

SOUTH CAROLINA MEN'S TENNIS



MEET THE
GAMECOCKS



THE 2006 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

Front Row (l to r): Yevgeny Supeko, Adam Adler, Thomas Stoddard, Kazuya Otani, Tom Eklund and Jaime Cuellar. **Back Row (l to r):** Head coach Kent DeMars, athletic trainer Danny Cobble, Geraldo Knorr, Pedro Rodrigues, Dmitry Babenko, Joseph Veeder, assistant coach Jeff Kefalos and team manager Tim Cooper.

2006 South Carolina Men's Tennis Roster

Name	Class	Ht.	Hometown	High School/Last School
Adam Adler	Senior	5-8	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Davie Academy/Coastal Carolina
Dmitry Babenko	Junior	6-5	Moscow, Russia	Kursk Municipal/Auburn-Mont.
Jaime Cuellar	Sophomore	5-9	San Salvador, El Salvador	Sagemont virtual
Tom Eklund	Senior	5-11	Hollviken, Sweden	Akademi Bastad
Geraldo Knorr	Senior	6-0	Florianopolis, Brazil	Catarinense
Kazuya Otani	Senior	5-5	Port Washington, N.Y.	Schreiber
Pedro Rodrigues	Junior	6-3	Brasilia, Brazil	INEI-Centro Educacional
Thomas Stoddard	RS-Freshman	5-8	Greenwood, S.C.	Greenwood
Yevgeny Supeko	Sophomore	6-3	Daytona Beach, Fla.	New Braunfels HS/Texas A&M
Joseph Veeder	Sophomore	5-10	Brevard, N.C.	Homeschooled

Head Coach: Kent DeMars (St. Mary's, Texas 1966, Miami (Ohio) University, 1972)

Assistant Coach: Jeff Kefalos (South Carolina, 1976)

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Yevgeny SUPEKO.....Suh-Peck-o	KAZUYA OTANI.....Ka-zoo-a O-tani
Geraldo KNORR.....Jer-ALL-doh Nor	Jeff KEFALOSKuh-Fall-us
Jaime Cuellar.....Hi-mee Kway-ar	



ADAM ADLER

Senior • 5-8 • 150

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

(Coastal Carolina University)

Sport & Entertainment Management Major



COACH DEMARS ON ADLER — *“Nobody loves the game of tennis more than Adam. When he is on court he is tough because he hits a very heavy shot, particularly with his forehand. He is quick and likes to grind you out from the baseline.”*

Off the Court With Adam Adler

Favorite Music Artist: Tim McGraw

Favorite Athlete: Andre Agassi

Favorite sport to play: Baseball

Favorite Food: Steak

Favorite Pro Team: New York Yankees

Season Goal: For the team to achieve a Top-10 ranking and make the NCAA Quarterfinals

Career Goal: To win a Futures event

AS A JUNIOR — Went 10-3 in singles during the 2004-05 year, including a 5-1 mark in dual matches at Nos. 5-6 singles, also posted a 4-2 record in doubles matches ... Made the Dean's List both semesters.

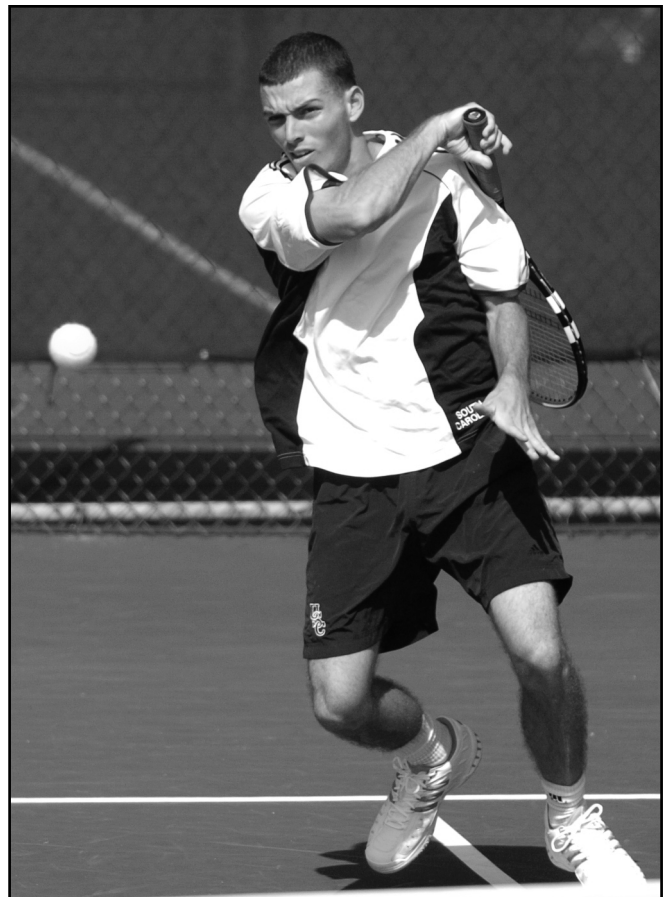
COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS — Played for Jody Davis at Coastal Carolina (Big South) ... Played both years at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles for the Chanticleers ... A member of the Coastal Carolina 'Team Academic All-American'

JUNIOR TENNIS/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS — Played for Diego Dominguez and Will Bull at Davie Academy ... Ranked nationally for Boys 14's, 16's and 18's ... Ranked #7 in Florida ... Finalist at Texas Hardcourts Boys 16's Nationals

PERSONAL — Born September 25, 1983 in Miami, Florida ... Son of Susan and Lenny Adler ... Now calls Myrtle Beach home ... Has an 11-year old sister named Tatiana ... Would like to be on the cover of ESPN the Magazine with his teammates for winning the NCAA Championship ... André Agassi is his favorite pro tennis player ... Lists Andy Roddick as the toughest opponent he has faced ... Chose Carolina over UNC and Wake Forest.

ADLER'S CAREER STATISTICS

Singles					
Year	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2005	5-6	10-3	.769	0-0 (.000)	3-2
Singles Totals		10-3	.769	0-0 (.000)	3-2
Doubles					
Year	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2005	3	4-2	.667	0-0 (.000)	
Doubles Totals		4-2	.667	0-0 (.000)	
OVERALL TOTALS		14-5	.737	0-0 (.000)	



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DMITRY BABENKO

Junior • 6-5 • 185

Kursk, Russia

Auburn-Montgomery

Business Administration Major



Off the Court With Dmitry Babenko

- Favorite Food: Japanese
- Favorite Sport (other than Tennis): Soccer
- Favorite Pro Athlete: Roger Federer
- Favorite Vacation Spot: Russia
- Favorite Type of Music: House
- Season Goal: Return to the Sweet 16
- Career Goal: Get rich or die trying

COACH DEMARS ON BABENKO — "Dima has as much potential as anyone on the team. His groundstrokes are solid and he has very accurate passing shots. He is imposing at 6' 5", and when he comes to net he has very solid volleys."

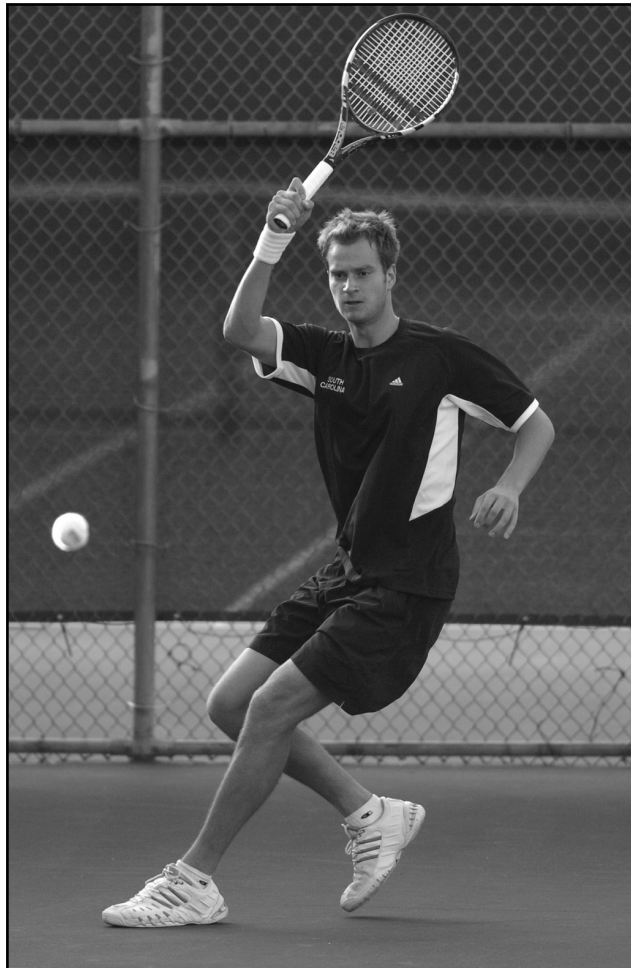
AS A SOPHOMORE -- Joined the team in January of 2005 ...Won 12 of his first 14 singles matches as a Gamecock, including a dramatic three-set win over Marius Adamski of Wake Forest to clinch USC's upset of the then-No. 25 Demon Deacons in Columbia on March 22 ... Made the Dean's List in the Spring 2005 semester.

AT AUBURN-MONTGOMERY -- 2004 NAIA National Champion.

JUNIOR TENNIS -- Consistently ranked in the Russian Top 10 for his age group throughout junior tennis... Top 16 in Europe for Under-16 boys...Won a number of tournaments in Russia and in Germany while playing there.

PERSONAL -- Born June 5, 1985 in Kursk, Russia...Goes by "Dima" ...Chose USC over Clemson, Tulane, and Rollins...Graduated from Gymnasium 44 in Kursk in 2002...Son of Serguei and Tatyana Babenko.

MEET THE GAMECOCKS



BABENKO'S CAREER STATISTICS

Singles					
Year	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2005	4-5	14-9	.609	6-5 (.545)	4-3
Singles Totals		14-9	.609	6-5 (.545)	4-3
Doubles					
Year	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2005	1-3	12-12	.500	4-5 (.444)	
Doubles Totals		12-12	.500	4-5 (.444)	
OVERALL TOTALS		26-21	.553	10-10 (.500)	



JAIIME CUELLAR

*Sophomore • 5-9 • 150
San Salvador, El Salvador
Sagemont Westin, Florida
Business Administration Major*



COACH DEMARS ON CUELLAR — *“Jaime is known for being a very tough out. He fights hard and is the best ball striker on the team. When the match is on the line you want Jaime on the court, and he was the deciding point in our two wins against top 10 teams (last season). He is also one of the best doubles players on our team.”*

AS A FRESHMAN — Had a sensational freshman season in 2005, becoming the first true freshman to lead the team in singles victories since Vladimir Pavicevic in 1998 ... Finished with a 28-12 overall record, including a 12-5 mark in three-set affairs ... Posted an incredible 14-match winning streak to begin his first dual match season, winning 21 of 24 singles matches from Nov. 7 to April 6 ... His 53 combined singles and doubles wins were the most for any Carolina player since Pavicevic recorded 58 in 1998 ... Named to the SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll ... Made the Dean's List in the Fall, 2004 semester.

JUNIOR TENNIS/HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS — Played at Sagemont Virtual in Weston, Fla. ... Won team and individual state championships ... Played junior tournaments at Wimbledon, U.S. Open and French Open ... Won a doubles title at the Orange Bowl ... Ranked in the ITF top 20 in singles and top 4 in doubles

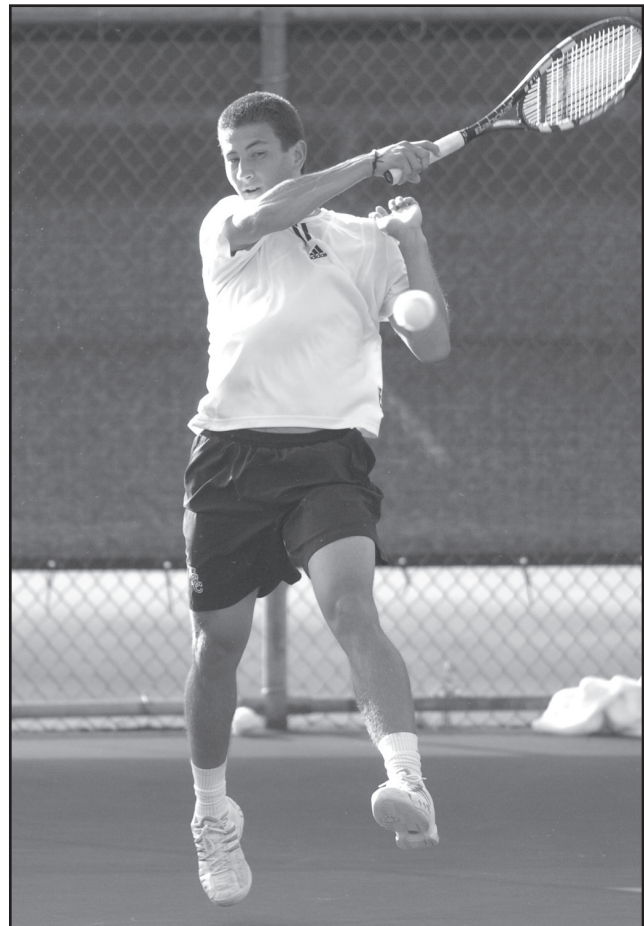
Off the Court With Jaime Cuellar

- Favorite Music Artist: U2
- Best thing about USC: My teammates
- Favorite Actor: Al Pacino
- Favorite sport to watch: Soccer
- Favorite Pro Team: FC Barcelona
- Season Goals: To be in the NCAA Top 10 and earn All-America honors
- Career Goals: To be in the Top 250 in the ATP

PERSONAL — Name is pronounced ‘Hi-me Kway-ar’ ... Born January 2, 1985 ... Parents are Ana Coralia Vega de Cuellar and Jaime Enrique Cuellar Naves ... Has a brother named Ricardo (18) and a sister named Gracia Maria (17) ... Favorite vacation spot is Cancun, Mexico ... Most exciting sporting events he’s ever been to are Wimbledon and the U.S. Open ... Would like to spend a day with Pete Sampras ... Lists favorite tennis player as Roger Federer ... Chose Carolina over Virginia, Rice and North Carolina.

CUELLAR'S CAREER STATISTICS

Singles					
Year	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2005	2-4	28-12	.700	6-5 (.545)	12-5
Singles Totals		28-12	.700	6-5 (.545)	12-5
Doubles					
Year	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2005	1-3	25-13	.658	6-2 (.750)	
Doubles Totals		25-13	.658	6-2 (.750)	
OVERALL TOTALS		53-25	.679	12-7 (.632)	



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TOM EKLUND

Senior • 5-11 • 160 • Team Captain

Hollviken, Sweden

Akademi Bastad

Finance Major



Off the Court With Tom Eklund

Favorite Band: Kent

The Person I would most like to face on the court: (USC Assistant Coach) Jeff Kefalos

Sports Event I would most like to witness: World Cup Soccer Final

Best Moment on the Court: When I won the Curtis Cup in 1998

Best thing about being at USC: The tennis practice

COACH DEMARS ON EKLUND — "Tom is a senior and is the leader on this team because everyone respects him. Tom's greatest strength is his intelligence, and he often finds a way to beat a higher ranked opponent because he figures out the best way to play him."

2006 Team Captain ...Ranked No. 15 in the ITA Preseason Singles Poll.

AS A JUNIOR — Qualified for the NCAA Singles Championships...Finished the season at No. 35 in the ITA singles rankings and was ranked as high as 28th during the season ... Played at No. 1 singles all year and teamed with Jaime Cuellar at No. 2 Doubles ... Compiled a 22-15 singles record ... Finished second on the team in both singles and doubles wins ... A member of the All-SEC first team ... Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll ... Made the President's List in the Fall of 2004 and the Dean's List in the Spring of 2005.

AS A SOPHOMORE — Went 23-10 in singles play ... Played mostly at No. 2 singles ... Also played some at No. 1 singles ... Teamed with Marcus Westman to compile a 15-12 doubles record ... Played both the No.1 and No. 2 doubles positions ... Member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll ... Named to the Dean's List during the spring semester.

AS A FRESHMAN — Compiled a 13-11 record playing singles ... Played 2-6 positions ... Showed versatility by playing doubles as well ... Teamed with Marcus Westman, Ben Atkinson and Angelo Niculescu for 11 wins ... Made the Dean's List in the Spring semester

JUNIOR TENNIS — Top ranked junior in Sweden ... Worldwide experience including Junior U.S. Open ... 2001 Swedish champion singles and doubles boys under 18.

PERSONAL — Born on May 5, 1983, in Eskilstuna, Sweden ... Son of Stefan and Carola Eklund ... Has a brother named Max (19) and a sister named Nikki (14) ... Enjoys playing soccer, listening to music and playing guitar ... Lists Roger Federer is his favorite tennis player.

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EKLUND'S CAREER STATISTICS

Singles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2003	2-6	13-11	.542	4-7 (.363)	2-1
2004	1-2	23-10	.670	7-5 (.583)	5-3
2005	1	22-15	.595	6-5 (.545)	6-5
Singles Totals		58-36	.617	17-17 (.500)	13-9
Doubles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2003	1-3	10-15	.400	2-5 (.286)	
2004	1-2	15-12	.556	2-8 (.200)	
2005	1-2	19-14	.578	6-2 (.750)	
Doubles Totals		44-41	.518	10-15 (.400)	
OVERALL TOTALS		102-77	.570	27-32 (.458)	



GERALDO KNORR

Senior • 6-0 • 155
 Florianopolis, Brazil
 Catiranense



Business Administration Major

Off the Court With Geraldo Knorr

- Favorite Food:** Japanese
- Favorite Athlete:** (Brazilian soccer star) Ronaldo
- If you could be one superhero who would it be:** Batman, because he is the only one without superpowers
- Sports Event I would most like to witness:** World Cup Final (Soccer)
- Best thing about being at USC:** Good Tennis, Great Academics

COACH DEMARS ON KNORR — “Geraldo is a senior and the quickest player on the team. He was highly ranked last year in doubles and made the NCAA Tournament. His quickness and punishing forehand make him very difficult to beat. We expect big things from him this year, and he has already defeated a highly-ranked opponent this fall.”

AS A JUNIOR — Teamed with Pedro Rodrigues to pick up Carolina's first berth in the NCAA Doubles Championships since 1998 ... The duo finished at No. 29 in the ITA doubles rankings ... Won 12 singles matches, playing at the most positions (5) of any Gamecock in 2005....Clinched USC's NCAA First Round victory over Oklahoma, as well as wins over UNC-Asheville and Georgia Southern ... Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

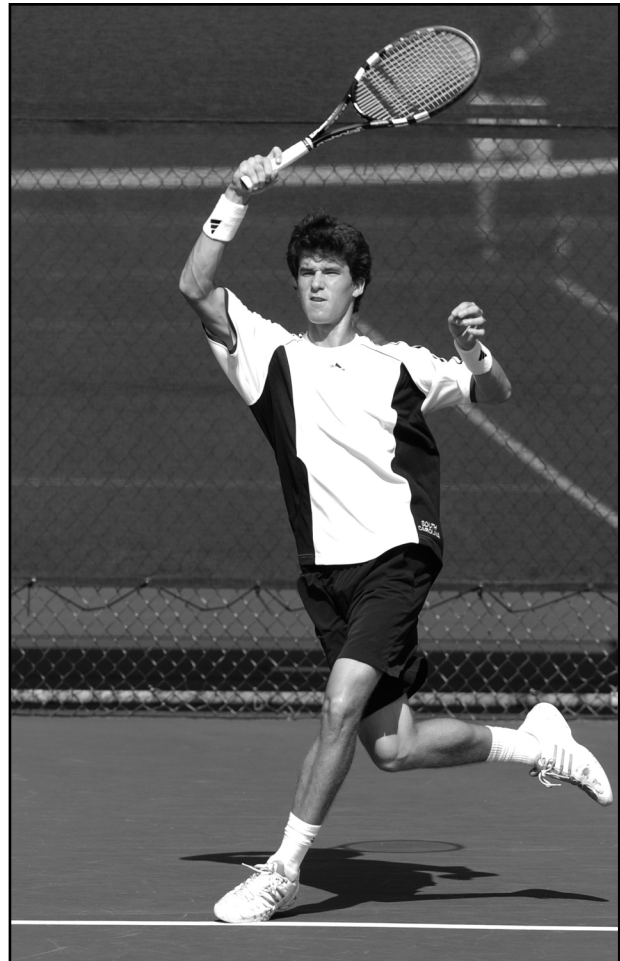
AS A SOPHOMORE — Earned an impressive 25-13 singles record, gathering the most singles victories on the team ... Combined with Pedro Rodrigues to finish 10-5 at the No. 2 and 3 positions in doubles play ... Member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll ... Made the Dean's List both semesters.

JUNIOR TENNIS — Ranked No. 3 as a junior in Brazil ... Graduated from Catarinense High School in

Floridnopolis, Brazil.

PERSONAL — Born October 23, 1984, in Port Avegre, Brazil ... Son of Alcindo and Angela Knorr ... Has one brother, Germano, who is also a tennis player ... Hobbies include playing soccer and chess ... Career goal is to be one of the top 30 tennis players in the world.

KNORR'S CAREER STATISTICS					
Singles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2003	4-6	7-5	.583	1-2 (.333)	0-2
2004	3-6	25-13	.658	9-3 (.750)	6-5
2005	1-5	12-17	.414	1-10 (.100)	2-6
Singles Totals		44-35	.557	11-15 (.423)	8-13
Doubles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2003	1-3	12-7	.632	2-7 (.222)	
2004	1-3	16-16	.500	3-8 (.273)	
2005	1-3	16-13	.552	5-5 (.500)	
Doubles Totals		44-36	.550	10-20 (.333)	
OVERALL TOTALS		88-71	.553	21-35 (.375)	

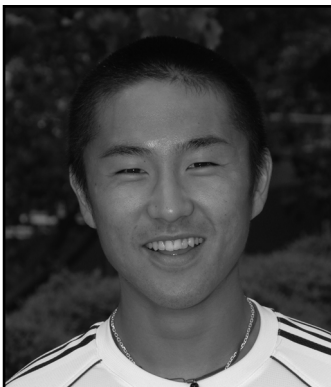


MEET THE GAMECOCKS



KAZUYA OTANI

Senior • 5-6 • 130
 Port Washington, N.Y.
 Shreiber HS
 Management Major



Off the Court With Kazuya Otani

Favorite Type of Music: Rock
 Favorite Sport (other than Tennis): Soccer
 If you could be one superhero who would it be: Iceman
 Where I would most like to visit: California
 Sports Event I would most like to witness: French Open

COACH DEMARS ON OTANI — “Kaz is a senior and should provide stability to the team. He has a baseline game and covers the court very well. He works hard every day, and when called upon he will be ready. When he plays with confidence, he is very solid.”

AS A JUNIOR — Won three singles matches in 2005, including a win over Georgia’s Brad Benedict in Athens, Ga. ...Went 1-1 in doubles while partnered with Adam Adler ... Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

AS A SOPHOMORE — Went a combined 6-3 in singles between fall and spring play ... Unbeaten in dual matches in the spring ... Compiled a 4-3 record during the fall season in singles play ... Member of the SEC Academic Honor Rol ... Made the Dean’s List both semesters.

JUNIOR TENNIS — Seeded No. 11 at U.S. 16-year-old and under National Championships ... Played under coach Robbie Wagner.

PERSONAL — Born September 27, 1984, in Japan ... Son of Shigehiro and Rieko Otani ... Favorite sport other than tennis is soccer ... Favorite pro is Andre Agassi.

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OTANI'S CAREER STATISTICS

Singles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2003	N/A	2-3	.400	0-0 (.000)	0-0
2004	5-6	6-3	.667	0-0 (.000)	1-1
2005	6	3-8	.273	0-0 (.000)	0-2
Singles Totals		11-14	.440	0-0 (.000)	1-1
Doubles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2003	N/A	0-0	.000	0-0 (.000)	
2004	N/A	1-2	.333	0-0 (.000)	
2005	N/A	1-1	.500	0-0 (.000)	
Doubles Totals		2-3	.400	0-0 (.000)	
OVERALL TOTALS		12-16	.429	0-0 (.000)	



PEDRO RODRIGUES

Junior • 6-3 • 194

Brasilia, Brazil

INEI-Centro Educacional
Business Administration Major



Off the Court With Pedro Rodrigues

Favorite Food: Japanese

Favorite Athlete: Gustavo Kuerten

Best Advice I Ever Received: Do your best all the time

Sports Event I Would Most Like To Witness: World Cup Finals (Soccer)

Best Thing about being at USC: My team

COACH DEMARS ON RODRIGUES — *“Pedro has improved the most of any player on the team. He was the only player to be ranked both in singles and doubles last year. He is our only true serve and volley player and Pedro can really come after his opponents. We look for some big things from him this year.”*

AS A SOPHOMORE — Partnered with Geraldo Knorr to upset four ranked opponents in doubles, on their way to a berth in the NCAA Doubles Championships... The duo finished the year at No. 29 in the ITA doubles rankings ... Was one of three Gamecocks to reach the 20-win plateau in singles, and was third on the team in doubles victories (17) in 2005 ... Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

AS A FRESHMAN — Compiled a 7-6 non-conference dual record, including the match-winning victories in USC's defeat of Vanderbilt in the first round of the SEC Tournament and Carolina's

win over USC-Spartanburg ... Went 2-0 at the No. 3 position ... Made the Dean's List during the spring semester.

PERSONAL — Born Pedro Frade Rodrigues on April 9, 1985 ... Son of Laura Frade and Frederico Rodrigues ... Has three siblings: Alexandre (24), Eduardo (22) and Ricardo (7) ... Lists favorite vacation spot as Porto Seguro in Brazil ... Goal for this season is to get better in every aspect of his game ... Best advice he received from his parents was, “Just do your best.” ... Favorite sport other than tennis is soccer ... Gustavo “Guga” Kuerten is his favorite professional tennis player.

RODRIGUES' CAREER STATISTICS

Singles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	3-Sets
2004	2-5	11-14	.440	4-6 (.400)	1-5
2005	1-3	20-17	.541	5-6 (.455)	4-6
Singles Totals		31-31	.500	9-12 (.428)	5-11
Doubles	Pos.	Record	Pct.	SEC (Pct.)	
2004	1-3	12-13	.480	3-8 (.273)	
2005	1-2	17-16	.531	5-5 (.500)	
Doubles Totals		29-29	.480	8-13 (.381)	
OVERALL TOTALS		60-60	.500	17-25 (.405)	



MEET THE GAMECOCKS



THOMAS STODDARD

RS-Freshman • 5-9 • 155

Greenwood, S.C.

Greenwood HS

Business Administration Major



Off the Court With Thomas Stoddard

Favorite Type of Music: Acoustic

Favorite Food: Steak

Most Prized Possession: Watch given to me for winning a tournament

If you could be one superhero who would it be: Superman

The one word that describes me: Hard-worker

COACH DEMARS ON STODDARD — *“Thomas is coming off of a shoulder injury that has sidelined him for the last year. He was the State champion in high school and just needs to hit a lot of balls, get his game back and be patient. The most important thing for him is to work hard and be ready to contribute.”*

AS A TRUE FRESHMAN — Was awarded a medical redshirt in 2005...Went a combined 12-5 in singles and doubles before sustaining a shoulder injury and sitting out the remainder of the season ... Made the Dean's List both semesters.

JUNIOR TENNIS AND HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS — Won Wachovia Palmetto Championships singles once and the doubles title twice ... Was the South Carolina Player of the Year (2004) ... All-State and All-Region all four years in high school ... Played for Ron Davis, Gary Agardy and Brett Simpson at Greenwood High School, where the team won two region championships.

PERSONAL — Son of Tara and Tommy Stoddard ... Has a sister named Katie (21) ... Nicknamed 'T' ... Would like to spend a day with Pete Sampras because that is his favorite tennis player ... Attending the US Open is both his favorite vacation and the most exciting sporting event.



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YEVGENY SUPEKO

Sophomore • 6-3 • 185

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Texas A&M University

Sport and Entertainment Management Major



Off the Court With Yevgeny Supeko

Favorite Song: Stuck In The Moment (U2)

Favorite Athlete: Steve Nash

Favorite Sport To Play: Soccer

Favorite Pro Team: Spartak Moscow

Season Goal: To make NCAA Singles Championships

Career Goal: To get a job in marketing

COACH DEMARS ON SUPEKO — "Yev has a very big game, the biggest on the team. He has a huge serve and an overpowering forehand. He has a great love of the game and wants to play professionally. He has many elements of the top players and has tremendous upside."

Transferred to South Carolina following his freshman season at Texas A&M.

AT TEXAS A&M — Compiled a 17-12 mark in singles for the Aggies and head coach Tim Cass in 2004-05.

JUNIOR TENNIS — Earned the No. 1 seed at the Kalamazoo Junior Championships...Was ranked fifth in the USTA Boys' 18's national rankings and No. 2 in Boys' 16s nationally ...Coached by Bill Rappa...Attended New Braunfels High in Texas.

PERSONAL — Born on November 26, 1985...Son of Marina Supeko...Lists Miami as his favorite vacation spot...Chose USC over Oregon, Georgia Tech, San Diego State, Fresno State and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.



MEET THE GAMECOCKS



JOSEPH VEEDER

Sophomore • 6-1 • 180

Brevard, N.C.

Homeschooled

Sport and Entertainment Management Major



COACH DEMARS ON VEEDER — "Joe can mix up his game very well. He can serve and volley efficiently and can also stay at the baseline. Joe is a good doubles player as well so he will be able to contribute there."

Off the Court With Joseph Veeder

Favorite Actor: Robin Williams

Favorite Tennis Player: Pete Sampras

Favorite Sport to Watch: College Basketball

Favorite Pro Team: Pittsburgh Steelers

Season Goal: To make the traveling squad

Career Goal: Make NCAA's and become an All-American

JUNIOR TENNIS — Was the number one ranked doubles player in the state of North Carolina...Made it to the Super National Clay Courts for doubles.

PERSONAL — Son of James and Anna Veeder...Lists Fort Myers, Fla., as his favorite vacation spot...Ft. Myers is also Joe's off-season training site...His favorite sports to play besides tennis are basketball and ping-pong...Favorite food is his grandmother's salad.

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