

SPORTS NEWS



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Men's Tennis

For Immediate Release: September 24, 2002 • Contact: John Hartrick

Bearcats sink Siena to improve to 2-0

On the road, Binghamton (2-0) shut out Siena for the second straight year, winning all six singles matches in straight sets, and sweeping the doubles matches. Sophomore No. 1 player **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** posted a 6-1, 6-1 win and senior No. 2 **Brad Davidoff (Roslyn, N.Y.)** earned a 7-5, 6-4 victory. In his season debut after recovering from a broken finger, junior **Steve Spencer (Plantation, Fla./Nova)** won at third singles, 6-2, 6-3.

Rao steals show at Cornell Invitational

Sophomore **Akshay Rao (New Delhi, India)** captured the "A" singles flight at the Cornell Invitational over the weekend, building his case for a regional ranking. The invitational featured eight Division I schools — four of which are ranked in the Northeast region (#5 Cornell, #10 Yale, #11 Colgate, #13 Army).

Rao, unseeded in the draw, posted four victories to become the first BU tennis player to capture a singles title at the Cornell event. He knocked off the #3 seed, Army's Rafael Alborno, in the first round, 6-4, 6-3. Alborno, ranked 26th in the region, had defeated Rao in a dual match last spring. Rao then defeated an opponent from Cornell, 6-1, 6-2, in the quarterfinals, and scored a 6-1, 6-4 win over a Yale opponent in the semifinals. That same Yale player had earlier upended the region's 21st-ranked player and tournament top seed. Rao was then given a default win in the final when his Army opponent sustained an injury.

"In winning the title without losing a set, Akshay has announced his arrival on the East Region Division I tennis scene and a force to be reckoned with," head coach Michael Starke said. "The other schools in our region, including all of the Ivy's, will know of Akshay and will be on the look-out for him at the upcoming ITA Regionals."

Rao is now a perfect 9-0 for the fall, and is 23-5 in his short collegiate career.

Up Next

The Bearcats will next head to Williamstown, Mass., to face two-time defending Division III national champion, Williams College. The Ephs have won the NCAA Championship three times in the last four years, and have advanced to the national tournament eight consecutive springs.

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	W 7-0
21 Sat.-	@ Cornell Invitational	no scoring
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	9-0	23-5
Brad Davidoff	#2	4-2	54-34
Brad Sherwood	#3	3-1	30-23
Steve Spencer	#3	1-1	27-27
Jordan Steinberg	#4	4-3	4-3
Brian O'Connor	#5	4-2	4-2
Ryan Rosenthal	#6	5-1	23-15

Team	Pos.	Doubles
Rao/Sherwood	#1	4-1
Davidoff/Rosenthal	#2-3-4	1-1
O'Connor/Steinberg	#2-3-4	1-3