

Big Year For Freshmen-Loaded Florida State Tennis Team

Florida State's tennis team started the year with a preseason ranking of 17th in the nation. The Seminoles lived up to that billing, rolling to 19-3 record.

"This has been a great year," said Coach Pete Barizon. "We started out with just one senior and five freshmen on the squad. We knew there was potential, but things really turned out great."

Counted among the Seminoles victories are an impressive 8-0 opener against Mississippi State. Other victories came over Florida (twice) and strong Southern Illinois plus two of the top college-division teams, Presbyterian and Rollins.

The losses were to national powerhouse Miami, Southeastern Conference Champion Georgia, and a fine Georgia Tech squad.

All that remains for the Seminoles now is the NCAA tournament, June 14-19 at Notre Dame.

The 19-3 record is the best for the Seminoles since 1968 when the Tribe had an identical record. Only in 1953, when the Seminoles went 15-2, has there been a better percentage.

The lone senior on the squad was South African John deZeeuw. He and Brazilian Ricardo Bernd split the No. 1 spot most of the season.

A freshman, Bernd will be back next season, along with teammates Juan Ortiz, Steve Diamond, Rejean Genois and Richard Legendre.



deZeeuw



Ortiz



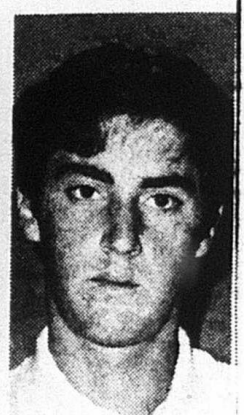
Legendre



Bernd



Genois



Diamond

Legendre, playing the No. 6 spot this season, had the best record on the squad, 18-2.

"It was a well balanced team," said Barizon, "and we won a lot of matches in the lower singles."

Barizon will send four Seminoles to the NCAA's next month. Bernd, deZeeuw, Ortiz and Diamond will make up the squad.