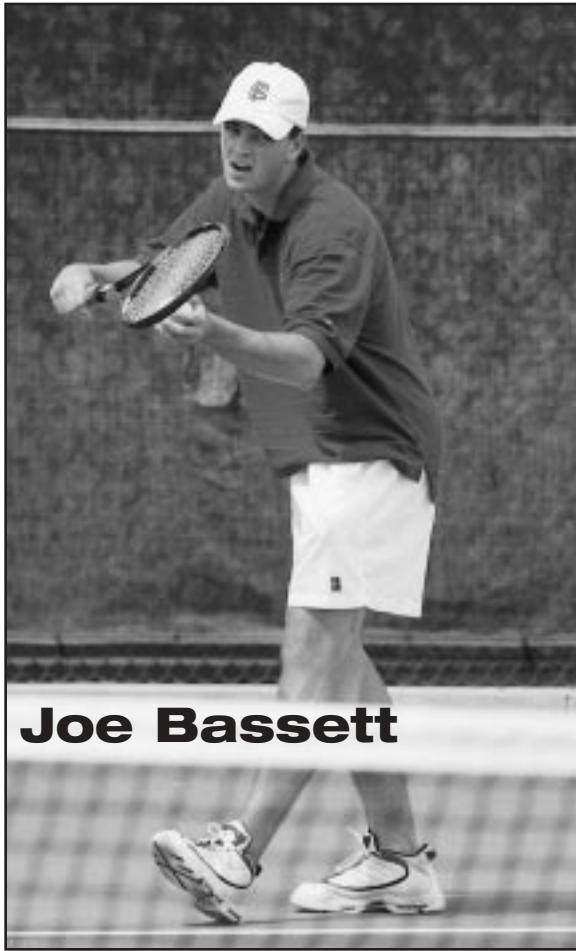


SEASON IN REVIEW

2001 - 2002



Joe Bassett

Head coach Dwayne Hultquist was full of optimism heading into the 2001-2002 season. Hultquist knew that his team had to face one of the toughest schedules in FSU history. Injuries in the fall season hindered the Seminoles and kept the team from being at full strength during the spring. Despite the injuries, the men's tennis team was determined to bring success to the Florida State men's tennis program.

Florida State began the season in hopes of reaching the NCAA tournament. They hoped a strong schedule and strong play would place them in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998. At the start of the season the 'Noles received some bad news that junior Joe Bassett would have to sit out the year due to a nagging knee injury. Romain Jurd however, stepped up and closed the season with a record of 30-11, the third most wins in school history.

The Seminoles opened the first day of the season with matches against the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech and the Jacksonville Dolphins. The Seminoles defeated Tennessee Tech with a dominating 7-0 victory and then walked away with a 7-0

sweep over Jacksonville. The only close call came in a singles match between FSU sophomore Jarrod Owen and Jacksonville's Andres Rojas. It took three sets, but Owen came out on top for the Seminoles 6-1, 5-7, (10-7).

The men continued their winning streak over the next three matches with wins against Georgia Southern, Central Florida and in-state rival Miami. During the five-match winning streak, the Seminoles surrendered only four points to their opponents.

Against Georgia Southern, Florida State dominated, as the Seminoles cruised to a 6-1 victory. For the second time in the season, Florida State had to play two matches in one day. Central Florida came calling, but the Seminoles got the better of the Golden Knights in a 5-2 win.

Highlighting the early season, the Seminoles defeated Miami 6-1. The win over the Hurricanes marked only the sixth time in Florida State men's tennis history that the Seminoles were able to defeat Miami. The convincing win put the winning streak at five as Florida State opened the season 5-0.

The Seminoles first road trip of the season was to Nashville to face Vanderbilt. Luscan and Jurd dropped their No. 1 and No. 2 seed matches en route to the team's 3-4 loss to the Commodores.

After taking its first loss of the season, Florida State rebounded quickly with two wins over Furman (6-1) in Atlanta and a 7-0 sweep of Stetson back home in Tallahassee.

Riding a two-match win streak, the Seminoles geared up to face a tough Alabama squad, before traveling to Tampa against South Florida. Chip Webb and Luscan were the only singles winners as Alabama handed the Seminoles their second loss of the season 5-2. The Bulls of South Florida followed suit with a 6-1 win over Florida State as the Seminoles saw their first losing streak of the season.

Hultquist's alma mater of Penn State was the next opponent for the Seminoles as conference play was looming around the corner. The Nittany Lions proved to be just what Florida State needed as the Noles gave Hultquist a gift of a 7-0 home win over Penn State.

With the team 8-3, the Seminoles went on their longest road trip of the season, a five match trip that took them to Charlottesville, Va., to Tempe, Ariz. and back down to Gainesville, Fla. After starting the trip hot with three straight conference wins over Virginia (5-2), Maryland (7-0) and Clemson (6-1), the Seminoles dropped two tough matches to Arizona State (3-4) and heated rival Florida (2-5). Luscan's 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 win over Hamid Mirzadeh, and Gustav Bucht's 6-3, 7-6 win over Trey Johnson were the singles wins for the Seminoles over the Gators on the day.

The team headed back to Tallahassee to prepare for its first home ACC match of the season against NC State. The 'Noles had the home advantage on their side and dropped the Wolfpack by a score of 7-0. The shutout marked the sixth time in 2002 that FSU held an opponent to a scoreless performance.

What the Seminoles didn't know is that the win over NC State would wind up being their last of the season. Florida State closed out the regular season with four straight losses to conference opponents. Traditional ACC powers Wake Forest (1-6), North Carolina (1-6), Georgia Tech (3-4) and Duke (2-5) all proved to be too much for the Seminoles down the stretch in 2002.

The team finished off the season at the ACC Tournament, dropping its first-round match to fourth-seeded Georgia Tech 0-4. Herrera and Bucht won the only match on the day, defeating the Yellow Jackets Menano and Fabio Campos 8-3 in doubles action.

Luscan received an invitation to the NCAA men's singles championships and represented Florida State at Texas A&M University in College Station. Luscan defeated Southern California's Andrew Park 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 before falling in the second round to sixth seed Andy Leber of Texas-Arlington 6-2, 7-6 (3).

Individually, the Seminoles had four players win more than 15 matches. Jurd led the team as a sophomore with 30 wins, the third most wins in FSU men's tennis history. Freshman Mat Cloer led the team in dual match wins with 15. Luscan led the Seminoles in the ITA rankings, finishing the season ranked 46th in the country. Laub and Luscan also brought home the 2002 ACC Indoor Doubles Championship for the first time in school history.

The Seminoles may not have finished the season as they had hoped, but FSU posted a winning record for the 15th time in the last 16 years. The success of young players helped set a solid foundation for the future. Finishing the year with a record of 12-10, the Seminoles were ranked No. 55 in the country at season's end.

Xavier Luscan

