

2013-14 MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS



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NEC TENNIS FACTS & FIGURES

NEC Men's Tennis Player of the Month

Oct. 1 Arvis Berzins, FDU/Dana Parziale, BRY

NEC Men's Tennis Rookie of the Month

Oct. 1 Plamen Avuski, SFU/Jacob Whalley, FDU

NEC Women's Tennis Player of the Month

Oct. 1 Ksenija Tihomirova, FDU

NEC Women's Tennis Rookie of the Month

Oct. 1 Ksenija Tihomirova, FDU

2014 NEC Tennis Championships

April 17-19, 2014

Mercer County Tennis Center
West Windsor, NJ

Single-elimination tournament with outbracket/quarterfinal matches contested on day one, semifinals on day two and championship matches on the final day of competition.



NEC TENNIS AWARD WINNERS

OCTOBER 1, 2013

NEC Men's Tennis Co-Player of the Month

Arvis Berzins, Fairleigh Dickinson

Jr., Adazi, Latvia/Riga Centre Language School

Berzins, the two-time NEC Player of the Year, won his first collegiate tournament on September 23, capturing the "A" flight at the USTA BJK NTC Men's College Invitational. Seeded third, he knocked off Marist's Joe Dube (6-3, 6-3) in the round of 16, then defeated Youngstown State's Silvi Mistreanu (7-6, 2-1, ret.) to reach the semis. Berzins needed three sets to oust NJIT's Andres Alban (6-1, 5-7, 10-4) and advance to the championship match where he knocked off #4 seed Nick Bybel of Bucknell in straight sets (7-5, 6-0). Competing against a loaded field, the junior also reached the quarterfinals of the Princeton/Farnsworth Invite earlier in the month. Teaming with freshman Arnaud Valentin, Berzins advanced to the semifinals at the USTA event and the quarterfinals at Princeton.



NEC Men's Tennis Co-Player of the Month

Dana Parziale, Bryant

Sr., Pinehurst, NC/Pinecrest

A three-time All-NEC performer, Parziale comes off a tremendous September that saw him capture singles gold at the Brown Invitational and team up with Ernesto Arguello to win the #1 flight doubles title at the USTA BJK NTC Men's College Invitational. At Brown, Parziale beat Boston U's Jesse Frieder (6-3, 6-3) in the quarterfinals before downing regionally ranked William Spector of Brown (7-6, 0-6, 6-2) in three sets. In the finals, the Pinehurst, NC product defeated reigning MAAC Player of the Year Dalen Klassen of Marist by a 6-3, 6-3 count. Parziale and Arguello won four straight matches en-route to the USTA crown, defeating teams from Marist, Boston College and FDU prior to dropping the Fairfield duo of Cameron Amyot and Ian Tesmond by an 8-6 margin in the finals. On the month, Parziale won seven-of-eight singles matches and went unbeaten in doubles.



NEC Men's Tennis Co-Rookie of the Month

Plamen Avuski, Saint Francis U

Fr., Plovdiv, Bulgaria/Math

Avuski advanced to the "F" flight singles final at the USTA BJK NTC Men's College Invitational in Flushing Meadows, NY. He rolled to easy straight set wins over opponents from Monmouth and Bucknell, then ousted third-seeded Scott Bernstein of Bucknell in the semis. In the title match, Avuski took Jordan Lieb of Bucknell to three sets before falling, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4. The Bulgarian native posted a 4-2 singles record in his first month of collegiate competition.



NEC Men's Tennis Co-Rookie of the Month

Jacob Whalley, Fairleigh Dickinson

Fr., Wirral, England

Whalley made his first month of collegiate play a memorable one by advancing to the "B" flight singles final at the USTA BJK NTC Men's College Invitational at the National Tennis Center. Right off the bat he eliminated top-seeded Christian Vieira of Monmouth, 6-1, 6-3, then rolled into the semis with a 6-1, 6-0 win over St. Francis Brooklyn's Francesc Terns-Campius. Whalley then defeated NJIT's Holger Norregaard, 6-1, 6-1, in the semifinals before coming up short, 6-3, 6-1, in the final against third-seeded Sebastian Hagn of Youngstown State.



NEC Women's Tennis Player & Rookie of the Month

Ksenija Tihomirova, Fairleigh Dickinson

Fr., Riga, Latvia

Playing in only her second collegiate tournament, Tihomirova won the "A" flight singles championship at the Bill & Sandra Moore Classic hosted by Navy. She needed to rally for a 4-6, 7-6 (7), 10-5 victory over Navy's Dairen Sears just to reach the quarterfinals, where she had little trouble in a 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Towson's Ayana Dow. Tihomirova advanced to the title match in another three-setter, a 3-6, 6-4, 10-6 win over Air Force's Tiffany Tran. She took care of business in the final, downing Towson's Belen Lizana, 6-2, 6-3. The freshman from Riga, Latvia also reached the quarterfinals of the Stony Brook Classic where she fell to All-NEC honoree Sanne Louwers of LIU Brooklyn in three sets. In doubles, Tihomirova paired up with Mariya Krachok to advance to the "A" flight doubles quarterfinals at the West Point Invitational, upsetting top-seeded Alexis Casati and Audrey O'Connor of Illinois in the round of 16.



IMPRESSIVE SHOWINGS, TOURNAMENT VICTORIES HIGHLIGHT FIRST MONTH OF NEC TENNIS SEASON

Talk about getting off to a fly-ing start. In a month filled with individual tournament play, NEC tennis competitors won four singles crowns and two doubles titles taking on top regional - and in some cases national - competition.

It should come as no surprise that FDU junior **Arvis Berzins (Adazi, Latvia/Riga Centre Language School)** walked away with the "A" flight title at the USTA Invitational on September 23. Berzins is coming off two dominant years for the two-time defending NEC champion Knights, winning NEC Player of the Year honors as both a freshman and sophomore. He also took a set from Virginia's Jarmere Jenkins - the nation's #3 ranked player - in the 2013 NCAA Tournament. At the USTA event, he defeated Bucknell's Nick Bybel, 7-5, 6-0, to take the championship and earn NEC Co-Player of the Month honors along with Bryant senior **Dana Parziale (Pinehurst, NC/Pinecrest)**. Parziale, himself a three-time All-NEC honoree, won the singles title at the Brown Invitational, beating 2012-13 MAAC Player of the Year Dalen Klassen (Marist) in the finals, 6-3, 6-3.

Parziale wasn't done there. He teamed with junior **Ernesto Arguello (Managua, Nicaragua/American Nicaraguan School)** to capture the #1 flight doubles championship at the USTA Invitational. The duo knocked off four teams, including Fairfield's Cameron Amyot and Ias Tesmond in the finals (8-6) to take the crown.

The Mount St. Mary's pairing of sophomore **Peter Salomon (Haymarket, VA/Seton School)** and freshman **Louis Tonon (Charlotte, NC/Charlotte Latin School)** won the "A" doubles flight at the Mount St. Mary's Invitational. Salomon is the brother of former All-NEC standout and current assistant coach Mike Salomon.



On the women's side, Fairleigh Dickinson freshman **Ksenija Tihomirova (Riga, Latvia)** appears to be the latest in a long line of top-flight singles players to produce as freshman for the Knights, who have won back-to-back NEC titles. Tihomirova took the "A" flight singles championship at the Bill & Sandra Moore Classic hosted by Navy. She bested Towson's Belen Lizana, 6-2, 6-3, in the finals. For her performance, she was tabbed NEC Player and Rookie of the Month.

Saint Francis U freshman **Taya Zoubareva (Lake Bluff, IL/Lake Forest)** also made an impressive debut, winning the #4 singles title at the Saint Joseph's Invitational last weekend. She outlasted Drexel's Alex Bell, 6-2, 4-6, 10-7, for the championship.

► **FDU Duo Stops Big Ten Tandem:** FDU freshman **Ksenija Tihomirova (Riga, Latvia)** not only claimed a singles title in her first month of play, but she also teamed with sophomore **Mariya Krachok (Kiev, Ukraine)**

Tweet Deck

► **@WagnerWTennis**

Another win for Wagner today against Rider! Let go Seahawks!

► **@bryantbuzztap**

Bryant Bulldogs (Official Site) >> Men's tennis rolling at USTA Invite

► **@necsports**

There's even tennis today, too! "@MountAthletics: We are underway for day two of the Mount St. Mary's Invitational! <http://instagram.com/p/ePk5LkOXKI/>"

Quotable

► **Ron Genrdron (BRY Head Coach)**

"Dana [Parziale] was truly exceptional over the weekend. He was able to not only maintain a great deal of poise over the course of the grueling three-day (Brown) tournament, but he excelled with multiple impressive wins."

► **Jonathan Buchman (FDU Head Coach)**

"It was great to see Arvis (Berzins) win his first NCAA tournament. He is very deserving of this championship, and it is a great start to this season."

► **Jonathan Buchman (FDU Head Coach)**

"For Ksenija (Tihomirova) to win this tournament in only her second NCAA competition is tremendous. She is a very talented player with the potential to have an excellent college career."

to upend top-seeded Alexis Casati and Audrey O'Connor of Illinois in the round of 16 at the West Point Invitational.

► **New Blood:** Both Saint Francis U (men and women) and Wagner (men) enter the 2013-14 campaign under new leadership. **Rob Castille** recently took over for the reigns for the Red Flash after seven seasons as men's head coach at Duquesne. The Dukes won 71 matches over his final five seasons at the helm. Wagner turned over the keys to former Wake Forest standout **Danny Kreyman**. Kreyman racked up 105 singles wins (fourth in school history) and 77 doubles victories (tied for tenth) for the Demon Deacons from 2009-13. The All-ACC performer ranked as high as 90th in singles and 53rd in doubles as a senior a year ago.

► **Green & White Off And Running:**

The Wagner women are off to a 2-0 start with 6-1 wins over St. Francis Brooklyn and Rider last week. Fresh-

man **Sarah Dionisio (East Yaphank, NY/Longwood)** won both her #2 flight singles matches in straight sets.

► **Sister Pair:** The Mount St. Mary's sister tandem of freshman **Kelly** and junior **Jennifer Smith (Davenport, WA/Seton Home Study School)** have won four of their last five doubles matches following an 0-2 start. The duo captured the top flight consolation bracket at the Mount St. Mary's Invitational.

► **Bulldog Bite:** Bryant freshman **Ryan Brown (Austin, TX/Lake Travis)** has posted a 3-1 singles record to start her Bulldog career, including a pair of wins at the Army Invitational.

► **Tennis HQ:** For all the latest NEC tennis news, visit www.northeast-conference.org. You can also follow the league on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Google+ (@NECSports) as well as the NEC Over-time! blog (necvertime.com).