



NETSCOOP



AN INSIDE LOOK AT SANTA CLARA MEN'S TENNIS

Volume III, Issue III - May 2000

WELCOME TO "OUR HOUSE"

The Santa Clara University Tennis Center was built two seasons ago with specific goals in mind: to expand student and community participation in the sport of tennis, create the most fan-friendly environment possible and serve as a launching pad to greater success for SCU tennis. Since **Ed Kelly** struck the first ball, the courts have hosted many players and fans and the Broncos have learned to appreciate what it means to play ball in their "house". After having endured a slow 2-5 start, Santa Clara faced a tough test ahead. Upcoming matches included battles with a handful of nationally ranked programs (#12 Fresno State, #9 SMU, #74 UT-Arlington, #24 Harvard, #36 Pacific), a perennially tough Air Force Academy squad, a slew of West Coast Conference matches and the biggest home event for SCU in a decade: the 2000 WCC Championships. The results Santa Clara went on to post over a three-week period proved to be the most impressive run in team history: 13-4 over their final 17 dual matches, a 9-match win streak, including victories over three nationally ranked opponents and a berth in the WCC Finals (vs. #3 Pepperdine) and earning a first-ever ITA national ranking (#57). What a finish to a wild season and it all started in "Our House".

COX CRUSHES CRIMSON

The Broncos returned home from their spring break trip in Texas to host Harvard University. The Crimson, an NCAA quarterfinalist a year ago, was looking to make quick work of SCU on their four-stop, West Coast tour. A Harvard sweep of a trio of intense doubles matches resulted in a 0-1 deficit. Undaunted, the Broncos fought back quickly in singles and put the squeeze on their Ivy League opponents. **Scott "Mad Dog" Watters** and **Federico "Guga" Mattioli** put SCU back on top 2-1 by disposing of Harvard's William Lee and Cille Swart. Showing the pride typical of the East Region's perennial champions, the Crimson stormed back to take a 3-2 lead, winning matches at #2 and #6.

The match lay on the shoulders of senior **Lars Nelson** and junior **Matt Cox**. Each Bronco found himself down an early service break in his 3rd set. Nelson, trailing 1-3, fought off several break points and reversed SCU's fortune by reeling off five straight games to win his match 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

It then came down to Court #4 where ΣΑΕ's, Cox represented the final match of the afternoon. After splitting a pair of tie-break sets 7-6 and 6-7 and unaware that the overall team score was knotted at 3-3, Matt battled howling winds to break Harvard's Andy Styperek at 5-4 in the third and sealed the match for Santa Clara. The Broncos celebrated their first victory over a nationally ranked opponent by mobbing Cox and dousing coach **Sean Burns** with a cooler of refreshing water.

¡Vamos Guga!

Winners of six straight, Santa Clara traveled to Stockton to face #36 University of Pacific. The Tiger's strong all-European squad (German, Swedish & French) was enjoying one of the program's most successful seasons ever with victories over top-30 teams San Diego State and Louisville. **Ryan Livesay** and **Scott Watters**, SCU's #3 doubles team, jumpstarted the Broncos with consistent serves and tough returns to defeat their opponents convincingly. Minutes later at the #1 slot, seniors **Marcell Hlousek** and **Lars Nelson** clinched the doubles point using aggressive net play to wear down the harder hitting Tigers. As the Broncos looked to maintain their momentum in singles, Pacific had other plans, jumping out to a 3-1 lead by capturing three straight-set matches. Team captain Nelson and junior **Matt Cox** helped SCU even the match after posting hard-fought victories at #1 and #4, respectively. All eyes now shifted to freshman **"Guga" Mattioli**. The crafty Argentinian found himself in a tug-of-war with UOP's counterpunching Swede, Niklas Larsson. After splitting sets, Guga's attacking ground game proved "demasiado grande" and clinched the match for the Broncos. The victory ran the streak to seven and provided plenty of momentum for the next event on tap - the WCC Championships.

SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS!

SCU Tennis is offering camps for boys and girls, ages 6-17, from July 24-28 & July 31-Aug 4. Camps will run from 9:00am-3:00pm at the SCU Tennis Center. Call 1-800-NIKE-CAMP (645-3226) or register on-line at www.esportscamps.com. See you on the courts!

Wild WCC Finish At The Corral

The 2000 West Coast Conference Championships held at the SCU Tennis Center were the final matches of their careers for seniors **Lars Nelson**, **Marcell Hlousek** and **Scott Watters**. The tournament had been branded on the SCU calendar for over a year, as it was an opportunity to welcome the WCC to the Broncos' house and showcase the team's high-level, competitive play in front of a partisan home crowd.

Several hundred people packed the bleachers and the 'grassy knoll' daily to witness the action which lasted from morning to dusk. Santa Clara entered the tournament as the #3 seed behind #1 Pepperdine and #2 San Diego. In first round action, the Broncos faced Saint Mary's - a team wanting nothing more than to dispose SCU on their home courts. Santa Clara, however, dismissed any thoughts of an upset by shutting out the Gaels, 7-0 (for a 3rd time in 2000). In Saturday's semifinal round, hundreds of crazed fans anticipated another heated battle in the rivalry blossoming between SCU and USD. The Torrerros had stopped the Broncos' WCC runs in the semifinals of the past three tournaments, but this match would be contested in the Broncos' House and their three senior starters were directing the show.

With a record crowd on hand, Santa Clara captured the doubles point in dramatic fashion. Watters and **Ryan Livesay** won their match 9-8 (7-3 tiebreak) at #3 doubles. USD knotted the doubles point at 1-1 with a 9-7 victory at #2 and the Broncos' top team of Nelson and Hlousek faced two match points at 7-5. In their house, the senior duo rallied to win four consecutive games for a dramatic 9-7 win - giving SCU a 1-0 overall lead. Having lost the doubles point in every previous tie with the Torrerros, the Broncos sensed that their fortunes were changing and carried the momentum into singles play.

The "Mad Dog" Watters and **Federico Mattioli** again provided impressive victories at the #2 and #5 slots. The Torrerros stormed back and grabbed three victories to even the score at 3-3, setting up a spectacular finish at #1 singles. With the third set tied 5-5 and a berth in the WCC Championship on the line, "Cat Daddy" Nelson carressed an elegant passing shot past USD's Mattias Tangejord, breaking the controversial Swede's serve to go ahead 6-5. The home crowd and Bronco team grew anxious as the intensity level reached a fever pitch. What few in the crowd realized at the time was that the least nervous person on the campus that day was absolutely reveling in his well-earned moment of glory. As he prepared to serve out the match, Lars knew he was their Daddy and he was putting on a show. (continued on back)

The Silver Racquet Club

Join the official Booster Club of Santa Clara Men's Tennis. Your support through the Silver Racquet Club enhances the program's budget for team travel, recruiting, and equipment, as well as contributing to the success of SCU Men's Tennis in the 2000 season. Go Broncos!

CLUB LEVEL (please mark one of the following)

BENEFITS

_____ **BRONCO SATELLITE PLAYER (\$50-99)**

Receive Team Photo & Team T-Shirt

_____ **BRONCO CHALLENGER PLAYER (\$100-249)**

Receive Team Photo, T-Shirt, & Team Shorts

_____ **BRONCO GRAND PRIX PLAYER (\$250-499)**

Receive Team Photo, T-Shirt, Polo Shirt, Shorts, & Invitation to Team Banquet

_____ **BRONCO GRAND SLAM PLAYER (\$500+)**

Receive Team Photo, T-Shirt, Polo Shirt, Shorts, Team Jacket, Traveling Bag, and Invitation to Team Banquet


Make check payable to SCU Men's Tennis & send to SCU Athletic Department, Attn: Men's Tennis, Santa Clara, CA 95053. Questions? Please call us at (408) 554-4069.

NAME _____ GRAD/YR? _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

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SCU Men's Tennis

Santa Clara University Men's Tennis
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053



Wild Finish (continued)

Serving for the match, the Indiana native gutted out the grueling duel and gave Santa Clara its biggest win in program history. Nelson was mobbed by his teammates and fans, lifted to their shoulders and paraded around the court in celebration.

The following day, Santa Clara ran into a tough Pepperdine squad – the WCC #1 seed and #3-ranked team in the nation. Junior **Matt Cox** gave his best performance of the season in an impressive victory over the Waves' Chase Exon, 6-4, 7-5. Though the Broncos battled hard, Pepperdine proved too tough in the contest's other matches, forcing SCU to settle for 2nd place honors (a feat accomplished only one other time in school history). The weekend was quite a **FAN**-tastic way to end a thrilling season and send a message to college tennis – look out for the Broncos.

ALL-WCC HONORS

Singles: Lars Nelson (2nd consecutive year)

Doubles: Marcell Hlousek (2nd time) & Lars Nelson (1st time)

Coach: Sean Burns (3rd time in 4 years)

#57 Santa Clara University Tennis

2000 MATCH RESULTS

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Jan 21 | HAWAII | W,4-3 | Mar 11 | @Saint Mary's | W,7-0 |
| Jan 22 | @Cal | L,0-7 | Mar 21 | @Southern Methodist | L,1-5 |
| Jan 30 | UCDAVIS | rain | Mar 22 | @UT-Arlington | L,1-6 |
| | USF | rain | Mar 24 | vs.NELouisiana (@UTA) | W,6-1 |
| Feb 10 | SAN DIEGO ST | L,2-4 | Mar 26 | HARVARD | W,4-3 |
| Feb 13 | GEORGIA TECH | rain | Mar 28 | AIR FORCE | W,5-2 |
| Feb 16 | UCSANTACRUZ | W,6-1 | Mar 30 | SAN FRANCISCO | W,7-0 |
| Feb 21 | @Sac State | L,2-5 | Apr 1 | SANITIMARYS | W,7-0 |
| Feb 25 | @Pepperdine | L,0-7 | | @USF | W,7-0 |
| Feb 26 | @UCSB | L,2-5 | Apr 4 | @Pacific | W,4-3 |
| Mar 1 | LOCLAVAR MOUNT | W,7-0 | Apr 7 | SANITIMARYS(WCC) | W,7-0 |
| Mar 4 | @Fresno State | L,3-4 | Apr 8 | SAN DIEGO(WCC) | W,4-3 |
| Mar 6 | FORLAND | W,4-3 | Apr 9 | PEPPERDINE(WCC) | L,1-6 |
| Mar 7 | CONZAGA | W,7-0 | | FINAL 2000 RECORD | 15-9 |

Keep up with Santa Clara Tennis on the web at
www.SantaClaraBroncos.com