



OHIO STATE ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Rm. 124 410 Woody Hayes Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Phone: 614-292-6861
Fax: 614-292-8547
Website: OhioStateBuckeyes.com

Jan. 24-25, 2008

OHIO STATE WOMEN'S TENNIS

2008-09 Schedule/Results
(0-0 Overall; 0-0 Big Ten)

Table with columns for Date, Location, Opponent, and Time. Includes matches from Sept. to May, such as 'Sept. 19-21 at William & Mary Invitational' and 'May 8-10 NCAA Tournament First and Second Rounds'.

1Williamsburg, Va.; 2Pacific Palisades, Calif.; 3Bloomington, Ind.; 4East Lansing, Mich.; 5Charlottesville, Va.; 6Raleigh, N.C.; 7Madison, Wis.; 8Las Vegas, Nev.; 9Campus Sites; 10College Station, Tex.; All times EST; Home matches in BOLD CAPS and played either at Ohio State Varsity Tennis Center (indoor) or Stickney Tennis Center (outdoor)

University Information

Location.....Columbus, Ohio
Nickname Buckeyes
Founded 1870
Colors Scarlet and Gray
Enrollment 52,568
President Gordon Gee
Affiliation NCAA Division I
Athletics Director Eugene Smith
Conference Big Ten

OHIO STATE ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Assoc. Dir./Tennis Contact: Leann Parker
E-mail: parker.387@osu.edu
Office: 614-688-0294

Student Contact: Andrew Schraedly
E-mail: SchraedlyA@ath.ohio-state.edu
Office: 614-292-6861

Web site: ohiostatebuckeyes.com

Three Home Matches Await Buckeyes on Opening Weekend

32nd-ranked Ohio State opens with Missouri Saturday at noon; Notre Dame and Eastern Kentucky Sunday at noon and 6 p.m.

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The No. 32 Ohio State women's tennis team will open up the 2009 spring season this Saturday and Sunday at the Ohio State Varsity Tennis Center. The Buckeyes will face off with Missouri at noon Saturday in the home opener, followed by a showdown with No. 17 Notre Dame at noon Sunday and finish it off with a match against Eastern Kentucky at 6 p.m. Sunday.

SCOUTING THE TIGERS

The Tigers are led by senior Jessica Giuggioli, who went 13-11 last season for Missouri while playing at the top of the singles lineup. Junior Sofia Ayala was 16-6 in singles in 2007-08, which was the best winning percentage of any Tigers single player last season.

Ohio State and Missouri have met four times previously, with the Buckeyes holding a 3-1 advantage over the Tigers. Ohio State head coach Chuck Merzbacher has faced Mizzou nine times over his career, losing only once. The last meeting between the squads came in 2006, when Ohio State knocked off the Tigers, 6-1, in Columbus.

A LOOK AT THE FIGHTING IRISH

Senior Kelcy Tefft and freshman Kristy Frilling pace the Fighting Irish as the top-ranked doubles team in the nation. Tefft is also part of the fourth-ranked doubles team, along with junior Kali Krisik. In singles, Frilling, Tefft and Krisik are all ranked among the Top 50 players in the nation, while sophomore Kristen Rafael is the 62nd-ranked singles player in the nation.

Ohio State has struggled historically against the Fighting Irish, going 3-15 all-time. The Buckeyes managed to keep it close in their match last season in South Bend, but fell by a score of 5-2.

PREVIEWING THE COLONELS

With nine singles wins in the fall season apiece, senior Svetlana Pimenova and sophomore Myriem Mhirit lead Eastern Kentucky into Columbus in search of their first win in series

history. Head coach Rob Oertel led the Colonels to a berth in the Ohio Valley Conference title match last season and has once again made Eastern Kentucky a contender in the OVC.

Ohio State has claimed victory in all nine matches between the two programs, including the latest match in 2007, where the Buckeyes won 7-0 in Richmond, Ky.

ODDS AND ENDS

Ohio State has enjoyed considerable success in the opening match of the season under the guidance of head coach Chuck Merzbacher. The Buckeyes are 10-2 since Merzbacher took over the program in the 1996-97 season, including wins in the last two season openers over Cincinnati in 2007 and Marquette in 2008.

The Buckeyes were excellent at home in the Ohio State Varsity Tennis Center last season, winning 11 of 14 home contests in 2008, including a six-match winning streak and wins over four opponents ranked in the ITA Top 75. The Scarlet and Gray were particularly dominant in doubles, compiling an impressive 36-6 record in all paired matches played at home.

FLOWER BLOOMS IN CALIFORNIA

Kirsten Flower competed this past weekend at the National Collegiate Tennis Championship (NCTC) in Indian Wells, Calif. Flower went 3-2 in singles action on the weekend, highlighted by wins over Veronica Li of Stanford, Lynn Blau of Georgia Tech and Carolina Filipiak of Baylor.

Flower also teamed up with UCLA freshman Jordan Dockendorf for two doubles matches. The pair fell in both, losing to Secerbegovic and Siwosz of Baylor and to Li and Yen of Stanford.

ON THE HORIZON

Following the opening weekend, the Buckeyes will travel to Durham, N.C., for the National Indoor Qualifier Jan. 31 against South Carolina

at 2 p.m. The winner of that match will play the winner of the Duke-VCU match on Feb. 1.

Ohio State then heads to Lexington, Ky., for a mid-week match with Kentucky before heading back to Columbus to face Virginia and Virginia Tech the following weekend.

LOOKING BACK AT THE FALL

Ohio State enjoyed a successful fall season, with team members traveling to five events to compete against some of the nation's elite teams. The Buckeyes opened the season at the William and Mary Invitational, where freshman Kelsey Haviland stole the show by winning three matches and advancing to the finals of Flight B singles. Next up was the Hoosier Fall Classic, where Haviland went unbeaten in singles and combined with Julie Voss to go 2-1 in doubles competition.

Junior Kirsten Flower traveled to the prestigious Riviera/ITA All-American Championships, where she went 1-2 in competition, drawing tough opponents in all three matches. The appearance was the third for Flower and the first for any Buckeye since now assistant coach Sadhaf Pervez competed there in 2003.

The next team competition for the Buckeyes came at the ITA Midwest Regional Championships, where two Ohio State doubles teams made deep runs. Flower and Julie Blackmore won three matches in advancing to the quarterfinals, while Christina Keesey and Cami Hubbs earned four victories and a trip to the semifinals. The last event for Ohio State came at the North Texas Classic, where sophomores Cami Hubbs and Paloma Escobedo each went 2-1 in singles and 2-1 together in doubles.

Individual leaders for the fall season were Haviland, with six singles victories, and Hubbs and Keesey, who each had seven doubles wins.

FIVE-STAR SIGNING DAY

The Buckeyes took in one of the nation's best recruiting classes on signing day this year, bringing in three five-star players for the 2009-10 season. All three are national Top-100 tennis players and continue an Ohio State tradition of recruiting well both at home and nationwide in recent years. Kara Cecil, a native of Plant City, Fla., is ranked as the No. 57 player in the class of 2009 by tennisrecruiting.net. In 2008, she reached the quarterfinals of the USTA

national Open Girls 18's National Open in Naples and Tallahassee and was ranked among the Top 10 in the state of Florida.

Fidan Manashirov comes to Ohio State after a distinguished prep career that saw her ranked as the No. 29 player in the class of 2009 by tennisrecruiting.net. The Elk Grove, Calif., native was ranked in the Northern California Girls 14's, Girls 16's and Girls 18's and defeated eight blue chip prospects over the course of her career. The Gorwin Tennis Academy product has been equally stellar in doubles play, reaching the finals of multiple International Tennis Federation events.

The final signee, Gabby Steele, hails from Cincinnati and Summit Country Day High School. A four-time OHSAA state tournament participant, Steele was the Ohio State Division II champion as a junior in 2007, defeating current Buckeye freshman Kelsey Haviland in the championship match.

JETSETTIN' BUCKEYES

The spring dual match season will take the Buckeyes all over the United States, including destinations in at least nine different states and nearly 7000 miles of travel.

Date	Location	Miles Traveled
1/31	Durham, N.C.	354
2/4	Lexington, Ky.	157
2/21	Eugene, Ore.	2,060
3/8	Tampa, Fla.	831
3/23	Las Vegas, Nev.	1,726
3/27	Iowa City, Iowa	462
3/29	Minneapolis, Minn.	245
4/18	Evanston, Ill.	284
4/19	Madison, Wisc.	112
4/23	Madison, Wisc.	395
	Total	6,626

The total does not include a possible trip to the ITA National Team Indoors in Madison, Wisc., as well any travel to regional sites for the NCAA Tournament.

REGIONALLY RANKED

Several individual Buckeyes were ranked among the top of the Midwest Region in singles and doubles. Junior Kirsten Flower, who joins the Buckeyes this season after two seasons at Georgia Tech, is ranked 14th in the Midwest region in singles. Christina Keesey and Cami Hubbs are the fourth-ranked doubles team in the region, in part because of their strong run to the semifinals at the Midwest Regional Qualifier.

2009 ITA Preseason Poll

Rk.	School (No. 1 Votes received)
1	Northwestern (17)*
2	California (1)
3	UCLA (14)
4	Baylor
5	Stanford
6	Georgia (1)
7	Florida
8	Georgia Tech
9	Duke (1)*
10	Southern California
11	Clemson
12	Vanderbilt
13	Miami (Florida)
14	Arkansas
15	Fresno State
16	Texas
17	Notre Dame*
18	North Carolina
19	Michigan*
20	Florida State
21	Arizona State
22	William and Mary
23	Kentucky*
24	Tennessee
25	TCU
26	Louisiana State
27	Auburn
28	Denver
29	Pepperdine
30	Indiana*
31	Texas A&M
32	OHIO STATE
33	South Carolina*
34	Tulsa
35	VCU*

*Denotes 2009 Opponent

PRESEASON POWER

The Buckeyes preseason rank of 32 is the highest since opening the season as the same rank in the 2002 preseason poll.

- 2008-09 - 32
- 2007-08 - 52
- 2006-07 - NR
- 2005-06 - NR
- 2004-05 - 49
- 2003-04 - 48
- 2002-03 - 40
- 2001-02 - 32

Ohio State is the fourth-highest ranked Big Ten team, trailing No. 1 Northwestern, No. 19 Michigan and No. 30 Indiana. Of the 23 teams on the Buckeyes' 2009 schedule, 20 are ranked in the ITA Top 75 and four reside in the Top 25.

Ohio State Women's Tennis 2008-09
Ohio State Season Statistics (Through games of Jan 22, 2009)

Overall record: 0-0 • Conference: 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	Conf	1	2	3	4	5	6	vs ranked		Strk	Last 10
											Nat'l	Reg'l		
Julie Blackmore	3-5	0-0	3-5	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-1	0-0	L2	3-5
Angela DiPastina	2-6	0-0	2-6	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W1	2-6
Paloma Escobedo	2-1	0-0	2-1	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W2	2-1
Kirsten Flower	5-5	0-0	5-5	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	1-4	0-0	W1	5-5
Kelsey Haviland	6-2	0-0	6-2	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-1	0-0	L1	6-2
Cami Hubbs	3-5	0-0	3-5	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W1	3-5
Christina Keesey	1-7	0-0	1-7	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-2	0-0	L7	1-7
Julie Voss	3-5	0-0	3-5	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W2	3-5
Totals	25-36	0-0	25-36	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	---	1-8	0-0		
Percentage	.410	.000	.410	.000	---	---	---	---	---	---	.111	.000		

DOUBLES TEAMS	Overall	Dual	Tour	Conf	1	2	3	vs ranked		Strk	Last 10
								Nat'l	Reg'l		
Angela DiPastina/Kelsey Haviland	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	0-1
Kelsey Haviland/Julie Voss	5-2	0-0	5-2	0-0	---	---	---	0-1	0-0	W2	5-2
Julie Blackmore/Christina Keesey	1-2	0-0	1-2	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	1-2
Julie Blackmore/Kirsten Flower	3-1	0-0	3-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-1	0-0	L1	3-1
Angela DiPastina/Paloma Escobedo	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W1	1-1
Cami Hubbs/Christina Keesey	4-1	0-0	4-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	4-1
Paloma Escobedo/Cami Hubbs	2-1	0-0	2-1	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W2	2-1
Angela DiPastina/Christina Keesey	2-2	0-0	2-2	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	2-2
Julie Blackmore/Cami Hubbs	1-2	0-0	1-2	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L2	1-2
Totals	19-13	0-0	19-13	0-0	---	---	---	0-2	0-0		
Percentage	.594	.000	.594	.000	---	---	---	.000	.000		

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	Conf	Nation	Region
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Riviera/ITA All-American Championshi	(Pacific Palisades, Calif.)				
Oct 3-5	Hoosier Fall Classic	(Bloomington, Indiana)				
Oct. 23-28	ITA Midwest Regional Championships	(East Lansing, Mich)				
Nov. 7-8	North Texas Classic	(Denton, Texas)				
Sept. 19-21	William and Mary Invitational	(Williamsburg, Va.)				
Jan 16-18, 2009	National Collegiate Tennis Championsh	(Indian Wells, Calif.)				