Boilermakers,

Coming off one of the most successful years in recent program history which included a NCAA tournament bid and the highest team ranking for our program, #28 in the nation, we are excited to regroup and begin the next step in our quest for the national championship. In this edition I invite you to review and then share your opinion on the new ITA dual match format, look ahead at our 2015 dual match schedule, and view images from our memorable last season. In the next newsletter we will update you on our recruiting and provide you with a team outlook for the upcoming season. Lastly I want to wish all of the Boiler Nation a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Boiler Up!

Pawel Gajdzik

The core players from last year’s team have graduated and are successfully pursuing financial careers (Mark and Krisztian) or working on earning their MBA degrees (Pawel and Szymon). Our December grad – Aaron is still weighing his options and is trying to decide between entering into the professional world or earning a MBA degree. Our lone senior, Diego, is poised to lead our young team this spring and to ensure they live up to the high expectations set in previous years.

This spring the team will face one of the hardest schedules in the nation. Of the 23 dual matches, the Boilers will face off against 18 ranked teams, 9 of which are in the top 25 and over half of those teams are in the top 10. All together 12 teams on our schedule made last year’s NCAA tournament, including USC and Oklahoma who met in the championship match. Built over the last few years, our schedule is aligned to our program goal to become a top team in the nation. To achieve this, we have to build a tough schedule and compete well. Our non-conference play is highlighted by invitations to two very prestigious team tournaments: the ITA National Team Indoor Tournament that will start during Kick-Off Weekend in late January and the Indian Wells Oracle Challenge in mid-March that will be played during the Indian Wells ATP and WTA tournament in California.
Boilermaker Men’s Tennis

Shortened ITA Dual Match Format Adopted for 2015 Season

- No-ad scoring in singles and doubles.
- Three doubles matches played, each match one set to 6, with a tie-break at 6-all.
- Followed (after a brief intermission; time TBD) by six singles matches, each match 2 out of 3 sets, with tie-breaks at 6-all.
- No warm-up with opponents (in doubles and in singles)

What do you think this means for college tennis fans? I encourage you to tell us your view on our Facebook page. In my opinion, it makes the game more exciting. Read below to see why.

- The time commitment to attend a college tennis match will be shortened. Over the last four years the average Purdue Men’s Tennis match took between 3.5 to 5 hours to complete. Our longest match was against Illinois and took 5 hours 40 minutes in 2013. With the adopted format the matches are expected to last no longer than 3 hours.
- This format will benefit the historically underdog teams as it should lead to a lot more upsets. What we will see probably in the next few season is the strength of schedule going up and a significant decrease in the number of early season matches against non-ranked opponents.
- In the long term the change in match length will hopefully allow national TV and conference networks to televise more college tennis. There is a lot of exciting competition happening on the courts and I'm sure that in this day and age of DVR, I'm not the only one wondering how many times we can all watch re-runs of games from 25 years ago on live TV.
- In the always changing landscape of college athletics you have to be on the cutting edge if you want to secure your share of the market. I think this change show the willingness of the tennis community to be flexible and proactive. Will the change lead to increased fan attendance? That is still to be seen. The format supports TV requirements - but perhaps the first step is a wide use of live web streaming TV capabilities since college tennis is such a global sport.
- Lastly it comes down to each individual program to promote tennis in their community. If you put an exciting product out there – fans will come. The format of the match is just a tool to make it more accessible to a broader audience. Our program has planned an exciting list of promotions for our home matches this semester – make sure to check them out!

HOME SCHEDULE

- January 19: Purdue/Indiana State vs. Eastern Illinois
- February 7: Illinois vs. Wabash
- February 28: Morehead State vs. Dayton
- March 3: Iowa vs. Wabash
- March 5: Nebraska vs. Wabash
- April 17: Michigan State vs. Wabash
- April 19: Michigan vs. Wabash

All times listed are subject to change.
2014 NCAA Selection Show
... the longest 7 minutes of our season!
Boilermaker Men’s Tennis

2014 Season Review

- Season record: 15-8
- Home record: 10-1
- Highest ITA ranking: 28
- Final ITA ranking: 42
- Big Ten finish: 4
- Team CGPA: 3.31
- 2 All-Big Ten Selections
- 4 Academic All-Big Ten
- ITA All-Academic Team
- 2 ITA Scholar-Athletes
- ITA Rookie of the Year Ohio Valley
- NCAA tournament selection
- 1100 fans in attendance at our home matches
We hosted over 70 kids for our Fall Tennis Clinics.

FREE ADMISSION

JANUARY 19 | 12:00 PM
BASHAM COURTS AT SCHWARTZ TENNIS CENTER

P vs. JAGUARS

JANUARY 19 | 5:00 PM
BASHAM COURTS AT SCHWARTZ TENNIS CENTER

P vs. PANTHERS

USTA KIDS DAY AND DAYCARE DAY
FREE YOUTH CLINIC FOLLOWING THE FIRST MATCH
(CLINIC WILL NOT BEGIN PRIOR TO 3 PM)

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