

2003 Memphis Tennis

Women's Head Coach Charlotte Peterson

University of Memphis, 1972, '74

Entering her 28th season as head coach of the Lady Tiger tennis program, Charlotte Peterson has compiled a 304-388 record. Peterson got her 300th career win on Feb. 2, 2002, becoming just the second women's tennis coach in Memphis history to hit the 300-career win plateau.

Not only does Peterson have the duties of coaching, but she also handles recruiting, travel plans and scheduling for the Lady Tiger tennis program. She is also a professor in The University of Memphis Physical Education Department.

Peterson is well-respected among the Mid-South and national tennis coaching circuits. The Lady Tiger mentor served on the inaugural NCAA Division IA Tennis Committee for women.

Peterson graduated from Kingsbury High School in 1967 and enrolled at Memphis State University where she lettered for three years as a member of the Lady Tiger tennis team. She received her bachelor of science degree in biology in 1972 and her Master's degree in physical education in 1974. Peterson served as the assistant tennis coach for the Lady Tigers while working on her Master's degree.

Peterson, who specialized as a doubles player, competed in state and local tournaments until the fall of 1995. She has been ranked in both the state of Tennessee and the Southern States Region. In 1986, she won the Memphis City Senior Women's 35 singles title and was runner-up in the Women's 35 singles at the Mississippi Valley Seniors' Tournament.

Peterson has had various articles published, including "Psychological Aspects of Coaching Tennis," which was published in the National Association of Girls and Women 1978-79 Tennis Guidebook: "Roadtrip Viewed From Coach's Eyes," Tennis Network, May 1987, and "Charging the Net Could Yield Results," Tennis Network, March 1987.

Peterson has directed local NTRP tennis tournament since 1983, as well as hosting the Lady Tiger Bass Fishing Tournament each spring, which benefits the women's tennis program and The University of Memphis. Each fall, Peterson organizes the Varsity Pro Shop Tennis Invitational which features the region's top tennis programs in a double-elimination format held at The U of M HPER courts.

Peterson has also been an instructor at The University of Memphis All-Sports Camp from 1979-91, and in 1992, became the director of the U of M All-Sports Camp.

She is very active in church activities, which include working with youth and college career groups.

Coach Peterson is also the creator and director of the University of Memphis Bass Fishing Tournament which is held in April at Sardis Lake, Mississippi. This event has developed into a top tournament for local anglers, bringing in revenue for the women's tennis program at Memphis.



PETERSON'S RECORD

(Dual Matches Only)

Year	Record (finish)
1975-76	7-10
1976-77	19-10
1977-78	12-10
1978-79	13-20
1979-80	14-13
1980-81	23-17
1981-82	21-22 (2nd *)
1982-83	13-23 (4th*)
1983-84	13-23 (4th*)
1984-85	4-27 (8th*)
1985-86	9-26 (5th*)
1986-87	21-13 (3rd*)
1987-88	10-16 (5th*)
1988-89	14-10 (4th*)
1989-90	11-10 (4th*)
1990-91	16-14 (5th*)
1991-92	16-8 (3rd+)
1992-93	7-13 (2nd+)
1993-94	7-14 (5th+)
1994-95	8-10 (4th+)
1995-96	6-13 (10th^)
1996-97	2-12 (9th^)
1997-98	12-10 (6th^)
1998-99	10-12 (8th^)
1999-2000	16-15 (6th^)
2000-2001	11-15 (8th^)
2001-2002	5-16 (10th^)

* Metro

^ Conference USA

+ Great Midwest Conference

THE PETERSON FILE

HOMETOWN

Memphis, Tennessee

ALMA MATER

Memphis State, B.S., 1972
M.S. Physical Education, 1974

COLLEGIATE PLAYING HONORS

- Three-year letterwinner for Lady Tiger Tennis team.

COACHING BACKGROUND

- Head Coach - University of Memphis, 1975-present
- Assistant Coach - University of Memphis, 1974-1975
- Director - U of M All-Sports Camp, 1992-1997
- Instructor - U of M All-Sports Camp, 1979-1991

COACHING HONORS

- Became just the fourth coach in Memphis history to earn 300 career wins with a 4-3 win over McNeese State on February 2nd. Peterson is the 2nd Memphis women's coach to reach the mark.

ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND

- Directed local NTRP tennis tournaments since 1983.
- Served on inaugural NCAA Division IA Tennis Committee for women.
- Director of Lady Tiger Classic Bass Tournament

PUBLISHED WORKS

- "Psychological Aspects of Coaching Tennis" *National Association of Girls and Women 1978-79 Tennis Guidebook.*
- "Roadtrip Viewed From Coach's Eyes," Tennis Network, May 1987
- "Charging the Net Could Yield Results," Tennis Network, March 1987

A Q & A WITH COACH PETERSON

1. Last year was an uncharacteristic year for Lady Tiger tennis in that you did not have much depth. Your roster this year certainly appears to have addressed that concern. Talk a bit about your three returning seniors and the additions that you have made to this year's team.

The returning seniors, Sabrina, Monica and Sam, are the key to the success of this year's team. I say that not only because they will score on the tennis court, but also because of the leadership they are showing to the new players. I am extremely proud of the way they have verbally led the new players to have high goals both on the tennis court and in the classroom. They are willing to show by example, not just by word. The experience they have is extremely important when we get to the tough times. They have been through it and can help guide the younger players. Also, they know we have a chance to be a winning team this year, and they are an encourager to each player in a positive, warm manner.



2. In looking at your recruiting process for the 2003-2004 season, you will have to replace Sabrina, Monica and Sumitra as well as Rebecca Garner, who will complete her degree a year early. When you are out recruiting, what type of student-athlete are you looking to add and what should potential recruits understand about being a Lady Tiger and what is involved?

As I am recruiting for 2003-2004, I am looking for players with a strong tennis background. I must replace a lot of points in the loss of the three seniors. However, just as important to tennis ability, I am looking for young ladies with strong academic credentials and a desire to complete a degree at the university. I would place the next importance on the person -- the Lady Tigers are a very cohesive group, they enjoy each other's company immensely and the

camaraderie is unmatched. I tell young ladies they must have respect for teammates, opponents, and self. They must have impeccable behavior on and off the court. The Lady Tigers have built a tradition of being recognized everywhere for good sportsmanship, top academics and a fun-loving team. I want that tradition to continue with the athletes I recruit.

3. A couple of years ago, a project began that involved your home varsity courts. With a total renovation of the entire complex, tell us what you think about the final project and what has it meant to your teams to have a high-quality facility to both play and practice on?

I am very proud of our tennis complex. The upgrade of the facilities makes it one of the premier college outdoor tennis facilities in the country. I believe the team is proud of it and that enhances the desire to do well, both in practice and match play. When other teams come to compete and make positive remarks about the facility, the players can feel the university does care about them and has made an effort to stand out in the Division I landscape. We are continuing to enhance the area with landscaping and, hopefully, one day the upper courts will be equal to the six varsity courts. Certainly, I enjoy working in an environment such as our courts.

4. Your schedule continues to feature a series of tough, regional opponents and this year you start your spring schedule against two of the top nationally-ranked teams in the country. Talk a bit about your scheduling philosophy and how that plays into the Conference USA tournament at the end of the season.

I wanted to schedule stronger opponents this year to challenge the team and also to see where we actually stand against top nationally-ranked teams. My philosophy of scheduling is to challenge the players, but not to overwhelm them. I do believe tough matches won or lost have a learning value. I believe they do prepare the team for the conference tournament, but I also believe winning matches breeds confidence. Coming from a very successful fall season, I believe the team will want to be challenged. I knew this team would be stronger than in the past, but I do not know just how strong we are in comparison to schools that are normally ranked. We shall learn that after the first two matches!!!

5. You usually have one trip to a different part of the country. A couple of years ago

it was Texas and this past year you played a series of matches in Bermuda. What is your philosophy in adding trips to different parts of the country and how does that affect your recruiting of international students who want to see more of the United States as part of their college experience.

I love to take teams to places that allow them to enjoy either the beauty of our country or a chance to relax and have fun when away from the courts. Most trips are just tennis, no time for anything else. However, traveling to different areas can be very educational as well as recreational. The team works very hard and I feel they deserve some time off the court in a special atmosphere. Of course, one reason international students come to America is to see it and experience some of the places unique to our part of the world. I believe they appreciate the effort I make in getting them out and allowing them an opportunity they may not otherwise have.

6. You added a Memphis-area recruit to your roster this year for the first time in a while. Given that Kristen Noble was a former Tennessee State Athletic Association singles champion during her prep career, how positive a thing do you feel it is for The U of M as a whole that a talented local player wants to play at home?

Memphis has produced fine tennis players for many years. Some have gone away to other colleges first and then returned to play at the university. Having Memphis talent on the team is important to the Memphis tennis public. They like to see home talent compete and it makes them want to support the overall program. I believe the program is more recognized in the local community when they recognize a local player, who did good in high school. I believe the public then thinks the program must be pretty good if the local best



2003 Memphis Tennis

A Q & A WITH COACH PETERSON

stay at home.

7. Along those same lines, there have been a lot of changes on the university campus lately. As a Tiger graduate and a long-time member of the staff, talk about some of the recent changes and how they affect the Tiger student-athletes (the Fed-Ex Technology Center, the hotel on campus, the renovation of Wilder Tower which will house a new student-athlete academic center, the student plaza, etc.).

I am very excited about all the changes occurring on campus. I believe it shows the university is keeping up with the 21st century. It speaks to the students in such a positive manner to see new buildings, new technology and a beautiful campus. I believe they see the commitment and they want to tell others about what is being done. I know it is a great recruiting tool and will enable me to continue to bring not only top athletes but also top students to the team.

8. College tennis definitely has an international flavor to it now. Talk about what Memphis (both the city and the school) offers to international students and what recruits can expect in a college experience at The U of M.

Probably the first thing that comes to mind is friendliness of the people. I am always told by my student-athletes that people here are so helpful and friendly. It makes them feel accepted and, therefore, comfortable. When one is comfortable, one will learn more and perform better. The university is big, but not too big. The city is big and offers lots to do for the international students. From the experience of my former international students, they feel the academic programs are challenging and provide them with an

opportunity to take home a degree that can be used in their home country. They find success in the fields they have chosen for a career and are happy they came to



Memphis.

9. College tennis can be difficult in that there is a spring and a fall travel schedule, yet you continue to be one of the teams that the Intercollegiate Tennis Association recognizes as an All-Academic Team. How do your student-athletes juggle the responsibilities of their coursework with the requirements necessary to compete in NCAA Division I college athletics?

First, I believe they come to Memphis with a strong academic background. Then, tennis itself is a sport that requires a great deal of discipline. I believe this discipline transfers to the academic world. They have to be disciplined to use their time wisely and prioritize their activities in life. We talk about being a student first, then an athlete and lastly a social person. Even though we spend a lot of time together as a team, there is time for a social life. As I spoke about the type of person I recruit, team camaraderie plays a significant part in the success of the team academically. Since we are together so much, they are very willing to help each other with academic questions, etc. Because they care about each other as people, they care about each other on and off the court and what they are involved with as person. I allow them to study at the tennis courts during long tournaments, and we have a team laptop that aids their studies and very little time is spent sleeping in the van while we travel.

10. You have a very unique fundraiser for a tennis program. Talk a bit about your

fishing tournament and how that tournament benefits your program. How did you decide to offer a bass fishing tournament?

The fishing tournament came about when I heard about another tennis coach who ran one as a fundraiser. At that time, my assistant coach was a bass fisherman. I knew with his expertise, my desire to put it together, the name of the university associated with it, and the location of great lakes near us, we could not fail. The first year proved to be successful and it has become a well-known event in the area for the past five years. The money is used for an assistant coach or for other needs of the team not met by the budget. The tournament benefits my program in that people not associated with Memphis teams are involved and, therefore, we are exposed to a new group of supporters. We are advertised in areas not normal for our general marketing. It is a novel idea that has people asking about the team and the association with bass fishing!

11. Give us a summary of your coaching philosophy and what your goals are for this program. If you could make any types of changes, what would you change and what do you feel are some of the major accomplishments of your program to date?

My coaching philosophy is to help young ladies not only become better tennis players, but enhance and reveal their best character possible. Winning is important, but being the best person one can be is most important. I expect every player to work hard and do her best on the court and in the classroom. I expect each player to treat each teammate and opponent with dignity and respect. Overall, our goal is the represent the university in such a positive way, that everyone is proud of the team. I would change the image of tennis being a "lesser" or "individual" sport, so that it could receive attention from the media, the administration and the public that it deserves. I would want more people to recognize the hard work and dedication the team exhibits both on the court and in the classroom. They are probably the classiest athletes with the least amount of exposure. Major accomplishments of our program include the recognition of our academic achievements, more respect among the tennis ranks, and the national ranking of Sabrina and Monica in doubles. We are a program continually on the upswing and a team always recognized for our sportsmanship.



2003 Memphis Tennis

2003 Lady Tiger Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	Site
January 31	at Mississippi State	2:30 p.m.	Starkville, Miss.
February 2	at Ole Miss	2:00 p.m.	Oxford, Miss.
February 6	at Arkansas-Little Rock	12:00 p.m.	Little Rock, Ark.
February 14	at UT-Chattanooga	2:00 p.m.	Chattanooga, Tenn.
February 15	Georgia State	1:00 p.m.	Chattanooga, Tenn.
February 16	at Tennessee Tech	10:00 a.m.	Crossville, Tenn.
February 21	at Cincinnati *	6:00 p.m.	Cincinnati, Ohio
February 22	vs. UAB *	6:00 p.m.	Cincinnati, Ohio
February 23	vs. DePaul *	10:00 a.m.	Cincinnati, Ohio
March 5	at Middle Tennessee	1:30 p.m.	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 7	NORTHWESTERN STATE	2:30 p.m.	MEMPHIS
March 8	ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK	9:00 a.m.	MEMPHIS
March 8	MURRAY STATE	2:00 p.m.	MEMPHIS
March 19	at UT-Martin	2:00 p.m.	Martin, Tenn.
March 21	SAINT LOUIS *	2:00 p.m.	MEMPHIS
March 22	SIU-CARBONDALE	9:00 a.m.	MEMPHIS
March 22	TROY STATE	2:00 p.m.	MEMPHIS
March 27	at Rollins College	3:30 p.m.	Winter Park, Fla.
March 30	at South Florida *	1:00 p.m.	Tampa, Fla.
March 31	at UCF	1:00 p.m.	Orlando, Fla.
April 3	AUBURN-MONTGOMERY	2:30 p.m.	MEMPHIS
April 8	at Arkansas State	2:00 p.m.	Jonesboro, Ark.
April 11-14	Conference USA Championships	ALL DAY	New Orleans, La.

2003 Lady Tiger Roster

Name	Cl.	Hometown/Last School
Marlene Dirnstorfer	So.	Pinsdorf, Austria/University of Vienna
Andrea Feichtinger	Fr.	Neukirchen, Austria/Bundesrealgymnasium
Rebecca Garner	Jr.	Billericay, Essex, England/The Billericay School
Monica Gonzalez-Gordo	Sr.	Barcelona, Spain/Baylor University
Viktoria Gruber	So.	Vienna, Austria/University of Vienna
Sabrina Lindemann	Sr.	Linz, Austria/Bundes Oberstufenreal
Kristin Noble	Fr.	Germantown, Tenn./Houston High School
Sumitra Rao	Sr.	Madras, India/Good Shepherd Secondary

Head Coach: Charlotte Peterson

