



2018 WOMEN'S TENNIS NOTES HAWAII INVITATIONAL

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY, JAN. 17-18 | UH TENNIS COMPLEX | HONOLULU, HAWAII

DUAL 1: AT HAWAII

SATURDAY, JAN. 20 | UH TENNIS COMPLEX | HONOLULU, HAWAII

@WAVESTENNIS | #WAVESUP | COMPETING WITH PURPOSE

2017-18 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

FALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Tournament
9/16	USTA Pro Circuit (Lubbock, Texas)
9/21-24	Oracle/ITA Masters (Malibu, Calif.)
9/30-10-8	Riviera/ITA All-American Championships Malibu/Pacific Palisades, Calif.
10/19-23	ITA Southwest Regional Championships San Diego, Calif.
11/1-5	Oracle/Fall Championships (Indian Wells, Calif.)
11/2-5	Jack Kramer Invitational (Los Angeles, Calif.)

SPRING DUAL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent (Rk)	Location	Time
1/12-14	Freeman Memorial UNLV - Las Vegas, Nev.		
1/17-18	Hawaii Invitational Honolulu, Hawaii		

1/20 at Hawaii 1 p.m.

ITA KICK-OFF WEEKEND

1/27	Maryland	Malibu, Calif.	TBA
1/28	Rice/Oregon	Malibu, Calif.	TBA
2/2	UC Santa Barbara	Malibu, Calif.	1 p.m.

ITA National Team Indoor Championships

2/9-12	ITA National Team Indoor Championships Madison, Wis.		
3/2	at Stanford	Palo Alto, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
3/3	at California	Berkeley, Calif.	12 p.m.
3/8	Pennsylvania	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
3/20	Dartmouth	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
3/24	Loyola Marymount*	Malibu, Calif.	12 p.m.
3/29	Saint Mary's*	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
3/30	Pacific*	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.

4/3	USC	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
4/6	at Gonzaga*	Sponkane, Wash.	2 p.m.
4/7	at Portland*	Portland, Ore.	10 a.m.
4/13	San Diego*	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
4/14	BYU*	Malibu, Calif.	12 p.m.
4/18	UCLA	Malibu, Calif.	1:30 p.m.
4/20	at San Francisco*	San Francisco, Calif.	12 p.m.
4/21	at Santa Clara*	Santa Clara, Calif.	12 p.m.

WEST COAST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

4/26	West Coast Conference Championships Claremont, Calif.
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Home matches in bold | All times Pacific unless otherwise noted | Opponent's ranking at time of match listed | * West Coast Conference match

MATCH NOTES

MALIBU, Calif. – The No. 6 Pepperdine women's tennis team continues life on the road with a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii to compete in the Hawaii Invitational Wednesday-Thursday and challenge the Rainbow Wahine in a dual match on Saturday.

TOURNAMENT 7: HAWAII INVITATIONAL: Wednesday-Thursday, January 17-18 at UH Tennis Complex in Honolulu, Hawaii | Hosted by Hawaii.

DUAL MATCH 1: No. 6 Pepperdine vs. Hawaii | 1 p.m. | Saturday, January 20 at UH Tennis Complex in Honolulu, Hawaii.

COVERAGE: Updates will be provided after each full day of competition. Recaps and results will be posted on www.PepperdineWaves.com daily. Any and all available score updates will be posted on Twitter at @WavesTennis.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next, the Waves will return home to host the annual ITA Kick-Off Weekend on Jan. 27 and 28. Pepperdine will welcome Maryland, Rice and Oregon to Ralphs-Straus Tennis Center for a series of matches. The Waves will first take on Maryland on the 27th, before battling either Rice or Oregon on the 28th.

THE WAVES: This 2017-18 season, Pepperdine has gone 37-17 overall in singles for a .685 winning percentage. No. 57 **Laura Gulbe** has collected the most wins with an 11-5 overall record, including an even 2-2 output against nationally ranked competition. No. 28 **Ashley Lahey** and No. 31 **Mayar Sherif** have each posted nine wins. Lahey has gone 9-1 overall with a 3-1 record against nationally ranked opposition and Sherif has posted a 9-4 overall record with a 3-2 record against ranked opponents. No. 44 **Dzina Milovanovic** has also seen quite a bit of time in the tournament season, collecting a 6-5 overall record win one win against ranked competition.

In doubles, the Waves have collected an 8-6 record for a .571 success rate. Gulbe and Milovanovic paired up for a majority of the tournament season, collecting a 6-4 overall

2017-18 ROSTER

Name	Ht.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown/High School/Last School
Jessica Failla	5-6	Jr.	TR	Ramona, Calif./Connections Academy /USC
Laura Gulbe	5-7	Sr.	3V	Riga, Latvia/ Murjāņu Sporta Ģimnāzija
Ashley Lahey	5-10	So.	1V	Hawthorne, Calif./Connections Academy Capistrano
Adrijana Lekaj	5-7	So.	SQ	Karlovac, Croatia/Birotehnica
Evgeniya Levashova	5-8	Fr.	HS	Moscow, Russia
Dzina Milovanovic	5-6	Jr.	2V	Belgrade, Serbia/Sportska Gimnazija
Mayar Sherif	5-11	Sr.	1V	Cairo, Egypt/Lycee El Horreya/Freshno State
Luisa Stefani	5-6	Jr.	2V	Sao Paulo, Brazil/Saddlebrook Prep (Fla.)

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Per Nilsson, 4th season
Associate Head Coach: Lauren Embree, 1st season

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTORY #WAVESUP

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record with an even 1-1 record against ranked competitors. Milovanovic also paired up with Levashova in the only spring tournament and the pair went 2-1 overall.

THE FIELD: Along with opponents from Pepperdine and Hawai'i, the tournament will also have competitors from No. 9 Duke.

ALL-TIME AGAINST THE RAINBOW WAHINE: Pepperdine first faced off with Hawai'i in the 1978 campaign, winning the match by a staggering 9-0 finish. The Waves have since collected a 5-0 all-time record against the Rainbow Wahine, including the team's most recent win in 2011 with a 4-3 final mark.

LAST WEEK: FREEMAN MEMORIAL: Last week, the Waves trekked to UNLV to take part in the Freeman Memorial, going 6-3 in singles and 2-1 in doubles throughout the weekend. No. 57 Laura Gulbe defeated No. 32 Victoria Emma of Florida in a two-set battle on day two to highlight. Evgeniya Levashova and Dzina Milovanovic paired up to go 2-1 against top-ranked competition, including a 6-3 win over UCLA's Abi Altick and Terri Fleming.

ORACLE/ITA RANKINGS: The first round of Oracle/ITA national team rankings was released on Jan. 3. The Waves moved up two spots to open the 2018 campaign ranked No. 6 nationally. After the completion of the fall season, the final singles and doubles rankings were released on Nov. 15. Four Waves were ranked in singles, as No. 28 **Ashley Lahey**, No. 31 **Mayar Sherif**, No. 44 **Dzina Milovanovic** and No. 57 **Laura Gulbe** each finished the fall nationally ranked.

PEPPERDINE ROSTER: This season, the Waves have two seniors with No. 31 **Mayar Sherif** and No. 57 **Laura Gulbe**. Three juniors have returned or joined the squad as No. 44 **Dzina Milovanovic** and **Luisa Stefani** returned. **Jessica Failla** also joined the squad as a junior transfer from USC at the beginning of the fall. Stefani has ranked as high as No. 2 in the Oracle/ITA singles rankings. No. 28 **Ashley Lahey** also returns to the Waves' lineup and has ranked as high as No. 3 throughout the fall season. **Adrijana Lekaj** will hit the court as a sophomore for the Waves this season as well. The last addition this spring is **Evgeniya Levashova** who joins the squad with a career-high juniors ITF ranking of No. 12.

ITA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL: For the third-consecutive season, the Waves have won the ITA Southwest Regional singles draw. **Ashley Lahey** won the tournament for the second straight year, and this season she faced fellow Wave **Mayar Sherif** in the final match-up to earn them both a bid to the Oracle ITA Fall National Championship. Lahey won the tournament with wins against Alaina Miller (UCLA), Sydney Van Alphen (USC), Elisabeta Volodko (UCSB), Eva Voracek (LMU), Avan Broomfield (UCLA) and Mayar Sherif (Pepperdine). Sherif reached the final after collecting victories over Calota Casasampere (LBSU), Becca Weissmann (USC), Lena Pacholski (LBSU), No. 73 Jada Hart (UCLA) and Veronika Miroshnichenko (LMU).

OTHER FALL TOURNAMENTS: In addition to the regional, the Waves competed in five other fall tournaments, including the Oracle/ITA Masters and the Oracle ITA National Fall Championships. In the Oracle/ITA Masters, Mayar Sherif reached the semifinal round against Alle Sanford, the 6th-ranked newcomer from UNC, before falling in a three-set bout. At the fall championships, Ashley Lahey made her sophomore season debut and reached the quarterfinal round.

A GLANCE AT 2016-17: In the 2016-17 season, the Waves posted a 24-5 overall record and marked a second-consecutive appearance in the NCAA National Championship quarterfinals. Pepperdine also marked the fifth-consecutive WCC Tournament Championship title as well as the sixth-straight regular season crown. As a team, Pepperdine produced a .689 overall singles winning percentage with a 146-66 overall record. The team also posted a .686 winning percentage in doubles with a 72-33 overall record.

NILSSON: Per Nilsson returned to Pepperdine in June 2014 to succeed Gualberto Escudero as head coach of the women's tennis

WAVES IN THE RANKINGS

TEAM - #6

SINGLES

ASHLEY LAHEY - SO

CURRENT RANK - #28

SEASON HIGH - #3

CAREER HIGH - #3

MAYAR SHERIF AHMED - SR

CURRENT RANK - #31

SEASON HIGH - #13

CAREER HIGH - #13

DZINA MILOVANOVIC - JR

CURRENT RANK - 44

SEASON HIGH - #44

CAREER HIGH - #44

LAURA GULBE - SR

CURRENT RANK - #57

SEASON HIGH - #51

CAREER HIGH - #51

LUISA STEFANI - JR

CURRENT RANK - NR

SEASON HIGH - NR

CAREER HIGH - 2

JESSICA FAILLA - JR

CURRENT RANK - NR

SEASON HIGH - #16

CAREER HIGH - #16

DOUBLES

MAYAR SHERIF/ASHLEY LAHEY

CURRENT RANK - NR

SEASON HIGH - #10

CAREER HIGH - #10

JESSICA FAILLA/DZINA MILOVANOVIC

CURRENT RANK - NR

SEASON HIGH - #39

CAREER HIGH - #39

QUICK FACTS

General

School Pepperdine University
 Location Malibu, Calif. 90263
 Founded 1937 (Malibu Campus in 1972)
 Enrollment 8,000 total/3,000 undergraduate
 Colors Blue and Orange
 Affiliation NCAA Division I
 Conference West Coast Conference
 President Andrew K. Benton
 Athletic Director Dr. Steve Potts
 Athletic Department Phone (310) 506-4150
 Ticket Office Phone (866) WAVE-TIX
 Home Courts Ralphs-Straus Tennis Center
 Capacity 2,000

Coaching Staff

Head Coach Per Nilsson
 Record at Pepperdine 66-15 (3 seasons)
 Career Record-Men's 95-76 (7 seasons)
 Overall Record 161-91 (10 seasons)
 Office Phone (310) 506-4506
 E-Mail per.nilsson@pepperdine.edu
 Assistant Coach ... Lauren Embree (1st season)
 Office Phone (310) 506-6007
 E-Mail Lauren.Embree@pepperdine.edu

Team Information

2017 Overall Record 24-5
 2017 WCC Record 9-0
 2017 WCC Regular Season 1st
 2017 WCC Tournament 1st
 Players Returning/Lost 5/3
 Newcomers 1 transfer

Women's Tennis Information

All-Time Record (since 1976) 731-356
 All-Time WCC Tournament Titles 27
 Last in 2017
 Regular-Season Titles 6
 Last in 2017
 NCAA Tournament Appearances 34
 Current Streak 30
 Last in 2017
 Total Postseason Appearances 37
 Best Finish Quarterfinals (2016 & 2017)

Athletic Communications

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team. In his three years with the Waves, he has been named West Coast Conference Coach of the Year on three-consecutive occasions. In 2016 and 2017, he led the Waves to a NCAA Championship quarterfinal appearances and #9 and #8 final ranking in the ITA/Oracle rankings respectively. He was an assistant coach for the Pepperdine men's tennis team from 2003-07 under head coach Adam Steinberg, where the Waves went 119-38 in those five seasons. Pepperdine won the NCAA team championship in 2006 with Nilsson on the sidelines. He was the head men's coach at Mississippi State, his alma mater, for seven seasons from 2008-2014. Nilsson compiled a record of 95-76 during his time at MSU.

#PURPOSE: The Pepperdine University Department of Athletics is committed to Christian values, to the academic well-being of all of our student-athletes and to competing for championships. We prepare students for success by challenging them to think differently - find your purpose, serve others and lead by example. The Competing with Purpose campaign highlights the commitment to our core values that student-athletes, coaches and staff dedicate themselves to daily. Competing with Purpose provides the foundation on which champions are built.

ABOUT PEPPERDINE: Pepperdine boasts a one-of-a-kind athletic department with unprecedented success for a school of its size. The Waves have won NCAA Division I Championships in five different men's sports — one of just 17 schools to have accomplished this feat — and nine overall. Of this elite group, Pepperdine has the smallest undergraduate enrollment, is the only school without football and is the only university that has not been affiliated with a "major" conference. The Waves have won a total of 25 team or individual national championships in their history. Pepperdine has also earned the Division I-AAA All-Sports Trophy, an award based on postseason success that's given to the top non-football school, three times (most recently in 2011-12). Located in scenic Malibu, Calif., the university overlooks the Pacific Ocean and its campus and athletic facilities are regularly voted among the nation's most beautiful. Pepperdine, which is affiliated with the Church of Christ, ranks No. 46 overall on U.S. News and World Report's list of America's best colleges.

Pepperdine University Season statistics

Overall record: 0-0 • WCC: 0-0 • Region: 0-0 • Home: 0-0 • Away: 0-0 • Neutral: 0-0
 • vs National ranked: 0-0 • vs Regional ranked: 0-0

SINGLES	Overall	Dual	Tour	WCC	1	2	3	4	5	6	vs Ranked			
											Nat'l	Reg'l	Streak	Last10
Failla, Jessica	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-1	0-0	L 1	1-1
Gulbe, Laura	11-5	0-0	11-5	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	2-2	0-0	W 3	8-2
Lahey, Ashley	9-1	0-0	9-1	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	3-1	0-0	L 1	9-1
Levashova, Evgeniya	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W 1	1-1
Milovanovic, Dzina	6-5	0-0	6-5	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	1-0	0-0	L 2	6-4
Sherif, Mayar	9-4	0-0	9-4	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	3-2	0-0	L 1	6-4
Totals	37-17	0-0	37-17	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	9-6	0-0		
Percentage	.685	.000	.685	.000	---	---	---	---	---	---	.600	.000		

DOUBLES	Overall	Dual	Tour	WCC	1	2	3	vs Ranked			
								Nat'l	Reg'l	Streak	Last10
Gulbe, Laura/Milovanovic, Dzina	6-4	0-0	6-4	0-0	---	---	---	1-1	0-0	L 1	6-4
Lahey, Ashley/Sherif, Mayar	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L 1	0-1
Levashova, Evgeniya/Milovanovic, Dzina	2-1	0-0	2-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W 1	2-1
Totals	8-6	0-0	8-6	0-0	---	---	---	1-1	0-0		
Percentage	.571	.000	.571	.000	---	---	---	.500	.000		