



May 20, 2002
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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Kops-Jones, Scheldt Set to Compete in NCAA Championships

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION BEGINS MONDAY: 64 singles and 32 doubles tandems will begin competition Monday in their quest to win the NCAA Singles and Doubles titles at the NCAA Championship at Stanford University. Representing the University of California in singles will be 22nd-ranked sophomore Raquel Kops-Jones (27-17). Kops-Jones will also join with Jody Scheldt in doubles, where the pair is ranked No. 20 (10-11).

CAL AT THE NCAAS: At least one Golden Bear has qualified for the last 16 consecutive NCAA singles and doubles tournaments. In 1998, '99 and '00 Amy Jensen, now an assistant coach for the Bears, became the only player in NCAA history to capture three consecutive NCAA doubles titles, giving Cal its first national championship.

PREVIEWING THE COMPETITION, SINGLES: Kops-Jones will meet Alena Jecminkova of Kansas State in the first round, which begins Monday at 10:00 a.m. Jecminkova is ranked No. 95 in the nation, boasting a 17-12 singles record, playing exclusively at the top singles spot for KSU. Her biggest win came against No. 37 Mariel Verba of Georgia at the Bulldog Invitational in September, where Jecminkova came away with a 7-6(5), 6-3 victory. Kops-Jones and Jecminkova have had four common opponents in 2002 in Arizona's No. 19 Maja Mlakar (Arizona), Dominique Reynolds (BYU), No. 69 Silvia Tornier (San Diego State) and No. 25 Vladika Uhlirva (Texas). Kops-Jones compiled a 3-1 record against these foes, while Jecminkova only posted a 1-3 mark.

Should Kops-Jones advance, she would meet one of two possible players in the second round Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.: 9/16 seed Alice Pirsu of Pennsylvania or Marlene Mejia of North Carolina. Pirsu is ranked No. 24 in the nation with a 31-10 singles record, playing exclusively at her team's top spot. Pirsu defeated No. 10 Sara Walker (UCLA), 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 at the Omni Hotels National Indoor Championships in October, as well as twice beating Mlakar, 6-4, 6-3 (ITA All-American Championships) and 6-2, 7-5 (William and Mary Invite) in the fall. Mejia is ranked at the No. 36 spot with a 15-10 overall singles record in 2002. Mejia has not won at match since April 7, dropping her last four straight, and leaving her last three unfinished. Her biggest win of the season came over No. 17 Adria Engel of Arizona State, in a 6-0, 6-2 romp.

PREVIEWING THE COMPETITION, DOUBLES: When Kops-Jones and Scheldt take the court Monday at 1:30, they will meet Indiana's combo of Karie Schlukebir and Linda Tran of Indiana, who are ranked No. 36 in the nation with a 34-9 record. The pair played exclusively at the team's top doubles court during the season. The tandem's biggest win of the season came in an 8-4 victory against Arizona's tandem of Debbie Laroque and Mlakar, ranked No. 9. That victory represented the only common opponent between Cal's and Indiana's doubles tandems, as Kops-Jones and Scheldt picked up an 8-5 win over Laroque and Mlakar.

Should Kops-Jones and Scheldt advance to the second round, they would meet either the No. 4 seeded and 8th-ranked team of Carolina Mayorga and Sarah Witten of Kentucky, or Virginia Commonwealth's Martina Nedelkova and Andrea Ondrisova. The 2nd round match begins Tuesday at 2pm. Mayorga and Witten own a 32-10 record on the season. The tandem's biggest win of 2002 came just last week, when they upset No. 1-ranked doubles pairing of Lauren Kalvaria and Gabriella Lastra of Stanford 8-3, helping Kentucky to win the doubles point over the eventual national champion. Nedelkova and Ondrisova, ranked No. 25, boast a 19-5 dual record. The pair were instrumental in unseeded VCU's unprecedented run to the NCAA Quarterfinals last week.

CALIFORNIA AT NATIONALS

Singles 1st Round

Monday, May 20
Kops-Jones vs. Jecminkova
10:00 a.m.

Doubles 1st Round

Monday, May 20
Kops-Jones/Scheldt vs.
Schlukebir/Tran (Indiana)
1:30 p.m.

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP Stanford University Schedule of Events May 16-May 25

Individuals

Monday, May 20
Singles 1st Round
10, 11:30, 1:30, 3:30

Tuesday, May 21
Singles 2nd, Doubles 1st
10, 11:30, 1:30, 3:30

Wednesday, May 22
Singles 3rd, Doubles 2nd
10, 11:30, 1:30, 3:30

Thursday, May 23
Singles/Doubles Quarters
11:00 a.m.

Friday, May 24
Singles/Doubles Semifinals
12:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 25
Singles/Doubles Finals
12:00 p.m.

All events at Taube Family
Tennis Stadium, except
where noted.

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM
2002 Updated Bios

No. 22 Raquel Kops-Jones

Sophomore Experience: 1V Height: 5-6 Fresno, CA (Palmer Academy)

Singles: 11-12 dual, 27-17 overall

Doubles: 13-10 dual, 20-12 overall (with Arguelles, Fusano (ranked No. 22), Scheldt (ranked No. 20))

Named second team All-Pac-10 in 2002...will compete for NCAA Singles Championship...with Christina Fusano, won Pac-10 Doubles Championship...the pair had never played together before opening round of Pac-10s...pair is 6-0 and holds down a No. 22 ranking entering NCAA Championships...will play in NCAA Doubles Championship with Jody Scheldt...pair is ranked 20th in nation...in singles, advanced to semifinals at Pac-10 Tournament in April, defeating No. 16 Lauren Barnikow of Stanford and No. 50 Erica Perkins of Washington State to make it...played majority of the season at the top spot for the Bears, boasting an 11-9 record there...upset eighth-ranked Jewel Peterson of USC in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1 on 4/19...knocked off No. 19 Maja Mlakar of Arizona, 6-2, 6-4 to key Cal's 6-1 victory in the desert...won four of five and seven of nine matches to open season...advanced to semifinals of Omni Northwest Region Championships by dropping Washington's Darija Klavic, 6-3, 6-3...in doubles, played entire regular season with Scheldt at No. 1 court...pair had a 10-10 record there...despite having played only one match together prior to start of season, Kops-Jones and Scheldt won nine of their first 10 matches at the top court, including a key victory over Fresno State's Kim Niggemeyer and Simone Jardim...with Arguelles, advanced to semifinals of Omni Northwest Region Championships in fall.

Jody Scheldt

Sophomore Experience: TR Height: 5-7 Bonsall, CA (University of Iowa)

Singles: 12-8 dual, 15-9 overall

Doubles: 10-10 dual, 10-11 overall (with Jacobs, Kops-Jones (ranked No. 20))

Selected with Raquel Kops-Jones to compete for NCAA Doubles Championship...joined team in January, just before the regular season...at NCAA Regionals, defeated BYU's Brooke Beverley, 6-4, 6-0 to help Cal to 4-0 victory...dominated USC's Anita Loyola 6-1, 6-2 in Bears' 4-3 upset over USC on 4/6...season highlight was near-perfect match over Oregon's Ester Bak...embarrassed Bak, 6-0, 6-0...won first three matches as a Golden Bear, and four of first five...advanced to the finals of her draw at the Pac-10 Indoors in January in her first event with the team, defeating Washington State's Nora Gaal in the semis...paired with Kops-Jones in doubles...played exclusively on No. 1 court, compiling 10-10 dual match record...pair won eight of first nine, including first three matches...in three match stretch in March, tandem defeated the ninth, 10th and 11th ranked teams in the nation...will be paired with Jieun Jacobs during NCAA team championship.