



2016 SEC Men's Tennis Notebook

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Alabama

Alabama finished the regular season at 14-12 overall and 5-7 in Southeastern Conference play after being edged out by Vanderbilt, 4-2, at home on Sunday. The Crimson Tide won its 19th doubles point of the season, and ninth in a row, against the Commodores and got a singles win from freshman Spencer Richey. In the latest Oracle/ITA rankings, Alabama's top pair of sophomore Korey Lovett and freshman Mazen Osama moved up to No. 4, which is the highest ranking in program history. Osama is also No. 50 in singles, while Lovett stands at No. 79. The Tide enters the SEC tournament as the No. 8 seed and will face ninth-seeded Ole Miss on Thursday at 1 p.m. CT. Alabama won the regular season meeting against the Rebels, 4-3, in Oxford.

Arkansas

Lost to No. 6 Georgia by a score of 5-2 at Billingsley Tennis Center on Friday evening. Playing at the No. 4 spot, Giammarco Micolani won his 10th consecutive singles match, erasing Walker Duncan by a score of 6-3, 7-5. Also on the winning end was Adam Sanjurjo, who defeated the Jan Zielinski by the same 6-3, 7-5 score at the No. 5 singles spot. Lost to South Carolina by a score of 4-3 at Billingsley Tennis Center on Sunday afternoon. No. 76 Jose Salazar beat No. 60 Gabriel Friedrich in his first appearance this season at the top singles spot. With the victory, Salazar improved to 7-4 against ranked opponents. Johan den Toom won his second SEC match of the year against Wood Benton at the No. 6 spot. den Toom has won two of his last four singles matches overall. The Razorbacks finished SEC play tied for fourth in the conference, and earned a No. 6 seed in the SEC Tournament due to tiebreaker scenarios.

Auburn

#63 Auburn finished the regular season at 12-13, with a home win Friday 6-1 over Tennessee and a tough 4-1 home loss Sunday to #20 Kentucky. Against Tennessee, the Tigers got doubles wins from Marko Krickovic and Edward Nguyen (6-4 at #1) and from Max Hinnisdaels and Brandon Laubser (6-4 at #2). Krickovic, Hinnisdaels, Dante Saleh, Laubser and Olle Thestrup had singles wins against the Vols. Krickovic and Nguyen were doubles winners against Kentucky (6-3 at #1) and Hinnisdaels won at No. 2 singles by a 6-2, 6-2 count over Nils Ellefsen. The Tigers will face Tennessee in the first round of the SEC tournament Wednesday morning.

Florida

The No. 11 University of Florida men's tennis team heads off to the SEC Tournament riding a three-match winning streak. The Gators swept No. 20 Kentucky on Friday night 7-0 and then went on to defeat Tennessee 6-1 on Sunday, which was also Senior Day. The Orange and Blue completed the regular season with 10 wins in SEC play for the first time since the 2004-2005 season. Florida is off to the SEC Tournament in Columbia, S.C. as the No. 2 seed and will play the winner of LSU and Vanderbilt on Friday morning.

Georgia

Georgia wrapped up a perfect season in the SEC for the first time since the 2007 NCAA National Championship team accomplished that feat, marking the 15th time in school history the Bulldogs have finished with an unblemished record in SEC play. Leading the Bulldogs to the SEC Regular Season Title — the team's 30th in school history — was senior Austin Smith, who finished with a 16-4 dual-match record and has recorded 15 wins against ranked opponents dating back to the fall. Not to be outdone, the Georgia underclassmen also had a strong regular season, finishing with a 21-4 record in SEC singles competition. The Bulldogs are the No. 1 overall seed in this week's SEC Tournament and will play the winner of the Alabama vs. Ole Miss contest on Friday at 2 p.m. ET. The Bulldogs are eyeing their 10th SEC Tournament Title and their 40th overall SEC Championship when play begins this weekend in Columbia.

Kentucky

Kentucky enters the SEC tournament as the fifth-seed first facing the winner of the 12/13 matchup between Auburn and Tennessee, with the match beginning at 2 p.m. on April 21. The Wildcats have won three of their last five matches, including wins over No. 10 Texas A&M and a 4-1 victory against Auburn. Kentucky's efforts this season have been spearheaded by sophomore William Bushamuka and freshman Ryotaro Matsumura who have played on the top two courts, earning 15 ranked singles wins between the two of them. Three Wildcats in Bushamuka, Matsumura and Enzo Wallart have earned honors over the course of the season. Bushamuka was once named SEC Player of the Week, Matsumura was twice named SEC Freshman of the Week, while Wallart earned SEC Freshman of the Week honors once. UK will be in pursuit of its second SEC tournament championship ever - its first and only came in 1992.

LSU

LSU is seeded 10th and will face the No. 7 seed, Vanderbilt. The competition will take place Thursday at 10 a.m. and will be played at the same time as the South Carolina and Arkansas match up. Earlier in the year, LSU faced Vanderbilt on the road and picked up a 5-2 win against the Commodores.

Ole Miss

Ole Miss split a pair of matches last weekend to close out the regular season. The Rebels defeated South Carolina 4-3 and then dropped

a 4-0 match to Georgia that was much closer than the final score. Sophomore Gustav Hansson finished with the second best record (9-3) in the SEC. He owns a team-leading overall record of 23-8, 15-5 in dual matches. The Rebels are ranked No. 29 in this week's ITA Oracle Rankings. Hansson is ranked No. 47 and senior Stefan Lindmark is ranked No. 51 in singles. In doubles, Filip Kraljevic and Zvonimir Babic are ranked No. 28. Kraljevic was named to the SEC Community Service Team. The Rebels begin play in the SEC Tournament Thursday at 1 p.m. vs. Alabama.

Mississippi State

The 25th-ranked Mississippi State men's tennis team (15-7, 7-5) capped off the regular season last Friday against No. 34 Vanderbilt, as the Bulldogs dropped a 4-2 decision to the Commodores at home. In the defeat MSU got wins from No. 98 Nuno Borges and fellow freshman Luka Sucevic on the singles court. The Bulldogs now turn their attention to the SEC Tournament in Columbia, S.C., where MSU received a bye after claiming the No. 4 seed and will be awaiting their first opponent on Friday.

South Carolina

No. 50 South Carolina matches its highest team ranking of the season after a strong 4-3 road win at then-No. 12 Arkansas. The Gamecocks dropped the doubles point, but rallied with four singles victories to capture their highest ranked win since 2013. With a pair of singles wins on the weekend, redshirt sophomore Harrison O'Keefe has tallied 31 in 2015-16, becoming the first Gamecock since 2002 to record 30 or more singles wins in an academic year. The Salem, Va., native also moved into the top-20 of South Carolina's single-season wins list for singles. The Gamecocks host the 2016 SEC Men's Tennis Tournament at the Carolina Tennis Center and begin play as the No. 11-seed with a rematch of No. 18 Arkansas Thursday at 10 a.m. ET.

Tennessee

The Tennessee Volunteers ended the regular season with 6-1 losses at Auburn and Florida. Freshman Srdjan Jakovljevic provided singles victories in both matches to end the regular season with an 8-4 record in SEC play between the No. 3 and 4 positions. It is the most wins by a UT freshman since Rhyne Williams and Tennys Sandgren both won 10 matches in 2010. While Preston Touliatos missed play because of a leg injury suffered the week before, the Vols welcomed the return of sophomore Igor Smelyanski, who has missed a majority of the spring with a leg injury of his own. He played his third SEC singles match on Sunday and teamed up with Jack Heslin in doubles.

Texas A&M

The No. 13 Texas A&M men's tennis team concluded the regular season topping LSU and Abilene Christian last Friday afternoon at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center. The Aggies finished third in the conference after tallying an 8-4 mark in league play, the maroon and white will begin SEC Tournament play Friday at 10 a.m. against the winner of Thursday Arkansas / South Carolina match. Head Coach Steve Denton's squad features the No. 18 Arthur Rinderknech and No. 53 Shane Vinsant along with four ranked doubles teams (No. 10 Rinderknech / Withrow; No. 49 Rinderknech / Vinsant, No. 62 Jordi Arconada / Max Lunkin and No. 82 Vinsant / AJ Catanzariti).

Vanderbilt

The No. 34 Vanderbilt men's tennis went undefeated during their last weekend of regular season play, first with a 4-2 victory over No. 23 Mississippi State. Followed by the team's second upset in a row in a 4-2 victory over the No. 34 Alabama Crimson Tide. VU also faced Lipscomb in T-Town, defeating the Bison 4-0. Vandy heads east to Columbia, South Carolina on Wednesday as the 'Dores are the No. 7 seed of the SEC tournament. VU takes on the tenth-seeded LSU Tigers Thursday, April 21st at 10:00 am.