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Men's Tennis Press Releases Fall 2005

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Stubbs captures ITA Southeast Summer Circuit crown
August 5, 2005

Rising sophomore Andrew Stubbs of the Wofford men's tennis team has earned the No. 1 seed from the Southeast Region following the completion of play at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) Summer Circuit.

The Circuit is divided into six regions across the country with each region hosting four tournaments. The Southeast Region played at two events in North Carolina and another pair in Florida.

Stubbs, a 2005 All-Southern Conference performer and native of Hilton Head, S.C., competed in three of the four events and won the singles title at the July 16-19 tournament in Gainsville, Fla. In the other events in which he entered, he advanced to the quarterfinals at the July 11-14 tournament in Tallahassee, Fla., and placed second in Chapel Hill, N.C., during the July 23-27 event.

By winning the region, he will automatically have his transportation expenses to the ITA National Summer Championship covered by the U.S. Tennis Association. He will also receive a housing stipend.

The national championship will be held August 13-16 at the Indiana University Outdoor Varsity Courts in Bloomington, Ind.

Also in the top-three standings in the Southeast Region were No. 2 Sam Chang of Florida State and Georgia Tech's Scott Blackmon at No. 3.

"I am thrilled, but not surprised, with Andrew's success this summer," said Wofford head men's tennis coach Rod Ray. "He has worked hard and has a very enthusiastic spirit. Certainly, he has earned the right to feel confident going into the national tournament. His success means volumes for our program."

During his freshman campaign of 2005, Stubbs played at the No. 1 slot all season earning seven singles victories. Included in the total were five wins against Southern Conference foes. He garnered the SoCon's player of the week honor April '12 and faced four nationally-ranked opponents during the season.

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Stubbs fairs well at ITA National Summer Championship
August 16, 2005

Following an All-Southern Conference performance during the spring of 2005, rising sophomore Andrew Stubbs of the Wofford men's tennis team continued his play this summer and advanced to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) National Summer Championship, August 13-16, at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

Stubbs was the top player in the Southeast during the regional action and won an all-expense paid trip to the championship by the United States Tennis Association.

At the national event, he knocked off Purdue's Patrick Rose in his first match, 7-6, 6-4. Stubbs then defeated Joseph Epkey of Ball State, 7-5, 6-1.

In the round of 16 of the bottom half of the bracket, No. 2 seed Chris Klingemann of Ohio State handed Stubbs a 6-4, 6-4 defeat.

During the spring with the Terriers, Stubbs captured seven singles victories playing at the No. 1 position all season. Five of the seven wins came against SoCon foes.

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Stokes named assistant tennis coach

September 6, 2005

Wofford head tennis coach Rod Ray has announced the hiring of Brandon Stokes as his assistant coach for both the men's and women's programs starting in 2005-06.

"I am thrilled to announce the addition of Brandon Stokes to our staff," said Ray. "We are fortunate to hire someone with his qualifications, background and character. He has the enthusiasm and drive to make a great college coach.

"Additionally, he has the personal qualities that make him a perfect fit for our program at Wofford. He is everything we had hoped for and more."

Stokes joins the Terrier program after being the assistant coach for Paul Maxwell at North Alabama since January 2005. While with the Lions men's and women's teams, he assisted in the daily operations and organization, recruiting, budget management and overall program development. He also worked with the student-athletes on strength, conditioning and flexibility.

Both teams were regional qualifiers, with the women's squad ending the year as No. 19 in the final poll and No. 3 in the region. Three players overall, including two men, were named to All-Gulf South Conference teams.

Prior to his experience in Florence, Ala., he served as an independent tennis coach specializing in Junior development in the Atlanta area and was an associate tennis coach at the ACE Tennis Academy in Atlanta.

"I thank the Wofford athletic department for this opportunity," said Stokes. "I am excited and proud to be a member of the Wofford community. The experience at North Alabama prepared me for the tremendous responsibility to coach the elite student-athlete here at Wofford."

This past summer, Stokes went on a seven-week college summer camp coaching tour where he learned and studied from some of the top Division I coaches and programs. He spent time at Clemson, Alabama, Notre Dame, Pepperdine and Illinois.

"I am honored to work with Coach Ray and to learn from him. Most significantly, the men's and women's teams are perennial leaders academically in the Southern Conference, the region and the nation. Behind his leadership, the teams continue to improve athletically every year and are poised to compete for conference championships.

"It is an exciting time to be a part of the Terrier tennis program that continues to represent Wofford and Spartanburg with enthusiasm and desire."

Stokes earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Toledo in 1994. He took graduate studies courses at Georgia State in sociology and was certified as a Professional 2 by the United States Professional Tennis Association in 1994.

While at Toledo, he was named to the Dean's List, President's List, Mid-American Conference All-Academic Honorable Mention squad, Downtown Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete while competing at the Division I level for the Rockets. He was also nominated for the Mid-American Conference Commissioner's Award and the national Lambda Sigma Honor Society.

His coaching career began as the assistant high school girls tennis coach at Tuscarawas Central Catholic in New Philadelphia, Ohio, in the fall of 1992. At the time, he was serving as the associate tennis professional at the Tuscarawas Recreation Complex during the 1990 through 1992 summer months.
Wofford men's tennis releases 2006 spring dates
September 21, 2005

After finishing 2005 with a single-season school record five wins in Southern Conference action, the Wofford men's tennis team has announced its 2006 spring schedule which features a total of eight home matches, including four in league play. "This year we have a great schedule," said head coach Rod Ray. "The schedule is filled with great competition, which was one of our primary scheduling goals.

"Last year, we had great home crowds as our team has become more competitive. The team is excited about both its home schedule and the away schedule. Additionally, the team looking forward to a Spring Break trip to California. Truly, this is a great schedule for our team.

"The 2005-06 men's tennis team will be competitive. The team has a mix of players that are proven competitors and players that are ready to step up and fill some gaps. Optimistic is the word that best describes the team's thoughts on the upcoming year. The team is working very hard and has made tremendous progress in a short period of time. Without a doubt, we will be much better than we were last year."

The Terriers start the season with four straight on the road. The slate will kick off Jan. 21 at Stetson followed the next day by a contest at Embry-Riddle. Wofford will then return to the Carolinas for a pair of matches, including a Jan. 28 trip to Columbia, S.C., to face South Carolina.

The home opener will be Feb. 11 versus Mercer. The Terriers will also welcome High Point to the Reeves Tennis Center before traveling to Conway, S.C., for a pair of matches Feb. 18 versus Longwood and Coastal Carolina.

A Feb. 24 date against The Citadel opens SoCon action. It is the start of three-straight league matches for Wofford. Following four consecutive away contests, the Terriers will return home March 17 for a nonconference meeting with Charlotte.

Highlighting the April portion of the schedule is a trip to California, April 4-5, to face Azusa Pacific and Loyola Marymount. Wofford will close its home ledger with College of Charleston April 8 before hitting the road to close the season April 15 at Georgia Southern.

The Southern Conference Tournament will return to Charleston, S.C., April 20-23.

2006 Wofford Men's Tennis Schedule:
Jan. 21--at Stetson--2 p.m.
Jan. 22--at Embry-Riddle--10:30 a.m.
Jan. 28--at South Carolina--3 p.m.
Feb. 8--at Gardner-Webb--2:30 p.m.
Feb. 11--Mercer--2 p.m.
Feb. 17--High Point--1 p.m.
Feb. 18--vs. Longwood--1:30 p.m.
Feb. 18--at Coastal Carolina--4 p.m.
Feb. 24--The Citadel--1 p.m.
March 3--Appalachian State--2 p.m.
March 5--at Chattanooga--Noon
March 8--at Winthrop--2:30 p.m.
March 11--at UNC Greensboro--Noon
March 15--at Davidson--2 p.m.
March 17--Charlotte--2 p.m.
March 20-- Elon--2 p.m.
April 1--Campbell--11 a.m.
April 4--at Azusa Pacific--4:30 p.m.
April 5--at Loyola Marymount--5 p.m.
April 8--College of Charleston--TBA
April 15--Georgia Southern--10 a.m.
April 20-23--Southern Conference Tournament (Charleston, S.C.)--TBA
^ - in Conway, S.C.
* - Southern Conference match
All times Eastern
Home matches played at the Reeves Tennis Center
Terrier men's tennis wraps up action at UNC Fall Invitational
September 25, 2005

The Wofford men's tennis team concluded its play Sunday at the season-opening UNC Fall Invitational on the North Carolina campus in Chapel Hill, N.C. Seven Terriers were in singles action, while one doubles duo saw the court on the final day of the tournament featuring some of the top players and teams from the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

Earning a singles victory for Wofford Sunday was senior Chris Barlow in the A flight. He defeated Doug Banker of Richmond, 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

Also picking up a win in singles action was freshman Scott Collins with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Jorge Guzman of Charlotte in the C flight.

In D singles, sophomore Richard Cahi used three sets to down Navy's Alex James, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8.

Also in singles action was sophomore Andrew Stubbs. Stubbs competed in the A singles flight with Barlow and lost his match Sunday to Alex Stone of Duke, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8.

Junior Jeff Muthig fell 6-4, 6-2 in the C singles bracket to Britton Steele of East Carolina.

Freshman Will Mann participated in the D singles with Cahi and lost to Charlotte's Dorian Host Sunday, 6-2, 6-4.

Concluding the Terriers' singles competition was junior Hunter Strasburger in the E bracket. He was defeated by Navy's Kyle Jones in a rematch of the opening round 6-3, 6-1.

In the only doubles action of the day featuring Wofford players, Cahi and Collins were knocked off, 8-6, by Charlotte's Felix Bernhoeaster and Jonathan Vencatachellum in the B flight.
Stubbs to play in Polo Ralph Lauren All-American Championship
September 30, 2005

Andrew Stubbs, a 2005 All-Southern Conference selection and a sophomore on the Wofford men’s tennis team, has been chosen to participate in the Polo Ralph Lauren All-American Tennis Championship starting Monday in Tulsa, Okla. The event is the first of three national collegiate championship events during the year, followed by the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championship in November and the NCAA Championship in May. He is the lone player from the Southern Conference selected to play and the first Wofford player in the program’s history. Stubbs was tabbed to play in the qualifying draw, which features 128 singles players. After the third round of the qualifying bracket, the winners advance to the main draw where action begins Thursday.

In his opening-round match, Stubbs is scheduled to face Nestor Briceno of Florida. The winner will face either Kentucky’s Nate Emge or Cal’s Tyler Browne.

The tournament has been played annually since 1979 and is being hosted by the University of Tulsa at the Michael D. Case Tennis Center for the first time. Many past participants have reached the professional ranks, including 1999 U.S. Open finalist Todd Martin. Martin played collegiately at Northwestern. The top-75 players on the ITA preseason list will be participating in the event, including No. 1-ranked Ryler DeHeart of Illinois.
Stubbs knocked off at national tournament
October 4, 2005

Wofford sophomore men's tennis player Andrew Stubbs was defeated in the second round Tuesday at the prestigious 2005 Polo Ralph Lauren All-American Championship at the Michael D. Case Tennis Center in Tulsa, Okla. The University of Tulsa is serving as the host institution for this year's event.

Stubbs, who garnered a win during the opening round, was knocked off by Cal's Tyler Browne, 6-3, 6-2 in the qualifying bracket.

A member of the 2005 All-Southern Conference squad, Stubbs was the lone league participant in the tournament. The event serves as one of three major national collegiate championship tournaments and is the first of the three this season.
Fridzon and Muthig go undefeated at Charlotte Fall Invitational
October 17, 2005

The Wofford men's tennis team garnered a total of 11 singles and four doubles victories this past weekend at the Charlotte Fall Invitational in Charlotte, N.C., against foes from Charlotte, UNC Wilmington and Winthrop. Leading the charge for the Terriers were junior Alex Fridzon and Jeff Muthig who each posted three singles triumphs. Fridzon started the event with a 6-2, 6-0 win against UNC Wilmington's Rahul Rajkhewa before knocking off the host 49ers' Ryan Johnson, 6-3, 6-4. He closed the tournament with a three-set 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 triumph versus Thiago Barbosa of Winthrop.

Muthig handed UNC Wilmington's Seth Johnson a 6-0, 6-0 defeat to start the weekend before rallying to top Charlotte's Jorge Guzman, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4. He then closed his singles action with a 9-7 win against Jean-Michel Werk of Charlotte.

Freshman Scott Collins registered a pair of wins, starting with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over UNC Wilmington's Brian Ford. He later knocked off Germano Knorr of Winthrop, 6-3, 6-2.

Three Wofford players notched one singles victory apiece. 2005 All-Southern Conference pick Andrew Stubbs defeated Henrique Meloni of UNC Wilmington, 6-3, 6-0. Senior Chris Barlow used three sets to slide past the Seahawks' Dennis Myers, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 and junior Michael Barber recorded a 6-2, 7-5 win versus UNCW's Ben Kotwall.

In doubles action, Fridzon continued his strong performance with three doubles wins teaming with Barber. The Terrier pair opened with an 8-6 triumph against UNC Wilmington's Seth Johnson and Rahul Rajkhewa. The tandem then tallied an 8-3 victory against Stuart L ynas and Dorian Host of Charlotte before closing its play with a 9-8 win against Tobias Handschin and Germano Knorr of Winthrop.

The other Wofford doubles victory was an 8-4 decision by Chris Barlow and Andrew Stubbs over Winthrop's Jorge Padilla and Alejandro Portugal.
Former Terrier Johnson attempting to make pro tour
October 18, 2005

Former Terrier men's tennis player Brett Johnson, a 2005 Wofford graduate, is attempting to make the ATP Tour through a series of qualifying tournaments this fall. At a recent event called USA F23, he posted wins in the first and second rounds before losing in the third round to No. 1 seed Lester Cook. Johnson opened the event with a 6-3, 6-4 decision against Bijan Hejazi. He then knocked off Richard Chico Bonner in three sets, 3-6, 6-3, 6-0. Cook posted a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Johnson to close the former Terriers' run in the tournament. Johnson will continue to compete in other events throughout the fall in his bid to become a professional tennis player.
Johnson continues professional ambition
November 29, 2005

Former Wofford men's tennis player Brett Johnson, class of 2005, continued his quest to become a professional player by competing in a qualifying tournament this month in Mexico. Johnson opened the event with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over The Bahamas' Marvin Rolle. He then knocked off No. 11 seed Richard Wire of the United Kingdom, 6-3, 6-1. In his final match, Johnson fell to No. 4 seed Christoph Steiner of Austria, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

"I am thrilled with Brett's recent success," said Terrier head coach Rod Ray. "He did a great job for us and it is obvious he is enthusiastic about tennis."

As a senior last spring, he posted 12 singles victories playing mostly at the No. 2 slot while adding seven doubles wins.