

powerful athletes show

SKILLFUL

play worthy of national ranking

Junior Ragini Acharya stretches to hit the ball back over the net. The very first point of the match came from the doubles pair of Acharya and senior Katarina Zoricic as they defeated their VCU opponents 8-4.

Celebrating her point, junior Carmen Pop enjoys the CAA Semifinal match. As a singles player, Pop won the single Tribe point for the women's team against the Rams.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

Finishing with a respectable 10-12 season overall and Colonial Athletic Association tournament play on the semifinal level, the women's tennis team displayed their technique and teamwork skills. Beginning with the 16th Annual William & Mary Invitational which lasted for three days in mid-September, the Tribe women faced their first challenges in a host of formidable opponents. However, their natural talent and drive to win showed as many Tribe women won important matches. The No. 20 ranked doubles pair of senior Kat Zoricic and junior Ragini Acharya advanced to the finals bracket after a pair of wins. As singles players, Zoricic and Acharya also won their opening round of matches. The two freshmen Katie Kargl and Maria Morrissey also won their first singles matches. The duo pair of Kargl and junior Carmen Pop also advanced to semifinal double play.

By the last day of matches, the Tribe had garnered a number of wins and impressive titles. Kargl and Pop took home the flight B doubles title with a 4-0 score, while Zoricic and Acharya won the third-place mark in their doubles category. In singles play, Zoricic won her third-place match, Kargl her fifth-place match, and Pop beat her Elon opponent 6-4 and 6-0 in her consolation match. It was an impressive start for a memorable season.

Competing in about six fall invitationals before beginning the season against the top-25 women's ten-

nis programs, the No. 22 nationally ranked Tribe team prepared for the season to come. The invitational and championship games were held all over the nation in such cities as Nashville, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. At each of these matches, the Tribe women honed their skills, gained valuable playing experience against other well-ranked collegiate athletes, and improved their season records.

Besides improving their personal records, many of the lady athletes also received special CAA recognition as well. For example, Zoricic was named All-CAA first team in both singles and doubles for the fourth time in her Tribe career. Her teammate Acharya also received All-CAA first team recognition in singles and doubles for the third time at the end of the season. Pop was recognized with her first collegiate All-CAA honor and her own CAA Singles Player of the Week award.

Finishing the season with two major national rankings showed the campus that the women's tennis team was focused on success. The team was ranked 49th in the country and the doubles team of Zoricic and Acharya ranked No. 54. Even with the loss of major players, such notable success ensured that the team was well-set to continue a tradition of excellence into next season.

>Meredith Howard

Freshman Katie Kargl puts all her strength behind a return at the CAA Semifinal match against VCU. The Tribe ended their CAA tournament experience with a 1-4 loss to the Rams.



team

Front Row: Katie Kargl, Lauren Sabacinski, Maria Morrissey. Back Row: Assistant Coach Toni Neykova, Ragini Acharya, Katarina Zoricic, Carmen Pop, Barbara Zidek, Klaudyna Kasztelaniec, Head Coach Meredith Geiger-Walton.

<SCOREBOARD>

W&M 1 < 6 TCU W&M 4 > 3 TEXAS W&M 0 < 7 NORTH CAROLINA W&M 5 > 2 WISCONSIN W&M 4 > 3 MARYLAND
 W&M 4 > 3 SAN DIEGO W&M 0 < 7 USC W&M 2 < 5 PEPPERDINE W&M 4 > 3 MARSHALL W&M 2 < 5 AUBURN W&M 3 < 4 VCU
 W&M 4 > 0 DELAWARE (CAA QUARTERFINALS) W&M 1 < 4 VCU (CAA SEMIFINALS)

W&M 2 < 5 WAKE FOREST W&M 6 > 1 HARVARD W&M 2 < 5 PRINCETON W&M 1 < 6 UVA
 W&M 4 > 3 LOUISVILLE W&M 1 < 6 GEORGIA STATE W&M 5 > 2 OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY W&M 5 > 2 RICHMOND