the program is still budget constraints that keep us from an ideal schedule, so we kind of have to take what we can whenever we can in terms of having to face so many difficult teams on the road. When I set the schedule, I expected Indiana and Cornell to be nationally-ranked (they were not ranked in the pre-season polls), but they could be by the end of the year. Overall, I think we have a good balance in our schedule. No top 10 teams this year, but enough teams that are ranked ahead of us that we think we can still beat. A good balance of conference and regional teams make this an appealing schedule.
- 2. You lost three key seniors to graduation last year, including Richard Magney who played some No. 1 matches for you, and Michael Chamberlain and Michael LaHaie who got you valuable points from the bottom of the line-up and in doubles. How will you juggle your line-up around to accommodate for those losses?**

We did suffer a big loss at the bottom of our line-up in that those guys contributed a great deal of experience. We will not have that much experience at our 5 and 6 spots again this year, but the four guys that we have returning from last year are playing 150-200 percent better. Our rookies have a lot to learn, but they are coming in here with the right attitude. The injury to Joe (Schmulian), which dates back to last spring, was tough because he would be playing No. 1 in the spring if it were not for the injury, he was hitting the ball that well in September. I think we'll bring him back pretty conservatively in the spring. But I have a lot of confidence in the guys that are returning. The four players that are returning have all been the top players before, so I am very comfortable with our line-up.
- 3. Speaking of your rookies, how has their introduction to college tennis in the US gone?**

They have been a bit overwhelmed by the depth of college tennis in the United States. There are only a few players in Australia at their same level, but they come here and see that there are thousands of players in the U.S. all trying to achieve the same goal of playing professionally someday. At the Milwaukee tournament, our two new Australian players both came in and realized how deep the talent pool is when Alex (Bucewicz) went on to easily beat the guys who beat them en route the consolation singles championship. They realized that hey, this is the guy who was the No. 5 player last year, so we're really going to have to work.
- 4. Speaking of your players' goals, your team was recognized as one of the ITA All-Academic teams this past year. Talk about how academics fits into your recruiting scheme and what is involved in being a college student-athlete?**

Academics are important and that is just one of the characteristics I look for in a recruit. They need to have good character and work hard at academics. I think we have a good team philosophy. We want you to come here to get a degree, not just stay a couple of semesters and leave. It's been a big plus for our entire program to have Dr. Joe Luckey bring a whole new dimension to Athletic Academic Services, that's been a very big plus for our program.
- 5. Having your players get their degrees is important to you, but what does your program offer to players who have dreams of playing professional tennis after getting their degrees?**

I think we have all the pieces of the puzzle to develop a player's potential. Paul (Goebel) and I both have great experience that will move a player along and our facilities are as good as anyone in the country right now. We're very fortunate to be able to use The Racquet Club of Memphis, which is one of the best indoor clubs in the country, and we also have an opportunity to use the indoor facilities out at Six-50 Club during February when the professional tennis tours are using The Racquet Club. And I think playing a tough schedule like we have helps them get ready as well.
- 6. Maybe somewhat following up on getting their degrees, you have opted to continue the Alumni Outing prior to the beginning of each dual season. What does that offer your team now?**

Our alumni outing is an opportunity to create interest and get everyone involved and up to speed on what we're doing for the season. It's always a good social atmosphere and we have some really competitive alumni teams that do a good job of getting us ready for the upcoming season. It's also good for our new people to know who past players are and to see how successful they are in the community and that they got there by starting as tennis players at Memphis.

Of our three seniors last year, Michael LaHaie completed an internship at Morgan Keegan and is doing a second internship at Fed-Ex. Michael Chamberlain is just returning from Australia and will be starting to work on his MBA, and Richard Magney just joined the men's professional tour in January, competing on the satellite circuit.
- 7. As a Memphis graduate, what do you think about the changes you have seen on campus in the last couple of years (the hotel on campus, the new Fed-Ex Technology Center, the renovation of the student plaza on campus, the addition of the Mike Rose Theatre)?**

I think we have always had a lot to offer recruits, but with the changes on campus, combined with the renovation of our outdoor, on-campus facilities, it all gives us a much better image of all the different things we have to offer. They are all very positive changes, both on campus and in the athletic department.
- 8. In a few words, describe your coaching philosophy for any potential recruits out there.**

I think we work harder than anyone in the country, but we also work more efficiently. We have professional strategies for players to advance them in their games strategy-wise and we build their game around their strengths and to have no weaknesses. If a player comes here with any professional potential, he will be prepared to play on the tour, but we want him to get his degree while he's here, not just come for a couple of semesters and leave.
- 9. Anything else you want to add?**

I am confident that this is the year that we will send a team to the NCAA Team Championships. We think if everyone stays healthy, we can achieve that this year.