

TEXAS TECH LADY RAIDERS

2007 WOMEN'S TENNIS



WOMEN'S TENNIS HOSTS THREE BIG 12 MATCHES

Still searching for their first Big 12 win, the Texas Tech women's tennis team will host three conference matches through the end of the week. They first take on No. 40 Texas on Thurs., March 29 at 2 p.m., then Missouri on Sat., March 31 at noon, and finally Kansas on Sun., April 1, at 10 a.m.

LAST TIME OUT

After a day of showers and thunderstorms, the team struggled in singles action against the No. 75 Nebraska Cornhuskers. The match began with singles outside at McLeod Tennis Center, but finished with the No. 1 and 3 matches playing indoors at the Lakeridge Country Club. Tech's Brenna Jackson made her singles debut with a win over Ashley Finnegan 6-0 in the first set, and Finnegan retiring before the second.

Husker's Diana Kuhl edged senior Lakann Wagley in the No. 2 spot, 6-2, 6-2, tying the score at one all. Tech's bottom half of the line-up had an impressive showing, putting Tech ahead 3-1 early in the match. Freshmen Kerryn Potgieter and Maria Jose Andres stepped up for the Red Raiders and secured the next two singles points, putting Tech ahead 3-1.

On the No. 1 court Samantha van der Drift was down 6-3, 4-4 to No. 50 Imke Reimers. Meanwhile, the No. 3's Janet Durham and Diana Kuhl sat tied two games apiece with Kuhl ahead 4-3 in the third set. In the middle of both matches, rain forced the match into a weather delay. After an hour and a half play tried to continue, but lightning forced the last two matches indoors.

Picking up from where they left off, Nebraska's Kuhl refused to go down easily as she pulled away with the 6-4 win over Durham. With Tech needing only one point to win, van der Drift battled back to win the second set 6-4, pushing the match into a third set. Reimers jumped out with a 3-0 lead, but van der Drift retaliated by capturing the next two points. The battle heated up as the two went toe-to-toe, with the lead volleying back and forth. Reimers eventually pushed her way ahead of van der Drift, winning the third set 6-3.

BIG 12 STRONGER THAN EVER

As customary, the Tech women's tennis team will be competing in one of the toughest conferences in college tennis today. At the beginning of January, Baylor, No. 6, and Texas, No. 20, both fall in the top 25 of the preseason ITA/Fila Collegiate Tennis Rankings. In the latest ITA rankings, No. 16 Baylor, No. 29 Colorado, No. 36 Texas, No. 14 Texas A&M, and No. 52 Oklahoma State all lead the way for the Big 12.

"This conference is one of the toughest in the country and so every match allows a team to position themselves for post season play," said Coach Groce. "You have to be ready for each team as everyone has strong players in their lineups."

Tech began conference play on the road after hosting 10 consecutive matches at home. Losing 6-1 to Colorado in their Big 12 opener, Tech had a tough run in Oklahoma as they suffered losses to both Oklahoma, 4-3, and Oklahoma State, 5-2. Tech is still trying to secure their first conference win, heading into a tough series of upcoming Big 12 matches.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

The team is led by senior captain Lakann Wagley, who last year earned All-Big 12 tennis doubles honors with Browning for the second time in their career. She also was named to the 2006 Academic All-Big 12 second team for the second year in a row. The Oklahoma City native heads into her last season with an overall record of 54-40 in singles, 64-39 in doubles, and sits 8-5 in the No. 2 singles spot.

2006-2007 ROSTER

Maria Jose Andres (ma-ree-a ho-say on-dress)	FR	San Luis Potosi, Mexico/Instituto Lomas del Real
Yaroslava Balakhonova (yar-o-slav-a ba-lock-O-nova)	FR	Nakhodka, Russia/Lider-2
Deanna Carrillo (dee-anna ka-ril-low)	SO	Abilene, Texas/Cooper
Molly Cook	FR	Midland, Texas/Midland Christian
Janet Durham (dur-um)	JR	Corpus Christi, Texas/Flour Bluff
Anne Sophie Fankam (fan-cam)	SO	LaNerthe, France/Pendleton
Brenna Jackson	JR	Wichita Falls, Texas/Rider
Kerryn Potgieter (pot-gee-ter)	FR	Pietermaritzburg, South Africa/Epworth
Samantha van der Drift	SO	DeZilk, Holland/Sint Joris
Lakann Wagley (lake-in wag-lee)	SR	Oklahoma City, Okla./Heritage Hall

2007 SCHEDULE

1/26/07	Oregon	L, 4-3
1/28/07	Alabama	W, 5-2
2/2/07	Prairie View A&M	W, 4-0
	UTEP	W, 6-1
2/4/07	New Mexico	L, 4-3
2/17/07	Colorado*	L, 6-1
2/18/07	Colorado State	W, 7-0
2/23/07	Middle Tenn. State	W, 5-2
2/24/07	BYU	L, 5-2
2/25/07	Air Force	W, 7-0
3/3/07	at Oklahoma*	L, 4-3
3/4/07	at Oklahoma State*	L, 5-2
3/5/07	Oral Roberts	W, 6-1
3/25/07	Nebraska*	DNF, 3-3
3/29/07	Texas*	2:00 pm
3/31/07	Missouri*	noon
4/1/07	Kansas*	10:00 am
4/7/07	at Kansas State*	noon
4/14/07	at Texas A&M*	noon
4/15/07	at Baylor*	1:00 pm
4/22/07	Iowa State*	10:00 am
4/26-29/06	Big 12 Tournament	All Day
5/11-14/06	NCAA Tournament	All Day

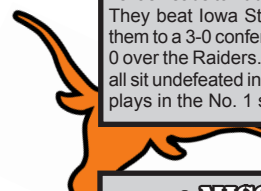
* indicates Big 12 Conference match

SCOUTING THE OPPONENT

#40 TEXAS LONGHORNS

MARCH 29, 2007 - 2 P.M.

Texas heads to Lubbock with a 5-6 record on the season. They beat Iowa State, Kansas and Nebraska to boost them to a 3-0 conference record. They lead the series 32-0 over the Raiders. Texas' No. 2, 4 and 5 singles players all sit undefeated in Big 12. Also, freshman Vanja Corovic plays in the No. 1 spot at 10-4, 5-0 in Big 12.



MISSOURI TIGERS

MARCH 31, 2007 - NOON

Missouri sits 6-8, 1-5 in conference, coming off a 6-1 victory over Army. Tech leads the series 7-2 after winning 5-2 last season. Erika Josbena leads the team playing in the No. 1 singles spot at 2-5.



KANSAS JAYHAWKS

APRIL 1, 2007 - 10 A.M.

Tech edged Kansas last year winning 4-3, but is down in the series to the Jayhawks 9-3. KU currently sits at 4-9, 2-2 in conference play. In doubles, Kansas boasts one of the top five duos in Big 12, with Avdeeva and Horvath undefeated 4-0 at No. 1.



WOMEN'S TENNIS CONTACT

Felicia Michael
Office: (806) 742-2770
Phone: (806) 252-0948
E-Mail: felicia.michael@ttu.edu

o **GENERAL INFORMATION** o

Name of School Texas Tech
 City/Zip Lubbock, TX 79409
 Founded 1923
 Enrollment 29,000
 Nickname Lady Raiders
 School Colors Scarlet and Black
 Facility McLeod Tennis Center
 Affiliation NCAA I
 Conference Big 12
 Chancellor Kent Hance
 President Dr. Jon Whitmore
 Athletics Director Gerald Myers
 Athletic Dept. Phone (806) 742-3355

o **MEDIA RELATIONS** o

Media Relations Director Chris Cook
 Tennis SID Felicia Michael
 E-mail felicia.michael@ttu.edu
 Office phone (806) 742-2770
 Cell Phone (806) 252-0948
 Media Relations Fax (806) 742-1970
 Media Relations Mailing Address Box 43021
 Lubbock, TX 79409
 Overnight Address 6th & Boston
 Lubbock, TX 79409

o **COACHING STAFF** o

Head Coach Cari Groce
 Alma Mater/Year Four-year Letterwinner at
 Nebraska
 Oklahoma State, 1988
 Record at school (yrs.) 42-37 (4 yrs.)
 Career record (yrs.) 192-169 (17 yrs.)
 Tennis Office Phone (806) 742-3355
 Best time to reach coach Contact SID
 Asst. Coach (Alma Mater/Year) . Irina Tereschenko
 Texas Tech, 2004

o **TEAM INFORMATION** o

Overall record last year 14-8
 Conference record/finish 7-4/t3rd
 Final Ranking last year (poll) 51 (ITA)
 Letterwinners returning/lost 5/4
 Newcomers 4



THE NEW NUMBER ONE

Playing in the No. 1 singles spot for the squad is sophomore Samantha van der Drift. The DeZilk, Holland native enters her second season as a Lady Raider with a 10-3 singles record, 10-3 in doubles. She also plays in the No. 1 doubles spot with teammate Janet Durham. The two lead Tech in doubles with an overall record of 8-2, falling to BYU 8-4 and OU 8-5.

With her win over Oral Robert's Emily Arkell, she put herself in Tech's record books tied for tenth on the single season singles victories with 19. Van der Drift said she is excited about the opportunity to lead her team in the No. 1 singles spot.

"It's been awesome," exclaimed van der Drift. "It was kinda scary in the beginning, of course, but now I feel confident at No. 1. I'm looking forward to the upcoming Big 12 matches."

Head Coach Cari Groce feels van der Drift is the right choice to lead the team as their No. 1 singles player. "I am confident that Sam will be a solid player for us this year in singles and doubles," Groce said. "She is quick on the court and plays to win."

NEW FACES ON THE COURT

Adding to Tech's 2007 lineup are a junior transfer and four freshmen. Brenna Jackson comes to Tech from Midwestern State University, where she held a record of 36-6 in singles, 39-10 in doubles. She was named to the 2006 Lone Star Conference All-Academic team, and went to the Division II Nationals her freshman year. In fall tournament play for the Red Raiders, she went 8-8 in singles and 8-9 in doubles competition.

This year's freshman lineup includes Maria Jose Andres, Yaroslava Balakhonova, Molly Cook and Kerryn Potgieter. With a young roster, the Raiders look forward to seeing the team improve and hopefully boost Tech to a NCAA tournament berth.



GROCE BRINGS HONORS TO TECH

At the helm for the Lady Raiders is Coach Cari Groce, who enters her fourth season as head coach of the women's tennis program at Tech. Spending 12 years coaching at Washington State, Groce holds a career record of 185-162, 35-31 at Tech, Groce was named the 2006 Professional Tennis Registry Coach of the Year and received the USTA/ITA Community Service Award for the Texas section. Coach

is very excited about the upcoming season and is interested to see what it brings. "You are always excited about what a new season holds in store," she said. "A new combination of players makes it a new beginning every August."

In reference to the team as a whole, Groce commented, "I like the team we have. They are driven to accomplish more than last year, and all of our returning players are acting like leaders. This gives me a lot of confidence that this team wants to not only finish strong in the conference, but do well in the post season."

Quick Facts:

- 2006 PTR Coach of the Year
- ITA Board of Directors
- Former PAC-10 and ITA Northwest Region Women's Coach of the Year (2001-02)

ALL-AMERICAN ASSISTANT COACH

In addition to Coach Groce, the Lady Raiders have a new assistant coach, Irina Tereschenko. Tereschenko was named Academic All-Big 12 in 2003, ITA Academic All-American in 2004, Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in 2001, All-Big 12 singles in 2002 and 2003, and All-Big 12 doubles in 2002 and 2003. A four year letter-winner for the scarlet and black, she graduated from Tech in 2006 with a masters in Sports Management.

MATCH DAY

Match times are listed above and rosters will not be finalized until match day. All matches are scheduled to be played at the McLeod Tennis Center located next to UMC Hospital on Indiana Ave. Exceptions will be made due to weather conditions and back-up plans will be made, and such updates will be posted on-line or below.

Live stats will be made available on-line, as well as final results posted on the women's page in the post-game release. For more information and to view live stats, please visit www.texastech.com.