

Tennis team finds secret to academic success

By Lisa Svanevik
Emerald Contributor

Creating a workable balance between school and everything else in life is hard enough for most students. But for those who compete in varsity athletics, this balance is even harder to find.

The University's men's tennis team may have found the secret to succeeding in academics and athletics, if their collective 3.22 winter term grade point average is an indication.

It helps when four of the 10 players on the squad earn As more often than not. Seniors

Pat Jennings and Brian Copeland and juniors James Hazard and Jon Weinburg all had perfect 4.0 GPAs winter term.

Jennings, team co-captain and No. 1 singles player, has been keeping his 4.0 alive for the last eight consecutive terms.

A psychology and sociology major who will graduate in June, Jennings said that his "secret" is simply that "I just really like school. I enjoy going to class, and I like to study."

In addition, he said, he budgets his time carefully to ensure that he keeps up with his classes.

Prudent time management seems to be the key for most of the players, who must make time during the season for two hours of daily practice, weight training three times a week, and competition both at home and on the road.

"You need to set the time aside and just work on (school)," said Weinberg, a finance major. He said he clocks "a lot of library time" to keep up, and his priorities are clear.

"The classroom comes first for me," he said. "It's just always been that way."

Jennings takes the same position. "I'm here to study and to

get good grades," he said. "Tennis is second."

He added that being an athlete helps him in school because the time pressures during the season force him to use his time productively.

Athletics and academics go hand in hand for junior Kevin Cory, a leisure studies major who hopes to manage a tennis resort and become a teaching pro after he graduates.

Cory said that some of the classes he is taking now, as well as his participation in tennis, are directly related to his career goals.

Ted Rubin, a sophomore psychology major, said he is thinking about taking a route similar to Cory's. He said his dream is to own a golf and tennis club, and he will almost certainly be involved in the tennis industry after college as a teaching pro.

He describes tennis as "number one with school" on his priority list.

"I love (tennis)," he said, "but I don't live and die for it." Rubin said that "living by a schedule" is his key to keeping up with school, and his books go with him on road trips. He also said that library time was crucial.

John Early, a freshman pre-business major, said that "school is top priority, but tennis isn't far behind."

Early participated in the athletic department's study halls fall term, which are mandatory for freshman athletes, and said they were helpful in making the adjustment to college academics.


Early said that studying doesn't come easily after hours of practice, but he also manages his time so that the work gets done.

Coach Emory "Buzz" Summers calls his team "a pretty bright group" that has set and met its academic goals this year.

"I'm going to be asking them all the time how they're doing," Summers said, but he doesn't pressure players about their grades.

"They're pretty highly motivated to begin with, and we just kind of reinforce that," he said.

Like most of his players, Summers emphasizes that the college athletes are students first and that the priority must be to graduate, not just to play. This is a lesson the team seems to have taken to heart.



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Hunter takes 2nd in meet, qualifying her for NCAAs

Stefanie Hunter qualified for the NCAA Championships by finishing second in the Pacific-10 heptathlon on Tuesday.

Hunter scored 5,459 points to better the national standard of 5,280. Hunter was fourth after the first day's competition, but moved up to second by winning the javelin and 800 meters while finishing third in the long jump. Hunter established personal bests in all three events on Tuesday.

Tonya Sedwick won the competition with 5,509 points, set-

ting a new Stanford Stadium record.

Oregon's Kamala Kohlmeier added an extra team point by finishing sixth with 4,775 points. Teammate Katie O'Brien was eighth after the first day, but did not finish the competition.

In the decathlon, Oregon's Pedro daSilva was second after the first day with 3,887 points.

Second day results on the decathlon were unavailable at press time.

All-American catcher to join team

Joely Eilers, a junior college All-American catcher at Central Arizona, has signed a national letter of intent to play softball at Oregon, head coach Teresa Wilson announced Friday.

Eilers, a two-time junior college All-American, led Central Arizona to the National Junior College World Series title last season.

Listed at 5-foot-8, 175 pounds, Eilers "has a lot of power, which is what we need to replace (Kathy) Gray's bat," Wilson said.

Gray, who hit a team record four home runs this year, is the lone senior on the Oregon roster.

Wilson added that Eilers

weighs considerably less than the 175 pounds she is listed at, but said the junior-to-be still has power.

"She's a big kid, a good catcher, and a good hitter," Wilson said. "She played for one of the best coaches in the country, Clint Myers, and she played summer league ball with (current Ducks) Katie Wiese and Danny Senner."

With three catchers on this year's roster (all-Pacific-10 Conference selection Julie Cavanaugh, Tracey Simmons and Tracy Zollner), Wilson said "we're not stacking up on catchers, we're just replacing the power that we're losing in Kathy."



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