

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S TENNIS 2012-13 REVIEW

2012-13 STATISTICS & RESULTS

2013 TEAM RESULTS

Date	Opponent (SC-Opponent Rank)	W-L	Score	Record (SEC)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	D1	D2	D3
Jan. 21	Winthrop (31-NR)	W	6-1	1-0 (0-0)	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	W	—
Jan. 21	USC Upstate (31-NR)	W	4-0	2-0 (0-0)	—	—	—	W	W	W	W	W	—
Jan. 26	vs. Missouri (31-53) ^	W	4-3	3-0 (0-0)	L	W	L	L	W	W	W	W	L
Jan. 27	at Michigan (31-16) ^	L	0-4	3-1 (0-0)	L	—	L	L	—	—	L	L	W
Feb. 3	at Clemson (30-19)	L	1-6	3-2 (0-0)	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	W	—
Feb. 16	at VCU (30-49)	W	4-2	4-2 (0-0)	L	W	W	W	L	—	W	W	L
Feb. 17	at William & Mary (30-47)	L	3-4	4-3 (0-0)	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L
Feb. 20	at Furman (38-NR)	W	6-1	5-3 (0-0)	W	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	L
Feb. 23	College of Charleston (38-72)	W	5-0	6-3 (0-0)	W	W	W	W	—	—	W	W	—
Feb. 23	Charleston Southern (38-NR)	W	5-0	7-3 (0-0)	W	W	W	W	—	—	—	W	W
March 1	at Texas A&M (43-6) *	L	2-5	7-4 (0-1)	L	W	L	L	L	L	—	W	W
March 3	at Missouri (43-71) *	W	4-3	8-4 (1-1)	L	W	W	L	L	W	W	—	W
March 9	at Florida (35-5) *	L	0-7	8-5 (1-2)	L	L	L	L	L	L	W	L	L
March 15	Tennessee (32-44) *	L	2-4	8-6 (1-3)	L	L	—	L	L	W	L	W	W
March 17	Georgia (32-12) *	L	0-7	8-7 (1-4)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	—	L
March 22	Auburn (49-18) *	W	4-1	9-7 (2-4)	—	W	W	W	—	L	W	W	—
March 24	Alabama (49-8) *	L	1-4	9-8 (2-5)	L	L	L	L	—	—	W	—	W
March 29	at Arkansas (31-44) *	W	5-2	10-8 (3-5)	L	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	L
March 31	at LSU (31-54) *	W	5-1	11-8 (4-5)	W	W	L	W	W	W	—	—	—
April 5	Mississippi State (29-NR) *	W	4-3	12-8 (5-5)	W	W	L	W	L	L	W	—	W
April 7	Ole Miss (29-37) *	W	4-0	13-8 (6-5)	W	—	W	—	W	—	W	—	W
April 12	at Vanderbilt (27-18) *	L	1-6	13-9 (6-6)	L	L	W	L	L	L	L	W	L
April 14	at Kentucky (27-47) *	L	3-4	13-10 (6-7)	L	W	W	W	L	L	L	W	L
April 18	vs. Ole Miss (30-39) #	L	3-4	13-11 (6-7)	L	L	L	L	W	W	W	W	—
May 10	vs. Purdue (34-30) \$	L	3-4	13-12 (6-7)	L	L	W	L	W	L	W	—	W

^ ITA Kick-Off Weekend (Ann Arbor, Mich.) • * SEC Match • # SEC Tournament (Starkville, Miss.) • \$ NCAA Tournament (Coral Gables, Fla.)

2012-13 STATISTICS & RANKINGS

SINGLES

Player	Overall	Tourn.	Dual (SEC)	#1 (SEC)	#2 (SEC)	#3 (SEC)	#4 (SEC)	#5 (SEC)	#6 (SEC)
Jaklin Alawi	15-22	9-7	6-15 (2-8)	6-14 (2-7)	0-1 (0-1)	—	—	—	—
Josefin Andersson	15-16	6-7	9-9 (4-7)	—	—	—	1-1 (1-1)	1-2 (0-2)	7-6 (3-4)
Dominika Kanakova	12-14	3-1	9-13 (4-7)	—	—	2-5 (0-1)	7-8 (4-6)	—	—
Elixane Lechemia	11-6	—	11-6 (7-5)	—	1-1 (1-1)	10-5 (6-4)	—	—	—
Alex Martin	6-11	5-8	1-3 (0-2)	—	—	—	—	0-1 (0-1)	1-2 (0-1)
Adriana Pereira	5-9	2-3	3-6 (0-2)	—	—	—	1-2 (0-0)	2-3 (0-1)	0-1 (0-1)
Katerina Popova	20-11	6-3	14-8 (7-5)	1-2 (1-2)	13-6 (6-3)	—	—	—	—
Ximena Siles Luna	20-12	12-2	8-10 (3-7)	—	—	0-1 (0-1)	2-2 (0-0)	5-6 (2-5)	1-1 (1-1)

DOUBLES

Pair	Overall	Tourn.	Dual (SEC)	#1 (SEC)	#2 (SEC)	#3 (SEC)	Individual (Dual, SEC)
Alawi/Kanakova	24-11	9-6	15-5 (6-3)	15-5 (6-3)	—	—	Alawi: 27-12 (16-5, 6-3)
Alawi/Martin	3-1	2-1	1-0 (0-0)	—	1-0 (0-0)	—	Andersson: 22-10 (16-3, 7-2)
Andersson/Martin	1-0	1-0	—	—	—	—	Kanakova: 24-11 (15-5, 6-3)
Andersson/Popova	20-8	4-5	16-3 (7-2)	1-1 (1-1)	15-2 (6-1)	—	Lechemia: 7-6 (7-6, 5-5)
Andersson/Siles Luna	1-2	1-2	—	—	—	—	Martin: 6-3 (2-1, 1-1)
Lechemia/Martin	0-1	—	0-1 (0-1)	—	—	0-1 (0-1)	Pereira: 5-3 (2-3, 1-0)
Lechemia/Siles Luna	7-5	—	7-5 (5-4)	—	—	7-5 (5-4)	Popova: 20-8 (16-3, 7-2)
Martin/Pereira	1-0	—	1-0 (1-0)	—	—	1-0 (1-0)	Siles Luna: 13-11 (8-8, 5-4)
Martin/Siles Luna	1-1	1-1	—	—	—	—	—
Pereira/Siles Luna	4-3	3-0	1-3 (0-0)	—	—	1-3 (0-0)	—

ITA RANKINGS

Player/Pair/Team	9/7	1/3	1/22	1/30	2/12	2/19	2/26	3/5	3/12	3/19	3/26	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23	5/2	F
Jaklin Alawi	63	34	34	34	59	59	69	69	78	78	87	87	77	83	92	94	96
Katerina Popova	—	T-96	T-96	T-96	114	114	108	108	102	102	98	98	108	105	121	109	111
Alawi/Kanakova	—	46	46	46	57	57	—	—	—	—	50	50	35	33	35	29	28
Andersson/Popova	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	66	65	62
South Carolina	—	31	31	30	30	38	43	35	32	49	31	29	27	30	33	34	34



2013 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE RECAP

FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION

Pl.	Team	SEC	Pct.	All	Pct.
1.	Florida	12-1	.923	26-3	.897
2.	Georgia	12-1	.923	24-4	.857
3.	Tennessee	7-6	.538	13-12	.520
4.	Vanderbilt	7-6	.538	16-12	.571
5.	S. Carolina	6-7	.462	13-12	.520
6.	Kentucky	4-9	.308	13-12	.520
7.	Missouri	2-11	.154	9-13	.409

WESTERN DIVISION

Pl.	Team	SEC	Pct.	All	Pct.
1.	Texas A&M	12-1	.923	26-4	.867
2.	Alabama	10-3	.769	21-6	.778
3.	Auburn	7-6	.538	19-9	.679
4.	Ole Miss	5-8	.385	16-14	.533
5.	Arkansas	4-9	.308	13-15	.464
6.	Miss. State	2-11	.154	9-14	.391
7.	LSU	1-12	.077	9-16	.360

TOURNAMENT RECAP

A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre Starkville, Miss. • April 17-21

First Round • Wednesday, April 17

#12 Mississippi State 4, #13 Missouri 2
#14 LSU 4, #11 Kentucky 2

Second Round • Thursday, April 18

#9 Ole Miss 4, #8 South Carolina 3
#5 Tennessee 4, #12 Mississippi State 0
#7 Auburn 4, #10 Arkansas 3
#6 Vanderbilt 4, #14 LSU 0

Quarterfinals • Friday, April 19

#1 Georgia 4, #9 Ole Miss 0
#4 Alabama 4, #5 Tennessee 3
#2 Texas A&M 4, #7 Auburn 0
#3 Florida 4, #6 Vanderbilt 1

Semifinals • Saturday, April 20

#1 Georgia 4, #4 Alabama 2
#3 Florida 4, #2 Texas A&M 1

Finals • Sunday, April 21

#3 Florida 4, #1 Georgia 0

All-Tournament Team (MVP Italicized)

Olivia Janowicz, UF Lauren Herring, UG
Lauren Embree, UF Alexa Guarachi, AL
Kate Fuller, UG Paula Deheza, TAM

FINAL NATIONAL RANKINGS

Rank	Team	Rank	Team
2	Florida	34	S. Carolina
3	Texas A&M	38	Ole Miss
5	Georgia	48	Kentucky
11	Alabama	52	Arkansas
19	Vanderbilt	66	Missouri
25	Auburn	67	LSU
31	Tennessee		

SINGLES

Rank	Player (School)
1	Lauren Embree (Florida)
5	C. Sanchez-Quintanar (Texas A&M)
7	Lauren Herring (Georgia)
21	Maho Kowase (Georgia)
23	Sofie Oyen (Florida)
25	Pleun Burgmans (Auburn)
26	Brynn Boren (Tennessee)
31	Alexa Guarachi (Alabama)
34	Nadia Ravita (Kentucky)
36	Mary Anne Macfarlane (Alabama)
37	Kata Szekely (Tennessee)
39	Nazari Urbina (Texas A&M)
51	Alex Cercone (Florida)
52	Caroline Rohde-Moe (Ole Miss)
56	Yang Pang (Arkansas)
63	Cristina Stancu (Texas A&M)
67	Lauren Mira (Vanderbilt)
73	Claudine Paulson (Arkansas)
82	Silvia Garcia (Georgia)
86	Brianna Morgan (Florida)
96	Jaklin Alawi (South Carolina)
98	Georgina Sellyn (Vanderbilt)

99	Cierra Gaytan-Leach (Missouri)
103	Danielle Collins (Florida)
108	Olivia Janowicz (Florida)
109	Georgiana Patrasc (Miss. State)
111	Katerina Popova (South Carolina)
114	Caroline Hitimana (Florida)
123	Mai El Kamash (Ole Miss)

DOUBLES

Rank	Tandem (School)
2	Fuller/Garcia (Georgia)
3	Guarachi/Macfarlane (Alabama)
5	Szekely/Boren (Tennessee)
11	Embree/Oyen (Florida)
12	Colton/Mira (Vanderbilt)
17	Hristov/Stancu (Texas A&M)
19	Burgmans/Kurteva (Auburn)
28	Alawi/Kanakova (South Carolina)
40	Pfeifler/Kasler (Auburn)
41	Rohde-Moe/Milutinovic (Ole Miss)
48	Herring/Kowase (Georgia)
50	Sanchez-Quintanar/Sun (T. A&M)
51	Fuller/Herring (Georgia)
57	Embree/Collins (Florida)
58	Gabb/Gaytan-Leach (Missouri)
59	McGraw/Ravita (Kentucky)
62	Andersson/Popova (South Carolina)
65	Perper/Tran (Mississippi State)
67	Paulson/Jonker (Arkansas)
71	Jansen/Foehse (Alabama)
83	Kimbell/Kowase (Georgia)

POSTSEASON AWARDS

All-SEC First Team

Alexa Guarachi (Alabama)
Mary Anne Macfarlane (Alabama)
Yang Pang (Arkansas)
Pleun Burgmans (Auburn)
Lauren Embree (Florida)
Sofie Oyen (Florida)
Lauren Herring (Georgia)
Maho Kowase (Georgia)
Kata Szekely (Tennessee)
Brynn Boren (Tennessee)
Cristina Sanchez-Quintanar (Texas A&M)
Nazari Urbina (Texas A&M)

Georgiana Patrasc (Mississippi State)
Jaklin Alawi (South Carolina)
Katerina Popova (South Carolina)
Cristina Stancu (Texas A&M)

All-Freshman Team

Natalia Maynetto (Alabama)
Yang Pang (Arkansas)
Pleun Burgmans (Auburn)
Brianna Morgan (Florida)
Silvia Garcia (Georgia)
Nadia Ravita (Kentucky)

Coach of the Year

Roland Thornqvist (Florida)

Player of the Year

Lauren Embree (Florida)

Freshman of the Year

Pleun Burgmans (Auburn)

Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Antonia Foehse (Alabama)

ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Antonia Foehse (Alabama)
Alexa Guarachi (Alabama)
Maya Jansen (Alabama)
Mary Anne Macfarlane (Alabama)
Natalia Maynetto (Alabama)
Emily Zabor (Alabama)
Yang Pang (Arkansas)
Claudine Paulson (Arkansas)
Maria Jose Arechavaleta (Auburn)
Olivia Bennett (Auburn)
Maria Cardenas Conti (Auburn)
Emily Flickinger (Auburn)
Jacqueline Kasler (Auburn)
Plamena Kurteva (Auburn)
Lauren Levant (Auburn)
Jennifer Pfeifler (Auburn)
Alexandra Cercone (Florida)
Lauren Embree (Florida)
Caroline Hitimana (Florida)
Olivia Janowicz (Florida)
Brianna Morgan (Florida)
Sofie Oyen (Florida)
Makenzie Craft (Georgia)
Kate Fuller (Georgia)
Lauren Herring (Georgia)
Kelli Jordan (Georgia)
Maho Kowase (Georgia)
Khristina Blajkevitch (Kentucky)
Stephanie Fox (Kentucky)
Kirsten Lewis (Kentucky)
Caitlin McGraw (Kentucky)
Edmee Morin (Kentucky)
Nadia Ravita (Kentucky)
Jessica Stiles (Kentucky)
Grace Trimble (Kentucky)
CeCe Witten (Kentucky)
Kaitlin Burns (LSU)
Keri Frankenberger (LSU)
Caroline Hudson (LSU)
Ariel Morton (LSU)
Elizabeth Wilson (LSU)
Julia Jones (Ole Miss)

Marija Milutinovic (Ole Miss)
Allie Robbins (Ole Miss)
Caroline Rohde-Moe (Ole Miss)
Santa Shumilina (Ole Miss)
Erin Stephens (Ole Miss)
Iris Verboven (Ole Miss)
Roseline Dion (Mississippi State)
Petra Ferancova (Mississippi State)
Sarai Flores (Mississippi State)
Alexandra Perper (Mississippi State)
Naomi Tran (Mississippi State)
Lien Van Geel (Mississippi State)
Maria Christensen (Missouri)
Alexandra Clark (Missouri)
Cierra Gaytan-Leach (Missouri)
Madison Rhyner (Missouri)
Jaklin Alawi (South Carolina)
Josefin Andersson (South Carolina)
Dominika Kanakova (South Carolina)
Elixane Lechemia (South Carolina)
Alex Martin (South Carolina)
Adriana Pereira (South Carolina)
Katerina Popova (South Carolina)
Ximena Siles Luna (South Carolina)
Brynn Boren (Tennessee)
Mimi Fotopoulos (Tennessee)
Jesse Grace (Tennessee)
Joanna Henderson (Tennessee)
Kayla McMurphy (Tennessee)
Kata Szekely (Tennessee)
Sarah Toti (Tennessee)
Caitlyn Williams (Tennessee)
Wen Sun (Texas A&M)
Cristina Stancu (Texas A&M)
Cristina Sanchez-Quintanar (Texas A&M)
Frances Altick (Vanderbilt)
Ashleigh Antal (Vanderbilt)
Marie Casares (Vanderbilt)
Megan Gornet (Vanderbilt)
Lauren Mira (Vanderbilt)
Georgina Sellyn (Vanderbilt)



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #1

Jan. 21, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#31 South Carolina 6, Winthrop 1

Singles

1. #34 Jaklin Alawi, USC, def. Yasmine Alkema, WU, 6-2, 6-3
2. #96 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Andressa Garcia, WU, 6-0, 6-0
3. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Alice Garcia, WU, 6-3, 6-3
4. Giovanna Portioli, WU, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 7-6 (7-1), 6-2
5. Adriana Pereira, USC, def. Caitlin Cridland, WU, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Ekin Gunaysu, WU, 6-0, 4-6, 6-4

Order of Finish: 3, 5, 4, 6, 2, 1

Doubles

1. #46 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Alkema/Andressa Garcia, WU, 8-1
2. Andersson/Popova, USC, def. Alice Garcia/Portioli, WU, 8-1
3. Pereira/Siles Luna, USC, vs. Cridland/Gunaysu, WU, 5-4 susp.

Order of Finish: 1, 2

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Jan. 21, 2013) — The No. 31 South Carolina women's tennis team opened the 2013 season with a 6-1 victory against Winthrop on Monday at the USC Field House in Columbia, S.C. Carolina faces USC Upstate at 3 p.m. today in the second match of a doubleheader.

In doubles, South Carolina dominated on both courts one and two with a pair of 8-1 victories. At one, No. 46-ranked Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova raced out to a 5-0 lead on Yasmine Alkema and Andressa Garcia before the Eagles registered their first and only game. Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova provided the clinching win for doubles, winning seven straight games on court two after a 1-all tie versus Alice Garcia and Giovanna Portioli.

The No. 3 doubles match between South Carolina's Adriana Pereira and Ximena Siles Luna, and Winthrop's Caitlin Cridland and Ekin Gunaysu was suspended following Andersson and Popova's triumph. The match was on serve with the Gamecocks leading 5-4.

The Gamecocks pushed ahead 2-0 thanks to Kanakova's straight set 6-3, 6-3 victory against Alice Garcia at the No. 3 spot. Kanakova improved to 4-1 on the season with the win.

Carolina had to wait a considerable amount of time to score its next point with matches on courts five and six going three sets. At five, Pereira won easily in the first set 6-1 versus Cridland but faltered 6-2 in the second. With the score tied 1-all in the third, Pereira managed to grab a 3-1 lead and held on for a 6-4 victory to put her team on top 3-0.

The next two matches finished within minutes of each other. Portioli won a hotly contested match at the No. 4 singles position against Siles Luna to make it 3-1. Portioli sprinted to a 3-0 advantage in the first set before Siles Luna cut the gap to 4-3. Siles Luna came back to make it 5-all and eventually forced a tiebreaker, but Portioli dominated in the breaker for a 7-1 win. In the second, Portioli recorded a 6-2 victory to seal the victory and snap Siles Luna's seven-match unbeaten streak.

Andersson provided the Gamecocks with the clinching point at the No. 6 spot. After blanking Gunaysu 6-0 in the first set, Gunaysu recovered to take the second 6-4. Andersson claimed the first three games in the third, however, Gunaysu fought back to make the score 3-2. Andersson then won two straight and survived a late push by Gunaysu to take the match 6-4.

Popova wasted no time making the score 5-1 for the Gamecocks with a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Andressa Garcia on court two. Alawi closed out the day for South Carolina by earning a 6-2, 6-3 win against Alkema at the top singles position. It marked Alawi's 10th win of the 2012-13 season.

DUAL MATCH #2

Jan. 21, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#31 South Carolina 4, USC Upstate 0

Singles

1. #20 Anya Morgina, USC, def. Jeltje Loomans, WM, 6-3, 6-4
2. Marlen Mesgarzadeh, WM, def. #33 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-3, 6-4
3. #80 Dijana Stojic, USC, vs. Maria Belaya, WM, 6-7, 7-5, 5-4 susp.
4. Katerina Popova, USC, def. Anik Cepeda, WM, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3
5. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Hope Johnson, WM, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4
6. Adriana Pereira, USC, vs. Katie Kargl, WM, 7-6, 4-6, 6-6 susp.

Order of Finish: 1, 2, 5, 4

Doubles

1. Alawi/Stojic, USC, def. Belaya/Loomans, WM, 8-3
2. Josefin Andersson/Morgina, USC, def. Cepeda/Johnson, WM, 8-5
3. Kanakova/Popova, USC, vs. Kargl/Mesgarzadeh, WM, 4-6 susp.

Order of Finish: 1, 2

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Jan. 21, 2013) — The 31st-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team won its second match of a doubleheader Monday at the USC Field House in Columbia, S.C., with a 4-0 victory over USC Upstate. Earlier in the day, the Gamecocks upended Winthrop 6-1.

The Gamecocks quickly took the doubles point, partly because of some misfortune for USC Upstate. On court two, South Carolina's Katerina Popova and Josefin Andersson led Isabel von Stryk and Talia Rojas 3-1. After five rallies in the fifth game, von Stryk went down with an injury and was unable to continue, giving the Gamecocks the victory. Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova then clinched the doubles point with a convincing 8-0 triumph against Julie Bell and Taylor Cohen at the top position.

At No. 3 doubles, South Carolina's tandem of Alex Martin and Adriana Pereira trailed the Spartans' Constanze Kuerten and Allison Beller 5-2 when play was suspended. The match was tied 2-all before USC Upstate ran off three consecutive games.

South Carolina won three quick matches in singles play to improve to 2-0 on the year. Pereira picked up a 6-0, 6-2 win from Rojas at the No. 4 position after winning a three-set match in her first contest of the day versus Winthrop. Pereira won eight games in a row before surrendering a game to Rojas and moved above .500 for the year with a 4-3 record.

Siles Luna recovered from a disappointing straight set loss to Winthrop by serving up a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Beller on court five to make the score 3-0 for Carolina. The freshman upped her singles mark to 13-3 with the win, the top record for the Gamecocks this season.

Fellow newcomer Martin gave the Gamecocks their fourth and final point of the tilt with a 6-1, 6-2 victory against Bell at No. 6 singles. Martin actually dropped the first game of the match before storming back to win nine straight versus Bell. Once Bell cut a 3-0 second set deficit to 3-2, Martin responded by claiming the next three games.

Once the match had been decided, Kanakova and Cohen agreed to finish the first set tiebreaker they had started. Kanakova fell behind 5-2 in the first set to Cohen before mounting a comeback to force the breaker. Kanakova was down 2-1 in the tiebreaker once Martin secured the match for the Gamecocks, but she went on to win six of the next seven rallies to earn a 7-3 victory.

"I think everyone was a little nervous, it being the first match," South Carolina head coach Kevin Epley said. "I think the initial match, we were a little bit frustrated with some of the energy and those sort of things, but they cleaned it up pretty good for the second match. So, I feel like we grew throughout the day. By the end, I feel like we at least have created a base by which we can go into nationals next week."

South Carolina returns to the courts Saturday taking on Missouri in the first round of the ITA Kick-Off Weekend in Ann Arbor, Mich.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #3

Jan. 26, 2013 • Ann Arbor, Mich. • Win
#31 South Carolina 4, #53 Missouri 3

Singles

1. #71 Cierra Gaytan-Leach, UM, def. #34 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4
2. #96 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Rachel Stuhlmann, UM, 6-3, 6-1
3. Elisha Gabb, UM, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-1, 6-3
4. Maria Christensen, UM, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-1, 6-4
5. Adriana Pereira, USC, def. Alex Clark, UM, 6-3, 6-3
6. Josefin Andersson, USC def. Madison Rhyner, UM, 7-5, 7-5

Order of Finish: 3, 5, 2, 1, 4, 6

Doubles

1. #46 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. #26 Gaytan-Leach/Gabb, UM, 8-6
2. Andersson/Popova, USC, def. Stuhlmann/Christensen, UM, 8-3
3. Clark/Rhyner, UM, def. Pereira/Siles Luna, USC, 8-2

Order of Finish: 3, 2, 1

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (Jan. 26, 2013) — Senior Josefin Andersson from the No. 31 South Carolina women's tennis team clinched the team's 4-3 win over No. 53 Missouri (1-1) on Saturday in the opening round of the ITA Kick-Off Weekend in Ann Arbor, Mich. Carolina (3-0) will next face host and No. 16 Michigan (1-0) on Sunday at 2 p.m. for a chance to reach the ITA National Team Indoor Championship played over Feb. 10-13 in Charlottesville, Va.

With the team scored tied at 3-all, Andersson held a one-set lead over Madison Rhyner at No. 6 singles, claiming it 7-5. The Gamecocks actually led the team score 3-1 before losing matches at the Nos. 1 and 4 positions to leave court six as the only match remaining. Andersson ended up winning the second by the same score as the first and improved to 2-0 this spring playing at the No. 6 slot.

The Gamecocks built their 3-1 lead in singles with victories from Adriana Pereira at No. 5 singles and No. 96 Katerina Popova at No. 2 singles. Pereira won first over Alex Clark by a 6-3, 6-3 margin and Popova followed soon afterward with a 6-3, 6-1 decision over Rachel Stuhlmann. Pereira is the only Gamecock with a 3-0 singles mark this spring, while Popova is 2-0.

The Tigers tied the match at one apiece after losing in doubles with a 6-1, 6-3 victory from Elisha Gabb at No. 3 singles against Dominika Kanakova. After Pereira and Popova's wins, Mizzou's No. 71 Cierra Gaytan-Leach came back to defeat No. 34 Jaklin Alawi 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 on court one and Maria Christensen upended South Carolina freshman Ximena Siles Luna at the No. 4 spot in straight sets, 6-1, 6-4.

The Gamecocks started the afternoon by claiming the doubles point for the third match in a row to open the season, winning once again on courts one and two. Mizzou struck first, however, scoring an 8-2 victory courtesy of Clark and Rhyner over Pereira and Siles Luna at the No. 3 position. The Gamecocks countered with Andersson and Popova's 8-3 triumph on court two versus Stuhlmann and Christensen.

Alawi and Kanakova ultimately claimed the doubles point for Carolina with a closely contested match at No. 1. Alawi and Kanakova, ranked No. 46, pulled an 8-6 victory against No. 26-ranked Gaytan-Leach and Gabb to improve to 12-5 for the 2012-13 season, the best record for any Gamecock tandem.

DUAL MATCH #4

Jan. 27, 2013 • Ann Arbor, Mich. • Loss
#16 Michigan 4, #31 South Carolina 0

Singles

1. Emina Bektas, UM, def. #34 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-3, 6-3
2. #96 Katerina Popova, USC, vs. #61 Ronit Yurovsky, UM, 5-7, 0-4 susp.
3. Brooke Bolender, UM, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-2, 6-2
4. Sarah Lee, UM, def. Adriana Pereira, USC, 6-1, 6-1
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, vs. #94 Amy Zhu, UM, 2-6, 4-2 susp.
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, vs. Kristy Dodge, UM, 6-2, 2-5 susp.

Order of Finish: 3, 4, 1

Doubles

1. Bolender/Yurovsky, UM, def. #46 Jaklin Alawi/Dominika Kanakova, USC, 8-3
2. Lee/Mimi Nguyen, UM, def. Andersson/Popova, USC, 8-7 (7-4)
3. Pereira/Siles Luna, USC, def. Bektas/Dodge, UM, 8-2

Order of Finish: 3, 1, 2

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (Jan. 27, 2013) — The 16th-ranked Michigan Wolverines (2-0) handed the No. 31 South Carolina women's tennis team its first loss of the 2013 season Sunday in Ann Arbor, Mich., to drop the Gamecocks' record to 3-1. Michigan advanced to the ITA National Team Indoor Championship with the second-round win in the ITA Kick-Off Weekend.

The two schools played an exciting doubles point, as the Gamecocks struck first with Adriana Pereira and Ximena Siles Luna defeating Emina Bektas and Kristy Dodge by an 8-2 count at the No. 3 position. Michigan, however, countered quickly with Brooke Bolender and Ronit Yurovsky upending No. 46 Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova 8-3 at the top slot.

After Alawi and Kanakova's loss, South Carolina's No. 2 team of Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova faced a 6-4 deficit to Sarah Lee and Mimi Nguyen. The Gamecocks, though, fought back and eventually took a 7-6 lead, at one point winning eight rallies in a row. South Carolina was two points away from winning the match in the 14th game after leading 30-0, but Michigan got the frame to deuce and eventually forced a tiebreaker.

In the breaker, Carolina got a fast start with a 2-0 lead, but the Wolverines won two straight rallied to knot the score at 2-all. At the changeover, the score remained tied at 3-all and the Gamecocks won the next point for a 4-3 upper hand. Unfortunately for South Carolina, Michigan won the next four rallies to earn the 7-4 victory in the tiebreaker to hand the Gamecocks their first loss of the doubles point this season.

Michigan used the momentum of the doubles point to pounce on the Gamecocks early in singles play. Bolender scored the Wolverines' first win with a 6-2, 6-2 decision over Kanakova on court three, and Lee followed soon afterward with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Pereira at No. 5 singles. Bektas provided the clinching point for Michigan, downing No. 34 Alawi 6-3, 6-3 on court one.

The Wolverines also led the No. 2 singles match between No. 61 Yurovsky and No. 96 Popova by a 7-5, 4-0 score when play stopped. No. 94 Zhu won the first set against Siles Luna 6-2 but trailed 4-2 in the second on court five. At No. 6 singles, Andersson beat Dodge 6-2 in the first and was down 5-2 in the second set.

South Carolina returns to the courts on Feb. 3 when it travels to the Upstate to face instate rival and No. 20-ranked Clemson at noon at Hoke Sloan Tennis Center.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #5

Feb. 3, 2013 • Clemson, S.C. • Loss
#19 Clemson 6, #30 South Carolina 1

Singles

1. #32 Yana Koroleva, CU, def. #34 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 6-0
2. Liz Jeukeng, CU, def. #96 Katerina Popova, USC, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1
3. #77 Beatrice Gumulya, CU, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-4, 6-0
4. #69 Romy Koelzer, CU, def. Adriana Pereira, USC, 6-2, 6-2
5. Ani Miao, CU, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-4, 6-0
6. Tristen Dewar, CU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 6-4 ret.

Order of Finish: 3, 4, 1, 2, 6, 5

Doubles

1. #46 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Gumulya/Miao, CU, 8-4
2. Andersson/Popova, USC, def. Koelzer/Jeukeng, CU, 8-4
3. Pereira/Siles Luna, USC, vs. Dewar/Carola Pederzani, CU, 6-5 susp.

Order of Finish: 1, 2

CLEMSON, S.C. (Feb. 3, 2013) — The No. 30 South Carolina women's tennis team won the doubles point against No. 19 Clemson on Sunday at Hoke Sloan Tennis Center in Clemson, S.C., but the Tigers managed to take the contest 6-1.

The Gamecocks (3-2) took a 1-0 lead heading to singles play thanks to wins on courts one and two for doubles. At one, No. 46-ranked Dominika Kanakova and Jaklin Alawi recorded an 8-4 triumph over Beatrice Gumulya and Ani Miao. Carolina's No. 2 duo of Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova secured the point by downing Romy Koelzer and Liz Jeukeng by an 8-4 score.

With the point in hand, play was stopped at No. 3 doubles with South Carolina's Adriana Pereira and Ximena Siles Luna leading Tristen Dewar and Carola Pederzani 6-5.

Clemson (2-2) responded with a fury in singles, winning two matches quickly at the Nos. 3 and 4 positions. No. 77 Gumulya won first with a 6-4, 6-0 victory against Kanakova on court three, and No. 69 Koelzer upended Pereira 6-2, 6-2 at No. 4 singles.

The Tigers got their third and match-winning fourth points in three set contests. In both instances, the Gamecocks won the first set but could not hold on in the second and third. No. 32 Yana Koroleva came back to defeat No. 34 Alawi 6-7, 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles, and Jeukeng clinched the win for Clemson with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 over No. 96 Popova on court two.

In the remaining two matches on courts five and six, Dewar claimed the match-up at six over Andersson by winning the first set 6-4 and Andersson withdrew from the match afterward. At five, Miao beat Siles Luna 6-4 in the first set and then cruised to a 6-0 victory in the second.

South Carolina returns to the courts Feb. 16 when it takes on No. 47 VCU in Richmond, Va., followed by No. 53 William & Mary the next day in Williamsburg, Va.

DUAL MATCH #6

Feb. 16, 2013 • Richmond, Va. • Win
#30 South Carolina 4, #49 VCU 3

Singles

1. Cindy Chala, VCU, def. #59 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-3, 6-4
2. #114 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Salome Kvitashvili, 6-0, 6-4
3. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Josefin Hjertquist, VCU, 6-4, 6-3
4. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Olga Terteac, VCU, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4
5. Olga Barscheuskaya, VCU, def. Adriana Pereira, USC, 7-5, 6-1
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, vs. Yukako Noi, VCU, 6-7 (2-7), 1-5 susp.

Doubles

1. #57 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Hjertquist/Chala, VCU, 8-4
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Daria Yakauleva/Barscheuskaya, VCU, 8-4
3. Kvitashvili/Terteac, VCU, def. Pereira/Siles Luna, USC, 8-5

RICHMOND, Va. (Feb. 16, 2013) — The No. 30 South Carolina women's tennis team held on for a 4-2 victory at No. 49 VCU on Saturday at Thalimer Tennis Center in Richmond, Va., to improve to 4-2 on the year while the Rams fell to 7-3 with the loss.

The Gamecocks continued their strong doubles play this season by winning the top two spots for a 1-0 lead heading to singles play. Carolina's 57th-ranked duo of Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova improved to 5-1 this spring with an 8-4 triumph over Josefin Hjertquist and Cindy Chala on court one. At the second spot, Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova upped their dual record to 5-1 as well with an 8-4 win against Daria Yakauleva and Olga Barscheuskaya.

VCU did manage to grab match in the doubles by winning the third court. Salome Kvitashvili and Olga Terteac topped Adriana Pereira and Ximena Siles Luna by an 8-5 score at the position. Siles Luna, though, would respond in singles with the biggest victory of her young career as a Gamecock.

With the Gamecocks ahead 3-2 and only two matches left in singles, the Rams were poised to take the No. 6 singles match, meaning it would all come down to the No. 4 singles contest between Siles Luna and Terteac. Terteac claimed the first set 6-4, but Siles Luna fought back to take the second in a tiebreaker 7-2. The two traded games back and forth in the third and trailing 4-3, Siles Luna strung together three games in a row to give the Gamecocks' their fourth straight victory against the Rams in a hotly contested series the past five years.

Saturday marked the fourth time the two schools have played since 2008. The prior three meetings all ended in 4-3 wins for the Gamecocks. South Carolina and VCU last played in Columbia, S.C., in 2011 in a match where South Carolina lost the doubles point but broke a 3-all tie thanks to a three set win from Dijana Stojic at No. 2 singles.

Popova and Kanakova gave South Carolina its second and third points of the match to set up the exciting finish with Siles Luna. No. 114 Popova cruised to a 6-0, 6-4 win over Kvitashvili at No. 2 singles to improve to 4-1 this spring. Kanakova snapped a three-match losing skid at No. 3 singles by taking care of Hjertquist 6-4, 6-3.

VCU scored its first point of the match at the top of the lineup with Chala downing No. 59 Alawi 6-3, 6-4. Barscheuskaya cut the Gamecocks' 3-1 lead to just one point when she defeated Pereira 7-5, 6-1. At No. 6 singles, Yukako Noi led Andersson 7-6 (7-2), 5-1 when Siles Luna beat Terteac to clinch the match and play was subsequently stopped.

South Carolina continues its stay in the Commonwealth when it visits Williamsburg, Va., on Sunday to face No. 47 William & Mary at 1 p.m.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #7

Feb. 17, 2013 • Williamsburg, Va. • Loss
#47 William & Mary 4, #30 South Carolina 3

Singles

1. Maria Belaya, W&M, def. #59 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3
2. #114 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Jeltje Loomans, W&M, 6-4, 6-2
3. Leeza Nemchinov, W&M, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-0, 7-5
4. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Hope Johnson, W&M, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3
5. Anik Cepeda, W&M, def. Adriana Pereira, USC, 6-3, 6-2
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Sydney Smith, W&M, 6-0, 6-3

Order of Finish: 3, 5, 6, 2, 1, 4

Doubles

1. #4 Belaya/Loomans, W&M, def. #57 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, 8-5
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Cepeda/Johnson, W&M, 8-3
3. Nemichnov/Smith, W&M, def. Pereira/Siles Luna, USC, 8-6

Order of Finish: 1, 2, 3

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Feb. 17, 2013) — The 30th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team dropped a 4-3 decision at No. 47 William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., on Sunday at McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center. South Carolina fell to 4-3 on the season with the loss, while the Tribe improved to 8-2.

William & Mary grabbed the doubles point from South Carolina, just the second time this season the Gamecocks have surrendered the doubles. The No. 4-ranked duo of Maria Belaya and Jeltje Loomans defeated Carolina's No. 57 team of Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova 8-5 at the top of the lineup, but the Gamecocks countered with Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova's 8-3 triumph over Anik Cepeda and Hope Johnson on court two. The Tribe, though, took the final match on court three with Leeza Nemchinov and Sydney Smith beating Adriana Pereira and Ximena Siles Luna 8-6.

The Tribe rattled off two more points to begin singles play by winning courts three and five. Nemchinov finished first at the No. 3 spot with a 6-0, 7-5 win against Kanakova, and Cepeda made it 3-0 after winning in straight sets over Pereira 6-3, 6-2 at five.

The Gamecocks, though, quickly closed the deficit to just one point with wins from Andersson and Popova. Andersson won convincingly versus Smith at No. 6 singles by a 6-0, 6-3 score, while Popova registered a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Loomans at the No. 2 spot.

The remaining matches on courts one and four decided the outcome with both going three sets. At one, 59th-ranked Alawi dropped the first to Belaya 6-4, but she fought back to win the second 6-4. Siles Luna also lost her first set 6-4 to Johnson, but she stormed back to take the second set 6-2.

After three games had finished in the third sets, Siles Luna had a 2-1 lead while Alawi trailed 2-1. Siles Luna then pushed ahead 4-1 in the third, but Alawi faced a 4-2 deficit. Alawi got a game back to make it 4-3, but Belaya scored the next two games to lift the Tribe to victory over the Gamecocks. Siles Luna went on for a 6-3 win over Johnson in the third.

South Carolina will hit the road again for its next match, taking on Furman in Greenville, S.C., on Wednesday at 5 p.m. The Gamecocks will host a doubleheader against College of Charleston and Charleston Southern on Saturday beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Carolina Tennis Center.

DUAL MATCH #8

Feb. 20, 2013 • Greenville, S.C. • Win
#38 South Carolina 6, Furman 1

Singles

1. #59 Jaklin Alawi, USC, def. #110 Lauren Kline, FU, 6-1, 6-2
2. #114 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Katherine Oudin, FU, 6-2, 6-0
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Alex Moreno-Kaste, FU, 6-4, 6-3
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Michele Stanford, FU, 6-4, 6-2
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Amanda Murray, FU, 6-4, 7-6
6. Kelly Sullivan, FU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 4-6, 7-5, (1-0)

Order of Finish: 1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6

Doubles

1. #57 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Kline/Moreno-Kaste, FU, 8-2
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Stanford/Murray, FU, 8-6
3. Boyette/Sullivan, FU, def. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, 8-7

Order of Finish: 1, 3, 2

GREENVILLE, S.C. (Feb. 20, 2013) — The No. 38 South Carolina women's tennis team wrapped up its Saturday doubleheader at the USC Field House in Columbia, S.C., with a 5-0 victory against Charleston Southern to improve to 7-3 on the 2013 season. Charleston Southern dropped to 1-4 with the loss. Earlier in the day, the Gamecocks defeated No. 72 College of Charleston by a 5-0 score.

"I really wanted to see us make some progress in some of the things we've been working on in terms of doubles and basically getting over some things; a little bit of fear and kind of holding back a little bit in certain areas," Epley said. "We definitely made some progress in certain areas in doubles and in singles, people committing to their game a little bit more. We've been working a lot on energy, continuing on what we've been working on all season. We're trying to accentuate the positives with fist pumps and those sorts of things and then get rid of all the negatives. I think overall, we did a pretty good job for two matches."

Like the first match of the day, the Gamecocks won the doubles point easily for a 1-0 advantage heading to singles play. Carolina mixed up its lineup from the first match, separating Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova at the top spot and moving Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova up from No. 2 doubles. Alawi teamed with Alex Martin on court two and Kanakova sat out the doubles competition. Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna retained their spot at No. 3 doubles.

Alawi and Martin finished first with an 8-1 victory against Yvonne Hubler and Alexandra Walters. It moved Alawi and Martin's record together to 3-1 for the season, as the pair also teamed up for a tournament in the fall. Lechemia and Siles Luna shut out Susita Das and Marketa Placha on court three to record their first win together on the season and clinch the doubles point for South Carolina.

At No. 1 doubles, Popova and Andersson held a 6-4 advantage on Alia Nour and Angelica Sidorenko. Popova and Andersson hold the Gamecocks' top record in dual matches at 8-1. The Charleston Southern match marked the first time the two have played together at the No. 1 doubles position.

It was a race between Lechemia and Kanakova to see who would score the Gamecocks' first point in singles. Lechemia ended up beating Walters by a 6-1, 6-0 count on court three just ahead of Kanakova's 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Nour at No. 4 singles. No. 59 Alawi secured the win for the Gamecocks with her 6-3, 6-3 decision against Placha on court one. Popova notched her team-leading seventh dual match victory of the spring at No. 2 singles with a 6-1, 6-2 win versus Sidorenko to make the score 5-0 for the Gamecocks.

Siles Luna and Martin played several games in their matches at five and six singles, but both were eventually suspended with the team outcome having already been decided. Siles Luna led Das 5-0 in the first set at five and Martin won her first set 6-0 against Chanel Bell at No. 6 singles.

South Carolina will open SEC play next week when it heads to College Station, Texas, to take on No. 10 Texas A&M on March 1 and then No. 55 Missouri on March 3 in Columbia, Mo.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #9

Feb. 23, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#38 South Carolina 5, #72 College of Charleston 0

Singles

1. #59 Jaklin Alawi, USC, def. Christin Newman, CofC, 6-4, 6-0
2. #114 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Brooke McAmis, CofC, 6-0, 6-1
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Samantha Maddox, CofC, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Katherine Schofield, CofC, 6-0, 6-1
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, vs. Irene Viana, CofC, 5-2 susp.
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, Olivia McMillan, CofC, 6-1, 1-0 susp.

Order of Finish: 2, 1, 4, 3

Doubles

1. #57 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Schofield/Viana, CofC, 8-2
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Maddox/McAmis, CofC, 8-0
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, vs. McMillan/Newman, CofC, 7-1 susp.

Order of Finish: 2, 1

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Feb. 23, 2013) — The 38th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team improved to 6-3 on the season with a 5-0 shutout of No. 72 College of Charleston on Saturday at the USC Field House in Columbia, S.C. CofC dropped to 4-3 on the season with the loss. The Gamecocks next face Charleston Southern in match two of a doubleheader at 4 p.m. in the Field House.

The Gamecocks wasted no time picking up the doubles point from the Cougars. Between all three courts, South Carolina won the first 10 games played before College of Charleston picked up a game on court one. Katerina Popova and Josefin Andersson finished first for Carolina with an 8-0 sweep over Samantha Maddox and Brooke McAmis on court two to improve to 8-1 this spring. No. 57 Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova clinched the point for the Gamecocks at the top position with an 8-2 triumph over Katherine Schofield and Irene Viana, running their record to 7-2 in 2013.

South Carolina's Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna led Olivia McMillan and Christin Newman on court three 7-1, but played was suspended once Alawi and Kanakova clinched the doubles point.

South Carolina dominated three of the first four matches on court in the Field House. No. 114 Popova won first by defeating McAmis 6-0, 6-1 to up her record on the spring to 6-1. Popova won eight straight games before surrendering one to McAmis.

No. 59 Alawi battled her way through her first set against Newman at No. 1 singles, winning two straight games with the score tied 4-all to take the set. Alawi coasted in the second to a 6-0 win to give Carolina a 3-0 advantage and her second win a row.

For the second straight contest, Kanakova provided the Gamecocks with the winning point. She won 10 consecutive games versus Schofield at the fourth position before going on to win 6-0, 6-1. Kanakova improved to 2-0 at No. 4 singles for the year in the process as well.

Lechemia posted South Carolina's fifth point at No. 3 singles by upending Maddox in straight sets. The two traded games back and forth in the first set before eventually moving to a tiebreaker. Lechemia had one match point at 6-5, but Maddox stayed alive to win the rally for 6-all. Lechemia, though, took the next two points to pick up the 8-6 win for the first set. With a 3-2 lead in the second set, Lechemia took command to finish off Maddox 6-2 for the win.

Play stopped once Lechemia concluded her match on court three. At No. 5 singles, Siles Luna led Viana 5-2 in the first set. Andersson held a 6-1, 1-0 advantage on McMillan on court six.

DUAL MATCH #10

Feb. 23, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#38 South Carolina 5, Charleston Southern 0

Singles

1. #59 Jaklin Alawi, USC, def. Marketa Placha, CSU, 6-3, 6-3
2. #114 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Angelica Sidorenko, CSU, 6-1, 6-2
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Alexandra Walters, CSU, 6-1, 6-0
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Alia Nour, CSU, 6-0, 6-0
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, Susita Das, CSU, 5-0 susp.
6. Alex Martin, USC, Chanel Bell, CSU, 6-0 susp.

Order of Finish: 3, 4, 1, 2

Doubles

1. Popova/Andersson, USC, vs. Nour/Sidorenko, CSU, 6-4 susp.
2. Alawi/Martin, USC, def. Hubler/Walters, CSU, 8-1
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Das/Placha, CSU, 8-0

Order of Finish: 2, 3

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Feb. 23, 2013) — The No. 38 South Carolina women's tennis team wrapped up its Saturday doubleheader at the USC Field House in Columbia, S.C., with a 5-0 victory against Charleston Southern to improve to 7-3 on the 2013 season. Charleston Southern dropped to 1-4 with the loss. Earlier in the day, the Gamecocks defeated No. 72 College of Charleston by a 5-0 score.

"I really wanted to see us make some progress in some of the things we've been working on in terms of doubles and basically getting over some things; a little bit of fear and kind of holding back a little bit in certain areas," Epley said. "We definitely made some progress in certain areas in doubles and in singles, people committing to their game a little bit more. We've been working a lot on energy, continuing on what we've been working on all season. We're trying to accentuate the positives with fist pumps and those sorts of things and then get rid of all the negatives. I think overall, we did a pretty good job for two matches."

Like the first match of the day, the Gamecocks won the doubles point easily for a 1-0 advantage heading to singles play. Carolina mixed up its lineup from the first match, separating Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova at the top spot and moving Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova up from No. 2 doubles. Alawi teamed with Alex Martin on court two and Kanakova sat out the doubles competition. Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna retained their spot at No. 3 doubles.

Alawi and Martin finished first with an 8-1 victory against Yvonne Hubler and Alexandra Walters. It moved Alawi and Martin's record together to 3-1 for the season, as the pair also teamed up for a tournament in the fall. Lechemia and Siles Luna shut out Susita Das and Marketa Placha on court three to record their first win together on the season and clinch the doubles point for South Carolina.

At No. 1 doubles, Popova and Andersson held a 6-4 advantage on Alia Nour and Angelica Sidorenko. Popova and Andersson hold the Gamecocks' top record in dual matches at 8-1. The Charleston Southern match marked the first time the two have played together at the No. 1 doubles position.

It was a race between Lechemia and Kanakova to see who would score the Gamecocks' first point in singles. Lechemia ended up beating Walters by a 6-1, 6-0 count on court three just ahead of Kanakova's 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Nour at No. 4 singles. No. 59 Alawi secured the win for the Gamecocks with her 6-3, 6-3 decision against Placha on court one. Popova notched her team-leading seventh dual match victory of the spring at No. 2 singles with a 6-1, 6-2 win versus Sidorenko to make the score 5-0 for the Gamecocks.

Siles Luna and Martin played several games in their matches at five and six singles, but both were eventually suspended with the team outcome having already been decided. Siles Luna led Das 5-0 in the first set at five and Martin won her first set 6-0 against Chanel Bell at No. 6 singles.

South Carolina will open SEC play next week when it heads to College Station, Texas, to take on No. 10 Texas A&M on March 1 and then No. 55 Missouri on March 3 in Columbia, Mo.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #11

March 1, 2013 • College Station, Texas • Loss
#6 Texas A&M 5, #43 South Carolina 2

Singles

1. #6 Cristina Sanchez-Quintanar, TAMU, def. #69 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-1, 6-2
2. #108 K. Popova, USC, def. #83 Cristina Stancu, TAMU, 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, (12-10)
3. #67 Nazari Urbina, TAMU, def. Elixane Lechemia, USC, 6-2, 1-6, 6-1
4. Wen Sun, TAMU, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-3, 6-2
5. Ines Deheza, TAMU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 6-1, 6-3
6. Stefania Hristov, TAMU, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-4, 6-3

Order of Finish: 1, 5, 4, 6, 2, 3

Doubles

1. Alawi/Kanakova, USC, vs. #11 Hristov/Stancu, TAMU, 8-8 (6-3) susp.
2. Andersson/Popova, USC, def. Sanchez-Quintanar/Sun, TAMU, 8-5
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Deheza/Deheza, TAMU, 8-3

Order of Finish: 3, 2

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (March 1, 2013) — The No. 43 South Carolina women's tennis team suffered a 5-2 loss at No. 6 Texas A&M on Friday in the Southeastern Conference opener for both teams and the first SEC match in school history for the Aggies. South Carolina dipped to 7-4 on the season while Texas A&M improved to 7-1.

The Gamecocks started strong, claiming the doubles point from the Aggies with wins on courts two and three. South Carolina's No. 3 squad of Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna dominated the sister duo of Ines and Paula Deheza by an 8-3 count to finish first. Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova then posted an 8-5 triumph over Cristina Sanchez-Quintanar and Wen Sun on court two to secure the point. Andersson and Popova improved to 9-1 this spring with the win.

South Carolina nearly posted an upset on court one with the Gamecocks' Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova taking on No. 11-ranked Stefania Hristov and Cristina Stancu. The Gamecocks held a 6-4 lead on the Aggies, but Hristov and Stancu bounced back to win two straight games, and the match eventually went to a tiebreaker. In the breaker, Alawi and Kanakova won the first four rallies and held a 6-3 advantage when play stopped because of Andersson and Popova clinching the point.

In singles, the Aggies proved too tough for the Gamecocks. No. 6 Sanchez-Quintanar picked up a 6-1, 6-2 decision over No. 69 Alawi on court one to even the score and Ines Deheza put Texas A&M ahead for good when she downed Andersson 6-1, 6-3 at No. 5 singles. Sun then beat Kanakova 6-3, 6-2 at No. 4 singles and Hristov provided the clinching point on court six with a 6-4, 6-3 win against Siles Luna.

With the match already in hand, two matches remained. No. 108 Popova took a 7-6 (7-4) win over No. 83 Stancu for the first set at No. 2 singles but then lost the second 6-3. The two played a super tiebreaker for the third set and Popova prevailed 12-10 to improve to 8-1 this spring, the top record for the Gamecocks in duals this spring. It also marked Popova's first win against a ranked opponent in 2013.

The evening ended with the Aggies winning the No. 3 match between No. 67 Nazari Urbina and Lechemia. Urbina won the first set 6-2 and then faltered by a 6-1 count in the second. She recovered with a convincing 6-1 win to take the third set and handed Lechemia her first collegiate loss since becoming eligible for the Gamecocks last week.

South Carolina will continue SEC play at No. 71 Missouri on Sunday at 11 a.m. ET. The Gamecocks defeated Mizzou earlier this year by a 4-3 score in Ann Arbor, Mich., at the ITA Kick-Off Weekend.

DUAL MATCH #12

March 3, 2013 • Columbia, Mo. • Win
#43 South Carolina 4, #71 Missouri 3

Singles

1. #107 Cierra Gaytan-Leach, MU, def. #69 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-4, 6-2
2. #108 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Rachel Stuhlmann, MU, 6-2, 6-2
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Elisha Gabb, MU, 5-0 ret.
4. Maria Christensen, MU, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-3, 6-1
5. Alex Clark, MU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5)
6. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Madison Rhyner, MU, 6-2, 6-1

Order of Finish: 3, 4, 2, 1, 5, 6

Doubles

1. Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Gaytan-Leach/Gabb, MU, 8-3
2. Andersson/Popova, USC, vs. Christensen/Stuhlmann, MU, 6-7 susp.
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Clark/Rhyner, MU, 8-5

Order of Finish: 1, 3

COLUMBIA, Mo. (March 3, 2013) — The No. 43 South Carolina women's tennis team escaped with a 4-3 win over No. 71 Missouri on Sunday at Green Tennis Center in Columbia, Mo. The Gamecocks improved to 8-4 overall and 1-1 in the SEC, while the Tigers dipped to 6-3 and 0-2 in the league. It marked Carolina's second 4-3 win over Mizzou this season having also beaten the Tigers in the first round of the ITA Kick-Off Weekend in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Jan. 26.

Like the first meeting between the two schools earlier in the season, the Gamecocks took the doubles point. Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova won first on court one with a convincing 8-3 decision over Cierra Gaytan-Leach and Elisha Gabb to improve to 8-2 on the spring. Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna provided the clinching victory with an 8-5 triumph over Alex Clark and Madison Rhyner at the No. 3 spot.

With the doubles point decided, play on court two stopped with Mizzou's Maria Christensen and Rachel Stuhlmann leading Katerina Popova and Josefin Andersson 7-6 on court No. 2.

The Gamecocks picked up their second point quickly on court three, as Gabb withdrew from her match with an injury after Lechemia raced out to a 5-0 advantage in the first set. With the victory, the newcomer improved to 4-1 this spring since entering the lineup last week.

A flurry of matches finished a little over an hour later and all within 10 minutes of each other. When the dust settled, the Gamecocks still held a 3-2 advantage over the Tigers. Christensen was the first of the trio to finish with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Kanakova on court four, and Popova countered for Carolina with a 6-2, 6-2 victory against Stuhlmann at the No. 2 slot. No. 107-ranked Gaytan-Leach then upended No. 69 Alawi on court one with a 6-4, 6-2 win.

With the 3-2 lead, Andersson and Clark were deadlocked in a 5-all tie in the first set of their No. 5 singles contest. Clark went on to take it 7-5 to gain the momentum heading to the next set. Andersson, though, jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the second and then pushed ahead 4-1. Rhyner and Siles Luna were tied 2-2 when Andersson grabbed the 4-1 second set lead on Clark.

Clark fought back on Andersson, though, and got the match back to 4-all. Andersson then went ahead 5-4, but Clark regained the upper hand at 6-5. On six, Siles Luna coasted to a 6-2 win in the first set and led 2-0 in the second while Andersson and Clark battled it out in the 12th game of set No. 2 on court five. Andersson won the frame to extend the second set into a tiebreaker.

While Clark went on to win the tiebreaker and the match, the Gamecocks still controlled the team outcome thanks to Siles Luna's commanding 6-2, 4-1 lead on Rhyner when the No. 5 contest ended. Siles Luna wasted no time closing out the match, going on for a 6-2, 6-1 victory to improve to 16-6 this season.

South Carolina has just one SEC match on tap next week in Gainesville, Fla., on Saturday against two-time defending national champion and No. 4-ranked Florida at 1 p.m. ET.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #13

March 9, 2013 • Gainesville, Fla. • Loss
#5 Florida 7, #35 South Carolina 0

Singles

1. #1 Lauren Embree, UF, def. #108 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-0, 6-2
2. #11 Sofie Oyen, UF, def. #69 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-0, 6-2
3. #53 Alexandra Cercone, UF, def. Elixane Lechemia, USC, 6-4, 3-6, (10-4)
4. #114 Brianna Morgan, UF, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-0, 6-0
5. #76 Danielle Collins, UF, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-0, 6-1
6. #109 Olivia Janowicz, UF, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 6-2, 6-1

Order of Finish: 4, 5, 2, 6, 1, 3

Doubles

1. Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Cercone/Oyen, UF, 8-1
2. Embree/Morgan, UF, def. Popova/Andersson, USC, 8-2
3. Hitimana/Janowicz, UF, def. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, 9-7

Order of Finish: 2, 1, 3

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (March 9, 2013) — The 35th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team took a 7-0 loss in Gainesville, Fla., on Saturday to the No. 5-ranked Florida Gators. Carolina dropped to 8-5 on the year and 1-2 in SEC play, while Florida improved to 9-2 and 2-1 in the league.

Florida took the first doubles match with Lauren Embree and Brianna Morgan defeating Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova 8-2 on court two. It was just the second loss of the spring for Andersson and Popova. The Gamecocks responded quickly, though, with Dominika Kanakova and Jaklin Alawi making short work of Alexandra Cercone and Sofie Oyen at the No. 1 spot, as they picked up an 8-1 victory to improve to 9-2 on the season.

The Gators still appeared to be in control of the doubles point with Caroline Hitimana and Olivia Janowicz leading Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna 7-2 on court three when the No. 1 doubles contest finished. Lechemia and Siles Luna furiously came back to tie the match at 7-all. Florida, however, managed to earn a break of serve in the next game and then served out the next frame to take a 1-0 lead heading to singles play.

Florida used the momentum from doubles to push ahead quickly in singles play. No. 114 Morgan won first with a 6-0, 6-0 win over Kanakova on court four and No. 76 Danielle Collins defeated Siles Luna 6-0, 6-1 at No. 5 singles to make the score 3-0. Soon afterward, No. 11 Oyen downed No. 69 Alawi 6-0, 6-2 at the second position to clinch the match for the Gators. No. 109 Janowicz followed with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Andersson on court six and No. 1-ranked Embree scored a 6-0, 6-2 win over No. 108 Popova at the top slot.

The Gamecocks nearly took the No. 3 singles match that finished last. No. 53 Cercone took the first set from Lechemia 6-4, but the Gamecock newcomer took the second 6-3 to force a third. The two played a super tiebreaker for the final set and Cercone managed to walk away with a 10-4 win to complete the Gators' sweep of singles play.

South Carolina returns home to host No. 62 Tennessee on March 15 at 5 p.m. at Carolina Tennis Center in the first of four consecutive SEC matches in Columbia, S.C. The Gamecocks then welcome No. 9 Georgia to town for a 1:30 p.m. match-up on March 17.

DUAL MATCH #14

March 15, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Loss
#44 Tennessee 4, #32 South Carolina 2

Singles

1. #20 Brynn Boren, UT, def. #78 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-2, 6-2
2. #40 Kata Szekely, UT, def. #102 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-3, 6-2
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, vs. Caitlyn Williams, UT, 3-6, 6-1, 3-3 susp.
4. Joanna Henderson, UT, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-3, 6-4
5. Mimi Fotopoulos, UT, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-1, 6-3
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Tiffany Tavares, UT, 6-2, 6-4

Order of Finish: 1, 2, 6, 4, 5

Doubles

1. #4 Boren/Szekely, UT, def. Alawi/Kanakova, USC, 8-6
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Henderson/Williams, UT, 8-6
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Sarah Toti/Fotopoulos, UT, 8-1

Order of Finish: 3, 1, 2

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 15, 2013) — The No. 32 South Carolina women's tennis team lost 4-2 to No. 44 Tennessee on Friday at Carolina Tennis Center in Columbia, S.C. The Gamecocks fell to 8-6 on the year with the loss and 1-3 in SEC play, while the Lady Volunteers improved to 5-5 and 3-1 in the SEC.

The Gamecocks took the doubles point from Tennessee, their first win in doubles over the Lady Vols since the 2009 campaign in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. South Carolina dominated on court three with Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna defeating Sarah Toti and Mimi Fotopoulos 8-1 to improve to 4-2 on the season and 3-1 in SEC play. The Lady Vols, though, answered back with an 8-6 win from the fourth-ranked duo of Brynn Boren and Kata Szekely on court one versus Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova.

Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova found themselves in a 6-all tie with Joanna Henderson and Caitlyn Williams at No. 2 doubles after the two teams split the other courts. Andersson and Popova managed to grab a break of serve from Henderson and Williams for a 7-6 advantage on the changeover. Popova then served out the match, winning it at 40-30 when Andersson hit a forehand volley winner to up the USC tandem's record to 14-7 on the season and 10-2 in dual match play.

Tennessee stormed back in singles, winning the first set on courts one through five to open play. No. 20-ranked Boren finished first with a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over No. 78 Alawi atop the lineup. No. 40 Szekely put the Lady Vols on top 2-1 after she bested No. 102 Popova on court two in straight sets 6-3, 6-2. The next two matches finished within minutes of each other. Andersson held off Tiffany Tavares at the No. 6 spot 6-2, 6-4 and Henderson upended Kanakova 6-3, 6-4 on court four to put the Lady Vols ahead 3-2 with courts three and five remaining.

Lechemia had just split sets with Williams when court four finished and Siles Luna trailed Fotopoulos 6-2, 2-1 at the No. 5 spot. Siles Luna later trailed 4-2 but managed to get the contest back to 4-3 on the changeover, while Lechemia raced ahead 2-0 in the third. Fotopoulos, though, broke Siles Luna in the next game and then served it out to win 6-1, 6-3 and give Tennessee the victory.

Lechemia and Williams were tied 3-all in the third when Fotopoulos clinched the win for UT and the match was subsequently stopped. Williams won the first 6-3, but Lechemia countered in the second 6-1.

The Gamecocks return to SEC play Sunday hosting No. 12 Georgia at 1:30 p.m. at Carolina Tennis Center.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #15

March 17, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Loss
#12 Georgia 7, #32 South Carolina 0

Singles

1. #77 Silvia Garcia, UGA, def. #102 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-1, 6-1
2. #17 Maho Kowase, UGA, def. Elixane Lechemia, USC, 6-1, 6-2
3. #120 Kate Fuller, UGA, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-2, 6-1
4. Makenzie Craft, UGA, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 5-7, 6-3, (10-8)
5. Mia King, UGA, def. Alex Martin, USC, 6-2, 5-7, (10-1)
6. Lilly Kimbell, UGA, def. Adriana Pereira, USC, 6-2, 6-2

Order of Finish: 1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 4

Doubles

1. #3 Fuller/Garcia, UGA, def. Andersson/Popova, USC, 8-6
2. Kanakova/Pereira, USC, vs. Craft/Kowase, UGA, 7-6 susp.
3. King/Kimbell, UGA, def. Lechemia/Martin, USC, 8-5

Order of Finish: 3, 1

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 17, 2013) — The 32nd-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team lost 7-0 to No. 12 Georgia on Sunday at Carolina Tennis Center in Columbia, S.C. The Gamecocks fell to 8-7 and 1-4 in the SEC with the loss, while the Bulldogs improved to 11-2 and 4-1 in league competition.

The Gamecocks lost a hard fought doubles point to get play underway. South Carolina's duo of Elixane Lechemia and Alex Martin jumped out to a 3-1 lead on court three versus Mia King and Lilly Kimbell, but the Bulldogs came back to snag a 4-3 advantage. The match was later tied 5-all before King and Kimbell won three straight games to give the Bulldogs their first victory in doubles.

On court one, South Carolina's Katerina Popova and Josefin Andersson took a 3-1 lead after four games against the nation's No. 3-ranked team of Kate Fuller and Silvia Garcia, but the Bulldogs recovered to get the match back on serve. At 6-all, the Fuller and Garcia broke the Gamecocks and then served out the match to give their squad a 1-0 upper hand going into singles play.

The No. 2 doubles match was suspended once the Bulldogs secured the point. The Gamecocks Dominika Kanakova and Adriana Pereira fell behind Makenzie Craft and Maho Kowase 4-1 but stormed back to win four consecutive games for a 5-4 lead. The match remained on serve and was stopped with South Carolina ahead 7-6.

Georgia proved to be too much for South Carolina in singles. No. 77 Garcia scored the Bulldogs' second point of the match with a 6-1, 6-1 triumph over No. 102 Popova on court one. Less than five minutes later, No. 120 Fuller defeated Kanakova 6-2, 6-1 at the third singles position to make the score 3-0 in favor of UGA. No. 17 Kowase provided the clinching point for Georgia with a 6-1, 6-2 win against Lechemia on court two.

Soon after the No. 2 singles match finished, Kimbell added another point for Georgia on court five with a 6-2, 6-2 win versus Pereira. At No. 5 singles, Martin lost the first set to King 6-2, but came back with a 7-5 win in the second after being down 5-3. The two played a super tiebreaker for the third set and King prevailed with a 10-1 victory.

The final match on court after Martin lost saw Andersson down 4-2 in the second set to Craft at No. 4 singles. Andersson, though, won the first set 7-5. Andersson closed the margin to 4-3, but Craft pushed ahead and claimed the set 6-3 to set up another super tiebreaker. The two traded points back and forth in the super breaker and were still tied 6-all at the second change-over. At 8-all, Andersson hit a forehand that sailed beyond the baseline and another forehand error on the next point completed the sweep for Georgia.

South Carolina will return to action Friday hosting No. 17 Auburn at 5 p.m. and then No. 8 Alabama on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Carolina Tennis Center.

DUAL MATCH #16

March 22, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#49 South Carolina 4, #18 Auburn 1

Singles

1. #78 Jaklin Alawi, USC, vs. #51 Pleun Burgmans, AU, 1-6, 6-4, 6-6 (3-4) susp.
2. #102 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Michala Kucharova, AU, 6-4, 6-0
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Emily Flickinger, AU, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3
4. Dominika Kanakova, def. Jen Pfeiffer, AU, 6-4, 6-3
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, vs. Jackie Kasler, AU, 6-3, 2-6, 4-2 susp.
6. Plamena Kurteva, AU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 6-1, 6-4

Order of Finish: 2, 4, 6, 3

Doubles

1. Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. #54 Burgmans/Kurteva, AU, 8-5
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Kasler/Flickinger, AU, 8-4
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, vs. Paulina Schippers/Pfeiffer, AU, 6-4 susp.

Order of Finish: 2, 1

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 22, 2013) — The 49th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team picked up a 4-1 win over No. 18 Auburn on Friday evening at Carolina Tennis Center in Columbia, S.C. The win snapped Carolina's three-match losing streak and improved the Gamecocks to 9-7 on the year and 2-4 in the SEC. Auburn has now lost two straight after winning 14 in a row and is 14-3 overall and 4-2 in the league.

Auburn entered the match having won 15 consecutive doubles points, with the Tigers' only loss coming in their first match of the season versus No. 1 North Carolina. The Gamecocks, though, came out and dominated all three positions to grab a 1-0 lead heading to singles. It became a race between courts one and two as to which duo would finish first, as both jumped out to 6-2 leads. Katerina Popova and Josefin Andersson ended up defeating Jackie Kasler and Emily Flickinger first on court two by an 8-4 count.

At the No. 1 spot, Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova continued to lead 7-3 after 10 games, but 54th-ranked Pleun Burgmans and Plamena Kurteva recovered to win two straight games to cut the deficit to 7-5. Alawi, however, used her powerful serve to help propel the Gamecocks to the win in the next game. It marked the 12th time in 16 matches South Carolina has won the doubles point.

"We obviously work a lot on doubles," Gamecock head coach Kevin Epley said. "It's just one of those things where we are turning the corner confidence wise. I still think we could play a lot better than we did today, quite frankly, but they're growing into their skin and thinking of themselves as one of the better doubles teams out here. It's been sort of a transition for them because they used to think of themselves as not being doubles players, but now they're starting to realize they are and they're going to expect to win going in to every match. Today, we made a goal to finish if we get leads, and I think we could have even been a little better, but overall, we finished the matches and I think that as a team, we're starting to realize that we are one of the better doubles groups out there."

Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna held a 6-4 advantage on court three versus Paulina Schippers and Jen Pfeiffer and also were ahead 15-0 on the Tigers' serve when played stopped.

The Gamecocks continued their tough play in singles and No. 102 Popova quickly put them ahead 2-0 with her 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Michala Kucharova on court two. With the win, Popova improved to 16-7 on the season and 10-4 in dual match play, both team highs. Not long afterward, Kanakova ended her winless drought in league matches with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Pfeiffer at the No. 4 position. It would take some time, though, for South Carolina to pick up the clinching fourth point.

Less than three minutes after Kanakova put USC ahead 3-0, Kurteva held off Andersson 6-1, 6-4 on court six. The remaining matches on courts one, three and five were all in third sets once Kurteva gave Auburn what turned out to be its only point of the match.

No. 78 Alawi had fought back from a 6-1 loss to No. 51 Burgmans in the first set to win the second 6-4 and she held a 4-3 lead late in the third. At three, Lechemia also lost her first set to Flickinger 6-4, but she won the second 6-2 and raced ahead to a 4-2 advantage in the third. Siles Luna won 6-3 in the first set against Kasler at five, lost the second 6-2 and took a 2-0 lead to start the third.

Alawi and Burgmans continued to trade games back and forth until eventually reaching a tiebreaker. Lechemia, meanwhile, went ahead 5-2 and had two match points on Flickinger's serve, but she was unable to close out the contest and it advanced to 5-3. Siles Luna continued to cruise on court five, pushing ahead 4-1 on Kasler.

Lechemia managed to hold serve in the ensuing game to pick up the 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 win over Flickinger to lift the Gamecocks past the Tigers. In the process, it kept South Carolina's perfect all-time record against Auburn in Columbia in tact, pushing it to 14-0. Lechemia improved to 5-3 on the season and 2-3 at No. 3 singles for SEC matches.

"Eli is a player who had a lot of pro experience, and the game is just different out there," Epley said. "Out here, in the SEC, you're getting girls who may not have the ability in terms of striking the ball, but they certainly have more heart than what you're going to find on the lower pro level. These girls are fighting hard for their schools and teams and competing; that's the name of college tennis, it's competing. I think it has kind of taken Eli back a little that they are going to make her work for points. Adjusting to that, the screaming and the yelling, adjusting to the American culture and not having a fall to kind of build that confidence, it's a difficult thing to ask her to do. I think that she is coming along, she's plugging away and working hard and has a good attitude."

Alawi trailed 4-3 in the tiebreaker when play was suspended and Siles Luna was still ahead of Kasler 4-2 in the third.

South Carolina will return to action Sunday hosting No. 8 Alabama at 1:30 p.m. at Carolina Tennis Center. In the event of inclement weather, the match will move indoors to the USC Field House.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #17

March 24, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Loss
#8 Alabama 4, #49 South Carolina 1

Singles

1. #25 Mary Anne Macfarlane, UA, def. #78 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-3, 6-4
2. #60 Alex Guarachi, UA, def. #102 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-1, 6-4
3. #73 Maya Jansen, UA, def. Elixane Lechemia, USC, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1
4. Antonia Foehse, UA, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, vs. Emily Zabor, UA, 5-4 susp.
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, vs. #115 Natalia Maynetto, UA, 4-4 susp.

Order of Finish: 2, 1, 3, 4

Doubles

1. Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. #6 Guarachi/Macfarlane, UA, 8-6
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Foehse/Jansen, UA, 5-7 susp.
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Maynetto/Zabor, UA, 8-6

Order of Finish: 1, 2

COLUMBIA, S.C. (March 24, 2013) — The 49th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team lost a tough 4-1 battle with No. 8 Alabama on Sunday at the USC Field House in Columbia, S.C. The Gamecocks dropped to 9-8 with the loss and 2-5 in the SEC, while the Crimson Tide improved to 14-2 overall and 6-1 in league play.

The Gamecocks took the doubles point from the Crimson Tide to get the afternoon underway. South Carolina's No. 1 duo of Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova scored a big upset to finish first, beating sixth-ranked Alexa Guarachi and Mary Anne Macfarlane. Kanakova and Alawi pulled ahead 5-3, but Guarachi and Macfarlane countered to win three straight games for a 6-5 lead. The Gamecocks bounced back, though, and went up a break at 7-6 with Kanakova serving. At 30-30, Kanakova delivered two huge first serves that neither Guarachi or Macfarlane could handle on their respective sides, giving the Gamecock duo the 8-6 victory.

Down on court three, it appeared that Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna would cruise to an easy win over Natalia Maynetto and Emily Zabor. The Gamecocks led 7-2 at a changeover, however, the Crimson Tide responded and ripped off four consecutive games to cut the deficit to just one. At 7-6, Lechemia put her powerful left-handed serve to work and Siles Luna chipped in with some strong putaways at the net to propel South Carolina forward with the doubles point in hand.

At No. 2 doubles, Alabama's Antonia Foehse and Maya Jansen held a 7-5 advantage on the Gamecocks' Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova. Play stopped once Lechemia and Siles Luna clinched the doubles point for South Carolina.

Alabama came back to tie the match at 1-all with No. 60 Guarachi defeating No. 102 Popova 6-1, 6-4 on court two. Popova fought hard in the second set, coming back from a 4-2 hole to make the score 4-all, but Guarachi claimed the next two games to take the match. It marked just the third loss of the season for Popova at No. 2 singles.

No. 25 Macfarlane gave the Crimson Tide the lead after picking up a straight set victory on court one over No. 78 Alawi. Macfarlane grabbed the first set by a 6-3 score, but Alawi managed to snag a 3-1 advantage in the second. Macfarlane recovered and got the match back to 4-all and then used a break of serve to push ahead 5-4. She served out the match in the next game to complete her 6-3, 6-4 triumph.

The Tide took a pair of three set matches to finish off the Gamecocks in singles. Lechemia took the first set from No. 73 Jansen 7-5 after trailing 5-2, but Jansen responded by winning the second in 6-3 fashion. In the third, Jansen took control from the beginning and won 6-1 to put Bama on top 3-1. On court four, Foehse came back from a 6-3 loss to Kanakova to win 6-3 and 6-4 in the second and third sets to clinch the match for Alabama.

Both matches for the Nos. 5 and 6 spots were in the first set when play stopped. Siles Luna had just taken a 5-4 lead heading to the changeover against Zabor at No. 5 singles when Foehse clinched the match. Andersson and No. 115 Maynetto were tied 4-all at the sixth singles position.

South Carolina will return to action Friday at No. 51 Arkansas at 3 p.m. The Gamecocks then head to Baton Rouge, La., to face No. 54 LSU at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

DUAL MATCH #18

March 29, 2013 • Fayetteville, Ark. • Win
#31 South Carolina 5, #44 Arkansas 2

Singles

1. #47 Yang Pang, UA, def. #87 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 5-7, 6-4, (10-3)
2. #98 Katerina Popova, USC, def. #97 Claudine Paulson, UA, 5-7, 6-2, (10-6)
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Kimberley-Ann Surin, UA, 6-1, 6-4
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Sarah McLean, UA, 6-3, 6-3
5. Brittany Huxley, UA, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 7-5, 6-2
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Ana Lorena Belmar Hernandez, UA, 7-5, 6-1

Order of Finish: 3, 6, 4, 2, 5, 1

Doubles

1. #50 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. #74 Paulson/Jonker, UA, 8-3
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Pang/Huxley, UA, 8-6
3. Surin/Hernandez, UA, def. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, 8-3

Order of Finish: 3, 1, 2

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (March 29, 2013) — The 31st-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team won its second SEC contest in three tries Friday in Fayetteville, Ark., downing No. 44 Arkansas by a 5-2 score to improve to 10-8 and 3-5 in the league. The Razorbacks dropped to 10-11 and 3-6 in conference play.

The Gamecocks picked up the doubles point for the 14th time in 18 matches this season, but Arkansas claimed the first contest at No. 3 doubles. Kimberley-Ann Surin and Ana Lorena Belmar Hernandez defeated Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna 8-3, handing the Gamecock duo just their second loss in SEC competition.

South Carolina responded quickly with a win at No. 1 doubles from the 50th-ranked duo of Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova. They upended No. 74 Claudine Paulson and Segou Jonker 8-3 to mark their third win in a row against a ranked doubles opponent. The win also marked the 21st of the season for Alawi and Kanakova, making them the winningest Gamecock duo since the 2001-02 season.

Carolina's No. 2 squad of Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova secured the doubles point for the Gamecocks. Trailing 5-4 to Yang Pang and Brittany Huxley, the Gamecocks strung together four of the next five games to snag the 8-6 victory. They improved to 16-8 and 12-3 in duals with the win.

The Gamecocks wasted no time in singles, securing the team win with four consecutive victories. Lechemia won first, bouncing back from her defeat in doubles play to beat Surin 6-1, 6-4 at the No. 3 position. Andersson made the score 3-0, coming out on top of the first set 7-5 after it was tied 5-all and then coasting to a 6-1 triumph in the second versus Hernandez on court six. Kanakova, the current SEC Player of the Week, provided the clinching point on four by ousting Sarah McLean 6-3, 6-3.

No. 98 Popova and No. 97 Paulson split the first two sets of their match-up on court two, but with the match in hand, the two played a super tiebreaker for the third. With the 5-7, 6-2, (10-6) win for Popova, she became the team leader in singles victories this season with a 17-8 record. She leads the squad in dual match wins with an 11-5 mark as well.

The Razorbacks managed to take the final two matches on court. Huxley beat Siles Luna in straight sets 7-5, 6-2 at the No. 5 spot and No. 87 Alawi fell short against No. 47 Pang at the top slot 5-7, 6-4, (10-3).

South Carolina will return to conference play Sunday at No. 54 LSU for a 1 p.m. match-up in Baton Rouge, La.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #19

March 31, 2013 • Baton Rouge, La. • Win
#31 South Carolina 5, #54 LSU 1

Singles

1. #87 Jaklin Alawi, USC, def. #114 Kaitlin Burns, LSU, 6-0, 6-3
2. #98 Katerina Popova, USC, Mary Jeremiah, LSU, 6-2, 6-1
3. Ella Taylor, LSU, def. Elixane Lechemia, USC, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Ariel Morton, LSU, 6-1, 6-1
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Ebie Wilson, LSU, 6-2, 6-1
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Keri Frankenberger, LSU, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2

Order of Finish: 1, 2, 4, 6, 5, 3

Doubles

1. #50 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, vs. Jeremiah/Morton, LSU, Not Played
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, vs. Wilson/Frankenberger, LSU, Not Played
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, vs. Burns/Taylor, LSU, Not Played

Order of Finish: N/A

BATON ROUGE, La. (March 31, 2013) — The 31st-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team picked up its second consecutive SEC win Sunday in Baton Rouge, La., by downing No. 54 LSU by a 5-1 score to improve to 11-8 and 4-5 in the league. The Tigers dropped to 8-12 and 1-9 in conference play. Carolina defeated No. 44 Arkansas by a 5-2 count on Friday in Fayetteville, Ark., to get the weekend started.

"It was good to finish up a two-match winning streak in the SEC," South Carolina head coach Kevin Epley said. "LSU is very tough when you're on the road there, always has been. Arkansas has a very good team fresh off a win from Ole Miss. We are working hard on getting our energy right, and ever since Auburn, each match we're starting to get a little better. We are moving in the right direction, and hopefully that will help us in getting to the NCAAAs."

The two schools began the match two hours earlier than the scheduled 1 p.m. ET start because of rain predicted to hit during the afternoon. The squads also agreed to play singles first and doubles only if necessary.

The Gamecocks made short work of LSU so that doubles would not be necessary, winning five straight contests and four of them in straight sets. No. 87 Jaklin Alawi got the scoring started on court one, dispatching No. 114 Kaitlin Burns 6-0, 6-3. No. 98 Katerina Popova also dropped just three games in upending Mary Jeremiah 6-2, 6-1 at the No. 2 spot to improve to a team best 18-8 and 12-5 in dual matches. Dominika Kanakova, the reigning SEC player of the Week, continued her hot streak of play with a 6-1, 6-1 disposal of Ariel Morton on court four to make the score 3-0.

Two of the final three matches on court went three sets. Josefin Andersson's 6-0, 4-6, 6-2 victory against Keri Frankenberger at No. 6 singles provided the clinching point for South Carolina. Ximena Siles Luna added the Gamecocks' final point with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Ebie Wilson at No. 5 singles.

The Tigers managed to grab one victory in the contest with the last match on between Ella Taylor and Carolina's Elixane Lechemia. The South Carolina newcomer took the first set 6-4, but Taylor recovered to win the next two 6-3, 6-4.

The weekend wins versus Arkansas and LSU marked the first time the Gamecocks have beaten the Razorbacks and Tigers on the road in the same year since 2007. South Carolina will look to extend its winning streak to three matches Friday when it hosts Mississippi State at 5 p.m. at Carolina Tennis Center.

DUAL MATCH #20

April 5, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#29 South Carolina 4, Mississippi State 3

Singles

1. #98 Katerina Popova, USC, def. #124 Georgiana Patrasc, MSU, 6-4, 6-0
2. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Alexandra Perper, MSU, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5
3. Naomi Tran, MSU, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-3, 6-4
4. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Petra Ferancova, MSU, 7-5, 6-2
5. Roseline Dion, MSU, def. Adriana Pereira, USC, 7-5, 6-3
6. Lien Van Geel, MSU, def. Alex Martin, USC, 6-3, 6-2

Order of Finish: 6, 1, 4, 3, 5, 2

Doubles

1. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. #56 Perper/Tran, MSU, 8-2
2. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, vs. Patrasc/Dion, MSU, 6-3 susp.
3. Pereira/Martin, USC, def. Ferancova/Van Geel, MSU, 8-3

Order of Finish: 3, 1

COLUMBIA, S.C. (April 5, 2013) — The 29th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team survived a tough contest with Mississippi State on Friday evening at Carolina Tennis Center in Columbia, S.C. The Gamecocks' 4-3 victory marked their third straight SEC win and improved their overall record to 12-8 while getting their conference ledger to 5-5. The Bulldogs dropped to 7-11 and 1-9 in league play.

The Gamecocks had little trouble taking the doubles point from the Bulldogs. After dropping the first game on court three, Alex Martin and Adriana Pereira jumped ahead to a 3-2 lead on Petra Ferancova and Lien Van Geel. After trading games for the next two frames, Carolina won four straight games with Pereira serving it out for an 8-3 triumph.

Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova wasted no time jumping on top of Mississippi State's No. 56-ranked duo of Alexandra Perper and Naomi Tran. The Gamecock duo grabbed a 4-0 advantage to get the match underway before surrendering a couple games to Perper and Tran. Andersson and Popova then fired right back with four more games in a row to improve to 13-3 this spring following an 8-2 win.

At No. 2 doubles, South Carolina's Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna fell behind 2-0 to Georgiana Patrasc and Roseline Dion, but they responded by winning six straight games. The Bulldogs got the next game to make it 6-3 and with the score at deuce in the 10th game, Andersson and Popova secured the doubles point and the No. 2 match was suspended.

The Bulldogs responded by tying the match at 1-all with Van Geel defeating Martin in straight sets at the No. 6 spot 6-3, 6-2. Carolina answered with two wins coming within less than a minute of each other. No. 98 Popova finished just ahead of Andersson on court one with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over No. 124 Patrasc. Andersson upended Ferancova 7-5, 6-2 at the No. 4 spot to make the score 3-1 for Carolina.

The remaining three matches on court all had South Carolina in a hole. At two, Lechemia lost the first set to Perper 6-4 but she was ahead 5-4 in the second. On four, Siles Luna lost the first set to Tran 6-3 and she trailed 3-2 in the second. Pereira lost a hotly contested first set to Dion 7-5 at the No. 5 position, but she jumped ahead 2-0 to begin the second set.

Lechemia looked to push her match to a third set up 5-4, but Perper came back to make the score 5-all. Lechemia regained the advantage at 6-5, but Perper forced a tiebreaker by holding serve. On her second match point of the breaker, Lechemia received an unforced error from Perper that extended the match to a third set.

On court three, Siles Luna fell behind 4-2 to Tran but managed to snag a couple games to make the score 4-all. With the set on serve, Tran got a critical break from Siles Luna after going to deuce for a chance to serve out the match.

Pereira got a 3-1 advantage from Dion and appeared well on her way to a third set, but Dion went on a tear and ripped off five consecutive games to pick up the 7-5, 6-3 victory. Moments before Dion's win, Tran finished off Siles Luna with a hold of serve for a 6-3, 6-4 final.

Tied 3-all on the team scoreboard, Lechemia got off to a hot start in the third set by breaking serve and then holding for a 2-0 upper hand. After going to deuce in the third game, Lechemia capitalized on several unforced errors by Perper to push ahead 3-0. Lechemia held her serve in the next game before Perper finally got on the board with a hold to make it 4-1 on the changeover. Perper managed to break Lechemia after going to deuce several times in the ensuing game to trim the deficit even more and then recovered from 0-30 on her serve to trail by just one game 4-3. Another break of serve by Perper got the match back on serve and tied 4-all to set up a thrilling finish.

Lechemia came out firing on Perper's serve, ripping two winners for the 0-30 lead. Another strong overhead at the net made the score 15-40. Perper, however, fought off both game points to force deuce. Perper hit a forehand that sailed long on the next rally to give Lechemia the ad, and the junior finished the next point with a powerful overhead smash at the net out of Perper's reach for a chance to serve out the match up 5-4.

Perper's return on Lechemia's second serve to start the game fell beyond the baseline to make the score 15-0 and Lechemia extended it to 30-0 with a winner down the line on the next point. Perper fought back, though, and won three straight rallies for game point. Lechemia responded with a forehand volley winner at the net for yet another deuce game. Perper grabbed the ad with a powerful forehand winner, but it went back to deuce when her backhand service return on the next point went long trying to lob a charging Lechemia. Perper got another chance to break with an unforced error by Lechemia and she capitalized with a backhand winner down the line when Lechemia came to the net on her serve.

Lechemia pulled ahead 15-30 on Perper's serve at 5-all and got to game point at 30-40 with an overhead at the net. Perper forced deuce, but two critical double faults over the next few rallies severely hurt Perper's odds of holding onto the game. The first was on ad in, but the worst of the pair came on ad out, and Lechemia attempted to serve out the match for the second time.

The two split the first couple of rallies for 15-15, but more miscues plagued Perper in the game. A pair of consecutive failed returns of serve gave Lechemia a 40-15 lead and she went on to win the match with a forehand volley putaway at the net for the 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 victory. Lechemia improved to 7-5 on the spring and 4-5 in the SEC.

South Carolina will host No. 37 Ole Miss on Sunday at Carolina Tennis Center at 1:30 p.m. in the final regular-season home match of the year. Prior to the contest, seniors Jaklin Alawi, Andersson and Pereira will be honored for their contributions to the University during their careers.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #21

April 7, 2013 • Columbia, S.C. • Win
#29 South Carolina 4, #37 Ole Miss 0

Singles

1. #87 Jaklin Alawi, USC, def. #45 Caroline Rohde-Moe, OM, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4)
2. #98 Katerina Popova, USC, vs. Julia Jones, OM, 6-2, 4-6, 1-1 susp.
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. #82 Mai El Kamash, OM, 6-1, 6-2
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, vs. Erin Stephens, OM, 6-3, 2-6, 3-0 susp.
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Marija Milutinovic, OM, 6-3, 6-2
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, vs. Iris Verboven, OM, 5-7, 4-3 susp.

Order of Finish: 3, 5, 1

Doubles

1. #50 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. #53 Rohde-Moe/Milutinovic, OM, 8-1
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, vs. Stephens/Verboven, OM, 8-8 (5-6) susp.
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Jones/Allie Robbins, OM, 8-6

Order of Finish: 1, 3

COLUMBIA, S.C. (April 7, 2013) — The 29th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team celebrated Senior Day with a 4-0 triumph over No. 37 Ole Miss on Sunday at Carolina Tennis Center in Columbia, S.C. It marked the fourth straight SEC win for the Gamecocks, putting them over .500 in the league at 6-5 while also improving them to 13-8 overall. The Rebels dipped to 10-11 and 4-7 in the SEC.

South Carolina won a thrilling doubles point to mark the 16th time the Gamecocks have taken the doubles in 20 attempts this season. The 50th-ranked doubles team of Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova, however, were not part of the exciting finish, instead putting on a clinic against Ole Miss's No. 53-rated duo of Caroline Rohde-Moe and Marija Milutinovic on court one. After both teams held serve to make it 1-all, the Gamecocks captured the next seven games to earn an 8-1 victory. Alawi and Kanakova improved to 22-8 on the season with the win while moving to 13-3 in dual match play.

The Rebels were still in control of the doubles, though, despite Carolina's win on court one. At two, Erin Stephens and Iris Verboven jumped ahead of Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova 6-2 and later led 7-3. At the No. 3 position, Julia Jones and Allie Robbins took a 5-2 advantage on Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna.

South Carolina dug deep and mounted a furious comeback on both courts. On court two, Andersson and Popova broke Ole Miss at love to get back to 7-4 down and in the next stanza, the Gamecocks fought off a match point on Andersson's serve at 30-40 to extend the match further. After holding for 7-5, the Gamecocks won the next three games to give Andersson a chance to serve out the match. Ole Miss countered punched, sending the match to a tiebreaker and took command of it by snatching a 3-0 lead.

Meanwhile, on court three, Lechemia and Siles Luna recovered from their 5-2 deficit by winning three games in a row for 5-all. After losing the 11th game, they broke Ole Miss's serve to deadlock the match once again, and Lechemia followed with a hold of serve at love, the same thing she did the previous time she served. With Ole Miss ahead 6-5 in the tiebreaker on court two with a chance to serve it out, Lechemia and Siles Luna received a double fault from Ole Miss on court three that gave them an 8-6 victory. With the point in hand, the No. 2 doubles match was abandoned.

The momentum Carolina gained in the doubles translated into big gains in singles play. The Gamecocks secured the first set in five of the six matches, and Lechemia finished her opponent quickly on court three to make the score 2-0. She won the first set against No. 82 Mai El Kamash 6-1 and charged ahead 4-0 to begin the second. After El Kamash got the score back to 4-2, Lechemia closed the door on El Kamash for a 6-1, 6-2 win to cap a perfect weekend on the court. The junior from France improved to 8-5 on the spring and 5-5 in SEC match play.

Siles Luna used the confidence boost she received from her comeback victory with Lechemia in doubles to add the next point for the Gamecocks. She battled her way to a 6-3 first set win against Milutinovic at the No. 5 spot but fell behind 2-0 to get the second underway. Siles Luna kept her calm and recovered by winning six consecutive games for a 6-3, 6-2 win that upped her overall record on the season to 18-10.

It appeared No. 98 Popova would provide the clinching point soon after Siles Luna won, as she held a 6-2, 4-1 lead on Jones on court two. Jones had different plans and continued to fight, taking five games in a row off Popova to force a third set.

Fittingly on Senior Day, it was one of Carolina's three seniors who provided the final point required for a team win. On court one, No. 87 Alawi flew past No. 45 Rohde-Moe 6-2 in the first set. The two traded games back and forth in the second set, but Rohde-Moe gained a break and found herself in a position to serve out the set up 5-4. Alawi continued her aggressive play, fighting off multiple set points until she eventually broke back for 5-all. Each player had her serve broken in the ensuing two games to set up a tiebreaker. Alawi earned a 3-1 advantage in the breaker before Rohde-Moe won three of the next four rallies to tie it up at 4-all. Alawi kept her composure and strung together three well-played points for her highest ranked win of the spring.

Popova and Jones were tied 1-all in the third when play stopped with Alawi's victory. At the No. 4 spot, Kanakova led Stephens 3-0 in the third after winning the first 6-3 and dropping the second 6-2. Alawi's classmate Andersson lost the first set to Verboven 7-5 on court six, but Andersson had a 4-3 advantage in the second.

South Carolina's four straight SEC victories are the most since the 2010 campaign when the Gamecocks won four in a row against the likes of Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. Carolina will look to continue its streak when it closes out the regular season on the road next weekend playing No. 17 Vanderbilt on Friday at 5 p.m. and No. 47 Kentucky at noon on Sunday.

DUAL MATCH #22

April 12, 2013 • Nashville, Tenn. • Loss
#18 Vanderbilt 6, #27 South Carolina 1

Singles

1. #59 Lauren Mira, VU, def. #77 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-2, 6-3
2. Courtney Colton, VU, def. #108 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4, (10-7)
3. E. Lechemia, USC, def. #83 Georgina Sellyn, VU, 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (3-7), (10-6)
4. Marie Casares, VU, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 7-5, 6-2
5. Ashleigh Antal, VU, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-3, 6-4
6. Frances Altick, VU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2

Order of Finish: 5, 1, 4, 6, 2, 3

Doubles

1. #21 Colton/Mira, VU, def. #35 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, 8-4
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Antal/Casares, VU, 8-5
3. Altick/Sellyn, VU, def. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, 8-4

Order of Finish: 2, 1, 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 12, 2013) — The 18th-ranked Vanderbilt Commodores ended the No. 27 South Carolina women's tennis team's four-match unbeaten streak Friday in Nashville, Tenn., at the Currey Tennis Center. Vandy beat the Gamecocks 6-1 to improve to 14-9 and 7-5 in the SEC while dropping Carolina to 13-9 and 6-6 in league play.

South Carolina lost the doubles point for just the fifth time this season. Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova finished first with an 8-5 victory over Vanderbilt's Ashleigh Antal and Marie Casares at No. 2 doubles to improve to 18-8 on the season. The two teams were deadlocked at 5-all before Andersson and Popova managed to string three games together in their favor to earn the victory.

The Commodores responded with 21st-ranked Courtney Colton and Lauren Mira downing No. 35 Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova by an 8-4 count at the top position. Alawi and Kanakova fell behind 5-2 but managed to cut in to the deficit by getting the match back to 6-4. Colton and Mira then closed out the contest by claiming the next two games for the win.

Vanderbilt's Frances Altick and Georgina Sellyn overtook Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna on court three to give the Commodores a 1-0 advantage heading to singles. The two duos traded games back and forth to begin, but with the score tied at 3-all, Altick and Sellyn won five of the next six games to triumph over the Gamecocks.

Carolina lost the first set in four of the six singles contests and was unable to recover in any of the matches. Antal added Vandy's second point of the match with a 6-3, 6-4 triumph over Siles Luna at the No. 5 singles position and No. 59 Mira upended No. 77 Alawi 6-2, 6-3 on court one to pull the Commodores within one of clinching the match. Casares then beat Kanakova at the No. 4 spot 7-5, 6-2 to give Vanderbilt a 4-0 lead and the overall team win.

Altick finished soon afterward with a 7-6, 6-2 triumph over Andersson at No. 6 singles to make the score 5-0. No. 108 Popova tried putting the Gamecocks on the board after winning the first set on court two versus Colton in a tiebreaker, but Colton responded by winning the second 6-4 and then claimed a super tiebreaker for Vandy's sixth point. Lechemia closed the evening with a three-set victory against No. 83 Sellyn at No. 3 singles, winning a super tiebreaker for the third after the two split a pair of tiebreakers for the first and second sets. It was Lechemia's second win in a row against a ranked opponent.

The Gamecocks will end the regular season in Lexington, Ky., on Sunday facing No. 47 Kentucky at noon.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #23

April 14, 2013 • Lexington, Ky. • Loss
#47 Kentucky 4, #27 South Carolina 3

Singles

1. #22 Nadia Ravita, UK, def. #77 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 7-5, 0-6, 6-4
2. #108 Katerina Popova, USC, def. Jessica Stiles, UK, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Edmee Morin-Kougoucheff, UK, 6-0, 7-6 (7-0)
4. Dominika Kanakova, USC, def. Khristina Blajkevitch, UK, 6-2, 6-1
5. Caitlin McGraw, UK, def. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3
6. Stephanie Fox, UK, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 7-6 (8-6), 1-6, 6-1

Order of Finish: 4, 3, 1, 6, 5, 2

Doubles

1. McGraw/Ravita, UK, def. #35 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, 8-5
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. Fox/CeCe Witten, UK, 8-2
3. Blajkevitch/Stiles, UK, def. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, 9-7

Order of Finish: 2, 1, 3

LEXINGTON, Ky. (April 14, 2013) — The No. 27 South Carolina women's tennis team lost its regular-season finale Sunday at No. 47 Kentucky to finish 13-10 overall and 6-7 in the SEC. The Wildcats finished up 13-11 and 4-9 in SEC matches. South Carolina will head to the SEC Tournament next week in Starkville, Miss., as the No. 8 seed and take on No. 9 seed Ole Miss on Thursday at 9 a.m. ET.

Doubles went sour for the Gamecocks again, marking the first time this season they lost the point in consecutive matches. South Carolina struck first, just as it did two days ago against Vanderbilt with Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova making short work of Stephanie Fox and CeCe Witten 8-2 at the No. 2 slot. Andersson and Popova improved to 19-8 on the year with the win and ended the regular season with an impressive 15-3 record in dual matches, including a 7-2 mark in SEC play.

Kentucky's Caitlin McGraw and Nadia Ravita recorded UK's first victory at the top position versus No. 35 Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova. McGraw and Ravita jumped ahead to a 6-3 advantage, but Alawi and Kanakova won three games in a row to cut the margin to just one. The Wildcats then answered with two games of their own to exit the court with an 8-5 triumph.

Just like Friday's matchup, the doubles point was decided on court three. South Carolina's Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna trailed for most of their match against Khristina Blajkevitch and Jessica Stiles. Down 6-4, Lechemia and Siles Luna fought back to take a 7-6 lead on Blajkevitch and Stiles and appeared poised to complete the come-from-behind victory. The Wildcats, though, were unfazed and closed out the match by winning three straight games to record the 9-7 triumph.

Four of the six singles matches went three sets and unfortunately for the Gamecocks, three of them resulted in losses. Initially, South Carolina stormed back to take a 2-1 lead thanks to Lechemia and Kanakova on courts three and four. Lechemia beat Edmee Morin-Kougoucheff 6-0, 7-6 (7-0) at the No. 3 spot and Kanakova finished just before her with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Blajkevitch to take No. 4 singles. For Lechemia, it marked her fourth victory in a row and upped her overall record to 10-5 on the spring.

No. 77 Alawi was looking for her first win of the spring against a top-25 opponent and it appeared she might get it versus No. 22 Ravita on court one. After Ravita took the first set 7-5, Alawi trounced her in the second 6-0 and then had a 4-3 lead in the third. Ravita, though, claimed the next three games to tie the team score at 2-all with a 7-5, 0-6, 6-4 win.

At No. 6 singles, Andersson recovered from a lost tiebreaker in the first set to Fox to win easily in the second 6-1. For the third set, the two were tied 1-all before Fox went on a tear by winning five games in a row to pick up the 7-6 (8-6), 1-6, 6-1 win and give the Wildcats the lead once again. McGraw then held off Siles Luna's comeback bid on court five to lift UK over the Gamecocks with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

South Carolina finally took the last three set match on court at the No. 2 position. No. 108-ranked Popova dropped the opening set to Stiles 6-4 but recovered to win 7-5, 6-4 in the ensuing two sets to give South Carolina its third point of the match. The victory made Popova Carolina's first 20-match singles winner of the season, moving her to 20-9 overall and 7-5 in SEC matches.

DUAL MATCH #24

April 18, 2013 • Starkville, Miss. • Loss
#39 Ole Miss 4, #30 South Carolina 3

Singles

1. #44 Caroline Rohde-Moe, OM, def. #83 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2
2. Julia Jones, OM, def. #105 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-4, 6-3
3. Erin Stephens, OM, def. Elixane Lechemia, USC, 6-4, 6-0
4. Mai El Kamash, OM, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-0, 7-6 (10-8)
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Marija Milutinovic, OM, 6-4, 6-4
6. Josefin Andersson, USC, def. Iris Verboven, OM, 6-3, 6-1

Order of Finish: 3, 6, 5, 4, 2, 1

Doubles

1. #33 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. Verboven/Stephens, OM, 8-4
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, def. #40 Rohde-Moe/Milutinovic, OM, 8-6
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, vs. Jones/Allie Robbins, OM, 6-4 susp.

Order of Finish: 1, 2

STARKVILLE, Miss. (April 18, 2013) — The 30th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team suffered a 4-3 setback to No. 39 Ole Miss in the second round of the SEC Tournament on Thursday in Starkville, Miss. The Gamecocks, seeded eighth for the tournament, fell to 13-11 overall for the year, while the ninth-seeded Rebels improved to 16-12. Ole Miss will next play top-seeded and No. 3-ranked Georgia in the quarterfinals Friday at 9 a.m. ET.

The Gamecocks rebounded from consecutive losses in doubles to end the regular season with a strong performance against the Rebels to get the match underway. At the top position, No. 33-ranked Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova of South Carolina held a 4-3 lead over Iris Verboven and Erin Stephens with the match on serve. The Gamecocks then picked up a break to go ahead 5-3, but Ole Miss countered with a break of its own to put the contest back on serve. South Carolina then rattled off three straight games in its favor to snag the 8-4 victory. Alawi and Kanakova improved to 23-10 on the season while Alawi picked up her 26th doubles win as an individual, the most since Laura Ganzer won 26 for the entire 2006-07 campaign.

On court two, the Gamecocks' Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova quickly jumped out to a 6-2 lead on 40th-ranked Caroline Rohde-Moe and Marija Milutinovic, but Ole Miss came storming back. After facing a 7-3 deficit, the Rebel duo claimed the next three games to cut South Carolina's lead to just one at 7-6. After a long 14th game, Andersson and Popova escaped with the 8-6 triumph to clinch the doubles point for the Gamecocks. Rohde-Moe and Milutinovic are the highest ranked tandem Andersson and Popova have beaten in their time together. The Gamecock team improved to 20-8 on the season and an impressive 16-3 in dual matches while extending their unbeaten streak to six matches.

Carolina's Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna led Julia Jones and Allie Robbins by a 6-4 count on court three when play was suspended after the Gamecocks clinched the point. The match was on serve at 3-all until Lechemia and Siles Luna picked up a break and then won two more games to go ahead 6-3.

South Carolina got off to a slow start in singles, losing the first sets on courts one through four. On court three, initially, it appeared Lechemia might make quick work of Stephens, as she sprinted to a 4-1 lead. Stephens, though, responded by winning 11 games in a row to take the match 6-4, 6-0 to knot the match up at one point apiece. The Gamecocks countered quickly, however, using Andersson's 6-3, 6-1 victory against Verboven at the No. 6 spot to regain the lead.

At the No. 5 spot, Siles Luna fell behind Milutinovic 3-1 in the first set but fought back to take a 5-3 advantage before closing out the set with a 6-4 victory. She pulled ahead 5-2 in the second, but Milutinovic took a pair of games to cut the margin to just one. Siles Luna then confidently took care of Milutinovic in the next game for the 6-4, 6-4 win and a 3-1 Gamecock lead.

Unfortunately for the Gamecocks, the third team point they received from Siles Luna was the last they would get on the day. On court four, Kanakova lost the first set 6-0 to Mai El Kamash, but she recovered nicely by taking a 2-0 advantage to begin the second set. El Kamash then countered and looked as if she would put the match away up 5-3, but Kanakova would not go quietly, taking three games in a row for a 6-5 lead. El Kamash then forced a tiebreaker and despite having set points, Kanakova could not force a third, as El Kamash squeezed out a 10-8 win for the second set tiebreaker.

Courts one and two were the last to finish, and No. 83 Alawi had just entered a third set versus No. 44 Rohde-Moe at the top position and No. 105 Popova was attempting to force a third set with Jones at two after dropping the first. At 3-all in the second, Jones managed to string together three games in a row to defeat Popova 6-4, 6-3 and put the match squarely on the shoulders of Alawi and Rohde-Moe.

Alawi trailed in the third set 3-1 once Popova was beaten despite having won the first game. After getting the score back to just 3-2 down, Rohde-Moe closed the door on Alawi by claiming the next three games to earn a 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 triumph. It marked Rohde-Moe's first career win against Alawi after losing to the Gamecock senior in straight sets in their previous two meetings.

The Gamecocks will now wait to see if they are selected as an at-large bid for the NCAA Tournament for the 19th season in a row. The selection show is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, at a time that has not yet been determined.



2013 DUAL MATCH RESULTS & RECAPS

DUAL MATCH #25

May 10, 2013 • Coral Gables, Fla. • Loss
#30 Purdue 4, #34 South Carolina 3

Singles

1. Mara Schmidt, PU, def. #94 Jaklin Alawi, USC, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2
2. Lynda Xepoleas, PU, def. #109 Katerina Popova, USC, 6-3, 7-5
3. Elixane Lechemia, USC, def. Daniela Vidal, PU, 6-3, 7-5
4. Tess Bernard-Feigenbaum, PU, def. Dominika Kanakova, USC, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3
5. Ximena Siles Luna, USC, def. Krisztina Kapitany, PU, 6-3, 6-0
6. Gisella Pere, PU, def. Josefin Andersson, USC, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6

Order of Finish: 5, 3, 2, 6, 1, 4

Doubles

1. #29 Alawi/Kanakova, USC, def. #27 Kapitany/Schmidt, PU, 8-4
2. Popova/Andersson, USC, vs. Xepoleas/Vidal, PU, 7-3 susp.
3. Lechemia/Siles Luna, USC, def. Bernard-Feigenbaum/Pere, PU, 8-3

Order of Finish: 3, 1

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (May 10, 2013) — The 34th-ranked South Carolina women's tennis team ended the 2013 season with a 4-3 loss to No. 30 Purdue in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday at the Neil Schiff Tennis Center in Coral Gables, Fla. South Carolina finished the year with a 13-12 record, while Purdue improved to 18-5. The Boilermakers will face the winner of No. 6 Miami and North Florida on Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Gamecocks dominated the doubles point versus the Boilermakers, marking the 18th time in 24 tries this season they claimed the 1-0 lead heading to singles. Carolina's No. 3 duo of Elixane Lechemia and Ximena Siles Luna jumped out to a 3-0 advantage against Tess Bernard-Feigenbaum and Gisella Pere, but Purdue sliced the margin down to one at 4-3. The Gamecocks then won four games in a row to pick up the 8-3 victory in finishing first among the three contests.

It became a race between courts one and two to see which duo would give the Gamecocks the point. The No. 2 squad of 65th-ranked Josefin Andersson and Katerina Popova appeared likely to snag the win up 6-1, but Lynda Xepoleas and Daniela Vidal won two straight to make it 6-3. On court one, 29th-ranked Jaklin Alawi and Dominika Kanakova led No. 27 Krisztina Kapitany and Mara Schmidt by a slim 5-4 margin, but the Gamecocks then ran off three straight games to record an 8-4 triumph. Alawi and Kanakova improved to 24-10 on the season with the win and 15-5 in dual matches. Andersson and Popova had their match suspended with a 7-3 upper hand.

Siles helped run the Gamecocks' lead to 2-0 after finishing first in singles play. The freshman recovered from a 0-2 start against Kapitany by winning 12 of the next 13 games to crush her opponent 6-3, 6-0 at the No. 5 spot. It marked the 20th victory of the season for Siles Luna, making her the second Gamecock this season to reach the 20-win plateau.

Lechemia pulled South Carolina within a point of securing the win after she recorded a straight set victory against Vidal on court three. With the score tied 2-all in the first set, Lechemia pulled away for a 5-2 advantage and then closed out the set after surrendering a game to Vidal. In the second, the two traded games back and forth until Lechemia broke loose from a 5-all tie to win consecutive games to end the match. She improved to 11-6 this spring and 10-5 at No. 3 singles.

Andersson was the Gamecocks' best hope of winning the match after Lechemia's triumph. After losing the first set to Pere on court six by a 6-3 count, she recovered quickly to win the second 6-2 and then led 4-2 in the third when Lechemia won her match. Pere, though, fought back to secure the next two games, but Andersson countered to go back ahead 5-4. Pere then tied the set up once again at 5-all.

While Andersson was fighting her way through the third set, Kanakova continued her battle with Bernard-Feigenbaum on court four. Kanakova faltered in the first set 6-4 and after trailing for much of the second set, she was able to snatch a 5-4 advantage and then took the ensuing game to force a third set.

The Boilermakers then finally got on the board with a win on court two with Xepoleas defeating No. 109 Popova 6-3, 7-5. Purdue then swiftly added a couple more points with Pere coming back to upend Andersson 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 and Schmidt downing No. 94 Alawi 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 on court one.

On court four, Kanakova fell behind 2-0 to start the third but then recaptured the lead at 3-2 on Bernard-Feigenbaum. The match was tied 3-all when Alawi took the loss on court one to put the No. 4 singles match as the deciding contest. Unfortunately for South Carolina, Bernard-Feigenbaum ended the match by winning four consecutive games after trailing 3-2 to win 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 and propel her team into the second round.

Alawi and Kanakova will now wait to compete in the 32-team NCAA Doubles Championship that begins May 23 in Urbana, Ill. The draw for the tournament will be determined at a coaches meeting May 21.

