

# SPORTS NEWS



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## Men's Tennis

For Immediate Release: September 9, 2002 • Contact: John Hartrick

### Bearcats open fall season with dual win

Binghamton opened the fall season with its traditional match against former Division III rival Ithaca on Thursday. The Bearcats posted a 7-0 victory — winning all six singles matches in straight sets. Sophomore No. 1 player **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** scored a 6-1, 6-0 victory, and senior No. 2 **Brad Davidoff (Roslyn, N.Y.)** posted a 6-1, 6-4 triumph. At the third spot, senior **Brad Sherwood (Bronx, N.Y./Fordham Prep)** picked up a 6-2, 6-2 win. In doubles, Rao and Sherwood notched an 8-1 pro-set win at number one.

### Rao leads strong showing at Bloomsburg Invite

On the weekend, BU competed in the four-team Bloomsburg Invitational — a non-scoring event that consisted of eight singles and four doubles matches against the host Huskies, Lehigh and Villanova. The Bearcats won seven of eight singles matches against Lehigh, and five against both Villanova and Bloomsburg. In doubles, BU took two of three matches against Lehigh, and captured two of four against both Villanova and Bloomsburg.

“We played reasonably well and gave it a great effort,” 15th-year head coach Michael Starke said.

Individually, **Rao** and senior **Ryan Rosenthal (Laverock, Pa./Cheltenham)** enjoyed the most success, with each player going a perfect 3-0. Rao lost just 11 games in six sets, while Rosenthal battled for three narrow wins at No. 6. The doubles tandem of **Rao** and **Sherwood** also was undefeated in the tournament. Rao and Rosenthal each drew praise from Starke for their performances.

“Akshay has picked up his game a whole level,” Starke said. “He comes to play, and is very stingy with the points he gives away. Ryan has come out with a great attitude and is trying his very best to gain a starting position in singles. He did a very nice job of maintaining his composure, and competed like a veteran on the court. I’m proud of his efforts.”

### Davidoff closing in on top-5 for career victories

Senior No. 2 **Davidoff**, who produced a BU-best 21-6 record in 2001-02, is quickly off to a 3-1 mark in this fall. He is now 53-33 for his career, which puts the steady baseliner in eighth position for career victories. Adam Marcus (1994-98) has the most career singles victories with 74.

### Academic honors for entire BU team

Coach **Michael Starke**’s entire tennis team again earned academic honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association last spring. For the sixth consecutive year, Starke’s team produced a 3.3 or higher GPA and was honored as an All-Academic Team by the ITA. Seven players were also named to the America East All-Academic squad.

### Up Next

The Bearcats are off until a September 17 dual match at Siena. Last year, BU defeated the Saints 7-0 on the West Gym courts.

### 2002 Fall Schedule/Results

#### SEPTEMBER

5 Thu.	ITHACA	W 7-0
7 Sat.-	@ Bloomsburg Duals	no scoring
8 Sun.	w/ Villanova, Lehigh	
17 Tue.	@ Siena	3:30 p.m.
21 Sat.-	@ Cornell Invitational	10 a.m.
22 Sun.		

#### OCTOBER

5 Sat.	@ Williams	10 a.m.
12 Sat.	BUFFALO	3 p.m.
25 Fri.-	@ ITA East Regional	9 a.m.
27 Sun.	hosted by Penn	

### Individual Records

Name	Pos.	Singles	Career
Akshay Rao	#1	4-0	18-5
Brad Davidoff	#2	3-1	53-33
Brad Sherwood	#3	3-1	30-23
Jordan Steinberg	#4	2-2	2-2
Brian O’Connor	#5	3-1	3-1
Ryan Rosenthal	#6	4-0	22-14

Team	Pos.	Doubles
Rao/Sherwood	#1	4-0
Davidoff/Rosenthal	#2-3-4	1-1
O’Connor/Steinberg	#2-3-4	1-2
Valle/Caiello	#2-3-4	1-2