## IOWA HAWKEYES

University of Iowa Athletic Communications -- Dan Wallace, Tennis Contact

### **Men's Tennis Weekly Release**

**April 17, 2014** 

#### 2014 Spring Schedule 2/1 W, 7-0 **Illinois State Western Illinois** W, 7-0 2/11 **UMKC** W, 7-0 2/14 **Northern Illinois** W, 5-2 2/16 #39 Minnesota W, 4-3 L, 3-4 at Western Michigan 2/22 2/26 at #65 Drake L, 0-7 2/28 **North Dakota** W, 7-0 W, 7-0 Creighton 3/7 **Bradley** W, 6-1 3/14 at #75 College of Charleston L, 2-5 W, 7-0 3/15 at The Citadel 3/18 at Furman L, 3-4 at #58 Wisconsin L, 2-5 3/23 3/29 at #46 Michigan L, 2-5 at Michigan State L, 2-5 3/30 4/4 #33 Purdue L, 2-5 4/6 #69 Indiana L, 3-4 4/9 #62 Nebraska L, 3-4 #11 Illinois L, 0-7 4/11 4/13 **#34 Northwestern** L, 2-5 4/18 at #1 Ohio State L, 0-7 4/20 at #22 Penn State L, 1-6 4/24-27 at Big Ten Tournament 10 a.m. vs. #32 Northwestern (East Lansing, Mich.)

Home contests in **bold** All times local

#### 2013-14 Roster and Results (Singles/Doubles)

Brian Alden, Sr	9-11/8-12
Jonas Dierckx, Sr	13-10/8-9
Andres Estenssoro, Jr	0-0/0-0
Juan Estenssoro, Sr	8-14/6-4
Matt Hagan, Jr	11-9/11-5
Nils Hallestrand, Fr	5-2/5-1
Dominic Patrick, So	14-8/0-0
Michael Swank, Sr	9-13/7-14
Chase Tomlins, Sr	0-0/3-7
Joey White, Sr	1-0/12-10

### **Hawkeye Quick Facts**

2014 Record	9-14
2014 Big Ten Record	1-10
2014 Record2014 Big Ten Record2014 Big Ten Standing	T-11th

#### **THIS WEEK**

The University of Iowa men's tennis team begins postseason play as the Hawkeyes travel to East Lansing, Mich., for the 2014 Big Ten Tournament. Iowa, the No. 12 seed, will play the 32nd-ranked Northwestern Wildcats, the tournament's No. 5 seed. First serve will take place at 10 a.m. (ET) on Thursday. This marks the second consecutive year in which the two teams will meet in the first round of the tournament. Last year the Wildcats knocked off the Hawkeyes, 4-1, in Columbus, Ohio.

#### **TOURNAMENT CENTRAL**

Looking for more information regarding the Big Ten Tournament, including live state, recaps, box scores, and quotes? Head over to the Tournament Central page, found at (www.msuspartans.com/sports/m-tennis/spec-rel/bigten-champ-2014.html)

#### **FOLLOW THE HAWKEYES**

Fans can follow along all season to the Hawkeyes and receive live match updates on Facebook (**facebook.com/lowaMensTennis**) or on Twitter (**@lowaMensTennis**).

#### **LIVE STATS**

Live stats for the match against Northwestern can be found on the tournament central page, found above. The lowa men's twitter account will also be live-tweeting the match for fans following along.

#### **DIERCKX IN THE RANKINGS**

Senior Jonas Dierckx has saved his best tennis for the home stretch. The native Lommel, Belgium, has recorded two victories over ranked opponents in his past three matches, and is being recognized for his performance.

Dierckx is ranked No. 124 in the ITA Singles rankings released on April 22. The ranking marks the first of Dierckx's career and the first Hawkeye to appear in the singles rankings since Marc Bruche was ranked 93rd on Jan. 3, 2012.

#### **LAST TIME OUT**

The Hawkeyes concluded the regular season Sunday at No. 22 Penn State. Iowa fell by a 6-1 final, but senior Jonas Dierckx recorded a milestone victory.

Dierckx, playing at the No. 1 singles position, took on the 33rd-ranked player in the country in Leonard Stakhovsky. In the first set, Dierckx was able to collect a couple of breaks en route to a 6-3 first set victory.

Things got closer in the second set, but Dierckx was still able to break Stakhovsky once. The break was all that senior needed, as he claimed the match in the second set with a 6-4 win. The win marks the highest-ranked opponent that Dierckx has defeated as a Hawkeye, and the second ranked foe in the past three matches that Dierckx had defeated.

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## **Big Ten Standings**

Ohio State	27-3 (11-0)
Illinois	20-7 (9-2)
Penn State	21-4 (8-3)
Purdue	15-6 (7-4)
Northwestern	19-9 (7-4)
Michigan	14-11 (7-4)
Minnesota	11-12 (5-6)
Michigan State	11-13 (5-6)
Indiana	
Nebraska	12-14 (3-8)
IOWA	9-14 (1-10)
Wisconsin	9-15 (1-10)
(results through April 20)	



#### **HEAD COACH STEVE HOUGHTON**

Steve Houghton, the dean of Big Ten coaches, is in his 33rd year as head coach of the Hawkeyes. He has compiled a career record of 345-381 (.475), recording the most wins of any coach in lowa men's tennis history.

In the past four seasons, lowa has defeated 21 nationally-ranked teams, including 14 opponents in the nationally recognized Big Ten Conference. Houghton also has guided his athletes to success off the court recently as the 2011 lowa team earned the ITA All-Academic Team Award.

Houghton has coached 19 All-Big Ten performers and his players have received 93 Academic All-Big Ten accolades. He has coached Big Ten singles champions and ITA Regional singles champions, and several of his players have played professional tennis, including Tyler Cleveland, who reached the top 300 ATP in the world.

An Iowa City native, Houghton was a nationally ranked junior player at City High School. He earned his bachelor's (1971) and master's (1973) degrees from the University of Iowa.

Houghton was born Jan., 9, 1949. Steve and his wife, Leora, have four children: Cari, Jeff, Jon and Scott.

#### **SCOUTING NORTHWESTERN**

No. 32 Northwestern (19-9, 7-4) enters the match on a seven-game winning streak, including a pair of 7-0 sweeps to end the season. The Wildcats knocked off the Hawkeyes, 5-2, on lowa's senior day back on April 13.

The team is paced by No. 46 Raleigh Smtih and No. 120 Sam Shropshire atop the singles lineup and feature Mihir Kumar and Raleigh Smith as the No. 28 doubles team.

Two weeks ago when the Hawkeyes and Wildcats met, Iowa picked up wins at the No. 1 and No. 4 positions behind Jonas Dierckx and Matt Hagan. Dierckx defeated then No. 54 Smith in three sets after Smtih retired due to injury, trailing 1-0 in the third set. Hagan defeated Mihir Kumar in straight sets, 7-6 (7-0), 6-3.

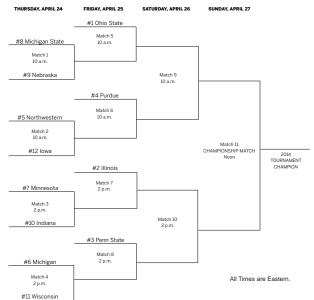
### **QUOTING HOUGHTON**

"Northwestern is a good team but when we played them recently it was a very close match. It was a 5-2 score but had the feel of a 4-3 match. From a matchup standpoint and confidence standpoint, we have a good chance at winning. Six seniors are down to their final tournament so they will be inspired by that. They have played hard and practiced hard all year and if they do that against Northwestern then we will have a really good chance."

### 2014 Big Ten Men's Tennis Tournament

Hosted by Michigan State University

All matches will be played at the MSU Outdoor Tennis Courts





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