



# ***CLASS ACTION***

***THE USTA NATIONAL CAMPUS CHAMPIONSHIP PROVIDED A GRAND FINALE FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF THE TENNIS ON CAMPUS PROGRAM. BY ANDREW LABOVITZ***

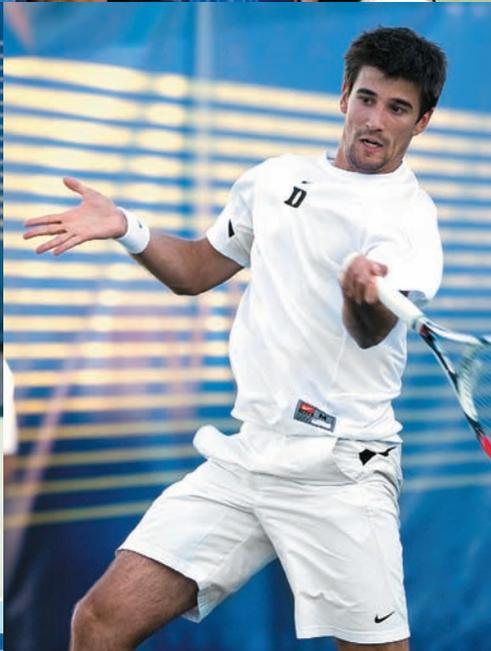


ALL PHOTOS BY FRED AND SUSAN MULLANE/  
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**THE ATMOSPHERE HAD THE** sort of electricity and excitement normally associated with the US Open. Of the 64 teams that had come to the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex in Surprise, Ariz., April 17–19 for the National Campus Championship, only two were left. The final pitted Duke University against the University of Wisconsin, Madison, but the stands were packed with players from most of the other 62 schools, all cheering and reveling in the

occasion. In the end, it was Duke's Blue Devils, who had beaten defending champion Texas in the quarters and former champs Texas A&M in the semis, who toughed their way to the title, capturing the National Campus Championship crown by a 26-21 final score.

The win was Duke's first ever at the National Campus Championship, and it marked the first time since 2003 that the winner hailed from outside of Texas. Even before the Blue Devils poured



onto the court to celebrate after their mixed-doubles victory made the win official, onlookers, including tennis legend Billie Jean King, were marveling at the passion and enthusiasm of these non-varsity athletes who were given the opportunity to compete for their schools by virtue of the USTA Tennis On Campus program.

"It was a little nerve-wracking, but one of the best events I've ever been to," said Duke's Greg Van Winkle, who helped the Blue Devils secure wins in men's doubles and mixed doubles against Wisconsin. "This is a blast."

Following the final, the students and dignitaries headed to the closing-ceremony dinner, during which prizes were given to the winners and runners-up. The Sportsmanship Award was given to the University of Central Florida, and the Club of the Year went to the University of California, Davis. The Leader of the Year Award was bestowed upon the president of the team from California Polytechnic State University, Steven Azeka.

Azeka could not help but gush about the positives of the Tennis On Campus program. "The best part of the Tennis On Campus program by far is meeting new people," he said. "No matter what the score, whether we win or lose, I still get to meet great people."

The USTA National Campus Championship, which is hosted through a partnership of the USTA, National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, World TeamTennis and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, is annually the marquee event of the Tennis On Campus program. The consistent growth in both size and popularity of the event—from 10 teams in 2000 to 64 this year—speaks volumes about not only the enthusiasm of the current participants, but of the importance of this program. USTA Tennis On Campus is the one program for young adults who wish to continue their recreational tennis careers as they transition from junior tennis to USTA Adult Leagues.

USTA Tennis On Campus was designed to provide college students with the chance to experience the competitive play of college tennis and the team camaraderie that comes from representing one's school, without having to deal with the demands of playing a varsity sport. What started as a small program of 192 schools in 2003 has taken off in recent years, and now boasts

upwards of 30,000 players competing for 500 colleges and universities across the country. The teams range in size, with some larger programs including over 250 students. The teams are all coed and use the World TeamTennis format, which offers the chance for men and women to compete on the same court while representing their school.

“The idea behind the Tennis On Campus program is to keep these young people in the game,” notes Glenn Arrington, the USTA’s National Manager for Tennis On Campus. “Too often in the past, the sport has lost those kids who played tennis in high school but may not have the ability or the desire to play at the varsity level in college. The Tennis On Campus program fills that void, not only keeping more players in the game, but adding new ones as well. The program continues to grow in popularity for a very simple reason—it’s a lot of fun.” 🐾

**BIG PLAYERS ON CAMPUS:**

Students from 64 colleges gave their all in trying to take the title, including (clockwise from top right) Wisconsin’s Hillary Friedman, Loyola’s Sean Dacanay and Lone Star College’s Samuel Holmes, Oregon’s Megan Schulz, Duke’s Thibault Ducarme, Western Washington’s Ari Adelstein and Jordan Reni. (Left) A group of Lone Star supporters. The title was captured by the Duke squad (top left) which celebrated with Billie Jean King, USTA First Vice President Jon Vegosen (third from right) and USTA Executive Director Gordon Smith (far right).

**USTA NATIONAL CAMPUS CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Championship:** Duke d. Wisconsin, Madison 26-21 (OT)

**Semifinals:** Duke d. Texas A&M, 25-19, Wisconsin d. University of Central Florida 25-24

**Third place:** UCF d. Texas A&M 22-21

**Quarterfinals:** Texas A&M d. Baylor 30-12, Duke d. Texas 29-19, Wisconsin d. Maryland 25-13, UCF d. Rutgers 26-18.

**For more on the USTA Tennis On Campus program, and to learn how to start a team at your school, visit [www.tennisoncampus.com](http://www.tennisoncampus.com).**

