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WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, January 13, 2022

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

[Head coach Greg Davis Interview](#)

LADY TOPPER TENNIS OPENS 2023 CAMPAIGN AT BELLARMINE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — WKU Tennis starts its 2023 spring season on Saturday, January 14, as the Lady Toppers travel to Bellarmine for their first dual match of the year. Doubles play at the Eddie Weber Tennis Complex will begin at 3:30 p.m. CT.

"Bellarmine is going to be a difficult team," head coach Greg Davis said. "We watched them in the fall. We are very familiar with their program. They are a much deeper team than they were last year. It is the first match of the year, too. Everybody is up for it. We're kind of going into a lion's den this Saturday and we are going to be prepared."

WKU is 8-0 all-time against Bellarmine, with the first matchup a 7-0 victory in 2006 and the most recent being a 5-2 win in 2022. In 2021, the Knights made the jump to NCAA Division I and the Atlantic Sun Conference and proceeded to go 0-17. Last season, the Knights finished 1-22, with their win coming against Southern Indiana, 6-1. Bellarmine previously competed in Division II and the Great Lakes Athletic Conference.

In three fall events – the Austin Peay Invitational, Middle Tennessee Invitational and Bellarmine Invitational – WKU went an outstanding 46-16 overall in singles play and posted a 16-13 record in doubles. The Lady Toppers returned to organized team practices after New Year's in preparation for the spring season.

WKU finished the 2022 spring campaign with a 18-9 overall record, the program's best record since 1985 and the second most wins in a season in program history. The Lady Toppers capped the season with five straight victories in the regular season before losing in the first round of the C-USA Tournament to UAB, 4-2. The team returns five letterwinners – Sofia Blanco, Paola Cortez, Rachel Hermanova, Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada – to go along with newcomers Sunskrithi Damera and Sayda Hernandez.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, January 14, 2022

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

BOX SCORE AND SEASON STATISTICS ATTACHED

LADY TOPPERS COMPLETE COMEBACK IN FIRST MATCH OF 2023 SEASON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — WKU Tennis began its 2023 campaign with a 4-3 comeback victory at Bellarmine on Saturday night. The Lady Toppers improved to 9-0 all-time against the Knights, including wins in three straight seasons.

WKU fell behind early, losing the doubles point. The No. 1 pair of Paola Cortez and Sayda Hernandez were the first to finish in Louisville, losing 6-3 to the top doubles team at Bellarmine. In the No. 2 spot, Sofia Blanco and Samantha Martinez also came up short, losing by a score of 6-3, as well.

Down 1-0 after doubles, the Lady Toppers had some ground to make up in singles and they did just that.

Sayda Hernandez got WKU on the board with a 6-4, 6-2 win at the No. 2 position after the squad fell behind 2-0, losing at the No. 3 spot. Bellarmine then responded, winning at the No. 1 to take a commanding 3-1 lead going into the final three matches of the day.

The bottom of the Lady Toppers' lineup showcased its depth, as the No. 4, 5 and 6 singles results all went to the Lady Toppers. Rachel Hermanova and Sunskrithi Damera each posted straight-set wins to tie the match at 3-3, making the winner of the No. 6 spot decide the match. The sophomore Zegada secured the win for WKU winning in a thrilling three-set match 6-2, 1-6, 6-4.

"Big win after getting in a hole 3-1," head coach Greg Davis said. "Bellarmine really had a great deal of momentum, but Sayda got a big one at two. Our 4-5-6 singles finished it for the victory. I am very proud of the team winning a tough one on the road."

The Lady Toppers are back in action next weekend in starting with a doubleheader in Bowling Green against UT Chattanooga and Eastern Kentucky on Friday, January 20. They head to Clarksville on Saturday, January 21 for a road matchup with the Austin Peay Governors.

WKU and Chattanooga will begin play on Friday at 1 p.m. at the Michael O. Buchanon Tennis Facility.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 3,2,1,4,5,6)

- 1: Ekaterina Tikhonko (BELL) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0
- 2: Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Lailaa Bashir (BELL) 6-4, 6-2
- 3: Vendula Kryslova (BELL) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-1, 6-3
- 4: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Cydney Rogers (BELL) 6-2, 6-4
- 5: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Hanley Riner (BELL) 6-3, 7-5
- 6: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Shu Grosso (BELL) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4

Doubles (Order of finish 1,2)

- 1: Kryslova/Tikhonko (BELL) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
- 2: Bashir/Rogers (BELL) vs. Blanco/Martinez (WKU) 6-3
- 3: Riner/Varnum (BELL) vs. Hermanova/Zegada (WKU) 5-2, unfinished

WKU Tennis
WKU Season Statistics (Through games of Jan 13, 2023)

Overall record: 1-0 • C-USA: 0-0 • Region: 0-0 • Home: 0-0 • Away: 1-0 • Neutral: 0-0
vs National ranked: 0-0 • vs Regional ranked: 0-0

SINGLES	Overall	Dual	Tour	C-USA							vs ranked		Strk	Last 10
					1	2	3	4	5	6	Nat'l	Reg'l		
Sofia Blanco	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	---	---	0-1	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	0-1
Paola Cortez	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	---	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	0-1
Sunskriithi Damera	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	---	---	---	---	1-0	---	0-0	0-0	W1	1-0
Rachel Hermanova	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	---	---	---	1-0	---	---	0-0	0-0	W1	1-0
Sayda Hernandez	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	---	1-0	---	---	---	---	0-0	0-0	W1	1-0
Mariana Zegada	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	---	---	---	---	---	1-0	0-0	0-0	W1	1-0
Totals	4-2	4-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0		
Percentage	.667	.667	.000	.000	.000	1.000	.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	.000	.000		

DOUBLES TEAMS	Overall	Dual	Tour	C-USA				vs ranked		Strk	Last 10
					1	2	3	Nat'l	Reg'l		
Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	---	---	0-0	0-0	L1	0-1
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	---	0-1	---	0-0	0-0	L1	0-1
Totals	0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	---	0-0	0-0		
Percentage	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	---	.000	.000		

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	C-USA	Nation	Region
Jan 14, 2023	at Bellarmine	W 4-3	1-0	0-0		

WKU Tennis
WKU Season Statistics (Through games of Jan 13, 2023)

DOUBLES	Overall	Dual	Tour	C-USA	1	2	3	vs	ranked
								Nat'l	Reg'l
Sofia Blanco	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	---	0-1	---	0-0	0-0
Paola Cortez	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	---	---	0-0	0-0
Rachel Hermanova	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0
Sayda Hernandez	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	---	---	0-0	0-0
Samantha Martinez	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	---	0-1	---	0-0	0-0
Mariana Zegada	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	---	---	---	0-0	0-0
Totals	0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	---	0-0	0-0
Percentage	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	---	.000	.000

Tennis Match Results
WKU vs Bellarmine
Jan 14, 2023 at Louisville, Ky.
(Eddie Weber Tennis Complex)

WKU 4, Bellarmine 3

Singles competition

1. Ekaterina Tikhonko (BELL) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0
2. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Lailaa Bashir (BELL) 6-4, 6-2
3. Vendula Kryslova (BELL) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-1, 6-3
4. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Cydney Rogers (BELL) 6-2, 6-4
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Hanley Riner (BELL) 6-3, 7-5
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Shu Grosso (BELL) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4

Doubles competition

1. Ekaterina Tikhonko/Lailaa Bashir (BELL) def. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
2. Vendula Kryslova/Cydney Rogers (BELL) def. Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) 6-3
3. Hanley Riner/Shu Grosso (BELL) vs. Rachel Hermanova/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 5-2, unfinished

Match Notes:

WKU 1-0

Bellarmine 0-2

Order of finish: Doubles (1,2); Singles (3,2,1,4,5,6)

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, January 19, 2022

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS HOST DOUBLEHEADER FRIDAY; VISIT LIPSCOMB SATURDAY

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues its 2023 spring season on Friday, January 20, as the team hosts UT Chattanooga and Eastern Kentucky for a doubleheader before heading to Nashville for a matchup with Lipscomb on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. CT. Doubles play at the Michael O. Buchanan Tennis Facility will begin at 1 p.m. CT against Chattanooga and 6 p.m. CT against Eastern Kentucky.

WKU is 3-7 all-time against UT Chattanooga, playing for the first time in 1982, when the Lady Toppers beat the Mocs for the first time in program history, 4-2 in Bowling Green. Last season, the Lady Toppers hosted the Mocs, beating them for the first time since 2017, 4-3.

UT Chattanooga had a dual match record of 9-9 in 2021, going 2-5 in Southern Conference play. In 2022, they held a record of 14-9, losing in the second round of the conference tournament to Furman, 4-0, who eventually won the Southern Conference Tournament.

The Mocs currently have a 1-0 record after beating UNC Asheville last Sunday by a score of 4-3.

The Lady Toppers are 6-10 all-time against Eastern Kentucky, meeting for the first time in 1974. The Colonels were victorious, winning the match 7-2 in Richmond, Ky. The sides have not met since 2018 when WKU pulled out the win, 5-2, in DeLand, Fla.

The ECU Women's Tennis program has not seen action since 2018 when it was in the Ohio Valley Conference. They held a record of 16-9, going 9-0 in conference play. The team made the NCAA Tournament and lost in the first round to #4 Georgia Tech, 4-0.

The Colonels are scheduled to play its first matches of the season today, January 19, against Northern Kentucky and Campbellsville.

WKU is 14-13 all-time against Lipscomb, with the first matchup taking place in 2001. Last season, Lipscomb visited The Hill for the first time since 2011 where the Lady Toppers got the win over the Bisons for the first time since 2018, winning the dual match 4-3.

Lipscomb had a dual match record of 10-9 in 2021, losing in the second round of the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament to North Florida, 4-0. In 2022, they went 6-14, while finishing 2-7 in conference play.

The Bisons faced North Dakota last Sunday, winning by a score of 5-2 in their first dual match of the regular season.

WKU has started its season 1-0 in dual matches with a 4-3 comeback win at Bellarmine last Saturday.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, January 20, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

WKU TENNIS SPLITS FRIDAY DOUBLEHEADER

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 campaign splitting its doubleheader on Friday against UT Chattanooga and Eastern Kentucky. The Lady Toppers move to 2-1 on the year, while the Mocs improve to 2-0 and the Colonels drop to 1-2.

UT Chattanooga Recap

The Lady Toppers started slow, losing the doubles point for the second straight match. Chattanooga took all three doubles matches giving the Mocs an early 1-0 lead.

WKU was unable to gain momentum in singles play, dropping the match on court three, 6-2, 6-2. Down 2-0, the Lady Toppers put their first point on the board. Rachel Hermanova won in straight sets on court four, 7-5, 6-3. The sophomore improves to 2-0 on the season and 21-5 in her collegiate career. Following that, the Mocs took a commanding 3-1 lead by winning at No. 5 6-4, 7-6 (3). On court one, Paola Cortez earned her first win of the season, winning in three sets, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3. The junior moves to 1-1 on the season. Unlike the season opener, the Lady Toppers could not complete the comeback, dropping the final two matches at No. 6 and No. 2, making the final score, 5-2, in favor of Chattanooga.

Final Results vs. UT Chattanooga

Singles (Order of finish: 3,4,5,1,6,2)

- 1: Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Coco Bosman (UTC) 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3
- 2: Jessie Young (UTC) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3
- 3: Caroline Gibbens (UTC) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-2, 6-2
- 4: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Nicole Abel (UTC) 7-5, 6-3
- 5: Lucia Garrigues-Melendez (UTC) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-4, 7-6 (3)
- 6: Pippa Bosman (UTC) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-2

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,1,3)

- 1: Young/Gibbens (UTC) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 6-4
- 2: Abel/Garrigues-Melendez (UTC) def. Blanco/Zegada (WKU) 6-3
- 3: C. Bosman/P. Bosman (UTC) def. Damera/Martinez (WKU) 6-3

Eastern Kentucky Recap

WKU won the doubles point for the first time this season in dominant fashion. The No. 3 duo of Martinez and Zegada did not drop a game, winning 6-0. To follow that up, the No. 2 pair of Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova also took care of business, winning 6-1, to secure the doubles point going into singles play.

In singles play, Blanco, Sunskrithi Damera, and Mariana Zegada each won in straight sets to clinch the win for the Lady Toppers. Blanco earned her first win of the season, winning her match on court four, 6-1, 6-2. Damera got her second win as a Lady Topper, 6-2, 6-1 on court five. The junior is now 2-1 on the season. Zegada also improved to 2-1 on the year, getting the match-securing victory, 6-2, 6-2 on court six to go up 4-0.

With the match already won, the final three matches were played out. Paola Cortez collected her second win of the day, 6-1, 6-4 on court one. The court two and three matches each went to a third-set tiebreaker, with both Lady Toppers coming out on top. Sayda Hernandez extended the lead, winning 6-0, 3-6, 10-5. The junior claimed her second win of the season, also improving to 2-1. The final match to finish was on court three, where Hermanova earned her second win of the day, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8. The sophomore stays undefeated on the season, moving to 3-0 and now 22-5 in her collegiate career. She is now tied for 10th in career wins at WKU with Laura Coffey (2003-05).

"I thought we played really well in the second match. EKU is coming off a win yesterday before they came over and they played a really good match against Northern Kentucky as well," Davis said. "They have a really good team. They have done an exceptional job putting together a good, competitive team in a short amount of time. We had a tough first match against Chattanooga. Our doubles did not play especially well. Chattanooga had a lot to do with that. We were right there. We just had a couple matches we just could not pull out that could have gone either way in singles, but I give UT Chattanooga credit. They played well and kept the pressure on us the whole match from doubles to singles. Coming into the second match, we were really focused on coming out and playing with energy in doubles and we did a great job of that. We were very happy to carry it over to singles, one through six. I thought this was going to be a lot closer match than 7-0 and I think that has a lot to do with how well we played. I am very proud of the team for coming back after a tough loss earlier in the day."

Final Results vs. Eastern Kentucky

Singles (Order of finish: 4,5,6,1,2,3)

- 1: Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Elena Tairian (EKU) 6-4, 6-3
- 2: Sayda Hernandez (WKU) vs. Daniela Hernandez (EKU) 4-6, 6-4
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) vs. Emmeline Polevoi (EKU) 7-6 (2), 3-3
- 4: Sofia Blanco (WKU) vs. Sasha Parkhomenko (EKU) 2-6, 6-2, 1-4
- 5: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Mariia Triska (EKU) 6-1, 6-3
- 6: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Madison Hill (EKU) 6-3, 6-2

Doubles (Order of finish 3,2)

- 1: Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) vs. Hernandez/Parkhomenko (EKU) 6-4
- 2: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Tairian/Polevoi (EKU) 6-4
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Hill/Triska (EKU) 6-0

The Lady Toppers head to Nashville tomorrow to take on the Lipscomb Bisons at 4 p.m. CT.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, January 21, 2022

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS SHOWCASE DEPTH; BEAT LIPSCOMB IN NASHVILLE

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season with a 5-2 win against the Lipscomb Bisons in Nashville, Tenn. this afternoon. The Lady Toppers improve to 3-1, while the Bisons move to 2-1.

"We played well in doubles and that carried over into singles," head coach Greg Davis said. "The key was keeping our momentum going and we won four first sets. I think that put a tremendous amount of pressure on the opposition. Lipscomb is a very deep and talented team, so beating them on the road is a great accomplishment."

The Lady Toppers were able to secure the doubles point for the second straight match, once again winning on court two and three. The No. 2 duo of Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova earned their second win in a row, only dropping one game, winning 6-1. To follow that up, Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada put the first point on the board for WKU, winning on court three, 6-4.

Up 1-0 heading into singles, the Bisons responded by winning the court one and two matches, both in straight sets to take the lead, 2-1. Although, that would be the final time Lipscomb would add to the scoreboard.

The last four matches all resulted in wins for the Lady Toppers, starting with Sunskrithi Damera taking care of business on court five, only dropping a single game, winning 6-0, 6-1. She collects her second straight win, bringing her to 3-1 on the season. Just after that, Hermanova won on court three to remain unbeaten. The 6-3, 6-3 victory brings her to 4-0 on the year and 23-5 in her career and now in sole possession of the No. 10 spot on the program's all-time singles win list. The match-clinching point came from Blanco, who also won in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3. With the match decided, the final competition of the day was played out. Martinez extended the lead for WKU winning in three sets, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2. The final tally ended in 5-2, in favor of the Lady Toppers.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 2,1,5,3,4,6)

- 1: Sasha Dobranos (LIP) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-1, 6-2
- 2: Sofiiia Paladi (LIP) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3, 6-1
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Anja Trbeznic (LIP) 6-3, 6-3
- 4: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Liza Diachenko (LIP) 6-1, 6-3
- 5: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Taisia Yakunina (LIP) 6-0, 6-1
- 6: Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Alina Cherniaieva (LIP) 6-1, 4-6, 6-2

Doubles (Order of finish 2,3)

- 1: Dobranos/Paladi (LIP) vs. Dobranos/Diachenko (LIP) 5-4, unfinished
- 2: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Trbeznic/Cherniaieva (LIP) 6-1
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Diachenko/Howard (LIP) 6-4

WKU's next three matches will take place in Bowling Green, continuing with matchups against Austin Peay on Thursday, January 26 followed by a doubleheader on Sunday, Jan. 29 against Western Carolina and Western Illinois. All matches will be played at the Warren County Tennis Complex, starting at 2 p.m. CT against the Governors on Thursday.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Wednesday, January 25, 2022

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

[Head coach Davis Interview](#)

WKU TENNIS HOSTS AUSTIN PEAY FOR MIDWEEK MATCHUP

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this Thursday, January 26 at home against Austin Peay.

Doubles play, indoors, at the Warren County Tennis Complex will begin at 2 p.m. CT.

"We have great respect for Austin Peay," head coach Greg Davis said. "They are a team we played very tough last year. This year they have a tremendous team put together, very deep. They have been to the NCAA Tournament several times the last two or three seasons. We are looking forward to that match. We know we are going to be in for a tough match. It could go down to the last match possible on Thursday."

Last weekend, WKU played three matches in two days against UT Chattanooga, Eastern Kentucky, and Lipscomb. The Lady Toppers split the Friday doubleheader, losing to the Mocs and beating the Colonels. The squad earned its second win in a row the following day, beating the Bisons in Nashville. The Lady Toppers improved to 3-1 on the season, marking the first time the team has won three of its first four games in back-to-back years since the 2010-11 spring seasons.

WKU is 29-12 all-time against Austin Peay, playing for the first time in 1981. Before last season, the sides had played 10 straight matches in Clarksville. Tomorrow will mark the second time in a row they will match up in Bowling Green. The Governors have gotten the best of the Lady Toppers the last four times they have squared off, getting the win last season, 4-3. The last time WKU beat Austin Peay was in 2017 in Clarksville, winning 5-2.

In the 2021 season, the Governors finished 12-4, losing in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to No. 3 Georgia, 4-0. In 2022, they went 11-7 in the regular season, losing in the second round of the OVC Tournament, 4-1 to Southeast Missouri.

Austin Peay has started its 2023 campaign 0-1 after losing to Middle Tennessee, 4-3 last Sunday.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Wednesday, January 26, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

HERMANOVA WINS C-USA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – Lady Topper Tennis sophomore Rachel Hermanova has been named Conference USA Athlete of the Week, the league announced Wednesday.

It is Hermanova's first athlete of the week honor and WKU's first player of the week this season.

Hermanova finished last weekend 3-0 with wins against UT Chattanooga, Eastern Kentucky, and Lipscomb. She managed to only drop one set in three matches winning 7-5, 6-3 at the No. 4 spot against Chattanooga, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8 at No. 3 against Eastern Kentucky, and 6-3, 6-3 at No. 3 against Lipscomb. Hermanova is now 4-0 on the 2023 season and 23-5 on her collegiate career. Her 23 singles wins are good for No. 10 all-time in WKU program history.

The Lady Toppers will be in action again tomorrow, Jan. 26, when they host Austin Peay. Doubles is scheduled for a 2 p.m. CT start time.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, January 26, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS FALL TO AUSTIN PEAY ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season Thursday afternoon against the Austin Peay Governors. The Lady Toppers fell, 6-1, dropping them to 3-2, while the Governors earn their first win of the season, bringing them to 1-1.

WKU lost a hard-fought doubles point to begin the dual-match. After losing at No. 1, the No. 3 pair of Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada evened the score by winning, 6-2. The duo improves to 3-0 on the season, good for the best doubles record on the squad. For Martinez, this doubles win puts her in sole possession of No. 2 on the program's all-time doubles wins list with 32, passing Lisa Friess (2017, 2019-21) and Laura Bernardos (2019-22).

The doubles point came down to the court two match, where the Lady Toppers lost the tiebreaker 7-6 (1) to go down 0-1 into singles play.

The Lady Toppers lost four straight singles matches in straight sets, giving the Governors a 5-0 lead and securing the win.

Martinez obtained the only point on the scoreboard for the Lady Toppers, winning 7-5, 6-1 at No. 6 and earning her second win of the day. Following that, Austin Peay claimed the 6-1 victory after winning the match on court four, 6-1, 6-3.

"Austin Peay shows why they have made the NCAA Tournament two or three times the last few years, as well as winning their conference," head coach Greg Davis said. "They are a really deep team. Give them all the credit in the world. I was really happy with our doubles. What we wanted to do coming in was to put ourselves in position to win the doubles point and we did that. It just kind of got away from us, I thought. We struggled a little bit to hold serve. I thought overall, it was some of the best doubles we have played. Their three teams are the best doubles teams we have played all year and we put ourselves in position to win the point, so I could not have asked for anything more than that. Singles, I give them all the credit. They came out very decisive in the first sets and had all the momentum after that. We only won one first set, so when you come out like this against a team who has qualified for the NCAA Tournament, you are going to have to come out and win four first sets at least to change the momentum and we really struggled to do that. A lot of that had to do with Austin Peay being a very good team."

The Lady Toppers continue the spring campaign with a home doubleheader this Sunday, January 29 with matchups against Western Carolina and Western Illinois. Doubles play is set to begin at noon against Western Carolina at the Warren County Tennis Complex.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 3,5,1,2,6,4)

- 1: Denise Torrealba (APSU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-2, 6-2
- 2: Jana Leder (APSU) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-2, 6-4
- 3: Melody Hefti (APSU) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-1, 6-0
- 4: Yu-Hua Cheng (APSU) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-1, 6-3
- 5: Sophia Baranov (APSU) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-0, 6-0
- 6: Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Asia Fontana (APSU) 7-5, 6-1

Doubles (Order of finish 1,3,2)

- 1: Leder/Hefti (APSU) def. Hernandez/Damera (WKU) 6-1
- 2: Torrealba/Cheng (APSU) def. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) 7-6 (1)
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Lascheck/Baranova (WKU) 6-2

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, January 28, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

WKU TENNIS LOOKS AHEAD TO SUNDAY DOUBLEHEADER

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this Sunday, January 29 with a doubleheader at home against Western Carolina and Western Illinois. Doubles play at the Warren County Tennis Complex is set to begin at 12 p.m. CT against Western Carolina and continue at 4 p.m. CT against Western Illinois.

The Lady Toppers are coming off a loss last Thursday at home against Austin Peay, 6-1. This brings them to 3-2 on the season, while the Governors improved to 1-1.

Sunday will mark the first ever meeting between WKU and Western Carolina. In 2021, the Catamounts finished the year an even 9-9. They improved the following season, going 12-10 losing to Samford in the first round of the SoCon Tournament, 4-0. They have started this season 1-0 after sweeping Lenoir Rhyne, 7-0, on Jan. 21.

All-time, WKU is 3-1 against Western Illinois, playing for the first time in 1983. The Lady Toppers have won the last three meetings between the sides, only surrendering one point total in those three matches. They last met in 2020, when WKU got the sweep, 7-0 in Indianapolis.

The Fighting Leathernecks finished with a 1-10 record in 2021. The following year, they improved to 3-12. Western Illinois is 2-0 on the young season, beating St. Ambrose, 7-0 last fall and winning its first game of the spring against IUPUI, 4-3, yesterday in Indianapolis.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, January 29, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS DOUBLES SHINE; SPLIT SUNDAY DOUBLEHEADER

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 campaign splitting its second doubleheader of the season on Sunday against Western Carolina and Western Illinois. The Lady Toppers move to 4-3 on the year, while the Catamounts improve to 2-0 and the Fighting Leathernecks drop to 2-1.

Western Carolina Recap

The Lady Toppers started fast, winning the doubles point for the third time this season. The No. 1 duo of Sayda Hernandez and Sunskrithi Damera earned their first win of the season as a duo, winning 6-1. Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova clinched the first point, winning their match on court two, 6-3. The No. 2 pair got its third win on the year, improving to 3-1.

In singles, the momentum did not carry over for the Lady Toppers. Losing four of six singles matches to make the final decision, 4-3 in favor of Western Carolina.

Sophomores Sofia Blanco and Mariana Zegada both obtained their third singles win on the year. Blanco won in straight sets at No. 3, 6-4, 6-0, while Zegada won 6-4, 6-4 on court five.

Final Results vs. Western Carolina

Singles (Order of finish: 1,3,4,5,6,2)

- 1: Isabella Sambola (WCU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-0, 6-4
- 2: Madison Schwarz (WCU) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. 3-6, 7-5, 6-3
- 3: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Leilany Ipunesso (WCU) 6-4, 6-0
- 4: Jade Groen (WCU) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-1, 6-3
- 5: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Angela Perez (WCU) 6-4, 6-4
- 6: Andrea Radondo (WCU) def. Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. 6-4, 0-6, 7-5

Doubles (Order of finish: 1,2)

- 1: Damera/Hernandez (WKU) def. C. Schwarz/M. Schwarz (WCU) 6-1
- 2: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Perez/Sambola (WCU) 6-3
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) vs. Redondo/Groen (WCU) 5-4, unfinished

Western Illinois Recap

WKU won the doubles point for the second time today and the fourth time this season. The No. 2 duo of Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova claimed its second doubles win of the day, winning 6-1. Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada clinched the point after their 6-2 win on court three. The final match on court one was played out, resulting in the No. 1 pair of Sayda Hernandez and Sunskrithi Damera getting the 7-5 win.

In singles play, the Lady Toppers kept it rolling, not dropping a single set on the way to a 7-0 sweep.

Zegada was the first to finish on court five, only dropping two games in the first set. The sophomore won 6-2, 6-0 to improve to 4-2 on the season. Shortly after, Martinez won 12 straight games at No. 6 winning 6-0, 6-0 to improve to 3-1 in singles. Blanco delivered the match-winning point, only losing a single game 6-0, 6-1 and improving to 4-3 on the year.

With the match decided, the final three matches were played out. Damera claimed her fourth win of the season, winning 6-1, 6-0 on court four. Hernandez earned her first win at the No. 1 spot winning 6-1, 6-3, and gets her third win of the season. Hermanova finished off the sweep for the Lady Toppers, winning 6-2, 6-4. The sophomore improves to 5-

2 on the season and 24-7 in her career. Her 24 singles wins are tied for ninth all-time with former teammate Cora-Lynn von Dungern (2020-2022).

"I thought in the first match our intensity was good. I thought we played really good doubles today, first and second match. We wanted to get in position to win the match and we did that. We just had trouble finishing it," Davis said. "I give credit to Western Carolina. They have a really good team, and they are deep one through six. There really was not an easy match out there the whole day in the first match. We will learn from it and get better. In the second match we came back, and I am glad we had that type of performance that was consistent one through six and our doubles as well. One thing I talked about a couple weeks ago was our doubles getting better and it improved a great deal in these last few matches we have had."

Final Results vs. Western Illinois

Singles (Order of finish: 5,6,3,4,1,2)

- 1: Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Paige Grice (WIU) 6-1, 6-3
- 2: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Lara Diniz de Souza (WIU) 6-2, 6-4
- 3: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Lorena Catellanos (WIU) 6-0, 6-1
- 4: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Aina Cortina-Pou (WIU) 6-1, 6-0
- 5: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Agatha Carbonell (WIU) 6-2, 6-0
- 6: Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Lucky Kancherla (WIU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish 2,3,1)

- 1: Damera/Hernandez (WKU) def. Rybka/Diniz de Souza (WIU) 7-5
- 2: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Grice/Carbonell (WIU) 6-1
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Cortina-Pou/Kancherla (WIU) 6-2

The Lady Toppers will be back in action next Sunday, February 5 in Nashville against the Belmont Bruins at 2 p.m. CT.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, February 4, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS HEAD TO NASHVILLE TO FACE BELMONT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this weekend with a road matchup against the Belmont Bruins in Nashville, Tenn. on Sunday, February 5. Doubles play at the Ensworth Tennis Center will begin at 2 p.m. CT.

"Belmont up next this Sunday," head coach Greg Davis said. "They are always tough, especially in Nashville. We know we are going to have our hands full walking in."

Last weekend, the Lady Toppers hosted a doubleheader on Sunday, January 29 against Western Carolina and Western Illinois. WKU moves to 4-3 after splitting the two matches, falling to the Catamounts, 4-3, and sweeping the Fighting Leathernecks, 7-0.

WKU is 11–17 all-time against Belmont, playing the Bruins for the first time in 1998. The Lady Toppers won four of the first five meetings between the two programs. They met last season in Bowling Green, where the Lady Toppers took the win, 6-1.

Belmont has started the 2023 campaign 2-1, coming off a win against Central Arkansas in Nashville, 5-1. The lone loss came against Austin Peay in Clarksville by a score of 5-2. They have an upcoming home match today, February 4 against ETSU at 4 p.m. CT.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, February 5, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS CONTINUE MOMENTUM WITH WIN AT BELMONT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Sunday with a 5-2 win against Belmont. The Lady Toppers improve to 5-3 on the year, while the Bruins fall to 2-3.

The Lady Toppers won the doubles point for the third consecutive match. The Bruins struck first, winning the court one match, 6-1, but the Lady Toppers responded winning on courts two and three. At No. 3, Sayda Hernandez and Mariana Zegada earned their first win as a duo, while only dropping one game, 6-1. Shortly after, Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova secured the doubles point on court two, winning 6-4. The two improve to, a team-best, 5-1 in doubles on the year.

In singles play, the Bruins evened the score after the first match finished, winning on court one. Zegada took the win on court six to regain the lead for the Lady Toppers, 6-4, 6-0. The sophomore gets her third win in a row and improves to 5-2 on the season. Belmont was able to tie the match 2-2 after winning on court two, but that would be the final point the Bruins would add to the scoreboard.

Sunskrithi Damera claimed the third point for WKU on court five, winning in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1. The junior improves to 5-3 on the year and gets her second win in a row. With the match-clinching point, Blanco secured the win for the Lady Toppers winning in a thrilling three-set match. The sophomore dropped the first set, but rallied to get the 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 decision and seal the victory. Rachel Hermanova added the fifth point of the day, also winning in three sets, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1. The sophomore improves to 6-2 this season and 25-7 in her career. She is now tied for sixth all-time for singles wins in program history, tied with Nina Kostava (2000-02) and Lisa Friess (2017, 2019-21).

"Winning the doubles point was huge in this match." head coach Greg Davis said. "We used that momentum and it helped us keep the lead throughout the match. Our team played with a tremendous amount of heart, and I couldn't be happier for them. It took a true team effort to beat a very talented Belmont team."

The Lady Toppers continue the spring campaign next week in Bowling Green, with a matchup against Murray State on Friday, February 10. The match will begin at 6 p.m. CT at the Warren County Tennis Complex.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 1,6,2,5,4,3)

- 1: Mariia Hlahola (BU) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-2, 6-3
- 2: Abi Solomon (BU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 7-6 (5), 6-4
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Meredith Roberts (BU) 4-6, 7-5, 6-1
- 4: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Taylor Trondson (BU) 5-7, 6-1, 6-1
- 5: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Libbie Hamilton (BU) 6-3, 6-1
- 6: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Aly Getty (BU) 6-4, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish 1,3,2)

- 1: Hlahola/Solomon (BU) def. Cortez/Martinez (WKU) 6-1
- 2: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Roberts/Trondson (BU) 6-4
- 3: Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) def. Hamilton/Getty (BU) 6-1

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, February 9, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

WKU TENNIS TO HOST MURRAY STATE ON FRIDAY NIGHT

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this week on Friday, February 10 against Murray State.

Doubles play at the Warren County Tennis Complex will begin at 6 p.m. CT.

"Murray State has a tremendous team this year." head coach Greg Davis said. "They are basically a point or two away from being undefeated. Last year, we played well in doubles, but they took five of the six singles matches. We have had a very good week of practice and are expecting to see a nice crowd Friday night to see two talented teams battling at the Warren County Tennis Complex."

Last weekend, WKU played a road contest at Belmont in Nashville, Tenn. The Lady Toppers earned a 5-2 victory over the Bruins to improve to 5-3 on the 2023 campaign.

WKU is 4-18 all-time against Murray State, playing for the first time in 1974. Prior to last season, the sides had faced off in Murray, Ky. two years in a row and in 14 of the 22 total matches. This match will mark the first time the Racers visit The Hill in back-to-back seasons since 1984-85.

Last year, the Lady Toppers were able to secure the doubles point, but dropped five singles matches that resulted in a 5-2 loss to the Racers.

Before the 2020 season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lady Toppers were able to take victory against the Racers, 4-3. That win marked back-to-back wins against Murray State for WKU going back to the 2016 season.

In the 2022 season, the Racers finished 12-10, losing to Austin Peay in the OVC Tournament semifinals for the second straight season, 4-3.

The Racers have started the 2023 season 4-1 and are coming off a 4-3 loss at home to Southeast Missouri.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, February 10, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS KEEP ROLLING ; BEAT MURRAY STATE ON FRIDAY NIGHT

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Friday night, winning its third match in a row with a 4-3 win against Murray State. The Lady Toppers improve to 6-3 on the year, while the Racers fall to 4-2.

The Lady Toppers won the doubles point for the fourth consecutive match, winning on court one and court three. Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada got it rolling early for WKU, winning 6-3 on court three. The duo improves to a perfect 5-0 on the season. The racers evened the match, winning at the No. 2 spot, 6-4, but Paola Cortez and Sayda Hernandez secured the first point for the Lady Toppers, winning 6-3 on court one. This marks the first win of the season for the No. 1 pair.

Up 1-0 going into singles play, the Lady Toppers wasted no time getting the final three points they needed to secure the match.

Zegada was the first to finish, not dropping a single game on court six. The sophomore earned the 6-0, 6-0 win, improving to 6-2 on the year. Sofia Blanco also took care of business fairly quickly, winning in straight sets 6-3, 6-0 at the No. 4 position. She also receives her sixth win on the season improving to 6-3. On court three, Rachel Hermanova clinched the match with her, team-high, seventh win on the 2023 campaign, winning 6-3, 6-4.

With the match already decided, the final three matches were played out, all going in favor of the Racers. Making the final tally, 4-3.

“That was a great win for us. Murray was within a point or two of being undefeated coming in here,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Just kind of like last week against Belmont, we knew if we could win a lot of first sets, we would be in this match. Especially after winning the doubles point, that made a big difference. Sofia, Mariana, and Rachel played very, very good in singles. They did a great job of bringing the win home for us. Murray is a tough team. They had gotten the upper hand on us the last few years, so it is a good win for us. Hoping to build on it next week when we up to Ball State and IUPUI.”

The Lady Toppers kick off an eight match road stretch next Saturday, February 18 when they head to Muncie, Ind. to face Ball State and continuing on Sunday, Feb. 19 against IUPUI in Indianapolis, Ind.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 6,4,3,1,2,5)

- 1: Sarah Bureau (MSU) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-4, 6-2
- 2: Emma Honore (MSU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 4-6, 6-4, 10-3
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Annika Pschorr (MSU) 6-3, 6-4
- 4: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Natalie Slezakova (MSU) 6-3, 6-0
- 5: Paola Campiogotto (MSU) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-2, 7-6 (6)
- 6: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Megan Null (MSU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish 3,2,1)

- 1: Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) def. Honore/Bureau (MSU) 6-3
- 2: Pschorr/Slezakova (MSU) def. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) 6-4
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Null/Campigotto (MSU) 6-3

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, February 17, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

[Coach Davis Interview](#)

WKU TENNIS HEADS TO INDIANA; BEGINS EIGHT-MATCH ROAD TRIP

MUNCIE, Ind. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this Saturday, February 18 with a road match against Ball State in Muncie, Ind. Then on Sunday, February 19 the squad will head to Indianapolis, Ind. to face off against IUPUI. Doubles play is set to begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. on Sunday.

“Muncie and Indianapolis this weekend to play Ball State and IUPUI, some very good opponents,” said head coach Greg Davis. “We’re going to have our hands full this weekend. IUPUI has a new coach, they have the program up and going again and doing very well. We’re going to have our hands full on the road, not just this weekend, but the next eight matches.”

The Lady Toppers are coming off a win last Friday at home against Murray State, 4-3. The first time WKU has defeated the Racers since 2020. They improved to 6-3 on the season, while Murray State dropped to 4-2.

WKU is 1-8 all-time against Ball State, with the first match taking place in 1991. The Lady Toppers beat the Cardinals for the first time in 2018, 4-3 in Muncie, Ind. The sides would go on to face off four times in four years, with Ball State winning each match.

Ball State had a dual match record of 22-4 in 2021, where they lost to Vanderbilt in the NCAA Tournament, 4-0, ending their season. In 2022, they held a record of 19-5, losing to Texas in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, 4-0.

So far in 2023, the Cardinals hold a record of 4-2 and are coming off back-to-back wins last weekend against Cleveland State and Youngstown State.

WKU is 3-4 all-time against IUPUI, with the first match taking place in 2001. The Lady Toppers won the first meeting, 5-2 in Clarksville, Tenn. The sides would go on to face off four more times in the next five years, with the Jaguars winning all four matches. In 2020, WKU won the first dual match between the two teams since 2006, 5-2 in Indianapolis, Ind.

IUPUI had a dual match record of 2-12 in 2021, with both wins coming against the DePauw Tigers. Early in the 2022 season, the Jaguars visited The Hill for a matchup with the Lady Toppers. The Lady Toppers earned a 7-0 sweep to give them their second straight win over IUPUI.

The Jaguars have a 1-5 record in 2023 after earning their first win over Marion today, 6-1.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, February 18, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS DEFEATED BY BALL STATE ON SATURDAY

MUNCIE, Ind. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Saturday losing 7-0 to Ball State in Muncie, Ind. The Lady Toppers move to 6-4 on the year, while the Cardinals improve to 5-2.

The Lady Toppers lost the doubles point for the first time in five matches, dropping matches on court's one and three, 6-2 and 6-1, with the match on court one going unfinished. The Lady Toppers dropped all five singles matches making the final tally 7-0, in favor of Ball State.

“Ball State showed why they are picked to win the MAC today,” said head coach Greg Davis. “We have a quick turnaround playing tomorrow morning against a very improved IUPUI team.”

WKU will head to Indianapolis tomorrow, Feb. 19 to play IUPUI at 8 a.m. CT.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 2,3,1,6,5,4)

- 1: Mariya Polishchuk (BSU) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-3, 6-1
- 2: Emma Peeler (BSU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-1, 6-2
- 3: Amy Kaplan (BSU) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-3, 6-1
- 4: Jessica Braun (BSU) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 7-6 (6), 4-6, 11-9
- 5: Allison Mulville (BSU) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 7-6 (1), 6-2
- 6: Emily Desai (BSU) def. Samantha Martinez (WKU) 7-6 (6), 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish: 3,2)

- 1: Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) vs. Braun/Desai (BSU) 4-3, unfinished
- 2: Polishchuk/Mulville (BSU) def. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) 6-2
- 3: Kaplan/Hazelbaker (BSU) def. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) 6-1

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, February 19, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS BOUNCE BACK; BEAT IUPUI 6-1

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Sunday beating IUPUI 6-1 in Indianapolis, Ind. The Lady Toppers improve to 7-4, while the Jaguars move to 2-6.

The Lady Toppers won the doubles point for the fifth time in six matches, winning the matches on court's two and three, 6-1 and 6-4, with the match on court one going to IUPUI.

In singles play, the Lady Toppers were able to secure the win early, winning on court's five, one and six, all in straight sets. Mariana Zegada only dropped three games on her way to a 6-1, 6-2 victory, improving to 7-3 on the season in singles. At the No. 1 spot, Paola Cortez earned her third singles win of the year, dropping just two games, 6-0, 6-2. Samantha Martinez was able to secure the match-clinching point, winning on court six, 6-1, 6-1, claiming her fourth singles win in six matches.

With the Lady Toppers up 4-0, the final three matches were played out. The Jaguars secured its first and only point of the day, winning at No. 2, but the Rachel Hermanova and Sofia Blanco each saw victory at No. 3 and No. 4 to win the fifth and sixth points for the Lady Toppers. Hermanova won in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3. The sophomore improves to, a team-high, 8-3 on the year and 27-8 in her career. She sits solely at the No. 6 spot on the program's all-time singles wins list. Blanco earned the final point for the Lady Toppers, winning a third set tiebreaker, 6-3, 4-6, 10-4.

"It was good to get some momentum back after Saturday's match," said head coach Greg Davis. "We were able to come out and win the doubles point as well as five first sets against a very competitive IUPUI team on their home courts."

WKU Tennis will continue play next weekend on the road against Northern Kentucky on Saturday, Feb. 24 and on Sunday, Feb. 25 against Cincinnati.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 5,1,6,2,3,4)

- 1: Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Makenzie Myers (IUPUI) 6-0, 6-2
- 2: Meghan Bernard (IUPUI) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3, 6-3
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Samantha Hayward (IUPUI) 6-4, 6-3
- 4: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Emma Dell (IUPUI) 6-3, 4-6, 10-4
- 5: Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Grace Lampman (IUPUI) 6-1, 6-2
- 6: Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Sarah Lounsbury (IUPUI) 6-1, 6-1

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,1,3)

- 1: Bernard/Hayward (IUPUI) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
- 2: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Dell/Lampman (IUPUI) 6-1
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Myers/Lounsbury (IUPUI) 6-4

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, February 23, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

WKU TENNIS TO PLAY AT NORTHERN KENTUCKY AND CINCINNATI THIS WEEKEND

FLORENCE, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this Friday, February 24, with a road match against Northern Kentucky in Florence, Ky. Then on Saturday, February 25, the squad will head to Cincinnati, Ohio to face off against the Cincinnati Bearcats. Doubles play is set to begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

“Two difficult opponents on the road this weekend,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Northern Kentucky has the majority of their team back from last year. It was a difficult match at our place last year and we were lucky to squeeze by in the end. Cincinnati is preparing for the move to the Big 12 and their roster is deep and loaded this year, so this weekend will be a challenge.”

The Lady Toppers are coming off a 6-1 win against IUPUI in Indianapolis, Ind. last Sunday. They improved to 7-4 in the season, while the Jaguars dropped to 2-6.

WKU is 3-4 all-time against Northern Kentucky, with the first match taking place in 2007. The Lady Toppers beat the Norse the first two matches played between the sides, winning 6-1, both times. Last season, Northern Kentucky visited The Hill for the first time since 2014 when the Lady Toppers beat the Norse for the first time in five matches, 5-2.

Northern Kentucky had a dual match record of 7-6 in 2021 and in 4-12 in 2022, losing in the first round of the Horizon League Championships to Illinois-Chicago, 4-1.

So far in 2023, the Norse hold a record of 4-1 and are coming off back-to-back wins against Eastern Kentucky and Bellarmine.

WKU is 2-1 all-time against Cincinnati, with the first match taking place in 1983, when the Lady Toppers took the 5-4 win in Cincinnati. The sides would not meet again until 2018 with WKU taking victory once again, 4-3 in Cincinnati. The Bearcats won its first match against the Hilltoppers in the 2021 season, winning the dual match, 4-3.

Cincinnati had a dual match record of 6-10 in 2021, losing in the first round of the AAC Championship, 4-1. In 2022, the Bearcats held a record of 16-7, this time losing in the second round of the AAC Championship to SMU, 4-0.

Cincinnati currently holds a 3-7 record in 2023 recording wins against Butler, Montana, and Cleveland State.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, February 25, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS DROP MATCH TO CINCINNATI ON SATURDAY

CINCINNATI, Ohio. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Saturday losing to Cincinnati, 6-1, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Lady Toppers move to 7-6, while the Bearcats improve to 4-7.

“I was really happy with how we competed today against a tough Cincinnati team,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Great win for Rachel (Hermanova) and Paola (Cortez) played a tremendous match at the No. 1 spot in singles.”

The Lady Toppers dropped the doubles point for the second straight match, losing on courts two and three, with the court one match going unfinished.

Singles play saw three sets using a deciding tiebreaker and two matches going all three sets with the Bearcats winning five of six matches making the final tally, 6-1. Rachel Hermanova claimed the only point for WKU in the match, winning in straight sets 7-6 (3), 6-1 on court three. The sophomore is the first Hilltopper to reach double digit singles wins on the season, improving to 10-3. She moves within one win of fifth place on the all-time program singles wins list.

WKU Tennis will continue play next weekend when they visit Saint Louis on Saturday, March 4 and SIU Edwardsville on Sunday March 5. Saturday’s match is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., while Sunday’s is scheduled for 9 a.m.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 6,4,3,5,2,1)

- 1: Elizabeth Pendergast (CIN) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-4, 7-6 (6), 10-8
- 2: Cassie McLay (CIN) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 7-6 (2), 6-3
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Maria Santilli (CIN) 7-6 (3), 6-1
- 4: Kelli Niehaus (CIN) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-2, 6-1
- 5: Callie Flanagan (CIN) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 7-6 (3), 6-4
- 6: Katie Ferguson (CIN) def. Samantha Martinez (WKU) 6-2, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,3)

- 1: Flanagan/McLay (CIN) vs. Damera/Hernandez (WKU) 5-3, unfinished
- 2: Ferguson/Niehaus (CIN) def. Cortez/Zegada (WKU) 6-2
- 3: Bruno/Pendergast (CIN) def. Hermanova/Martinez (WKU) 6-3

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, February 24, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS FALL TO NORTHERN KENTUCKY IN SIX HOUR MATCH

FLORENCE, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Friday losing to Northern Kentucky 4-3, after six hours of play, in Florence, Ky. The Lady Toppers move to 7-5, while the Norse improve to 3-4.

“Tough loss. Give NKU credit. We just could not get control of the match and they had something to do with that happening,” said head coach Greg Davis. “We have a very difficult match against Cincinnati tomorrow, so we will have to put it behind us completely.”

In doubles, Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada managed to win at No. 3, 6-1, but the Norse claimed both matches on courts one and two to take the doubles point and go up 1-0 into singles play. Martinez is now tied for first place in doubles wins with former teammate, Cora-Lynn von Dungern (2019-21) with 37 total.

In singles, five of six matches went to a decisive third set.

Paola Cortez won the only match not decided by a third set, winning 6-4, 6-2 to tie the match at one. Following that, the Tops saw its first and only lead of the match after Rachel Hermanova received the win after her opponent had to retire from the match due to injury. The sophomore earns her, team-leading, ninth win of the season and 28th career win, good for sole possession of sixth place on the all-time program wins list. The final singles match win for the Lady Toppers came from Sunskrithi Damera, winning 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 on court five, giving the Tops the 3-1 lead.

The Norse claimed the final three matches, all in three sets, to win the match, 4-3.

WKU Tennis will continue play on the road tomorrow against Cincinnati on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m. CT.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 1,3,5,2,4,6)

- 1: Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Elizabeth Rozin (NKU) 6-4, 6-2
- 2: Ashlee Fisk (NKU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-4, 1-6, 7-5
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Marijose Hernandez (NKU) 5-7, 6-2, default
- 4: Laura Sola Grau (NKU) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4
- 5: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Ananya Kothakota (NKU) 6-1, 2-6, 6-4
- 6: Sylvia Gray (NKU) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,3,1)

- 1: Hernandez/Sola Grau (NKU) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 7-6 (3)
- 2: Fisk/Rozin (NKU) def. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) 6-0
- 3: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Rinaldi/Gray (NKU) 6-1

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, March 4, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

MARTINEZ BREAKS DOUBLES WINS RECORD IN WIN AT SAINT LOUIS

O'FALLON, III. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Saturday sweeping the Saint Louis Billikens 4-0 in O'Fallon, Ill. The Lady Toppers improve to 8-6, while Saint Louis moves to 7-3.

“Big win on the road against Saint Louis, a team that had only two losses on the year,” said head coach Greg Davis. “We played exceptional doubles today at No. 1 and No. 2. Great win by Sayda at No. 2 to clinch the match. We were all so happy to see Samantha Martinez get the doubles record today, the 38th of her career.”

The Lady Toppers won the doubles point for the first time in three matches, winning on courts one and two. Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada earned the win on court two, not dropping a game, winning 6-0. With this win, Martinez picks up her 38th career doubles win, breaking the record for the most doubles wins in program history formerly held by her former teammate Cora-Lynn von Dungern (2019-21). Following that, Paola Cortez and Sayda Hernandez claimed the doubles point for the Lady Toppers, winning 6-3 on court one.

In singles, three Lady Toppers saw victory to finish the match and get the dual match win. Sofia Blanco got the second point for WKU winning in straight sets at No. 4, 6-2, 6-0, improving to 8-5 on the year. On court three, Rachel Hermanova notched her 11th win of the year in 14 matches, 6-3, 6-4, claiming the third point for WKU. Sayda Hernandez finished the match, earning the win at No. 2, 6-1, 6-4.

The final three matches went unfinished resulting in the final tally being 4-0, in favor of the Lady Toppers.

WKU Tennis will continue play tomorrow, March 5 at 9 a.m. CT when they visit SIU Edwardsville.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 4,3,2)

- 1: Paola Cortez (WKU) vs. Elizaneth Mintusova (SLU) 7-6 (3), 0-4, unfinished
- 2: Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Norhan Hesham (SLU) 6-1, 6-4
- 3: Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Ksenia Aleshina (SLU) 6-2, 6-4
- 4: Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Florella Duran (SLU) 6-2, 6-0
- 5: Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) vs. Sandra Gines (SLU) 6-2, 1-3, unfinished
- 6: Mariana Zegada (WKU) vs. Mya Spencer (SLU) 6-4, 3-3, unfinished

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,1)

- 1: Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) vs. Spencer/Hesham (SLU) 6-3
- 2: Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Barlow/Duran (SLU) 6-0
- 3: Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Mintusova/Gines (SLU) 4-3, unfinished

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, March 3, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK WITH TWO-MATCH ROAD TRIP

SAINT LOUIS, Mo. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5 with road matches against Saint Louis and SIU-Edwardsville.

The Lady Toppers will begin play at 5 p.m. CT on Saturday in Saint Louis, Mo. and 9 a.m. on Sunday in Edwardsville, Ill.

“Two tough matches on the road this weekend,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Saint Louis has only one loss and SIU-Edwardsville has most of its team back that was ranked in the top 75 last season. We are trying to get our momentum back for our spring break trip next week.”

The Lady Toppers are coming off back-to-back losses last weekend at Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati, moving to 7-6 on the season.

WKU is 1-0 all-time against Saint Louis, meeting for the first time last season in Bowling Green, when the Lady Toppers beat the Billikens 6-1 on Senior Day. Saturday will mark first time WKU Tennis will travel to Saint Louis to play the Billikens in program history.

Saint Louis had a dual match record of 7-7 in 2021, losing in the second round of the Atlantic 10 Tournament to Rhode Island, 4-3, while last season, the Billikens held a 13-8 record, once again losing in the second round of the Atlantic 10 Tournament, 4-2, to Fordham.

In 2023, Saint Louis is 7-1 and is coming off back-to-back wins against Eastern Illinois and Missouri Western.

The Lady Toppers are 1-1 all-time against SIU-Edwardsville playing in 2011 and 2022. WKU upset the Cougars last season, 4-1, ending their nine-match win streak to begin the year in Bowling Green.

SIU-Edwardsville held a 16-5 dual match record in 2022 with its season ending in the first round of the OVC Tournament to Murray State, 4-1.

The Cougars currently hold a 7-1 record in 2023 and are coming off back-to-back wins against Northern Iowa and Dayton.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, March 5, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

WKU TENNIS COMPLETES WEEKEND UNDEFEATED AFTER WIN AT SIU-EDWARDSVILLE

EDWARDSVILLE, Ind. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Sunday defeating the SIU-Edwardsville Cougars 4-2 in Edwardsville, Ind. The Lady Toppers improve to 9-6, while the Cougars moves to 8-2.

“Great team victory,” said head coach Greg Davis. “To beat SIU-Edwardsville, a team that only had one loss after losing the doubles point was a tremendous accomplishment. To go on the road and beat two talented teams was very difficult, especially today with the quick turnaround. I am very proud of the team.”

The Lady Toppers dropped the doubles point after losing on court one and two, with the third match going unfinished.

Down 1-0 going into singles, The Lady Toppers needed to win four matches to win the match and they did just that. Sofia Blanco tied the match at 1-1 after winning at the No. 4 spot winning in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, she gets her ninth win of the season. At the No. 2 position, Sayda Hernandez claimed her second win in a row in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4 to help WKU take the lead. Rachel Hermanova extended the lead after taking the victory at the No. 3 slot in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5 to get her, team-leading, 12th win of the season in 15 singles matches. The Cougars were able to cut the Lady Topper lead to just one, winning on court five, but Paola Cortez secured the win at No. 1 winning 6-3, 7-6 (4).

The final match went unfinished resulting in the final tally being 4-2, in favor of WKU.

WKU Tennis will conclude its eight-match road trip next weekend, playing its first C-USA matches against North Texas and UTSA in San Antonio, Texas on March 12 and 13.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 4,2,3,5,1)

1. Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Jill Lambrechts (SIU-E) 6-3, 7-6 (7-4)
2. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Margaux Guibal Britt (SIU-E) 6-3, 6-4
3. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Jordan Schifano (SIU-E) 6-4, 7-5
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Amelia Gorman (SIU-E) 6-3, 6-3
5. Jaiden McKee (SIU-E) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 7-5, 6-1
6. Caitlyn Sporing (SIU-E) vs. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 1-2, unfinished

Doubles (Order of finish: 1,2)

1. Lambrechts/Schifano (SIU-E) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 6-2
2. Gorman/Guibal Britt (SIU-E) def. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) 6-2
3. McKee/Sporing (SIU-E) vs. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) 4-5, unfinished

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, March 11, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPER TENNIS HEADS TO TEXAS FOR FIRST C-USA MATCHES

SAN ANTONIO, Texas. — Fresh off a notable weekend of outstanding accomplishments, with Samantha Martinez breaking the doubles wins program record (38) and head coach Greg Davis collecting his 300th career win, WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season this Sunday, March 12 and Monday, March 13 with road C-USA matches against North Texas and UTSA.

“I am really blessed to have coached some amazing individuals that has helped tremendously in reaching 300 wins,” said Davis. “The current team has been a very enjoyable group to work with.”

The Lady Toppers head to Texas hoping to carry momentum from last weekend, when they went 2-0 against Saint Louis and SIU-Edwardsville. They will begin play at 2 p.m. CT on Sunday against North Texas and 1 p.m. CT on Sunday against UTSA, with both matches being played in San Antonio, Texas.

“Two of the best teams in C-USA this weekend,” said Davis. “We really enjoy the challenge of going on the road and competing against great teams and coaches in this conference.”

WKU is 0-2 all-time against North Texas, meeting for the first-time in 2003 at the Sun Belt Tournament in Mobile, Ala. The last time the sides met was in 2019 when the Lady Toppers traveled to Denton, Texas and lost, 0-7.

North Texas had a dual match record of 6-13 in 2021, losing in the first round of the C-USA Tournament to Florida Atlantic, 4-1. In 2022, the Mean Green held a record of 10-12, losing in the second round of the C-USA Tournament to FIU, 4-0.

In 2023, North Texas is 9-5 and coming off back-to-back losses to No. 45 FIU and Tulane. Prior to the Tulane loss, the Mean Green were ranked in the ITA top 75 at No. 69.

The Lady Toppers have never faced off against UTSA in program history, marking the first meeting between the conference opponents.

The Roadrunners held a 9-11 record in 2021, losing in the first round of the C-USA Tournament to UAB, 4-0. In 2022, UTSA was 4-17 and lost to Rice in the first round of the C-USA Tournament, 4-0, to Rice.

The Roadrunners are 8-7 in 2023 and are coming off three straight losses to UIW, Rice, and UT Arlington.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, March 12, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS UPSET NO. 69 NORTH TEXAS ON SUNDAY

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Sunday beating No. 69 North Texas for the program's first ever win against a ranked opponent, 4-1, in San Antonio, Texas. The Lady Toppers improve to 10-6 on the year, while the Mean Green move to 9-7.

The Lady Toppers won the doubles point for the third consecutive match winning at No. 2 and No. 3. Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada won on court two, 6-3, after the Mean Green defaulted on court three to earn the point.

After North Texas defaulted on courts five and six, the Lady Toppers just needed one point to secure the win and they got it with Rachel Hermanova. The sophomore won back-to-back tiebreaker sets to give her the 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4) win. She gets her, team-leading, 13th win of the season and her 32nd of her career. That ties her for third all-time with Olga Kosaka (2001-04) just four wins shy of being tied for second.

"I thought we played and competed about as good as we could today in 85-degree heat and 25 mph wind gusts," said head coach Greg Davis. "This was our first outside match of the year and I am very happy for the players and program."

WKU will continue play tomorrow, March 13 with another road C-USA match against UTSA at 1 p.m. CT in San Antonio, Texas.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 6,5,2,3)

1. Matilde Morais (UNT) vs. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-4, 1-6, 2-3, unfinished
2. Kexuan Zhou (UNT) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-4, 6-4
3. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Nformi Stadfany (UNT) 7-6, 7-6
4. Marina Adati (UNT) vs. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 4-6, 5-6, unfinished
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. No player (UNT), by default
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. No player (UNT), by default

Doubles (Order of finish: 3,1,2)

1. Morais/Stadfany (UNT) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
2. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Adati/Zhou (UNT) 6-3
3. Hermanova/Blanco (WKU) def. No player/No player (UNT), by default

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Monday, March 13, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS FALL TO UTSA ON MONDAY

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Monday losing 7-0 to UTSA in San Antonio, Texas. The Lady Toppers move to 10-7 on the year, while the Roadrunners improve to 10-7.

The Lady Toppers lost the doubles point for the first time in four matches, dropping matches on courts one and two, 6-2 and 6-4, with the match on court three going unfinished. The Lady Toppers dropped all six singles matches making the final tally 7-0, in favor of UTSA.

“We ran into a very good team today in UTSA,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Coming in, I thought the doubles point was going to be crucial today and I was right. This was a great trip for us to come here, play two teams, and get some outside matches against C-USA teams that will help us for the remaining part of the season.”

WKU will return home following its eight-match road trip for a doubleheader on Friday, March 17 against Tennessee State and Southern Indiana beginning at 2 p.m. CT. The location for these matches will depend on the weather conditions.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 2,1,3,4,5,6,5)

1. Aleksandra Zlatarova (UTSA) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-3, 6-4
2. Fatima Gutierrez (UTSA) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-2, 6-2
3. Alexandra Weir (UTSA) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-4, 6-2
4. Magda Tuells (UTSA) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 7-5, 7-5
5. Adeliya Mukhutdinova (UTSA) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 4-6, 6-4, 10-8
6. S. Bobrovnikova (UTSA) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 5-7, 6-3, 10-8

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,1)

1. Zlatarova/Tuells (UTSA) def. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) 6-2
2. Gutierrez/Weir (UTSA) def. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) 6-4
3. Beyebach/Mukhutdinova (UTSA) vs. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) 4-5, unfinished

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, March 16, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS RETURN HOME FOR FRIDAY DOUBLEHEADER

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — After eight straight road matches, WKU Tennis returns home this Friday, March 17, for a doubleheader against Tennessee State and Southern Indiana.

“Friday is a big doubleheader for us,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Tennessee State has a new coach, and he has the program playing very well in a short period of time. Southern Indiana is a very similar team that has really taken a huge step forward this year. We always talk about momentum and finishing strong going into the conference tournament which starts in less than five weeks.”

The Lady Toppers played their first Conference USA matches last weekend, finishing 1-1 after upsetting No. 69 North Texas, 4-1, and dropping their second match of the weekend to UTSA, 0-7.

WKU is 29-1 all-time against Tennessee State dating back to the 1987 season. The Lady Toppers have not lost to the Tigers since 2000, winning 24 straight matches. From 2002-2010, WKU did not drop a single match to Tennessee State, getting the 7-0 sweep in 13 straight dual matches. The Tigers made the trip to Bowling Green for the first time in 11 years last season, when the Lady Toppers got the 7-0 sweep at the Warren County Tennis Complex.

TSU is 1-14 thus far, coming off back-to-back losses to Northern Kentucky and Lipscomb. Its only win of the year came by way of a 7-0 sweep against Bethune-Cookman. The win marked the program’s first win since January 26, 2020, against Western Carolina.

WKU is 4-1-1 all-time against Southern Indiana meeting for the first time in 2005. This marks the first meeting between the teams since 2014 in Evansville, Ind. when the Lady Toppers got the 7-0 sweep.

The Screaming Eagles are 3-8 in 2023 after falling to Saint Louis, 4-0 last Saturday. This will be the first time Southern Indiana will visit The Hill since 2010, when WKU took the 4-3 victory.

Friday’s doubleheader is set to begin at 2 p.m. CT against Tennessee State and continuing at 6 p.m. CT against Southern Indiana.

Both matches will be played at the Warren County Tennis Complex and will only be moved to the indoor courts under bad weather conditions.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, March 17, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS DOMINATE FRIDAY DOUBLEHEADER

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 campaign on Friday sweeping the doubleheader against Tennessee State and Southern Indiana without dropping a single set to improve to 12-7 on the season.

Tennessee State Recap

The Lady Toppers dominated throughout the match, starting with the doubles point, winning on courts two and three. The No. 2 duo of Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada earned the 6-2 victory while the No. 3 pair of Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova also won 6-2 to claim the doubles point and take the lead, 1-0.

In singles, the squad did not drop a set on their way to a 7-0 sweep over the Tigers. On court three, Hermanova tallied a 6-2, 6-2 victory to earn her, team-leading, 14th win of the season and 33rd of her career and now holds sole possession of the third-most singles wins in program history. At No. 1, Paola Cortez earned her sixth win of the season, 6-3, 6-4, and give the Lady Toppers a commanding 3-0 lead. To clinch the match, Mariana Zegada got the win at No. 6, 6-1, 6-2 to earn her seventh win of the season.

With the match decided, the final three matches were played out, all going in favor of the Lady Toppers. Sofia Blanco, Sunskrithi Damera, and Sayda Hernandez all claimed straight-set wins to give WKU its 11th win of the year.

“Really decisive match in doubles and singles against a good OVC team,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Doubleheader days are always a physical and mental challenge, but we feel that the eight-match road trip and the two outside matches in the Texas heat helped us tremendously.”

Final Results vs. Tennessee State

Singles (Order of finish: 3,1,6,4,5,2)

1. Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Warona Mdlulwa (TSU) 6-1, 6-2
2. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Naomi Von Bose (TSU) 6-3, 6-4
3. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Daniela Koleva (TSU) 6-2, 6-1
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Aroa Arietta-Castillo (TSU) 6-1, 6-2
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Franka Sindicic (TSU) 6-3, 6-0
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Mikalia Coleman (TSU) 6-1, 6-2

Doubles (Order of finish: 2,3)

1. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) vs. Von Bose/Sindicic (TSU) 5-2, unfinished
2. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) def. Mdlulwa/Nikolic (TSU) 6-2
3. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Koleva/Arietta-Castillo (TSU) 6-2

Southern Indiana Recap

WKU won the doubles point for the second time today, taking the matches on courts three and one. Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova claimed their second doubles win of the day, this time without dropping a game, 6-0. Paola Cortez and Sayda Hernandez clinched the point for the Lady Toppers, 6-4, to give the squad an early 1-0 lead.

Just as the early match, the Lady Toppers did not drop a single set on their way to a 7-0 sweep. Mariana Zegada earned her second win on the day and eighth of the season without dropping a game, 6-0, 6-0. Hermanova recorded her 34th win of her career, just two behind Laura Bernardos (2019-2022) with 36. The sophomore took the win, 6-1, 6-1, on court three. At No. 2, Hernandez clinched the match with a 6-0, 6-1 victory in her second win of the day.

Up 4-0, and with the match already decided, the final three matches were played out, all resulting in Lady Topper wins. Sofia Blanco, Sunskrithi Damera, and Paola Cortez all claimed their second wins of the day to complete the 7-0 sweep.

"It was good to get two wins today, back-to-back," said Davis. "We needed today to get us ready for North Alabama on the road next Tuesday. They are a team that is very good on its home courts."

Final Results vs. Southern Indiana

Singles (Order of finish: 6,3,2,4,5,1)

1. Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Lauren Rowe (USI) 6-3, 6-4
2. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Rachel McCorkle (USI) 6-0, 6-1
3. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Madison Windham (USI) 6-1, 6-1
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Abby Myers (USI) 6-1, 6-1
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Abby Brown (USI) 6-1, 6-0
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Elle Dewees (USI) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish: 3,1)

1. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) def. Rowe/Windham (USI) 6-4
2. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) vs. McCorkle/Myers (USI) 5-4, unfinished
3. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Thomas/Brown (USI) 6-0

The Lady Toppers will be back in action next Sunday, February 5 in Nashville against the Belmont Bruins at 2 p.m. CT.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Monday, March 20, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS SET FOR MIDWEEK MATCH WITH NORTHERN ALABAMA

FLORENCE, Ala. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season with a road matchup against the Northern Alabama Lions in Florence, Ala. on Tuesday, March 21. Doubles play will begin at 2 p.m. CT.

"North Alabama is a very improved team this year," said head coach Greg Davis. "In my time at WKU I cannot recall an easy match. It is always 4-3 or 5-2 either for them or for us. They are an extremely difficult team to play at their place, so we are expecting another barn burner."

Last weekend, the Lady Toppers swept a doubleheader on Friday, March 17 against Tennessee State and Southern Indiana, without dropping a set in either match. With the sweeps, WKU improves to 12-7 on the year while holding a 1-1 record in C-USA.

WKU is 8-8 all-time against Northern Alabama, with the first match being played in 2005. The Lady Toppers won the last two meetings, 5-2, in both dual matches.

Northern Alabama is 6-9 in 2023 thus far and is coming off a 6-1 Loss against Jacksonville State.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

Box Score Attached

LADY TOPPERS SWEEP THIRD STRAIGHT AGAINST NORTHERN ALABAMA

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Tuesday afternoon, sweeping its third straight match with a 4-0 win at Northern Alabama. The Lady Toppers improve to 13-7 on the year, while the Lions fall to 6-10.

The Lady Toppers won their third straight doubles point winning at No. 1 and No. 3 while dropping the match on court two. The No. 1 duo of Paola Cortez and Sayda Hernandez won their second straight match and fourth of the season getting the 6-2 decision. After falling at No. 2, the No. 3 pair of Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova earned the doubles point for WKU winning, 6-3 to take the early lead.

Going into singles play with the 1-0 lead, the Lady Toppers showcased their depth, winning at the back three spots, all in straight sets, to win the match, 4-0.

At No. 6, Mariana Zegada struck first, winning 6-2, 6-0. She claims her third win in a row and gets to double-digit singles wins, improving to 10-6 on the season. Sunskrithi Damera pushed the lead to 3-0 after winning on court five without dropping a game, 6-0, 6-0, to also win her third in a row and improve to 9-7 on the year. At the No. 4 position, Sofia Blanco clinched the match for the Lady Toppers, earning a 7-6, 6-1 victory and complete the sweep of the Northern Alabama Lions.

The final three matches were stopped after the conclusion of the court four match.

“We played well against a very good Northern Alabama team,” said head coach Greg Davis. “We played very good doubles today as well as at No. 5 and No. 6 in singles play.”

The Lady Toppers will return home next week on Wednesday, March 29 when they host Alabama A&M at 1 p.m. CT. The Location of the match will be dependent on weather.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 6,5,4)

1. Juliette Talieu (UNA) vs. Paola Cortez (WKU) 3-6, 3-4, unfinished
2. Martina Paladini (UNA) vs. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3, 5-3, unfinished
3. Kalais Going (UNA) vs. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-4, 1-6, unfinished
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Valeria San Miguel (UNA) 7-6, 6-1
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Ana Josic (UNA) 6-0, 6-0
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Nicole Reilly (UNA) 6-2, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish 1,2,3)

1. Cortez/Hernandez (WKU) def. Talieu/Josic (UNA) 6-2
2. San Miguel/Going (UNA) def. Martinez/Zegada (WKU) 6-3
3. Blanco/Hermanova (WKU) def. Paladini/Reilly (UNA) 6-3

Tennis Match Results
Western Kentucky vs North Alabama
3/21/2023 at Florence, Ala.

Western Kentucky 4, North Alabama 0

Singles competition

1. Juliette Talieu (UNA) vs. Paola Cortez (WKU) 3-6, 3-4, unfinished
2. Martina Paladini (UNA) vs. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3, 5-3, unfinished
3. Kalais Going (UNA) vs. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-4, 1-6, unfinished
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Valeria San Miguel (UNA) 7-6, 6-1
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Ana Josic (UNA) 6-0, 6-0
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Nicole Reilly (UNA) 6-2, 6-0

Doubles competition

1. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Juliette Talieu/Ana Josic (UNA) 6-2
2. Valeria San Miguel/Kalais Going (UNA) def. Samantha Martinez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-3
3. Sofia Blanco/Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Martina Paladini/Nicole Reilly (UNA) 6-3

Match Notes:

Western Kentucky 13-7

North Alabama 6-10

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

LADY TOPPERS SET TO HOST ALABAMA A&M FOR A MIDWEEK MATCH

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season by returning home for a midweek matchup against the Alabama A&M Bulldogs on Wednesday, March 29. Doubles play will begin at 1 p.m. CT.

“Alabama A&M has been picked along with a couple of other schools in the SWAC to win the conference,” said head coach Greg Davis. “They have a very deep team. I know in the past we have lost matches to them in the top and lower positions so this isn’t a team we will take lightly.”

Last week, the Lady Toppers defeated North Alabama 4-0 for their third consecutive sweep. With the win, WKU improves to 13-7 on the year while holding a 1-1 record in C-USA.

WKU is 9-1 all-time against Alabama A&M including a seven-game winning streak dating back to March of 2008. Wednesday's match will mark the first time the Lady Toppers will play host to the Bulldogs.

Alabama A&M is 6-12 in 2023 thus far and is coming off a 6-1 loss against MTSU.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

Lady Toppers Sweep Fourth Straight Against Alabama A&M

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Wednesday afternoon, sweeping its four straight match with a 7-0 win. The Lady Toppers improve to 14-7 on the year, while the Bulldogs fall to 6-13.

Between last season's 18 wins and this season's 14, WKU now has the most combined wins (32) in back-to-back seasons in program history as far back as WKU Tennis records go dating back to 1974. In addition, the current four-game winning streak is tied for the 13th longest in program history.

"Alabama A&M's a good team, they came in here, played well and they forced us to win matches," said head coach Greg Davis. "We had a good effort one through six again in singles and in doubles."

The Lady Toppers won their fourth straight doubles point winning at No. 2 and No. 3. The No. 2 duo of Martinez and Zegada were first to strike with a 6-1 win which marked the pair's 11th season victory and the 40th of Martinez's career. The No. 3 pair of Blanco and Hermanova earned the doubles point for WKU winning 6-4 to take the early lead. The No. 1 duo, Cortez and Hernandez, were ahead 5-3 when the No. 3 duo clinched the doubles point.

Going into singles play with the 1-0 lead, the Lady Toppers once again showcased their depth, dominating at the back three spots, dropping just seven of the 36 games played.

At No. 4, Sofia Blanco struck first, winning 6-2, 6-1. She claims her fourth win in a row and improves to 13-6 on the season. Mariana Zegada pushed the lead to 3-0 after winning on court six 6-2, 6-1, to also win her fourth in a row and improve to 11-6 on the year. At the No. 3 position, Rachel Hermanova clinched the match for the Lady Toppers, earning a pair of 6-3 victories to mark her 35th career singles win while improving to 16-4 on the season. The remaining games were played out en route to a 7-0 sweep of the Alabama A&M Bulldogs.

The Lady Toppers will take the road and continue C-USA play with a visit to MTSU on Friday, March 31st. First serve is set for 4 p.m. CT.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 4, 6, 3, 5, 1, 2)

1. Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Jasmine Boyd (AAMU) 6-2, 3-6, 10-8
2. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Neha Ghare (AAMU) 6-3, 5-7, 10-2
3. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Camila Ruiz Diaz (AAMU) 6-3, 6-3
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Yana Dhamija (AAMU) 6-2, 6-1
5. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Alicia Owegi (AAMU) 6-1, 6-0
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Ariadna Ondo Cerezo (AAMU) 6-2, 6-1

Doubles (Order of finish: 2, 3)

1. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) vs. Jasmine Boyd/Yana Dhamija (AAMU) 5-3, unfinished
2. Samantha Martinez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Neha Ghare/Camila Ruiz Diaz (AAMU) 6-1
3. Sofia Blanco/Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Ariadna Ondo Cerezo/Alicia Owegi (AAMU) 6-4

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, March 30, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

LADY TOPPERS CONTINUE C-USA PLAY WITH TRIP TO MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Murfreesboro, Tenn. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season and C-USA campaign with a visit to Middle Tennessee on Friday, March 31. Play will begin at 4 p.m. CT from the Adams Tennis Complex.

“Anytime these two schools play it’s a knock down, drag out match,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Middle has played extremely well at home this year and we know it will be a very competitive match.”

This past Wednesday, the Lady Toppers defeated Alabama A&M 7-0 for their fourth consecutive sweep. With the win, WKU improves to 14-7 on the year while holding a 1-1 record in C-USA.

WKU is 13-27 all-time against the Blue Raiders, winning the last match, 4-3, back on April 9, 2022. This will mark the 24th time the two have squared off in Murfreesboro.

Middle Tennessee is 9-7 on the year and most recently defeated Alabama A&M 6-1 on March 26. The Blue Raiders are a perfect 6-0 at home entering Friday afternoon’s match.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, March 31, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

LADY TOPPERS FOUR-MATCH WIN STREAK SNAPPED IN LOSS TO MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Friday afternoon, dropping a 4-3 match to Middle Tennessee. The Lady Toppers fall to 14-8 on the year, while the Blue Raiders improve to 10-7. The loss snaps a four-match WKU win streak.

“Tough match we played very good doubles but lost 4 out of the first sets in singles,” said head coach Greg Davis. “I think when that happened we allowed them to take the momentum back in the match. Middle is a tough place to play. The team gave it everything until the end.”

The Lady Toppers won their fifth straight doubles point winning at No. 2 and No. 3. The Blue Raiders took the early edge winning 6-3 on court 1. The No. 3 pair of Sofia Blanco and Rachel Hermanova matched Middle Tennessee’s win on court one with a 6-3 win. The No. 2 duo of Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada earned the doubles point for WKU, winning 6-4 to take the early lead.

Going into singles play with the 1-0 lead, the Lady Toppers fell victim to the tough road environment dropping four of six points.

Zegada gave the Lady Toppers a 2-0 lead after winning on court six in dominating fashion, 6-0 in both games. Middle Tennessee then secured its first point on court four with a 6-3, 6-2 win. In the No. 2 spot the Blue Raiders won, 6-4 and 6-1, tying the match at two apiece. Sunskriithi Damera secured what would be the Lady Topper’s final point of the night, winning 6-3 and 6-4. The victory marked Damera’s 10th win in the fifth slot. The Blue Raiders took the final two games of the match winning 4-3, to keep a perfect 7-0 home record.

The Lady Toppers will return home and continue C-USA play with a visit from UAB on Saturday, April 8. First serve is set for 1 p.m. CT.

Final Results

Singles (Order of Finish: 6,4,2,5,3,1)

1. Love-Star Alexis (MTSU) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 7-6 (7-3), 7-5
2. Sana Garakani (MTSU) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-4, 6-1
3. Muskan Gupta (MTSU) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-4, 2-6, 6-1
4. Noelle Mauro (MTSU) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-3, 6-2
5. Sunskriithi Damera (WKU) def. Lilly-Sophie Schmidt (MTSU) 6-3, 6-4
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Cara Szilasi (MTSU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles (Order of Finish: 1,3,2)

1. Love-Star Alexis/Muskan Gupta (MTSU) def. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
2. Samantha Martinez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Sana Garakani/Noelle Mauro (MTSU) 6-4
3. Sofia Blanco/Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Lilly-Sophie Schmidt/Cara Szilasi (MTSU) 6-3

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, April 7, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

LADY TOPPERS SET TO HOST UAB FOR FIRST C-USA HOME MATCH

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continues the 2023 season and C-USA campaign with a visit from UAB on Saturday, April 8. Play will begin at 1 p.m. CT from the WKU Tennis Complex.

“UAB has consistently been in the top half of C-USA and we have a great deal of respect for their program,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Last season in the conference tournament we had a very competitive match and I’m sure this Saturday will be the same.”

This past Friday, the Lady Toppers fell to Middle Tennessee, 4-3, snapping the previous four-match win streak. With the loss, WKU falls to 14-8 on the year while dropping to 1-2 in C-USA play.

WKU is 1-8 all-time against the Blazers, dropping the last match, 3-4, back on April 21, 2022 in the C-USA Tournament. The match marks the fourth time the two have faced off in Bowling Green. UAB has won the previous three.

UAB is 7-9 on the year and most recently lost to Louisiana Tech 5-2 on April 1. The Blazers have lost five straight entering Saturday afternoon’s match.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, April 8, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

LADY TOPPERS DROP MATCH TO UAB SATURDAY AFTERNOON

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis continued its 2023 season on Saturday afternoon, dropping a 5-2 match to UAB. The Lady Toppers fall to 14-9 on the year, while the Blazers improve to 10-7.

For the first time in six matches, the Lady Toppers dropped the doubles point with two of the games going to the tiebreaker. UAB took it on court three 7-6 (7-2) and 7-6 (8-6) on court two to take the doubles point and the early lead. The court one duo of Cortez and Hernandez were up 5-4 in the tiebreaker before play was stopped.

The Blazers were first to strike in singles with a pair of 6-0 sweeps on court six to take a 2-0 lead. Sofia Blanco secured her 14th win of the season with a 6-3, 6-0 win. UAB strengthened its grip, winning on court five 6-2, 6-1 to go ahead 3-1. Shortly after the Blazers clinched the match with a pair of 6-4 wins on court two followed by another victory on court three for their fifth point. The final point of the afternoon came on court one. Paola Cortez won in three sets, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 to get the second and final point of the afternoon for the red and white.

“Give UAB all the credit, doubles was tight, it could have gone either way,” said head coach Greg Davis. “I’m very proud though, we had two really good wins in singles at number four with Sofia Blanco winning in straight sets, and Paola Cortez had probably her best win of the year at number one.”

The Lady Toppers will continue the C-USA homestand and host the UTEP Miners on Saturday, April 15. First serve is set for 10 a.m. CT.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 6,4,5,2,3,1)

1. Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Adela Wasserbauerova (UAB) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3
2. Sydney Clarke (UAB) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-4, 6-4
3. Annalisa Smith (UAB) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-4, 6-3
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Mackenzie White (UAB) 6-3, 6-0
5. Enya Ratkic (UAB) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-2, 6-1
6. Vanessa Mellynychuk (UAB) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish: 3,2)

1. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) vs. Maggie White/Sydney Clarke (UAB) 6-6, unfinished
2. Adela Wasserbauerova/Mackenzie White (UAB) def. Samantha Martinez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 7-6 (8-6)
3. Enya Ratkic/Vanessa Mellynychuk (UAB) def. Sofia Blanco/Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 7-6 (7-2)

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, April 14, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

TWO WKU TENNIS STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMED TO C-USA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

IRVING, Texas – WKU Tennis junior Samantha Martinez and sophomore Sofia Blanco have been named to the C-USA All-Academic Team, the league office announced Thursday. The pair are two of six named to the 2023 Women's Tennis All-Academic Team.

WKU was the only school to see multiple honors on the 2023 team as well as the team with the youngest player to earn the honor.

"We are very proud of Samantha and Sofia for being awarded this prestigious honor," said head coach Greg Davis. "There were only six players chosen and we were the only institution to have two players on the all academic team. We always stress champions in the classroom and on the court and they are a great example of the culture we continue to build."

Blanco earned her first honor on the All-Academic team with a 3.81 GPA majoring in Business Data Analytics and Computer Science. On the court, Blanco has racked up 14 singles wins in the 2023 season, including a 12-4 mark in the teams No. 4 slot. During the Lady Toppers four match win streak earlier in the season, Blanco won all but one set in singles play by a margin of four or more.

Martinez joins Blanco with her first C-USA All-Academic honor. The Junior from La Guaira, Venezuela has a 4.0 GPA majoring in Social Media Marketing and Graphic Design. Earlier this season, Martinez broke the WKU Tennis career doubles record recording her 38th career doubles win in the teams win over Saint Louis.

The Lady Toppers will wrap up C-USA regular season play with a visit from UTEP on Saturday, April 15.

2023 Conference USA Women's Tennis All-Academic Team

Ruxi Schech | Charlotte | Sr. | 3.8 | International Business

Maria Budin | Rice | Sr. | 3.919 | Psychology

Annalisa Smith | UAB | Sr. | 4.0 | Computer Science

Veronika Lebisova | UTEP | Jr. | 4.0 | Kinesiology

Sofia Blanco | WKU | So. | 3.81 | Business Data Analytics/ Computer Science

Samantha Martinez | WKU | Jr. | 4.0 | Social Media Marketing/ Graphic Design

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, April 14, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

WKU TENNIS SET TO HOST UTEP AND MARSHALL TO CLOSE OUT 2023 REGULAR SEASON

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis wraps up the 2023 regular season and C-USA campaign with a visit from UTEP on Saturday, April 15 followed by a non-conference match against rival Marshall on Sunday, April 16. Both matches will be played at the WKU Tennis Complex, weather permitting. Doubles play is set to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

“Two very good teams visiting this weekend. UTEP is the most improved team in the league and Marshall has had a tremendous season with wins over Kentucky and other top teams,” said head coach Greg Davis. “We would love to see our fans fill the stands this weekend for our final two home matches.”

This past Saturday, the Lady Toppers fell to UAB 5-2, falling to 14-9 on the year while dropping to 1-3 in C-USA play. WKU lost the doubles point in the match for the first time in six matches.

WKU is 1-0 all-time against UTEP with the lone matchup against the Miners coming back on January 27, 2018 in a 4-1 victory. The match took place in Louisville, Ky.

UTEP is 5-11 on the year while posting a 1-2 mark in C-USA play. They most recently defeated Grambling State 4-0 back on April 8.

The Lady Toppers are 2-1 all-time against Marshall with the last matchup resulting in a 4-3 win on April 16, 2022 in Huntington, W.V. Sunday will mark the first time the two have played in Bowling Green and the first out of conference matchup.

The Thundering Herd are 13-6 on the year, most recently defeating South Alabama 4-0 on April 9. Marshall is set to take on Appalachian State Friday, April 14 at 1 p.m. CT.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, April 16, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

WKU CLOSES OUT REGULAR SEASON IN LOSS TO MARSHALL

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis concluded the 2023 regular season Sunday afternoon, falling to Marshall 4-0. The Lady Toppers fall to 15-10 on the year, while the Thundering Herd improve to 14-7.

The duo of Hermanova and Blanco were first to strike in doubles claiming a 6-3 win. The Thundering Herd evened things up on court one with a 6-3 win of their own. On court two Marshall took a 6-2 win to claim the doubles point and take the early 1-0 lead over the Lady Toppers.

Going into singles play, Marshall grabbed the first singles point on court five. The Lady Toppers' backs were against the wall after the Thundering Herd recorded another win on court three to take a 3-0 lead. The final point of the afternoon came on court two giving Marshall a 4-0 win over WKU. Mariana Zegada was in the lead in the second set 3-2 on court six when play was stopped.

"One of the best teams we've played all year. They came in here with wins over Kentucky, Cincinnati... they're a tremendous team," said head coach Greg Davis. "The good thing today, helped us with yesterday as well, is when you go to conference [tournament] if you wanna advance you have to find a way to play well on back-to-back days and keep your intensity level up. Playing two good teams this weekend on back-to-back days is going to pay dividends for us going into the conference tournament."

The Lady Toppers will travel to Denton, Texas for the 2023 C-USA Tournament. Play is set to begin on Thursday, April 20.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 5,3,2)

1. Paola Cortez (WKU) vs. Johanna Strom (MAR) 4-6, 2-4, unfinished
2. Emma Vanderheyden (MAR) def. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 6-4, 6-3
3. Doroteja Joksovic (MAR) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-4, 6-2
4. Sofia Blanco (WKU) vs. Aisling McGrane (MAR) 1-6, 5-6, unfinished
5. Sophia Hurrion (MAR) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-1, 6-1
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) vs. Andjela Lopicic (MAR) 3-6, 3-2, unfinished

Doubles (Order of finish: 3,1,2)

1. Johanna Strom/Emma Vanderheyden (MAR) def. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
2. Aisling McGrane/Sophia Hurrion (MAR) def. Samantha Martinez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-3
3. Sofia Blanco/Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Gabrielle Clairotte/Rieke Gillar (MAR) 6-2

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Monday, April 17, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

WKU TENNIS DRAWS MIDDLE TENNESSEE IN FIRST ROUND OF 2023 C-USA TOURNAMENT

DENTON, Texas — WKU Tennis begins its postseason on Thursday, April 20 at the Conference USA Tournament in Denton, Texas. The Lady Toppers were given the No. 10 seed, and will play No. 7 seed Middle Tennessee in the first round at 3 p.m. CT at the Waranch Tennis Complex.

“Anytime Middle Tennessee and WKU play in any sport you can throw out the records. The first time we played this year was a few weeks ago and it was a very hard-fought match,” said head coach Greg Davis. “I’m sure this time it will be the same with two evenly matched teams fighting to advance into the quarterfinal spot against the number 2 seed Charlotte.”

WKU enters the 2023 C-USA Tournament with a 15-10 overall record and dropped its last match this past Sunday to Marshall. Middle Tennessee, meanwhile, owns a 11-9 mark, dropping two of its last three matches, with the team winning its most recent decision on April 16 against UTEP, 6-1.

The sides met previously this season, in Murfreesboro, Tenn. on March 31. That day, the Blue Raiders came out on top, winning 4-3.

If WKU wins, the squad would face No. 2 Charlotte in the quarterfinal round on Friday, April 21 at 1 p.m. CT.

The Lady Toppers are in the midst of the third-best single season win total in program history behind only last season (18-9) and 1985 (20-8). Last month, Samantha Martinez won her 38th doubles match of her WKU career, breaking the record for most doubles wins in program history, formerly held by Cora-Lynn von Dungern, who posted a 37-14 record in her doubles career. Since then, she has added three more wins, owning a 41-21 career doubles record at WKU.

Rachel Hermanova has continued to impress in singles posting a 17-7 record in 2023. Last season she broke the record for single season singles wins with 19. Last Saturday a win over UTEP marked her 36th career singles win which puts her tied for second all-time in career singles wins with a 36-13 record matching Laura Bernardos’ 36 wins while she was on The Hill.

The full bracket and more information regarding the 2023 tournament can be found at [ConferenceUSA.com](https://www.conferenceusa.com)

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, April 20, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Will Gerber, WKU Tennis Sports Information Director

LADY TOPPERS' SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE IN LOSS TO MIDDLE TENNESSEE

DENTON, Texas. — The 2023 WKU Tennis Season came to a close Thursday afternoon in a 4-3 loss to Middle Tennessee. The Lady Toppers fall to 15-11 on the year, while the Blue Raiders improve to 12-9.

The Blue Raiders jumped out front early on claiming the first match on court one 6-3. Middle Tennessee continued from there taking the match on court two 6-2 to take the doubles point. This marked the second straight match the Lady Toppers dropped the doubles point.

Going into singles play, Rachel Hermanova was first to strike for the Lady Toppers, winning in resounding fashion, 6-1 and 6-0, to tie the match at one apiece. The domination in singles continued on court six with Mariana Zegada sweeping her way to victory 6-0 in both sets to give the Lady Toppers a 2-1 lead. Sayda Hernandez won on court three 6-0 and 6-3 in the third set to take 3-1 lead in the match. Middle Tennessee took their second point of the afternoon winning on court one to cut the lead to 3-2. The Blue Raiders then tied the match up at three-all winning on court four. On court five Sunskrithi Damera took the first set 6-4 but fell in the second 7-6 (9-7). In the third set the Blue Raiders came out hot, taking it 6-1 and winning the match 4-3.

“Great match, we fought hard to get back in it,” said head coach Greg Davis. “Credit to Middle they took advantage of second opportunities.”

In spite of the loss, The Lady Toppers had a record-breaking year setting a third-best 15 wins this season in addition to Samantha Martinez breaking the career doubles wins with 41 career doubles wins. Rachel Hermanova now stands alone in second in all-time career singles wins with 37 after her win today.

Final Results

Singles (Order of finish: 2,6,3,1,4,5)

1. Love-Star Alexis (MTSU) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-3, 6-3
2. Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Sana Garakani (MTSU) 6-1, 6-0
3. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Muskan Gupta (MTSU) 6-0, 0-6, 6-3
4. Noelle Mauro (MTSU) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 6-4, 6-4
5. Lilly-Sophie Schmidt (MTSU) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 4-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-1
6. Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Camila Barragan (MTSU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles (Order of finish: 1,2)

1. Love-Star Alexis/Muskan Gupta (MTSU) def. Paola Cortez/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-3
2. Sana Garakani/Noelle Mauro (MTSU) def. Samantha Martinez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-2
3. Lilly-Sophie Schmidt/Cara Szilasi (MTSU) vs. Sofia Blanco/Rachel Hermanova (WKU) 5-3, unfinished

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

THREE LADY TOPPERS NAMED TO CSC ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT TEAM

GREENWOOD, Ind. – Three WKU Tennis players have been named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team in Sofia Blanco, Paola Cortez, and Sofia Blanco, the organization announced on Tuesday.

“We are very proud of these three players for their excellence in the classroom at WKU,” said head coach Greg Davis. “To be successful in the classroom and on the court at the same time is very difficult and requires tremendous focus and effort.”

Blanco earns this honor after being recognized on the Conference USA All-Academic team with a 3.81 GPA majoring in Business Data Analytics and Computer Science. On the court, Blanco racked up 14 singles wins in the 2023 season, including a 12-5 mark in the team’s No. 4 slot. During the Lady Toppers four match win streak earlier in the season, Blanco won all but one set in singles play by a margin of four or more.

This is the first All-Academic honor for Cortez this year after posting a 3.69 GPA majoring in Sports Management. The junior totaled 10 wins playing at the No. 1 spot in all but one match. She posted five wins in her last eight matches, tied for second-best on the team.

Martinez joined Blanco being recognized with her first C-USA All-Academic honor, earlier this year. The Junior from La Guaira, Venezuela has a 4.0 GPA majoring in Social Media Marketing and Graphic Design. Earlier this season, Martinez broke the WKU Tennis career doubles record recording her 38th career doubles win in the teams win over Saint Louis.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS TOTAL 3.72 SPRING SEMESTER GPA

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – WKU Tennis finished the spring semester with a 3.72 team GPA, improving from its 3.60 GPA in the fall semester.

“I could not be happier for the team,” said head coach Greg Davis. “It is always challenging to achieve academically and athletically during the spring semester with travel and competitions. The goal was to be above a 3.70 for the semester and the team was able to achieve this lofty goal as well as producing the programs third-highest winning total in program history.”

Earlier this year, two Lady Toppers were named to the Conference USA All-Academic Team in Sofia Blanco and Samantha Martinez. Blanco achieved a 3.81 GPA, majoring in Business Data Analytics and Computer Science while Martinez notched a 4.0 GPA, majoring in Social Media Marketing and Graphic Design.

Last week, three Lady Toppers were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team with Paola Cortez joining Blanco and Martinez on the list. Cortez posted a 3.69 GPA, majoring in Sports Management.

The Lady Toppers finished their 2023 spring season with a 15-11 record, the third-most wins in a single-season in program history after coming off a 2022 spring season when they claimed an 18-9 record, the second-most wins in a single-season in program history.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, May 18, 2023

Tennis / Contact: Jack Todd, Assistant Director of Communications/Media Relations

LADY TOPPERS ADD CAMPBELL TRANSFER ANNA-MARIE KOPECKA TO ROSTER

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Tennis has added Campbell transfer Anna-Marie Kopecka to the roster for the 2023-24 season, head coach Greg Davis announced Thursday.

Kopecka comes to the Hill as a senior after competing for the Fighting Camels the last three seasons. The Prague, Czech Republic, native primarily played at the 3-4 singles spots and 1-2 doubles positions last year for Campbell.

"We are excited to have Anna-Marie coming to The Hill in the fall," Davis said. "Her excellence in the classroom and on the court in the past make her a great fit for our program."

Kopecka played with one of the top tennis academics in the Czech Republic while winning multiple national singles and doubles tournaments. She was a part of the winning team in Kropmühle, where her squad was promoted to the highest league in Bavaria, Germany.

She joins a Lady Topper team returning every player from last season in Sofia Blanco, Paola Cortez, Sunskriti Damera, Rachel Hermanova, Sayda Hernandez, and Mariana Zegada.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, July 11, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jack Todd, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

WKU Tennis Earns ITA Academic Awards

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – Following a successful spring in which the program achieved the third-highest win total in program history, WKU women's tennis was named an ITA All-Academic Team and five Lady Toppers earned ITA Scholar-Athlete Awards. To be honored with the team award, teams must have a GPA of 3.20 or above, while the Lady Toppers held a 3.72 team GPA.

"I couldn't be happier to see the team, as well as the five individuals, honored by the ITA," head coach Greg Davis said. "We strive for excellence every day, not just on the court, but in the classroom as well, and these honors are the reward for hard work."

Individually, Sofia Blanco, Paola Cortez, Sunskrithi Damera, Samantha Martinez and Mariana Zegada were all honored. To be named an ITA Scholar-Athlete, student-athletes must hold a GPA of at least 3.5 during the current academic year.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS ANNOUNCE 2023-24 SCHEDULE

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis announced his team's 2023-24 schedule on Wednesday.

The Lady Toppers, who have posted two of the three winningest seasons in program history the last two years under Davis, will begin the 2023-24 slate with three invitational events this fall, before kicking off the spring season in mid-January.

The 2024 spring schedule features 24 regular-season matches, with 12 of those taking place at home at either the WKU Tennis Complex on WKU's South Campus or at the Michael O. Buchanan Park Indoor Tennis Facility, before heading to Miami for the Conference USA Championship.

"One of the things putting together the schedule we wanted to do was play some new teams," Davis said. "We have Liberty coming in – we're excited about that – and Middle Tennessee coming here is always a big match. My ex-assistant is the head coach at Wyoming and he's coming in. UIC's coming to Bowling Green. We've got a very difficult schedule set up for the spring."

All three of the Lady Toppers' opportunities this fall will come away from Bowling Green. WKU's fall begins Oct. 6-8 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for the Middle Tennessee Invitational, before heading to Birmingham, Alabama, for the Samford Invitational from Oct. 13-15 and to Houston for the Rice Invitational from Nov. 3-5.

The Lady Toppers are set to open the spring on the road with a Jan. 15 match at Eastern Kentucky. The home opener is scheduled for Jan. 19 against Bellarmine, and WKU will again hit the road to take on Lipscomb in Nashville, Tennessee, on Jan. 21.

WKU will follow with a three-match homestand against Northern Kentucky on Jan. 26, Western Carolina on Jan. 28 and SEMO on Feb. 2.

The Lady Toppers hit the road for a doubleheader in Evansville, Indiana, against Austin Peay and Southern Indiana on Feb. 10, and will follow with a match at Murray State on Feb. 17.

WKU will welcome Wyoming and UIC to town for the weekend of Feb. 23-25. The Lady Toppers will play Wyoming that Friday and UIC on Sunday, and the two visitors will face off against each other that Saturday.

March will start with three straight home matches for the Lady Toppers. They'll face Belmont on March 2, IUPUI on March 3 and Eastern Illinois on March 10.

WKU will make the trip north to Dayton, Ohio, for a March 16 match, and then play the next three in Alabama. The Lady Toppers are scheduled to face Samford and UAB on back-to-back days in Birmingham on March 22 and 23, and then will play Alabama A&M in Huntsville on March 27.

The Lady Toppers have a stretch of five home matches late in the season, starting with a doubleheader against Tennessee State on March 30. They'll host North Alabama on April 4, before CUSA matches against Liberty and Middle Tennessee on April 6 and 10 to close out the regular-season home slate.

WKU's regular-season finale is scheduled for April 15 against Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, Florida.

The CUSA Championship is scheduled for April 18-21 in Miami.

The Lady Toppers return all seven members of the 2022-23 team that finished the season 15-11 overall, and added one newcomer in Campbell transfer Anna-Marie Kopecka.

The full WKU Women's Tennis 2023-24 Schedule can be found [here](#).

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPS OPEN THE FALL AT MTSU INVITATIONAL

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – WKU Women's Tennis will open the fall schedule this weekend at the MTSU Invitational in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The Lady Toppers will be one of six teams taking part in the event, which is scheduled to take place Oct. 6-8 at the Adams Tennis Complex at Middle Tennessee.

"It's going to be a very difficult tournament to start off with," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. " ... Right off the bat it's going to be a challenge. We've had some really good practices this fall, so the team's very upbeat and looking forward to competing against some new competition."

WKU will begin action Friday at 1 p.m. CT with singles matches against Tennessee State, and will follow later in the day with doubles matches against Bellarmine at 3:30 p.m. CT and Lipscomb at 4:30 p.m. CT.

On Saturday, WKU is scheduled to face the host Lady Raiders in singles matches at 9 a.m. CT before doubles matches against Tennessee State at 12:30 p.m. CT. The Lady Toppers will also have singles matches against Lipscomb at 2:30 p.m. CT Saturday.

WKU will wrap up the weekend with singles matches against Eastern Kentucky on Sunday at 8 a.m. CT and doubles matches against Middle Tennessee at 11 a.m. CT.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, Oct. 6, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPS HAVE STRONG SHOWING IN FIRST FALL ACTION

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – WKU Women's Tennis had a strong showing in its first action of the fall on Friday at the MTSU Invitational at the Adams Tennis Complex.

WKU started the first day of the three-day event with singles matches against Tennessee State, and all eight Lady Toppers claimed victories in their matches. WKU then claimed victories in six of the seven doubles matches it played later in the day.

"I think we had a great day one," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "Today the goal was to compete to the best of our ability and we, for the most part, did that in singles and doubles. We have an early start and two tough singles matches against MTSU and Lipscomb tomorrow, so Saturday is going to be a big challenge."

In singles matches that began at 1 p.m., Paola Cortez won her match against Warona Mdlulwa 6-2, 6-0. Rachel Hermanova won her match against Louise Ratiu 6-0, 6-3. Sayda Hernandez claimed victory in her match against Fran Gomez-Weiss 6-0, 6-2. In her first action as a Lady Topper, Anna-Marie Kopecka topped Jovana Nikolic 6-3, 6-3. Sofia Blanco defeated Aroa Castillo 6-4, 6-1. Samantha Martinez beat Natalie Walsh 6-0, 6-0. Sunskrithi Damera won her match against Claudia Murdasanu 6-0, 6-0. Mariana Zegada won against Taylor Ellis 6-0, 6-0.

In doubles action starting at 3:30 p.m., WKU claimed three victories over Bellarmine. Cortez and Kopecka won their match against Vendula Krysova and Erica Kanna Hagi 7-6 (4), Blanco and Martinez won their match against Lillie Willis and Marika Caruk 6-3, and Damera and Hernandez won their match against Jai Garris and Nikola Kollaritsch 6-1. In the same time slot, Hermanova and Zegada won a match against Eastern Kentucky's Madison Hill and Ezem Olcer 6-3.

In the 4:30 p.m. doubles time slot, WKU took two of three matches against Lipscomb. Cortez and Kopecka topped Rut Galiudo and Deborah Dominguez 6-3, and Blanco and Martinez claimed a 7-5 victory over Sasha Dobrano and Anja Trbeznik. Hernandez and Damera fell to Sofiia Paladi and Alina Cherniaieva 6-4.

On Saturday, WKU is scheduled to face the host Lady Raiders in singles matches at 9 a.m. CT before doubles matches against Tennessee State at 12:30 p.m. CT. The Lady Toppers will also have singles matches against Lipscomb at 2:30 p.m. CT Saturday.

WKU is scheduled to wrap up the weekend with singles matches against Eastern Kentucky on Sunday at 8 a.m. CT and doubles matches against Middle Tennessee at 11 a.m. CT.

Friday, Oct. 6

Singles – 1 p.m.

WKU vs. TSU

Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Warona Mdlulwa (TSU) 6-2, 6-0

Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Louise Ratiu (TSU) 6-0, 6-3

Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Fran Gomez-Weiss (TSU) 6-0, 6-2

Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) def. Jovana Nikolic (TSU) 6-3, 6-3
Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Aroa Castillo (TSU) 6-4, 6-1
Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Natalie Walsh (TSU) 6-0, 6-0
Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Claudia Murdasanu (TSU) 6-0, 6-0
Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Taylor Ellis (TSU) 6-0, 6-0

Doubles – 3:30 p.m.

MTSU/WKU/TSU vs. ECU

Rachel Hermanova/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Madison Hill/Ezem Olcer (EKU) 6-3

Bellarmine vs. WKU

Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) def. Vendula Kryslova/Erica Kanna Hagi (BELL) 7-6 (4)
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Lillie Willis/Marika Caruk (BELL) 6-3
Sunskrithi Damera/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Jai Garris/Nikola Kollaritsch (BELL) 6-1

Doubles – 4:30 p.m.

WKU vs. Lipscomb

Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) def. Rut Galiudo/Deborah Dominguez (LIP) 6-3
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Sasha Dobranos/Anja Trbeznik (LIP) 7-5
Sofia Paladi/Alina Cherniaeva (LIP) def. Sayda Hernandez/Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-4

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS GO 11-0 IN FINAL DAY OF MTSU INVITATIONAL

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – WKU Women's Tennis closed out the MTSU Invitational at the Adams Tennis Complex strong on Sunday. The Lady Toppers went a perfect 11-0 on the final day of the three-day event.

"We wanted to finish strong and to leave going 8-0 in singles and 3-0 in doubles was a great achievement," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "We wanted to have some momentum going into Friday's tournament at Samford and we were able to perform at a high level today."

In singles competition against Eastern Kentucky, Paola Cortez won her match against Maria Fedenko 6-2, 6-2, Rachel Hermanova defeated Marilou Cote 6-2, 6-3, Sayda Hernandez topped Emmy Poleuoi 6-4, 6-1, Anna-Marie Kopecka won her match against Ezem Olcer 6-1, 6-3, Sofia Blanco defeated Jacey Wilson 6-1, 6-0, Mariana Zegada topped Maria Triska 6-0, 6-0, and Samantha Martinez defeated Madison Hill 6-2, 6-1. Sunskrithi Damera won her singles match against an unattached player 6-0, 6-1.

In doubles matches Sunday, Cortez and Kopecka defeated MTSU's Lena Peyer and Eloise Swarbrick 7-6 (6), Blanco and Martinez defeated MTSU's Hrudaya Shah and Lilly-Sophie Schmidt 6-4, and Hernandez and Zegada defeated TSU's Natalie Walsh and Taylor Ellis 6-0.

WKU finished the three-day event with a 25-6 record in singles matches and a 13-1 mark in doubles matches.

The Lady Toppers are scheduled to head to Birmingham, Alabama, next weekend for the Samford Invitational from Oct. 13-15.

Sunday, Oct. 8

Singles – 9 a.m.

EKU vs. WKU

Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Maria Fedenko (EKU) 6-2, 6-2
Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Marilou Cote (EKU) 6-2, 6-3
Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Emmy Poleuoi (EKU) 6-4, 6-1
Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) def. Ezem Olcer (EKU) 6-1, 6-3
Sofia Blanco (WKU) def. Jacey Wilson (EKU) 6-1, 6-0
Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Maria Triska (EKU) 6-0, 6-0
Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Madison Hill (EKU) 6-2, 6-1
Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. unattached player 6-0, 6-1

Doubles – 11:00 a.m.

MTSU vs. WKU

Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) def. Lena Peyer/Eloise Swarbrick (MTSU) 7-6 (6)
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Hrudaya Shah/Lilly-Sophie Schmidt (MTSU) 6-4

WKU vs. TSU

Sayda Hernandez/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Natalie Walsh/Taylor Ellis (TSU) 6-0

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS CONTINUE FALL SLATE AT SAMFORD INVITATIONAL

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – WKU Women's Tennis will continue its fall schedule this weekend with the Samford Invitational at the Samford Tennis Center.

The three-day event, scheduled for Oct. 13-15 in Birmingham, Alabama, will feature WKU, Samford, South Alabama and UAB.

"A really challenging tournament field this weekend," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "A good mix of talent from four different conferences. South Alabama has been a powerhouse for years. Samford and UAB are two really deep and well coached teams. I know the team and I are excited about the competition ahead of us the next few days."

The Lady Toppers will open the event Friday with doubles matches against UAB at 10 a.m. CT. They'll also face Samford in singles matches at 1 p.m. CT

On Saturday, WKU is scheduled to face South Alabama in doubles at 10 a.m. CT and UAB in singles at 1 p.m. CT.

WKU will wrap up the weekend Sunday with doubles matches against Samford at 10 a.m. CT and singles matches against South Alabama at 11 a.m. CT.

The Lady Toppers opened the fall schedule last weekend with the MTSU Invitational in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, going 25-6 in singles matches and 13-1 in doubles matches.

Friday, Oct. 13

10 a.m.

Doubles – Samford vs. South Alabama; WKU vs. UAB

11 a.m.

Singles – South Alabama vs. UAB

1 p.m.

Singles – Samford vs. WKU

Saturday, Oct. 14

10 a.m.

Doubles – Samford vs. UAB; South Alabama vs. WKU

11 a.m.

Singles – Samford vs. South Alabama

1 p.m.

Singles – WKU vs. UAB

Sunday, Oct. 15

10 a.m.

Doubles – Samford vs. WKU; UAB vs. South Alabama

11 a.m.

Singles – South Alabama vs. WKU

1 p.m.

Samford vs. UAB

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, Oct. 13, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS COMPETE IN DAY 1 AT SAMFORD ROUND ROBIN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – WKU Women's Tennis was back in action Friday at the Samford Round Robin at the Samford Tennis Center.

The Lady Toppers won three of the four doubles matches they played to start the day and had victories from Rachel Hermanova and Sunskrithi Damera in singles play against host Samford later in the day.

"Started off today in doubles and played very well against some very tough competition," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "In the afternoon singles matches, we were less competitive than we would have liked. That said, Rachel and Sunny had two good wins and Sofia and Mariana were right there at the end."

In doubles, Sofia Blanco and Samantha Martinez defeated UAB's Annalisa Smith and Sydney Clarke 6-3, Hermanova and Sayda Hernandez defeated UAB's Adela Wasserbauerova and Klara Kajabova 7-6, and Damera and Mariana Zegada defeated Samford's Grace Keller and Annie Holt 6-4. Paola Cortez and Anna-Marie Kopecka fell to UAB's Vanessa Mellynychuk and Mackenzie White 7-5.

In singles competition against Samford, Damera topped Lauren Waddles 6-7, 6-4, 10-3 and Hermanova defeated Emily Surcey 6-4, 7-5. Cortez lost to Alexis Lopez 6-2, 6-2, Hernandez lost to Ally Hayduk 6-2, 6-1, Kopecka lost to Noelle Mauro 7-6, 6-0, Blanco lost to Margaret Jaraczewski 7-6, 2-6, 10-6, Martinez lost to Samantha Maras 6-3, 6-4, and Zegada lost to Meredith Taylor 0-6, 7-5, 11-9.

WKU will continue play at the Samford Round Robin on Saturday and Sunday. The Lady Toppers are scheduled to face South Alabama in doubles at 10 a.m. CT and UAB in singles at 1 p.m. CT on Saturday, before wrapping up the weekend Sunday with doubles matches against Samford at 10 a.m. CT and singles matches against South Alabama at 11 a.m. CT.

Saturday's matches will be streamed [here](#).

Friday, Oct. 13

Doubles

Vanessa Mellynychuk/Mackenzie White (UAB) def. Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 7-5
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Annalisa Smith/Sydney Clarke (UAB) 6-3
Rachel Hermanova/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Adela Wasserbauerova/Klara Kajabova (UAB) 7-6
Sunskrithi Damera/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Grace Keller/Annie Holt (SAM) 6-4

Singles

Alexis Lopez (SAM) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-2, 6-2
Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Emily Surcey (SAM) 6-4, 7-5
Ally Hayduk (SAM) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-2, 6-1
Noelle Mauro (SAM) def. Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 7-6, 6-0
Margaret Jaraczewski (SAM) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 7-6, 2-6, 10-6
Samantha Maras (SAM) def. Samantha Martinez (WKU) 6-3, 6-4
Meredith Taylor (SAM) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 0-6, 7-5, 11-9
Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Lauren Waddles (SAM) 6-7, 6-4, 10-3

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS WRAP UP DAY 2 OF SAMFORD ROUND ROBIN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – WKU Women's Tennis was back in action Saturday for the second day of the Samford Round Robin at the Samford Tennis Center.

The Lady Toppers claimed two victories in doubles matches against South Alabama and four in singles matches against UAB and Samford.

"I thought we played some really good tennis today," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "Doubles was very good for the second straight day and our singles was much improved. Doubles in the morning Sunday against a very deep Samford team and singles against an extremely talented South Alabama team, so tomorrow will be a tremendous challenge."

In doubles, Sofia Blanco and Samantha Martinez defeated South Alabama's Chems Doha Zeghlouli and Manal Ennaciri 6-2, and Rachel Hermanova and Sayda Hernandez defeated South Alabama's Nikola Novotna and Lara van der Merwe 6-3. Paola Cortez and Anna-Marie Kopecka fell to South Alabama's Tereza Dejnozkova and Elysia Pool 6-2, and Sunskrithi Damera and Mariana Zegada fell to Samford's Lauren Waddles and Grace Keller 7-5.

Cortez, Hermanova, Hernandez and Martinez all claimed victories in singles matches. Cortez topped UAB's Sydney Clarke 4-6, 7-6, 10-6, Hermanova defeated UAB's Enya Ratkic 6-2, 6-4, Hernandez beat UAB's Annalisa Smith 4-6, 6-3, 11-9, and Martinez won against Samford's Meredith Taylor 3-6, 6-2, 10-6.

Also in singles action against UAB, Kopecka fell to Vanessa Mellynychuk 6-4, 6-0, Blanco fell to Klara Kajabova 7-6, 6-4, Zegada fell to Mackenzie White 3-6, 6-1, 10-6, and Damera fell to Adela Wasserbauerova 6-4, 6-2.

WKU will wrap up the weekend at the Samford Round Robin on Sunday with doubles matches against Samford at 10 a.m. CT and singles matches against South Alabama at 11 a.m. CT.

Sunday's matches will be streamed [here](#).

Saturday, Oct. 14

Doubles

Lauren Waddles/Grace Keller (SAM) def. Sunskrithi Damera/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 7-5
Tereza Dejnozkova/Elysia Pool (USA) def. Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 6-2
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Chems Doha Zeghlouli/Manal Ennaciri (USA) 6-2
Rachel Hermanova/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Nikola Novotna/Lara van der Merwe (USA) 6-3

Singles

Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Sydney Clarke (UAB) 4-6, 7-6, 10-6
Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Enya Ratkic (UAB) 6-2, 6-4
Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Annalisa Smith (UAB) 4-6, 6-3, 11-9
Vanessa Mellynychuk (UAB) def. Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 6-4, 6-0
Klara Kajabova (UAB) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 7-6, 6-4
Mackenzie White (UAB) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 3-6, 6-1, 10-6

Adela Wasserbauerova (UAB) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-4, 6-2
Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Meredith Taylor (SAM) 3-6, 6-2, 10-6

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPS CONCLUDE PLAY AT SAMFORD ROUND ROBIN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – WKU Women's Tennis capped off play in the Samford Round Robin on Sunday at the Samford Tennis Center.

On the third day of the three-day event, the Lady Toppers claimed victories in three of four doubles matches, and also picked up singles victories from Paola Cortez and Rachel Hermanova in the No. 1 and 2 positions.

"I would say this was a big improvement on Day 3," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said.

"Winning three of four doubles, getting two wins at 1 and 2 against South Alabama, and being competitive in every other match – it was good to see that much improvement from our first tournament."

In doubles matches against Samford on Sunday, Cortez and Anna-Marie Kopecka defeated Alexis Lopez and Noelle Mauro 6-0, Sofia Blanco and Samantha Martinez defeated Emily Surcey and Margaret Jaraczewski 6-2, and Sunskrithi Damera and Mariana Zegada defeated Samantha Maras and Annie Holt 6-1. Hermanova and Sayda Hernandez fell to Ally Hayduk and Olivia Jablonski 6-2.

In singles, Cortez won her match against South Alabama's Nikola Novotna 7-6, 6-0, and Hermanova won her match against South Alabama's Elysia Pool 6-3, 7-6. Hernandez fell to South Alabama's Tereza Dejnovzkova 6-4, 7-5, Kopecka fell to South Alabama's Manal Ennaciri 7-6, 6-4, Damera fell to South Alabama's Otoha Aoki 6-0, 4-6, 10-1, Martinez fell to Samford's Lauren Waddles 2-6, 6-3, 10-7, and Zegada fell to Samford's Grace Keller 6-4, 6-3.

WKU is scheduled to wrap up its fall slate Nov. 3-5 at the Rice Invitational in Houston.

Friday, Oct. 13

Doubles

Vanessa Mellynychuk/Mackenzie White (UAB) def. Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 7-5

Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Annalisa Smith/Sydney Clarke (UAB) 6-3

Rachel Hermanova/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Adela Wasserbauerova/Klara Kajabova (UAB) 7-6

Sunskrithi Damera/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Grace Keller/Annie Holt (SAM) 6-4

Singles

Alexis Lopez (SAM) def. Paola Cortez (WKU) 6-2, 6-2

Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Emily Surcey (SAM) 6-4, 7-5

Ally Hayduk (SAM) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-2, 6-1

Noelle Mauro (SAM) def. Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 7-6, 6-0

Margaret Jaraczewski (SAM) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 7-6, 2-6, 10-6

Samantha Maras (SAM) def. Samantha Martinez (WKU) 6-3, 6-4

Meredith Taylor (SAM) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 0-6, 7-5, 11-9

Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) def. Lauren Waddles (SAM) 6-7, 6-4, 10-3

Saturday, Oct. 14

Doubles

Lauren Waddles/Grace Keller (SAM) def. Sunskrithi Damera/Mariana Zegada (WKU) 7-5

Tereza Dejnovzkova/Elysia Pool (USA) def. Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 6-2

Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Chems Doha Zeghlouli/Manal Ennaciri (USA) 6-2
Rachel Hermanova/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Nikola Novotna/Lara van der Merwe (USA) 6-3

Singles

Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Sydney Clarke (UAB) 4-6, 7-6, 10-6
Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Enya Ratkic (UAB) 6-2, 6-4
Sayda Hernandez (WKU) def. Annalisa Smith (UAB) 4-6, 6-3, 11-9
Vanessa Mellynychuk (UAB) def. Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 6-4, 6-0
Klara Kajibova (UAB) def. Sofia Blanco (WKU) 7-6, 6-4
Mackenzie White (UAB) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 3-6, 6-1, 10-6
Adela Wasserbauerova (UAB) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-4, 6-2
Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Meredith Taylor (SAM) 3-6, 6-2, 10-6

Sunday, Oct. 15

Doubles

Paola Cortez/Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) def. Alexis Lopez/Noelle Mauro (SAM) 6-0
Sofia Blanco/Samantha Martinez (WKU) def. Emily Surcey/Margaret Jaraczewski (SAM) 6-2
Ally Hayduk/Olivia Jablonski (SAM) def. Rachel Hermanova/Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-2
Sunskrithi Damera/Mariana Zegada (WKU) def. Samantha Maras/Annie Holt (SAM) 6-1

Singles

Paola Cortez (WKU) def. Nikola Novotna (USA) 7-6, 6-0
Rachel Hermanova (WKU) def. Elysia Pool (USA) 6-3, 7-6
Tereza Dejnozokova (USA) def. Sayda Hernandez (WKU) 6-4, 7-5
Manal Ennaciri (USA) def. Anna-Marie Kopecka (WKU) 7-6, 6-4
Otoha Aoki (USA) def. Sunskrithi Damera (WKU) 6-0, 4-6, 10-1
Lauren Waddles (SAM) def. Samantha Martinez (WKU) 2-6, 6-3, 10-7
Grace Keller (SAM) def. Mariana Zegada (WKU) 6-4, 6-3

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Friday, Nov. 3, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS STRONG IN DOUBLES ON DAY 1 OF RICE INVITATIONAL

HOUSTON – WKU Women's Tennis had a strong showing in doubles play Friday on the first day of the Rice Invitational at the George R. Brown Tennis Center.

The Lady Toppers claimed victories in all four doubles matches they played on the first day of the three-day event.

"I thought we started off great by winning four out of four doubles today," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "I think in singles we struggled today – out of eight singles matches, we won two sets. Rice showed us a level in singles today and depth that we hadn't seen this fall. I see Rice making the NCAA Tournament this year. Saturday we are looking to bring sustained effort throughout our singles matches to bring about better results."

In doubles, Paola Cortez and Anna-Marie Kopecka defeated Houston's Blanca Cortijo Parreno and Nina Skoric 6-1, Sayda Hernandez and Mariana Zegada defeated UT Arlington's Ana Paula Jimenez and Bruna Casasampere 6-3, Sofia Blanco and Samantha Martinez defeated Incarnate Word's Estefania Gonzalez and Lyric Bonilla 6-4, and Rachel Hermanova and Sunskriithi Damera defeated Incarnate Word's Isid Hernandez Leon and Iné Lamprecht 6-3.

The Lady Toppers dropped all eight singles matches they played Friday – six against Rice and two against UTSA.

The Rice Invitational will continue with matches Saturday, Nov. 4, and Sunday, Nov. 5, at the George R. Brown Tennis Center in Houston.

Friday, Nov. 3

Doubles

Cortez/Kopecka (WKU) def. Cortijo/Skoric (UH) 6-1

Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) def. Jimenez/Casasampere (UTA) 6-3

Blanco/Martinez (WKU) def. Gonzalez/Bonilla (UIW) 6-4

Hermanova/Damera (WKU) def. Hernandez/Lamprecht (UIW) 6-3

Singles

Trevisan (Rice) def. Cortez (WKU) 7-6 (5), 6-2

Schwartzman (Rice) def. Hermanova (WKU) 6-2, 6-4

Ratkovic (Rice) def. Hernandez (WKU) 6-3, 6-2

Kezuka (Rice) def. Kopecka (WKU) 6-2, 6-3

Orav (Rice) def. Blanco (WKU) 6-2, 6-3

Ashar (Rice) def. Damera (WKU) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1

Youri (UTSA) def. Martinez (WKU) 6-4, 6-3

Beybach (UTSA) def. Zegada (WKU) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS SHOW IMPROVEMENT IN SINGLES ON DAY 2 AT RICE INVITATIONAL

HOUSTON – WKU Women's Tennis showed improvement in singles play during the second day of the Rice Invitational, winning five of eight singles matches Saturday at the George R. Brown Tennis Center.

Paola Cortez, Sayda Hernandez, Sofia Blanco, Sunskrithi Damera, and Rachel Hermanova each claimed singles victories Saturday after the Lady Toppers struggled in singles play Friday in the first day of the three-day event.

"Played much better in singles today, winning five out of eight," WKU Women's Tennis Head Coach Greg Davis said. "We play a singles match tomorrow morning, so we are excited to have an opportunity to compete and finish with some momentum going into the spring."

Cortez defeated Houston's Laura Slisane 6-3, 7-5, Hernandez defeated Houston's Blanca Cortijo Parreno 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, Blanco defeated Incarnate Word's Isid Hernandez Leon 6-0, 1-6, 6-3, Damera defeated Incarnate Word's Iné Lamprecht 6-3, 6-3, and Hermanova defeated UT Arlington's Sarina Reinertsen 6-2, 6-4.

Also in singles, Incarnate Word's Lyric Bonilla defeated Samantha Martinez 6-2, 6-3, UT Arlington's Ana Paula Jiminez defeated Anna-Marie Kopecka 6-0, 6-3, and Houston's Nina Skoric defeated Mariana Zegada 6-3, 6-2.

The Lady Toppers struggled in doubles Saturday after claiming victories in all four doubles matches they played in the first day in Houston. Cortez and Kopecka claimed the lone victory in eight doubles matches on the event's second day, defeating UT Arlington's Francisca Vergara and Jiminez 6-4.

WKU will wrap up play in the Rice Invitational on Sunday, Nov. 5.

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

SINGLES

Cortez (WKU) def. Slisane (UH) 6-3, 7-5
Hernandez (WKU) def. Cortijo (UH) 6-4, 1-6, 6-4
Blanco (WKU) def. Hernandez (UIW) 6-0, 1-6, 6-3
Damera (WKU) def. Lamprecht (UIW) 6-3, 6-3
Bonilla (UIW) def. Martinez (WKU) 6-2, 6-3
Hermanova (WKU) def. Reinertsen (UTA) 6-2, 6-4
Jiminez (UTA) def. Kopecka (WKU) 6-0, 6-3
Skoric (UH) def. Zegada (WKU) 6-3, 6-2

DOUBLES

Zlatarova/McLay (UTSA) def. Cortez/Kopecka (WKU) 6-4
Baccino/Tuells (UTSA) def. Blanco/Martinez (WKU) 6-4
Youri/Beybach (UTSA) def. Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) 6-4
Cortijo/Skoric (UH) def. Hermanova/Damera (WKU) 6-4

Schwartzman/Orav (Rice) def. Hermanova/Damera (WKU) 7-6 (6)
Ratkovic/Ashar (Rice) def. Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) 6-4
Cortez/Kopecka (WKU) def. Vergara/Jiminez (UTA) 6-4
Reinertsen/Novikova (UTA) def. Blanco/Martinez (WKU) 7-6 (5)

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023

WOMEN'S TENNIS / Contact: Jared MacDonald

LADY TOPPERS FINISH FALL SEASON AT RICE INVITATIONAL

HOUSTON – WKU Women's Tennis finished the fall season Sunday with singles matches in the Rice Invitational at the George R. Brown Tennis Center.

Sunday marked the final day of the three-day event, which was the third competition the Lady Toppers played in this fall – they also competed at the MTSU Invitational and the Samford Round Robin in October.

Rachel Hermanova was WKU's lone winner in Sunday's matches, defeating UTSA's Aleksandra Zlatarova 6-4, 6-4. WKU had five singles matches on the final day of the Rice Invitational.

The Lady Toppers will now turn their sights to the spring season, which will open with a Jan. 15 match at Eastern Kentucky. WKU's first home match is scheduled for Jan. 19 against Bellarmine.

FRIDAY, NOV. 3

Doubles

Cortez/Kopecka (WKU) def. Cortijo/Skoric (UH) 6-1

Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) def. Jimenez/Casasampere (UTA) 6-3

Blanco/Martinez (WKU) def. Gonzalez/Bonilla (UIW) 6-4

Hermanova/Damera (WKU) def. Hernandez/Lamprecht (UIW) 6-3

Singles

Trevisan (Rice) def. Cortez (WKU) 7-6 (5), 6-2

Schwartzman (Rice) def. Hermanova (WKU) 6-2, 6-4

Ratkovic (Rice) def. Hernandez (WKU) 6-3, 6-2

Kezuka (Rice) def. Kopecka (WKU) 6-2, 6-3

Orav (Rice) def. Blanco (WKU) 6-2, 6-3

Ashar (Rice) def. Damera (WKU) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1

Youri (UTSA) def. Martinez (WKU) 6-4, 6-3

Beybach (UTSA) def. Zegada (WKU) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2

SATURDAY, NOV. 4

Singles

Cortez (WKU) def. Slisane (UH) 6-3, 7-5

Hernandez (WKU) def. Cortijo (UH) 6-4, 1-6, 6-4

Blanco (WKU) def. Hernandez (UIW) 6-0, 1-6, 6-3

Damera (WKU) def. Lamprecht (UIW) 6-3, 6-3

Bonilla (UIW) def. Martinez (WKU) 6-2, 6-3

Hermanova (WKU) def. Reinertsen (UTA) 6-2, 6-4

Jiminez (UTA) def. Kopecka (WKU) 6-0, 6-3

Skoric (UH) def. Zegada (WKU) 6-3, 6-2

Doubles

Zlatarova/McLay (UTSA) def. Cortez/Kopecka (WKU) 6-4

Baccino/Tuells (UTSA) def. Blanco/Martinez (WKU) 6-4

Youri/Beybach (UTSA) def. Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) 6-4

Cortijo/Skoric (UH) def. Hermanova/Damera (WKU) 6-4

Schwartzman/Orav (Rice) def. Hermanova/Damera (WKU) 7-6 (6)

Ratkovic/Ashar (Rice) def. Hernandez/Zegada (WKU) 6-4
Cortez/Kopecka (WKU) def. Vergara/Jiminez (UTA) 6-4
Reinertsen/Novikova (UTA) def. Blanco/Martinez (WKU) 7-6 (5)

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

Singles

Ashar (Rice) def. Martinez (WKU) 6-0, 6-3
Baccino (UTSA) def. Cortez (WKU) 7-5, 6-2
Hermanova (WKU) def. Zlatarova (UTSA) 6-4, 6-4
Tuells (UTSA) def. Hernandez (WKU) 6-1, 0-6, 7-6 (3)
Youri (UTSA) def. Zegada (WKU) 6-1, 6-3