

TIGER TENNIS

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2007 QUICK FACTS

General Information

School	Auburn University
Location	Auburn, Ala.
Founded	1856
Enrollment	23,547
Nickname	Tigers
Conference	Southeastern
Colors	Burnt Orange and Navy Blue (PMS 158 and PMS 289)
President	Dr. Ed Richardson
Athletics Director	Jay Jacobs
Associate Athletics Director/SWA	Meredith Jenkins

Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Tim Gray, 2nd season
Alma Mater	Washington College (Md.), 1986
Assistant Coach	Estevam Strecker, 3rd season
Alma Mater	Auburn, 2002
Office Phone	334/844-9739
Office Fax	334/844-9483

Tennis Information

Inaugural Season	1978
Seasons of Tennis	30th
All-Time Record	333-352 (.486)
NCAA Tournament Appearances	5
Last Postseason Finish	31st, 2002
Facility	Auburn Tennis Complex

2006 Review

2006 Overall Record	6-18
2006 SEC Record/Finish	0-11/12th

2007 Preview

Letterwinners R/L	2/5
Newcomers	4
Top Returners	Alex Haney, Whitney Chappell,
Losses	Ashley Cowart, Erin Gray, Dzeljan Memisi



MEDIA GUIDE CREDITS

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THIS IS...

ROSTER

Name	Class	Exp.	Height	Hometown (Previous School)
Kelly Adams	So.	TR	5-8	Auburn, Ala. (Middle Tennessee St.)
Heather Bybee	Fr.	HS	5-1	Longmont, Colo. (Longmont HS)
Whitney Chappell	So.	1L	5-4	Knoxville, Tenn. (Webb School of Knoxville)
Fani Chifchieva	Fr.	RS	5-8	Plovdiv, Bulgaria (Professional HS of Agriculture)
Alex Haney	So.	1L	5-5	Grayson, Georgia (Grayson HS)
Jil Hastenrath	Fr.	HS	5-9	Solingen, Germany (Gymnasium Schwertasse)
Melissa Koning	Fr.	HS	5-10	Mount Martha, Australia (Frankston)

Head Coach: Tim Gray (2nd Season)

Assistant Coach: Estevam Strecker (3rd Season)

SQUAD ANALYSIS

Returnees

Whitney Chappell
Alex Haney
Fani Chifchieva

Newcomers

Kelly Adams
Heather Bybee
Jil Hastenrath
Melissa Koning

Key Losses

Ashley Cowart
Erin Gray
Dzeljan Memisi

Squad Breakdown

Roster _____ 7
Letterwinners Returning _____ 2
Letterwinners Lost _____ 5

By Class

Senior _____ 0
Junior _____ 0
Sophomore _____ 3
Freshman _____ 4

Pronunciation Guide

Chifchieva _____ Chif-Che-eva

By State/Country

Alabama (1)
Kelly Adams

Colorado (1)
Heather Bybee

Georgia (1)
Alex Haney

Tennessee (1)
Whitney Chappell

Australia (1)
Melissa Koning

Bulgaria (1)
Fani Chifchieva

Germany (1)
Jil Hastenrath

Media Information

The Auburn University Athletic Media Relations Department thanks you for your interest in Auburn tennis. Kyle Cornish is the Auburn women's tennis contact. The athletic media relations office is located in the Auburn Athletic Complex and maintains information on all current student-athletes, as well as historical information on previous student-athletes and the program in general. The media will receive complete results from each match. Additional information, including statistics and meet results are available on the Auburn athletics web site at www.auburntigers.com.

Interviews

All interviews of athletes must be coordinated through the Auburn media relations department. Interview requests must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance. Phone interviews for out-of-town media can also be arranged. Interviews can be arranged depending on the student-athletes/coaches availability and are conducted in the media relations office or at the Tennis Complex. Coaches and student-athletes are made available after home matches. Please notify Kyle Cornish of your request prior to the conclusion of the match.



TIGER

TENNIS

OUTLOOK

After one year as head coach at Auburn University, Tim Gray could make one definitive statement.

"I know without question that this program can be one of the tops in the conference," he said. "With the quality of teams in the SEC, if you are one of the best in your conference, you are one of the best in the country."

And so it is, with that goal in mind, that Gray and the Auburn Tigers embark on what is sure to be an exciting and successful season. The squad features just seven players, three sophomores, three freshmen and one redshirt freshman, but that doesn't worry Gray.

"We are extremely young," Gray said. "But I think that may be an advantage for us because we have the talent, and these girls are all about winning."

The Returnees

Auburn lost four letterwinners and returns just two from last season, each of whom are now sophomores.

Whitney Chappell and Alex Haney have been named co-captains and are expected to lead the Tiger charge this season.

"Whitney and Alex are our two most experienced players," Gray said. "They are great leaders and have done a fantastic job stepping into that role."



Whitney Chappell

Chappell returns after a 10-15 overall singles record in 2005-06. The Knoxville, Tenn., native was impressive at the No. 2 spot, going 5-6, while also sporting a 12-13 overall doubles record.

"Whitney is a very solid player that has really stepped up for us," Gray said. "She will be playing in the middle of our singles and doubles lineup, giving us a great force to build around."

The most impressive player for the Orange and Blue last season very well might have been Haney. The Grayson,

Ga., native led the team with four SEC singles victories, and collected a 21-16 overall record throughout the 2005-06 season. In addition, she tied with Cowart for the most doubles wins with 18.

"Alex is extremely talented," Gray said. "She was a very bright spot for us last season, and has improved abundantly this year. We expect very big things from her in 2007."

Auburn also returns one player who redshirted last season. Fani Chifchieva will still have four full years on the Plains, and that something

that Gray plans to enjoy to the fullest.

"Fani has the total package," he said. "With four years left, I think she has a chance to do some very special things while she is here. I am very happy to have her at the top of our lineup."

The Newcomers

Four newcomers join the 2007 squad, with a little international flavor. Kelly Adams returns to her hometown for

her sophomore season after a year at Middle Tennessee State.

"We were very excited to add Kelly as a walk-on this season," Gray said. "She has a great attitude and will help us in singles and doubles."

Another member of the recruiting class is Heather Bybee. The Longmont, Colo., native comes to AU with quite a few accolades attached to her resume. A three-year letterwinner, Bybee finished her high school career with a 42-0 record in regular season play and was a state qualifier in each of her three seasons.

"Heather is a great kid with a good upside," Gray said. "She is going to battle for time in singles play."

Gray and the Tigers welcome a pair of international players who will look help take this team to the next level. Melissa Koning (Mount Martha, Australia) and Jil Hastenrath will have an immediate impact on Auburn's singles and doubles play.

"We were very lucky to get Melissa and Jil," Gray said. "Melissa is a strong and physically mature player who is a solid singles player and an outstanding doubles player. Jil has a ton of talent, and will be a tremendous player for us by the time she leaves Auburn."

The Schedule

The Tigers have an exciting schedule of opponents for the 2007 season, beginning with three days in the state of Florida on Jan. 19-21. AU will take on singles players and doubles teams from Florida International, Miami and South Florida as FIU hosts the Invitational in Miami.

Dual action will begin with a pair of home matches against Mercer and Florida A&M in a doubleheader on Feb. 3. A trip to Texas to take on Texas A&M and Rice will follow on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11, respectively.

Next up for the Tigers will be perennial national powerhouse Georgia Tech on Feb. 17 in Atlanta, followed by a pair of matches in Louisville, Ky. Auburn will face Louisville on Feb. 23 and Ohio State on Feb. 24.

SEC play begins on March 2 with Kentucky and Vanderbilt coming to



Fani Chifchieva

THIS IS...

the Plains. Home matches against Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama highlight the home conference schedule, en route to the SEC Championships. The conference title will be decided in Lexington, as Kentucky hosts on April 19-22.

"We are very excited about this schedule," Gray said. "I think the pre-conference portion will really help us be at our peak when conference time comes. I think we are going to be a very tough team by the time the SEC Tournament comes around."

Fall Review

With such a young and inexperienced team, Gray didn't exactly know what to expect from the 2006 fall season.

After the first weekend, he knew.

"We headed into that first tournament of the fall and played some very solid tennis," Gray said.

To be exact, the Tigers went 14-7 in singles and 6-2 in doubles, including 7-4 combined against SEC foes.

Next up was a chance for a pair of Tigers to make names for themselves at the Riviera/ITA Women's All-American. Chifchieva advance all the way to the second round of qualifying, while Haney advanced to final round of prequalifying. As a doubles pair, the duo advanced to the final stage of prequalifying before being knocked out.

Not to be outdone, it was Hastenrath's turn to steal the spotlight, as the freshman turned heads at the ITA South Regionals by winning the "B" singles title. She swept through the competition, going 6-0, and dropping just one set.

"It was a very positive fall for us, and one that gave us a lot of confidence heading into the spring," Gray said.



Jil Hastenrath

2006 FALL STATS

Singles

Player	Overall	SEC	Dual	Tourn.	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Last 5
Kelly Adams	5-6	--	--	5-6	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-4
Heather Bybee	1-2	--	--	1-2	--	--	--	--	--	--	0-5
Whitney Chappell	5-9	--	--	5-9	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-4
Fani Chifchieva	5-8	--	--	5-8	--	--	--	--	--	--	2-3
Alex Haney	9-5	--	--	9-5	--	--	--	--	--	--	1-4
Jil Hastenrath	4-7	--	--	4-7	--	--	--	--	--	--	3-2
Melissa Koning	8-3	--	--	8-3	--	--	--	--	--	--	3-2

Doubles

Player	Overall	SEC	Dual	Tourn.	#1	#2	#3	Last 5
Kelly Adams	7-4	--	--	7-4	--	--	--	2-3
Heather Bybee	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Whitney Chappell	5-4	--	--	5-4	--	--	--	2-3
Fani Chifchieva	8-4	--	--	8-4	--	--	--	3-2
Alex Haney	8-4	--	--	8-4	--	--	--	8-4
Jil Hastenrath	7-4	--	--	7-4	--	--	--	2-3
Melissa Koning	5-4	--	--	5-4	--	--	--	2-3