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### MEN'S TENNIS



#### Tennis Excels In First Day Of ITA Regionals





Posted: Sep 27, 2008

**SUMTER, S.C.** - The Armstrong Atlantic State men's and women's tennis teams had an outstanding first day of action at the 2008 ITA Regionals, hosted by Coker College, at the Palmetto Tennis Center on Saturday. The Pirates and Lady Pirates collectively went 28-1 in singles and doubles matches, advancing 12 players in singles play and all six doubles teams.

The defending NCAA champion men advanced all five players in the main draw. No. 2 seed **Tim Johannsen** defeated Frederico Mendes of Augusta State, 6-0, 7-5, and Lees-McRae's Alek Mojski, 6-3, 6-3, to advance to the Round of 16. He's joined there by 9-16 seed Rafael Array, who defeated Columbus State's Dmitri Caron, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Pfeiffer's Phillip Lawson, 6-1, 7-6, as well as 9-16 seed Paul Bishop, who defeated Erskine's Caleb Barnes, 7-6, 6-1, and GCSU's Giovanni Nucci, 6-1, 6-3.

AASU's three newcomers to the men's team also advanced on Saturday. Freshman Eudaldo Bonet, a 9-16 seed, defeated Nemanja Bracan of Erskine, 6-2, 6-3, and Bastian Czwallina of Francis Marion, 6-0, 6-2, to make the round of 16. Junior Paul Fitzgerald, also a 9-16 seed, defeated Barton's Cesar Grobel 6-2, 6-0, as well as Renato Assuncao of Anderson, 6-1, 6-3. In the B draw, junior Derek Danziger earned a first-round bye, then defeated Filip Cojbasic of Columbus State, 6-3, 6-3, to advance to the round of 16.

In doubles action, top-seeded Array and Johannsen defeated Acker and Harvie of Carson-Newman, 8-1, in first-round action. No. 5-8 seed Bonet and Bishop rallied from a 7-3 deficit to defeat GCSU's Beliankou and Nucci, 9-8, while Danziger and Fitzgerald defeated Francis Marion's Keth and Rogers, 8-4.

On the women's side, No. 2 seed Alida Muller-Wehlau cruised to the Round of 16 with a 6-0, 6-1 win over Mathilde Grenet of USC Aiken and a 6-0, 6-2 win over Erskine's Mary Claire Rollins. No. 4 seed Gabriella Kovacs knocked off Carson-Newman's Amanda Bartlett, 6-1, 6-4, and Anderson's Julie Halbert, 6-0, 6-0, to also enter the round of 16.

No. 5-8 seed Alisa Kagukina picked up a 6-2, 6-0 win over Clayton State's Veronika Jasenovocova and a 6-1, 6-1 win over Limestone's Jimena Munoz Quiroga, while 9-16 seed Martina Beckmann defeated Converse's Alyssa Blanchard, 6-0, 6-1, and Pfeiffer's Patty Dominguez, 6-1, 6-1. Freshman newcomer Sona Novakova, a 9-16 seed, breezed into the round of 16 with a 6-0, 6-0 win over GCSU's Gabby Acuna and a 6-0, 6-1 win over Erskine's Britton Bignon. Freshman Kathleen Henry

won her first-round match, 6-0, 6-1, over UNC Pembroke's Hannah Harling, but suffered the only loss of the day as she dropped a 6-3, 6-3 decision to No. 5-8 seed Roxana Dondera of Columbus State.

In doubles, the top-seeded duo of Beckmann and Muller-Wehlau defeated Minnick and Tatala-Colin of UNC Pembroke, 8-1, in first-round action. The No. 2 seeded duo of Kovacs and Novacova blanked Mileva and Blakey of Mount Olive, 8-0. Finally, the duo of Henry and Kagukina upset the No. 4 seeded duo of Chiaparini and Rodrigues of Augusta State, 8-4.

Play continues with singles and doubles action on Sunday, followed by the Championship matches on Monday.



## ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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