

Men's Tennis Unveils 2012 Schedule

Written by Paul Blascovich
Tuesday, 26 July 2011 11:10

The Appalachian State University men's tennis coach Bob Lake announced his 2012 competition schedule on Tuesday. The Mountaineers will play nine home matches and will face road competition against three defending conference champions.

Eight top players return from last year's 15-6 (7-3 Southern Conference) team, including three all-SoCon seniors in Alex Markov (Pernik, Bulgaria/Hawaii Pacific) and doubles pair Philip Kloc (Melbourne, Australia/Mentone Grammar School) and Alain Humblet (Montreal, Quebec/DE Mortagne). All-freshman selection Sebastien King (Montreal, Quebec/George Vanier) is also back this season.

Lake is very optimistic about this year's outlook. "I look forward to the season and believe we have great senior leadership, which could mean a great deal. I have raised our competition level, and we play tough teams out of the gate."

The Black and Gold prepare for their spring slate with four fall tournaments. On September 30, Appalachian begins competition at the Davidson Tournament, followed by the Wofford Tournament on October 8-9. North Carolina hosts the Carolina Regionals from Oct. 13-16, and the Apps will wrap up the autumn at the Charleston Tournament on Oct. 27-29.

The 2012 spring campaign begins against defending Colonial Athletic Association champion UNC Wilmington, ranked No. 42 in preseason polls, on January 19. The team then heads to SEC opponent University of South Carolina on Jan. 21.

The Mountaineers will open their home schedule against two in-state rivals, facing UNC Asheville on Jan. 29, and East Carolina on February 18. From there, Appalachian makes a weekend road trip beginning at Gardner-Webb on Feb. 23, before taking on Atlantic Sun champions No. 56 East Tennessee State, on Feb. 25.

The Apps are scheduled to return home on Feb. 26, to host Belmont in their final competition before spring break.

Reigning Southern Conference Champion Samford awaits Appalachian to kick off league play in Birmingham, Ala., on March 11. After the Mountaineers defeated the Bulldogs 4-3 in the regular season, SU answered with a 4-2 first-round win to knock ASU out of the 2011 SoCon Tournament.

The Mountaineers then head to Florida to meet Jacksonville, Mercer and Bethune-Cookman later in the break. In its final tune-up before the SoCon schedule kicks into full swing, Appalachian State hosts UNC Charlotte on March 21.

Road appointments with Georgia Southern, Davidson and 2011 SoCon regular-season champion Elon will test the Apps in late March. The Citadel comes to Boone for ASU's first home conference match on March 29. The Mountaineers will travel to UNC Greensboro on March 31, before visiting non-conference opponent Presbyterian on April 3.

Appalachian ends its season with four home conference matches. Wofford (April 4), Chattanooga (April 7) and Furman (April 11) will challenge the Mountaineers, while the regular-season concludes against 2011 SoCon tournament finalist College of Charleston on April 13.

The 2012 Southern Conference Championship Tournament will be held Thurs., April 19, through Sunday, April 22.

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According to Lake, "a lot of good things," could await the team this year. "We aim to win the SoCon, get some all-conference players and maybe earn a national ranking, but we have a ton of work to do to achieve those goals."

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

2012 MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 Davidson Tournament Davidson, N.C. 2 p.m.
October 8-9 Wofford Tournament Spartanburg, S.C. All Day
October 13-16 Carolina Regionals Chapel Hill, N.C. All Day
October 27-29 Charleston Tournament Charleston, S.C. All Day

January 19 at UNC Wilmington Wilmington, N.C. 1 p.m.

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January 21 at South Carolina Columbia, S.C. TBD
January 29 UNC Asheville Boone, N.C. 3 p.m.
February 18 East Carolina Boone, N.C. 1 p.m.
February 23 at Gardner-Webb Boiling Springs, N.C. 2 p.m.
February 25 at East Tennessee State Johnson City, Tenn. TBD
February 26 Belmont Boone, N.C. 11 a.m.
March 11 at Samford * Birmingham, Ala. 11 a.m. (Central)
March 13 at Jacksonville Jacksonville, Fla. 2 p.m.
March 14 vs. Mercer Jacksonville, Fla. TBD
March 16 at Bethune-Cookman Daytona Beach, Fla. 2 p.m.
March 21 UNC Charlotte Boone, N.C. 2:30 p.m.
March 23 at Georgia Southern * Statesboro, Ga. 2 p.m.
March 25 at Davidson * Davidson, N.C. 1 p.m.
March 28 at Elon * Burlington, N.C. 2:30 p.m.
March 29 The Citadel * Boone, N.C. 2 p.m.
March 31 at UNC Greensboro * Greensboro, N.C. 1 p.m.
April 3 at Presbyterian Clinton, S.C. 2:30 p.m.
April 4 Wofford * Boone, N.C. 2:30 p.m.
April 7 Chattanooga * Boone, N.C. Noon
April 11 Furman * Boone, N.C. 3 p.m.
April 13 College of Charleston * Boone, N.C. 2:30 p.m.
April 19-22 at SoCon Tournament ^ Charleston, S.C. 8 a.m.

All times are Eastern (unless listed otherwise) and subject to change

*** Southern Conference match**

^ at Southern Conference Championship