2000-2001 AASU Athletics Year in Review

Armstrong State University
Pirates Win PBC In Women’s Tennis and Men’s Basketball
Four AASU Athletes Earn PBC Player of the Year Honors
Volleyball, Men’s Basketball, Men’s & Women’s Tennis
Advance To NCAA Championships
Pirates Finish Third In Commissioner’s Cup Race

Volleyball

Final PBC Standings

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NCAA II South Regional
No. 3 AASU def. No. 6 USCSC, 3-1
(15-10, 15-5, 8-15, 15-10)
No. 2 North Florida def. AASU, 3-0
(6-15, 12-15, 9-15)

AVCA South Region Honors
Sarah Haynes

Verizon Academic All-District III Volleyball
Lindsay Ehlers (Second Team)

Other Tournament Honors
Mesa State Coca-Cola Invitational All-Tournament
Kris Bringewatt
Colleen Fitzsimmons
GVSU/Amerihost Invitational All-Tournament
Micah Roman

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors
Sarah Haynes (Player of the Year)
Lindsay Ehlers
Micah Roman
Alan Segal (Co-Coach of the Year)

All-PBC Tournament Honors
Sarah Haynes
Micah Roman

PBC Player of the Week
Sarah Haynes (Oct. 24, 2000)

Final AVCA/NCAA DII National Rank
No. 24

Individual Leaders
Hitting Percentage
Sarah Haynes, .333 (3rd PBC)
Kris Bringewatt, .295 (7th PBC)
Sofie Hakansson, .268 (10th PBC)

Kills per game
Micah Roman, 2.73 (10th PBC)

Service Aces per game
Micah Roman, 0.45 (8th PBC)

Blocks per game
Kris Bringewatt, 0.907 (5th PBC)
Sarah Haynes, 0.74 (10th PBC)

Assists per game
Erin Melius, 10.90 (2nd PBC)

Digs per game
Micah Roman, 3.13 (3rd PBC)

Team Statistics
Hitting Percentage
.249 (2nd PBC)

Kills per game
14.13 (3rd PBC)

Service Aces per game
1.87 (7th PBC)

Blocks per game
2.04 (4th PBC)

Assists per game
13.05 (1st PBC)

Digs per game
15.66 (4th PBC)

Completing a spectacular season of firsts, the Armstrong Atlantic State volleyball team capped the 2000 season by earning the program’s first bid to the NCAA Championships, competing in the South Regional on November 16-18 in Tampa.

As the No. 3 seed in the South Region, AASU defeated the No. 6 seed, USC Spartanburg, 3-1, before falling to No. 2 seed North Florida, 3-0, in the region semifinals.

The Pirates ended the season with a 29-10 record and a No. 24 ranking in the AVCA Division II Top 25 Poll, capping a rise to national prominence never seen before by an Armstrong Atlantic State volleyball team.

Among the firsts accomplished by the Pirates this season: a first-ever national ranking, the Pirates’ first-ever wins over nationally-ranked opponents including a thrilling 3-2 win at No. 8-ranked Tampa, and AASU’s first-ever AVCA All-Region player (Sarah Haynes) and Verizon Academic All-District player (Lindsay Ehlers).

Haynes was honored as the Peach Belt Conference’s Player of the Year for 2000 and was joined on the All-Conference squad by Ehlers and senior Micah Roman. Head coach Alan Segal, who picked up his 100th career coaching victory against Lander on October 27th, was named PBC Coach of the Year for the second straight year. The Pirates finished the season with a 12-2 conference mark, good for second in the Peach Belt, their best finish ever.
Women’s Cross Country

Senior Nikki Garland and the Armstrong Atlantic State women’s cross country team took third place at the 2000 Peach Belt Conference Championships, the third straight year that the Pirates have finished third in the league. AASU compiled 67 points to finish behind team champion Kennesaw State (38) and North Florida (44). Garland finished fourth, covering the 5000 kilometer course in a time of 18:26.07, to earn All-Peach Belt Conference honors for the fourth time. Also earning All-Peach Belt honors were senior Marie-Claude Ostiguy (8th, 19:40.90) and 1999 PBC Freshman of the Year Jillian Charles (10th, 20:01.20). Rounding out the Pirate finishers were sophomore Michaela Kratochvilova (22nd, 21:24.90), senior Amanda Lagesse (23rd, 21:35.34), freshman Zsofi Golopencza (29th, 22:06.01) and freshman Sarah Harris (43rd, 22:57.05).

At the NCAA Division II South Regional in Jacksonville, Fla., the Pirates finished eleventh. Garland finished fifth overall in a time of 22:39.41 over the 6,000 meter course and became the Lady Pirates’ first four-time All-Region runner by duplicating her fifth-place performance from last season. She captured four individual meets during the year as well, duplicating last year’s performance. Senior Marie-Claude Ostiguy finished 13th overall in a time of 23:51.18, earning All-Region honors for the first time in her career.

Garland, AASU’s first track and field All-America in 1999, also advanced to the NCAA Division II Track Championships in 2000 for the third time in her career, finishing fourth in Heat 3 of the 800 Meters preliminaries in a time of 2:12.63.

The Armstrong Atlantic State men’s golf team took to the links for the first time in intercollegiate competition since the 1987-88 season, competing in nine tournaments and finishing sixth in the 2001 Peach Belt Conference Championships.

Head coach Michael Butler’s inaugural team featured five freshman, giving the Pirates the strongest freshman class in NCAA Division II as reported by GolfStat. The highlight of the season came at the Peach Belt Conference Tournament where Thomas Whittaker fired a two-day total of 144 to capture tournament medalist honors, becoming the first AASU golfer to win a tournament since the team resumed varsity competition. Whittaker earned All-Peach Belt Tournament honors for his individual title as well.

As a team, the Pirates finished 11th in the South Region rankings, narrowly missing an NCAA berth in their first year. AASU also recorded two other Top 10 team finishes during the season, including a seventh-place finish at the Wolverine South Intercollegiate, hosted by the University of Michigan in Savannah, and an eighth-place finish at the predominantly-Division I Amoco Oil-Ultimate Intercollegiate, hosted by Jacksonville State University.

Whittaker took low scoring honors as a freshman, recording a 77.24 stroke average over 21 rounds. January newcomer David Roger made the most of his spring season, recording two Top 20 finishes and recording a 77.42 stroke average in his 12 rounds, while freshman Bill Faith recorded a 77.33 stroke average for his 21 rounds.
The AASU men’s basketball team enjoyed a memorable season in 2000-2001, winning a school-record 16 consecutive games en route to a 25-8 record, its second Peach Belt Conference championship, a No. 22 national ranking and a berth in the NCAA Championships.

Senior guard Robert Campbell led the way for the Pirates, becoming only the second two-time Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year and earning second-team All-America honors. The Peach Belt’s all-time leader in assists and steals, Campbell finished his career with 357 thefts, just four shy of the all-time NCAA DII record.

AASU won its first 15 games of the Peach Belt Conference schedule, several by close scores including a thrilling 66-63 win over USC Aiken at homecoming when Campbell drained a three-pointer at the buzzer for the victory. The Pirates tied a school record for most victories in a season and head coach Griff Mills became AASU’s all-time coaching victory leader with a 79-76 win over UNF on Jan. 17th.

On the strength of their record-setting streak, the Pirates earned a national ranking for the first time in 17 years on Feb. 12 and ascended as high as No. 22 in the country. AASU also sports a league-record 15-game home winning streak in the Peach Belt heading into 2001-2002.

**Final PBC Standings**

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**AASU PBC All-Conference Honors**

Robert Campbell (Player of the Year)
Greg Favors (Second Team)
Griff Mills (Coach of the Year)

**All-PBC Tournament Honors**

Robert Campbell

**PBC Player of the Week**

Robert Campbell (Jan. 8 & Feb. 12, 2001)
Cyrielle Mainmerrarre (Feb. 5, 2001)

**Georgia DII Player of the Year**

(Presented by the Atlanta TipOff Club)

Robert Campbell

**Division II Bulletin All-America**

Robert Campbell (Second Team)

**NABC All-South Atlantic District**

Robert Campbell (First Team)

**Daktronics All-South Atlantic Region**

Robert Campbell (Second Team)

**Ashley Dearing Cup Winner**

Mick Jordan

**Whack Hyder Georgia Division II Coach of the Year**

(Presented by the Atlanta TipOff Club)

Griff Mills (DII)

**Individual Leaders**

Scoring
Robert Campbell, 15.1 ppg (5th PBC)

Rebounding
Greg Favors, 8.6 rpg (2nd PBC, 32nd NCAA)
Cyrielle Mainmerrarre, 5.2 (19th PBC)

Field Goal Percentage
Greg Favors, .586 (3rd PBC)
Cyrielle Mainmerrarre, .514 (9th PBC)
Robert Campbell, 4.93 (14th PBC)

Assists
Robert Campbell, 4.91 apg (2nd PBC)

Steals
Robert Campbell, 3.42 spg (1st PBC, 3rd NCAA)
Donta Humphries, 1.45 (12th PBC)

3-Point FG Percentage
Cyrielle Mainmerrarre, .33 (7th PBC)

3-Point FG Made Per Game
Mick Jordan, 1.73 (14th PBC)

Blocked Shots
Cyrielle Mainmerrarre, 1.33 (8th PBC)

Assist/Turnover Ratio
Donta Humphries, 1.56 (8th PBC)
Robert Campbell, 1.20 (14th PBC)

The AASU men’s basketball team captured its second Peach Belt Conference championship with a 15-1 regular season record, the first team ever to win 15 PBC games.
2000-2001 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Women's Basketball

The Lady Pirates, under first-year head coach Roger Hodge, improved to 10-16 overall and 5-11 in the Peach Belt Conference, riding the strong post game of sophomore Zandrique Cason and the three-point shooting of senior Michelle Hubbard during the 2000-2001 season.

Cason became the first Lady Pirate to earn first-team All-PBC honors since 1994-95 as she led the Peach Belt in rebounding and finished fourth in scoring. A two-time PBC Player of the Week during the season, Cason also ranked nationally in both scoring and rebounding.

Hubbard, who returned to the Lady Pirate program after two seasons away from basketball, capped her senior season by reaching the coveted 1,000 point milestone against Lander on January 6, 2001 and becoming only the fifth Lady Pirate to reach the 1,000 point plateau.

Playing the season with just one senior, the Lady Pirates picked up several key wins during the season. The Lady Pirates’ 76-74 win over Lander on Jan. 6 snapped a 10-game road winless streak in the conference, while AASU’s 75-72 overtime win against No. 22 Francis Marion on Jan. 3 was the first win for a Lady Pirate squad over a nationally-ranked team since Dec. 15, 1997, when AASU defeated No. 18 Florida Tech, 59-47, and the win also snapped a 12-game losing streak to ranked squads. AASU also won for the third straight year on “Senior Night,” the final home game of the season, as the Lady Pirates defeated Augusta State, 66-61 on Feb. 21.

The Lady Pirates head into the 2001-2002 season with 11 returning players from last season’s squad and have five incoming players to keep the AASU women’s basketball squad looking forward to next year!

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AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Zandrique Cason (First Team)

PBC Player of the Week

Zandrique Cason (Dec. 4 & Dec. 18, 2000)

Tournament Honors

AASU/Chatham Orthopaedics All-Tournament

Zandrique Cason
Lexie Martin
Catawba All-Sport Classic All-Tournament

Zandrique Cason

Individual Leaders

**Scoring**

Zandrique Cason, 16.7
(4th PBC, 63rd NCAA)

Lexie Martin, 12.2 (15th PBC)

**Rebounding**

Zandrique Cason, 10.3
(1st PBC, 18th NCAA)

Lori Green, 6.0
(14th PBC)

**Field Goal Percentage**

Zandrique Cason, .464
(14th PBC)

Lexie Martin, .789
(5th PBC)

**Steals**

Lexie Martin, 1.92
(13th PBC)

Lexie Martin, 3.69
(12th PBC)

**3-Point FG Made Per Game**

Lexie Martin, 1.85 (8th PBC)

Michelle Hubbard, 1.46 (9th PBC)

**Blocked Shots**

Zandrique Cason, 1.00
(6th PBC)

Lori Green, 0.65 (14th PBC)

Rachel Baker, 0.52 (11th PBC)

**Offensive Rebounds**

Zandrique Cason, 3.58
(3rd PBC)

Lori Green, 2.54 (12th PBC)

**Defensive Rebounds**

Zandrique Cason, 6.77
(1st PBC)

Team Statistics

**Scoring Offense**

66.3 ppg (9th PBC)

**Scoring Defense**

71.8 ppg (10th PBC)

**Scoring Margin**

-5.4 (10th PBC)

**Field Goal %**

.393 (9th PBC)

**Free Throw %**

.651 (11th PBC)

**FG % Defense**

.325 (8th PBC)

**3-Point FG %**

.322 (6th PBC)

**3-Point FG % Defense**

.394 (6th PBC)

**Rebounding Offense**

41.2 rpg (6th PBC)

**Rebounding Margin**

-0.3 (8th PBC)

**Blocked Shots**

2.96 bpg (4th PBC)

**Assists**

13.23 apg (9th PBC)

**Steals**

10.23 spg (7th PBC)

**Turnover Margin**

-4.46 (10th PBC)

**Assist/TO Ratio**

0.54 (10th PBC)

**Offensive Rebounds**

14.35 (8th PBC)

**Defensive Rebounds**

26.88 (3rd PBC)

Zandrique Cason (top) became the first AASU women’s basketball player to average a double-double a game during a season since Renee Rice in 1991-92.

Head coach Roger Hodge (left, talking to Nicole Joffrion) led the Lady Pirates to 10 wins in his first season, including AASU’s first win against a ranked opponent in four years, a 75-72 overtime win over No. 22 Francis Marion on Jan. 3.
## Baseball

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### AASU PBC All-Conference

- B.J. Brinkmeier (Pitcher)
- David Harriman (Catcher)
- Kirk Nordness (Outfield)

### PBC Player of the Week

Ryan Chromek (Feb. 13, 2001)
David Harriman (Apr. 10 & Apr. 17, 2001)

### PBC Pitcher of the Week

B.J. Brinkmeier (March 13, 2001)

### NABC South Atlantic All-Region

- B.J. Brinkmeier (Second Team - Pitcher)
- David Harriman (Second Team - Catcher)
- Kirk Nordness (Second Team - Outfield)

### Final NCAA DII National Rank

No. 15

### Individual Statistical Leaders

**Batting Average**
- Kirk Nordness, .392 (2nd PBC)
- Matt Easterwood, .378 (5th PBC)

**On Base Percentage**
- Kirk Nordness, .469 (8th PBC)
- Matt Easterwood, .455 (9th PBC)

**Runs Batted In**
- David Harriman, 53 (9th PBC)

**Doubles**
- Kirk Nordness, 18 (t3rd PBC)

**Wins**
- B.J. Brinkmeier, 8-3 (t7th PBC)

**Saves**
- Andrew Moss, 4 (t3rd PBC)

**ERA**
- B.J. Brinkmeier, 3.46 (7th PBC)

**Strikeouts**
- B.J. Brinkmeier, 97 (2nd PBC)

### Team Statistical Rankings

**Batting Average**
- .344 (1st PBC, 17th NCAA)

**Slugging Percentage**
- .465 (5th PBC)

**ERA**
- 4.35 (5th PBC, 29th NCAA)

**Fielding**
- .948 (8th PBC)

**Scoring**
- 7.79 runs/gm (2nd PBC)

**Home Runs**
- 28, 0.53 hr/gm (8th PBC)

**Stolen Bases**
- 36-49, 0.68 sb/gm (11th PBC)

**Doubles**
- 108, 2.04 dbl/gm (3rd PBC)

**Double Plays**
- 28, 0.53 dblplay/gm (10th PBC)

**Winning Percentage**
- 38-15, .717 (18th NCAA)

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Head coach Joe Roberts’ baseball squad put together another standout season, winning 14 of its last 16 games in April to finish with a 38-15 overall record and a No. 15 national ranking, the 11th time in the past 14 years that AASU has been ranked in the final DII poll. The Pirates played themselves into regional contention over the last month by winning a school-record 10 straight conference games, including three-game sweeps of No. 3 GC&SU and No. 14 Columbus State.

The Pirates also put together a 12-1 record in the 2001 Savannah Invitational against top Division II teams from across the nation, including a thrilling 18-14 come-from-behind win over Concord, in which Concord led 13-2 in the 5th inning and junior Matt Easterwood tied a school record by collecting six hits. AASU also went 4-2 against teams who competed in the 2001 DII College World Series.

On the season, the Pirates led the Peach Belt Conference in hitting and ranked 17th nationally in NCAA Division II with a .344 average, the best average by a Pirate squad since 1990. AASU was led by junior Kirk Nordness’ .392 average, third best in the PBC and the highest average for a Pirate in 10 seasons.

Nordness, David Harriman and B.J. Brinkmeier all earned All-Conference and All-South Atlantic Region honors in 2001, the first time AASU has had three such honorees since 1998.

The Pirates return 17 players from its 2001 squad, including nine of the top 10 hitters, for next year.

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One of the great traditions of amateur baseball in Savannah, the Great Savannah Shootout, is slated to return in 2002 following a three-year absence. The tournament, hosted by Armstrong Atlantic State University and the Savannah Sports Council, will feature AASU and three NCAA Division I opponents: the University of Connecticut, the University of North Carolina and the University of Georgia. All of the games will take place at Grayson Stadium, home of the Savannah Sand Gnats.

The 2002 Great Savannah Shootout Schedule

**Friday, February 22**
- North Carolina vs. Georgia, 11 a.m. • AASU vs. Connecticut, 2 p.m.

**Saturday, February 23**
- Georgia vs. Connecticut, 11 a.m. • AASU vs. North Carolina, 2 p.m.

**Sunday, February 24**
- Connecticut vs. North Carolina, 11 a.m. • AASU vs. Georgia, 2 p.m.
The 2001 AASU softball squad recorded a 33-14 overall record, narrowly missing a berth in the NCAA Regionals for the second time in the last three seasons.

Featuring six seniors on the squad, including four four-year seniors who have been with the program since the inception of fastpitch softball as an intercollegiate sport in 1998, the Pirates collected several wins over nationally-ranked competition and led NCAA Division II in fielding for the year, compiling a .976 fielding percentage, good for ninth best all-time.

The Pirates’ four fourth-year seniors - first baseman Nicole Weirauch, second baseman Tesh Wiewel, shortstop Ansley Paschal and outfielder Crystal McCracken - compiled a 153-53 record in four seasons and were the foundation with which AASU’s nationally prominent softball program was built around.

Wiewel leaves as the Pirates’ all-time leader in hits with 229 and in career batting average at .353. Weirauch became the Pirates - and the Peach Belt Conference’s - all-time leader in walks with 91 while setting a career high in home runs in 2001 with eight. McCracken is the Pirates’ all-time leader in RBI with 130 and is second all-time in home runs with 26, while Paschal collected a .299 career batting average and is AASU’s all-time leader in steals with 40.

Two juniors - pitcher/DP Annie Sells and outfielder Breon Michel - earned All-PBC and All-Region honors in 2001 and will represent the core of next year’s squad. Sells, who is now the PBC’s all-time leader in strikeouts with 608, will have her eyes on the NCAA record books in 2002.
Men’s Tennis

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NCAA II South Regional
No. 2 AASU def. No. 3 Delta St. 5-1
No. 1 Ouachita Bap. def. AASU 5-4

The AASU men’s tennis team enjoyed a fine season in 2001, compiling a 15-10 record and advancing to the NCAA South Region final. Along the way, the Pirates recorded wins over several top-ranked teams, including a win over NCAA Champion Rollins College on April 8.

Other top-ranked teams to fall to the Pirates in 2001 included No. 3-ranked West Florida on Feb. 24, No. 7-ranked Lees-McRae on March 8 and No. 4-ranked Hawaii-Pacific on March 14.

Blaise Tribolet enjoyed a fine season for the Pirates, compiling a team-best 27-14 singles record and earning Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year honors, as well as All-Conference honors in both singles and doubles. A former President’s Cup winner, Tribolet also earned ITA Scholar-Athlete and Verizon Academic All-District III honors for the second straight year and finished the season ranked No. 39 nationally in singles and No. 19 in doubles.

Stefan Wirtz finished his Pirate career as AASU’s first four-time All-Peach Belt Conference honoree. A three-time All-America honoree, Wirtz finished the season ranked No. 25 in singles.

Christopher Petersen was named the 2001 President’s Cup winner, given to the top student-athlete at AASU and also earned ITA Academic All-America and Verizon Academic All-District III honors.

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors
Stefan Wirtz (Singles)
Christopher Petersen (Doubles)
Blaise Tribolet (Singles, Doubles, Player of the Year)

Final ITA/NCAA Division II National Rank
No. 15

Verizon Academic All-District III
Christopher Petersen (First Team)
Blaise Tribolet (First Team)

ITA National Scholar-Athlete
Christopher Petersen
Blaise Tribolet

2001 AASU President’s Cup Winner
Christopher Petersen

ITA Individual National Rankings
Stefan Wirtz (No. 25 Singles)
Christopher Petersen (No. 19 Doubles)
Blaise Tribolet (No. 39 Singles, No. 19 Doubles)

ITA Individual Regional Rankings
Stefan Wirtz (No. 13 Singles)
Christopher Petersen
(No. 32 Singles, No. 10 Doubles)
Blaise Tribolet
(No. 20 Singles, No. 10 Doubles)

Individual Statistics

Singles

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The AASU women’s tennis team recorded a 22-6 overall record and captured the school’s eight Peach Belt Conference championship by winning the PBC Tournament, hosted by the school. The Lady Pirates then advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals, marking the seventh straight NCAA Championships berth for the two-time former NCAA champions.

Led by freshman Zsofi Golopencza, the Lady Pirates dropped just five matches during the regular season - four to the top four ranked teams in the nation - while picking up wins over 14 other ranked schools during the season.

Golopencza enjoyed a stellar debut for the Lady Pirates, picking up ITA National Rookie of the Year honors as well as PBC Freshman and Player of the Year honors, the first time any women’s tennis player has earned both in the conference in its history.

Golopencza finished the season with a 35-3 overall singles record and a No. 2 national ranking in the ITA.

Junior Michaela Kratochvilova also enjoyed a fine season, earning ITA All-America honors in singles and doubles and finishing the season ranked No. 9 nationally in singles after compiling a 37-9 record. Golopencza and Kratochvilova teamed up for a 33-6 doubles record and a No. 3 national ranking in doubles as well.

The AASU women’s tennis team defeated Francis Marion, Kennesaw State and North Florida in the 2001 Peach Belt Conference Championships to pick up their eighth conference crown since 1992. Freshman Zsofi Golopencza was named the PBC Tournament Most Valuable Player, completing a sweep of the major conference awards - Golopencza was also named the 2001 PBC Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year.
AASU student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in the 2000-2001 academic year. 52% of all AASU student-athletes carried GPAs of 3.0 or better and the overall GPA of AASU student-athletes, as a group, was 2.95. 48 AASU student-athletes earned PBC Presidential Honor Roll honors and three student-athletes were named Verizon Academic All-District - volleyball player Lindsay Ehlers and men’s tennis players Christopher Petersen and Blaise Tribolet.

AASU student-athletes earned 35 Dean's List honors in 2000-2001 and two AASU student-athletes - Petersen and volleyball player Shelley Weekes - carried perfect 4.0 GPAs for the entire year.

Petersen and softball player Julie King were the 2001 President’s Cup winners, given by the Savannah Exchange Club to the top male and female student-athlete of the year.

For the third consecutive year, the Pirates finished third in the Peach Belt Conference Commissioner’s Cup standings, which is the conference’s all-sports trophy. AASU received 66.5 points out of a possible 94, for a .707 percentage, ranking behind only North Florida and Kennesaw State. AASU was boosted in the standings by men’s basketball winning a Peach Belt Conference championship and a second-place finish by the women’s tennis team in the regular season standings.