



News Release

AFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sahar Abdur-Rashid, Asst. Dir. of Media Relations
(757) 951-2055 or rashids@themeac.com

MEAC Announces Tennis All-Conference Honors

SCSU's Jad and FAMU's Salif Kante Named Women's and Men's Players of Year

NORFOLK, Va., April 12, 2012- South Carolina State University's **Suhaila Jad** and Florida A&M University's **C. Salif Kante** were named the 2012 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Women's and Men's Tennis Players of the Year, as voted by the conference's head tennis coaches and sports information directors.

Delaware State's **Vanja Andonova** was named Rookie of the Year for the women while South Carolina State's **Hardeep Judge** was selected as the Women's Tennis Coach of the Year.

Igor Braga earned the men's Rookie of the Year honor with Florida A&M's **Dr. Carl Goodman** receiving the Men's Tennis Coach of the Year accolade.

Jad, the reigning MEAC Women's Tennis Outstanding Performer, posted a 14-2 record at the number one singles position including an unblemished 6-0 mark in southern divisional play. She teamed with All-MEAC First Team selection Sabrina Mendez to tally a 16-0 record in doubles this season. In March, Jad was ranked among the top Collegiate Women's Tennis Players with a #105 listing in the ITA rankings.

Andonova tallied a 15-1 overall record including a 10-0 mark at the number four singles position. In doubles action, she was 13-2, including the northern divisional sweep.

Judge earns his fourth Coach of the Year award for the women's tennis program. He previously earned honors in 2005, 2006 and 2008. In his 11th year at the helm, the Lady Bulldogs recorded a perfect 16-0 overall and undefeated 6-0 mark in conference play to win their fifth consecutive southern divisional title.

Joining Jad and Mendez on the women's All-MEAC First-Team are teammates Victoriia Khatcei and Marcia Craciun. North Carolina Central's Cameron Chatman and Stacey Speller of Bethune-Cookman round out the first team.

On the men's side, **Kante** posted a 4-0 mark in conference play and a 17-5 overall record at the number one singles position. In doubles play, the junior finished with a 15-6 mark to aid the Rattlers to a 13-9 overall record and the number two seed in the southern division.

Braga finished the regular season with a 12-11 mark in singles play at the number three position. In March, Braga earned Rookie of the Week honors with a straight set victory in a win over in-state rival Hampton.

The 2012 Men's Coach of the Year honor is the third for Florida A&M's **Goodman** who also won in 2006 and 2010. In his 15th year, Goodman guided FAMU to a 13-9 overall mark and 3-1 conference record. Last month, the Rattlers were the only HBCU team ranked in the Top 75 of the ITA poll with a listing at 69.

Along with Kante, FAMU's Chidi Gabriel earned men's All-MEAC First-Team honors. South Carolina State's Dmytro Kovalevych, Artemiy Nikitin and Anton Protsenko along with Norfolk State's Arsenio Culver also earned first-team selections.

The 2012 MEAC Men's and Women's Tennis Championships begin with women's play on Friday, April 13 at 8:30 a.m. The women's semi-final rounds start on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. followed by the men at Noon. The Championship concludes on Sunday with the women's final beginning at 9 a.m. followed by the men's title match at Noon.



2012 MEAC Men's and Women's Tennis All-MEAC Teams

As Voted by the Conference's Head Tennis Coaches and Sports Information Directors

Women

Player of the Year: Suhaila Jad, South Carolina State

Rookie of the Year: Vanja Andonova, Delaware State

Coach of the Year: Hardeep Judge, South Carolina State

First Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Cameron Chatman	North Carolina Central	Sr.	High Point, NC
Maria Craciun	South Carolina State	Jr.	Romania
Viktoriia Khatcei	South Carolina State	Fr.	Russia
Suhaila Jad	South Carolina State	Sr.	Spain
Sabrina Mendez	South Carolina State	Sr.	Spain
Stacy Speller	Bethune-Cookman	Sr.	Bronx, N.Y.

Second Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Vanja Andonova	Delaware State	Fr.	Skopje, Macadonia
Margarita Belyakova	Morgan State	So.	Moscow, Russia
Chinatsu Kajiwara	Bethune-Cookman	Fr.	Fukuoka, Japan
Shereen Peterson-Paul	Bethune-Cookman	Jr.	Ontario, Canada
Olesya Palko	North Carolina Central	Jr.	Kyiv, Ukraine
Katelyn Stokes	Howard	So.	Lanham, Md.

Men

Player of the Year: C. Salif Kante, Florida A&M

Rookie of the Year: Igor Braga, Norfolk State

Coach of the Year: Dr. Carl Goodman, Florida A&M

First Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Arsenio Culver	Norfolk State	Sr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Chidi Gabriel	Florida A&M	Jr.	Piscataway, N.J.
Dymtro Kovalevych	South Carolina State	Sr.	Ukraine
Artemiy Nikitin	South Carolina State	So.	Russia
Anton Protsenko	South Carolina State	Jr.	Ukraine
C. Salif Kante	Florida A&M	Jr.	Dakar, Senegal

Second Team

Name	School	Class	Hometown
Levan Clark	Florida A&M	Sr.	Orlando, Fla.
Peteris Vinogradous	South Carolina State	Jr.	Latvia
Oleksiy Krylchuk	Coppin State	So.	Sevastopol, Ukraine
Takura Happy	Florida A&M	Jr.	Mutare, Zimbabwe
Juan Varon	Bethune-Cookman	So.	Bogota, Columbia
Duk Young Park	Morgan State	Fr.	Silver Spring, Md.