

OUTLOOK-FSU MEN'S TENNIS

2002 - 2003



**Rodrigo
Laub**

As the Seminoles enter the 2002-2003 season, there is a lot of excitement surrounding the men's tennis program. Florida State comes into the year with its deepest team since 1994. With the talent this team presents, this year's version of Seminole tennis is more motivated than ever. Dwayne Hultquist enters his fourth year with high expectations to make his first trip to the NCAA tournament as head coach of the Seminoles. Only having one senior on the squad, the young talent level is set for future success. Last year's team showed improvement from the year before and with all indications, this season's squad will be even better.

"This team is going to be tough top to bottom," remarked Hultquist. "For people to beat us, they're going to have to come out and play a match all the way through."

With a strong core of returning players, this year's team will be much improved. The top of the lineup is stronger and as long as the team stays healthy, this Seminole tennis team could be one of the best.

"Rodrigo Laub and Joe Bassett are our returning seniors, academically," said Hultquist. "Joe would have been a senior athletically this year, but he redshirted due to his knee injury. The whole thing with Joe is getting him healthy. He's been out for a year and a half and with being out that long, his timing is off and he's not 100 percent yet. I am not putting him on any kind of time frame; it's just good being able to have him out practicing with us. I look to both for leadership. Both of them are hard workers and they

both have ambitions to what they want the program to become. They'll both provide good leadership as well as some of the other returning guys."

Only having two seniors returning, some of the younger guys will be looked to for leadership amongst the newcomers. Each player brings an added dimension to this team and has something different to offer. Putting all the skills together is what will make this team successful.

"Each guy brings different things to the table as far as leadership, said Hultquist. "Joe (Bassett), even though he hasn't played the last couple of years, has been the guy who has been extremely supportive and pushing the guys. Rodrigo is a great on the court presence. He brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the matches. Mat Cloer and Romain Jurd bring the leadership on the court as far as their skills and playing ability. They've already proven themselves as players and their ambitions are good. Those are the four guys that I would look to most for leadership."

Florida State has added two newcomers to this year's team in Jeff Groslimond and Hagen Endler. Groslimond is a freshman who comes from a long line of tennis tradition in his family. His brother and father both won NCAA Singles Championships during their careers. Endler comes in as a transfer from the University of North Florida where he played in the No. 2 position for most of his career.

"Jeff and Hagen are both guys who we are not quite sure what their role is going to be just yet," said Hultquist. "They are both great athletes. I think Jeff is extremely

talented technically. He hits the ball real clean and his dad is a tennis pro, so you can see some of Jeff's skills coming from his dad. Hagen is extremely talented athletically. He's a big, strong, fast guy and hits the ball well. Both of them have the opportunity to come in here to contribute and add to the team. One of the things they both bring is their work ethic. They both work real hard. I am real pleased with them so far. Once Jeff grows and puts on some weight he can be at another level as a player."

What makes this team better each season is the ability to compete against the best year in and year out. This season's schedule will be a prime example as the Seminoles will face some of the nation's best competition.

"Every year we try and upgrade our schedule and it gets tougher and tougher," said Hultquist. "This year it's more difficult than last year and next year will be more difficult than this year. I really believe that that's something we have to continue to do in order to improve. Playing the toughest people home and away will help us be a better team like that."

The men's tennis program has improved each year with the addition of quality players. Better players have made the depth of this team the strongest it's been in many years. There are not too many weaknesses to this team and with the return of some key players, this year's squad will give coach Hultquist something to look forward to.

"I think the biggest strength I have noticed so far is that the guys are hungry and they are working real hard," said Hultquist. "Our weakness would be that we don't have enough nationally ranked guys

and we are not strong enough at the top of our lineup as we need to be in order to compete with the best teams in the country. We have outstanding depth, but I think we are going to have to become even stronger and prove to ourselves that we are going to win at the top of our lineup."

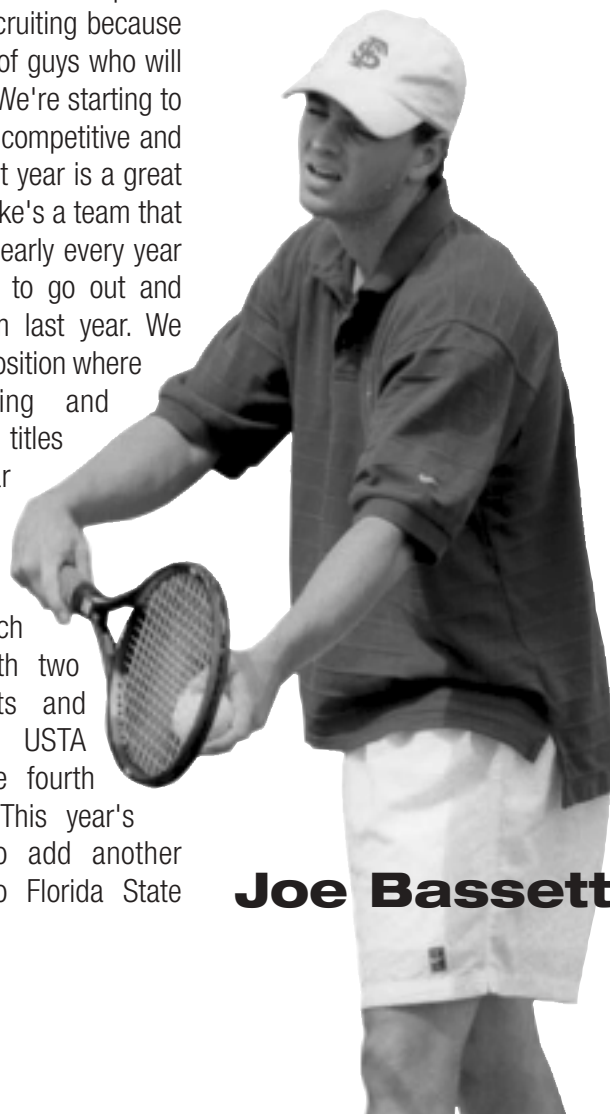
January brings the dual match play portion of the season as FSU begins with the ACC Indoor Championships, and then returns home to host the Seminole Team Tournament. The ACC will continue to be strong and with key non-conference opponents, Hultquist has many goals set for the season.

"I think the first thing is you want to do well in conference play," states Hultquist. "I feel like we want to finish in the top three in the conference and be in the running to win the ACC. A lot of that depends on our mid-year recruiting because we'll add a couple of guys who will be able to help us. We're starting to be more and more competitive and the Duke match last year is a great example of that. Duke's a team that has won the ACC nearly every year and we were able to go out and compete with them last year. We need to be in that position where we are competing and winning conference titles year in and year out."

The 2002-2003 season will be an exciting one to watch in Tallahassee with two home tournaments and hosting the USTA Challenger for the fourth consecutive year. This year's team will look to add another winning season to Florida State tennis history.

2002-2003 FSU Men's Tennis Roster		
Joe Bassett	Jr.	Monticello, FL
Mat Cloer	So.	Brevard, NC
Hagen Endler	Jr.	Kissimmee, FL
Jeff Groslimond	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
Alex Herrera	Jr.	Gadsden, AL
Romain Jurd	Jr.	Paris, France
Rodrigo Laub	Sr.	Atlanta, GA
Jarrod Owen	Jr.	Vero Beach, FL
Chip Webb	So.	Chattanooga, TN

Head Coach: Dwayne Hultquist, 4th Season (Penn State, 1986)
Assistant Coach: Ty Braswell, 3rd Season (Florida State, 1999)
Volunteer Asst: Gustav Bucht
Manager/Stringer: Dustin Matthews
Manager: Eric Lazo



Joe Bassett