

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Men's Tennis



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Current record – 9-6 (0-1 Mid-American Conference)

MEN'S TENNIS SUCCESSFUL IN SUNSHINE

The University at Buffalo men's tennis team continued competition in its 2002 season last week with spring break matches against Rollins College and Portland State. The Bulls took two victories, defeating Rollins, 5-2 and Portland State, 6-1.

Against Rollins, the Bulls swept the doubles competition with *Fery Kasiman (Jakarta, Indonesia/ESI International Academy)* and *Justin Brtko (East Amherst, NY/Williamsville East)* at No. 1 and *Rohan Raikar (Albany, NY/Albany)* and *Josh Liederman (Queens, NY/Benjamin Cardozo)* at No. 3 scoring identical 8-4 victories. Freshmen *Randy Rocchio (East Amherst, NY/Williamsville East)* and *Nick Zieziula (Hamburg, NY/St. Francis)* defeated their opponents at the No. 2 slot by an 8-3 margin. In singles competition, Kasiman at No. 1 (6-2, 6-1), Brtko at No. 3 (6-1, 6-2), Zieziula at No. 4 (6-2, 6-0) and *Sean Kelley (Gorham, NY/Marcus Whitman)* at No. 6 (6-0, 6-0) all earned easy two-set victories. Rollins picked up its two points with hard-fought singles wins at No. 2 and No. 5. Rocchio was defeated by Rip Rice, 6-4, 4-6, 10-7 and Liederman was defeated by Mark Boyko, 7-5, 6-4, respectively. The Tars entered the match ranked fourth in the nation in Division II in the latest rankings released by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

Against Portland State, the Bulls again earned the double point with a sweep of the Vikings. Kasiman and Brtko shut out their opponents in the top slot, 8-0, and Raikar and Liederman earned an 8-1 win at No. 3 doubles. At No. 2, Rocchio and Zieziula pulled out a 9-8 (7-5) win over Kapil Desai and Chuck Haselwood. Kasiman (6-3, 6-2), Brtko (6-0, 6-2) and Kelley (6-1, 6-0) won easily at No. 1, 3 and 6 singles, respectively, and Zieziula took the first set at No. 4 singles, 6-0, before his opponent retired. At second singles, Rocchio battled for a 6-3, 7-10, 10-8 win over Desai. Portland State avoided being shut out with a 6-4, 6-4 win by Mark Simpson over Raikar at No. 5 singles.

Buffalo will return to Mid-American Conference action with matches at Toledo on Saturday, April 6 and at Northern Illinois on Sunday, April 7. The Bulls are currently 0-1 in the MAC this season. Their next home match of the year is on Tuesday, April 16 at 3 pm against Canisius at the UB Tennis Center.

2002 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent/Tournament</u>	<u>Site/Results</u>
February 9-10	at Cornell Duals Invitational vs. Marist vs. Cornell	Ithaca, NY L, 4-3 L, 7-0
February 15-17	vs. Massachusetts at St. Bonaventure Duals Invitational vs. Rochester vs. Niagara	W, 6-1 Olean, NY L, 4-3 W, 7-0
February 27	vs. Binghamton at University of Rochester	L, 4-3 W, 4-3
March 16	vs. Western Michigan*	L, 7-0
March 16	vs. St. Bonaventure	L, 6-1
March 17	NIAGARA	W, 6-1
March 26	vs. Rollins College	W, 5-2
March 27	vs. Portland State	W, 6-1
April 6	at Toledo*	Toledo, OH
April 7	at Northern Illinois*	DeKalb, IL
April 16	CANISIUS	UB TENNIS CENTER
April 19	at Bowling Green*	Bowling Green, OH
April 20	at Ball State*	Muncie, IN
April 25-27	MAC CHAMPIONSHIPS	BUFFALO, NY

Home matches are in **BOLD CAPS** and are held at the UB Tennis Center, Ellicott Complex

*Denotes Mid-American Conference match