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SACRAMENTO STATE MEN, WOMEN FAVORED

OGDEN, Utah (Jan. 15, 2013) - Sacramento State's decorated tennis teams were chosen by league coaches to repeat as champions.

The Sacramento State women's team was a unanimous pick in preseason polls, while the men garnered all but two first-place votes. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team.

The powerhouse Hornet women's program received 10 first-place votes and 100 total points. Sacramento State has won 11 consecutive Big Sky women's titles and 92 consecutive matches over league competition (regular and postseason duals included).

The Sacramento State men received nine first-place votes and 99 total points. Sacramento State has won five of the last six championships, and 10 since joining the league in the 1996-97 season.

The Hornet women lost three-time MVP Tatsiana Kapshai to graduation, but return three-time All-Big Sky pick Rebeca Delgado. Sacramento State finished the 2012 season with a 17-10 overall record. The Hornets beat Montana 4-0 to secure the 2012 title.

Northern Arizona was selected second with 87 points and a first-place vote. Montana came in third with 86 points, followed by Northern Colorado with 69 points. Montana State was selected fifth with 63 points, followed by Eastern Washington and Weber State tied for sixth with 44 points. Idaho State, Portland State and newcomers North Dakota and Southern Utah round out the women's poll.

The Sacramento State men finished 11-13 in 2012, beating Montana for the Big Sky championship 4-0. The Hornet men return two Big Sky first-team selections in Aliaksandr Malko and Marek Marksoo.

Montana was selected second on the men's side with 91 points and two first-place votes after going undefeated in conference play last season. Eastern Washington was third with 74 points, followed by Weber State which was selected fourth with 68 points. Idaho State rounded out the top five with 66 points. Northern Arizona was selected sixth with 58 points, followed by Montana State in seventh with 53 points. Northern Colorado, Portland State and newcomers North Dakota and Southern Utah round out the men's poll.

The 2013 season begins this week with the men beginning matches January 15 and the women beginning January 18.

The 2013 Big Sky Tennis Championship will be held April 26-28 in Sacramento, Calif. The top six men's and women's teams from the regular-season standings will advance to the championship.

2013 Preseason Polls Results

MEN'S POLL

<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Sacramento State	99 (9)
2. Montana	91 (2)
3. Eastern Washington	74
4. Weber State	68
5. Idaho State	66
6. Northern Arizona	58
7. Montana State	53
8. Northern Colorado	36
9. Portland State	30
10. North Dakota	17
11. Southern Utah	11

WOMEN'S POLL

<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Sacramento State	100 (10)
2. Northern Arizona	87 (1)
3. Montana	86
4. Northern Colorado	69
5. Montana State	63
6. Eastern Washington	44
6. Weber State	44
8. Idaho State	37
9. Portland State	28
10. North Dakota	27
11. Southern Utah	11

(Number of first place votes in parentheses)