

# FLORIDA

## TENNIS



#13 Florida Gators (14-6/9-2)

@GatorsMTN

Last Match:  
Florida swept the No. 20  
Kentucky Wildcats on Friday  
night at the Ring Tennis  
Complex.

## Follow the Gators

Official Website: [FloridaGators.com](http://FloridaGators.com)

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Tennessee Volunteers  
(11-15/0-11)

@Vol\_Tennis

Last Match:  
The Vols fell to the Auburn  
Tigers, 6-1 on Friday night.

### Match Day Facts

#### WHERE:

Linder Stadium | Ring Tennis Complex

#### WHEN:

Sunday, April 17 at 1 p.m. ET

#### SERIES RECORD:

Florida leads the all-time series, 39-26

#### LAST MEETING:

The Gators defeated the Vols, 4-1 on April  
12, 2015 in Knoxville

### Florida's 2015-16 Schedule and Results

Overall: 14-6 (Home 9-1, Away 5-3, Neutral 0-2)

SEC: 9-2 (Home 5-0, Away 4-2)

Date	UF/Opp Rank	Opponent/Event	Time/Results
<b>January</b>			
Sun. 17	24/63	TROY	W, 6-1
Sun. 17	24/NR	STETSON	W, 7-0
Sat. 23	21/20	at Texas (1)	W, 4-0
Sun. 24	21/15	vs. Texas Tech (1)	L, 4-3
Sat. 30	20/8	at USC (2)	L, 4-3
Sun. 31	20/12	at UCLA (2)	cancelled
<b>February</b>			
Sat. 13	22/NR	FURMAN	W, 7-0
Sun. 21	23/6	at Ohio State	L, 4-3
Sat. 27	41/35	FLORIDA STATE	W, 7-0
<b>March</b>			
Fri. 4	30/32	at LSU	W, 4-3
Sun. 6	30/8	at Texas A&M	L, 4-3
Fri. 11	25/64	AUBURN	W, 7-0
Fri. 18	24/13	ARKANSAS	W, 6-1
Sun. 20	24/22	OLE MISS	W, 6-1
Fri. 25	16/24	at Mississippi State	W, 4-3
Sun. 27	16/41	at Alabama	W, 5-2
<b>April</b>			
Fri. 1	11/43	VANDERBILT	W, 5-2
Wed. 6	14/3	VIRGINIA	L, 5-2
Fri. 8	14/7	at Georgia	L, 5-2
Sun. 10	14/62	at South Carolina	W, 6-1
Fri. 15	13/20	KENTUCKY	W, 7-0
Sun. 17	13/NR	TENNESSEE	1:00 p.m.
Wed. 20		SEC Tournament (Columbia, SC)	All Day
<b>May</b>			
Fri. 13		NCAA Team First and Second Rounds	
Thu. 19		NCAA Round of 16	
Fri. 20		NCAA Team Quarterfinals	
Sun. 22		NCAA Team Semifinals	
Tues. 24		NCAA Team Finals	
Wed. 25		NCAA Individual Championships	

\*Southeastern Conference Match (1) ITA Kick-Off Weekend in  
Austin, Texas (2) Pac-12/SEC Challenge in Los Angeles, Calif.

### Last Serve vs. the Volunteers

After grabbing the doubles point, Lipman and Perez-Blanco secured singles wins on four and five, then Elliott Orkin clinched the regular season finale with a victory on court two.

### Dealing in Doubles

Seniors Diego Hidalgo and Gordon Watson are again at the top of the ITA Doubles Rankings after two wins over the No. 2 and No. 4-ranked pairings on April 6 and April 8.

### SEC Player of the Week

Diego Hidalgo was named the SEC Player of the Week on April 13 for his outstanding week taking down five ranked opponents in a span of three matches in five days.

### 1,200 and Counting

With their win over South Carolina on April 10, the men's tennis program recorded its 1,200th program win.

### Freshmen Impressing Early

The Gators have seen production from freshmen Perez and Kessler this season. Kessler has clinched two of the Gators' wins at five and six, while Perez is 13-4 in dual match singles play.

### SEC Firsts

Perez and Kessler have each secured their first SEC singles victories against LSU and Texas A&M, respectively. Perez is 9-2 and Kessler is 6-2 in SEC singles.

# #GOGATORS

NAME	HT	CL	EXP	L/R	Hometown/Previous School
Jordan Belga	5-10	So.	1L	R	Boca Raton, Fla./Florida Virtual School
Diego Hidalgo	5-11	Sr.	2L	L	Guayaquil, Ecuador/Pert High School
McClain Kessler	5-11	Fr.	HS	R	Calhoun, Ga./Calhoun High School
Maxx Lipman	6-2	Jr.	2L	R	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood High School
Elliott Orkin	5-8	Jr.	2L	R	Marietta, Ga./Eaton Academy
Alfredo Perez	6-2	Fr.	HS	R	Havana, Cuba/Coral Gables High School
Chase Perez-Blanco	5-8	So.	1L	R	Miami, Fla./Gulliver Prep
Josh Wardell	5-11	R-So.	1L	R	Fort Myers, Fla./Florida Virtual School
Gordon Watson	5-11	Sr.	3L	R	Naples, Fla./First Baptist Academy

**Head Coach:** BRYAN SHELTON

**Asst. Coach:** MARK MERKLEIN

**Vol. Asst. Coach:** SCOTT PERELMAN

**Trainer:** TONY MUNOZ

**Dir. of Tennis Operations:** KATE HARTE

**Manager:** PETER SLATON

### General Information

Location: .....Gainesville, Florida  
 Est. Population:..... 124,491  
 Founded: .....1853  
 Enrollment: .....49,042  
 Nickname: ..... Gators  
 Colors: ..... Orange and Blue  
 Conference: ..... Southeastern (SEC)  
 Facility: ....Alfred A. Ring Tennis Complex – Scott Linder Stadium (1,000)  
 ..... Charles R. & Nancy V. Perry Indoor Tennis Facility  
 President: .....Dr. W. Kent Fuchs (Duke '77)  
 Athletics Director: ..... Jeremy Foley (Hobart '74)  
 Assoc. AD - Oversees M-Tennis:.....Mike Hill (UNC)  
 Office: ..... 352-375-4683  
 Faculty Representative: .....Dr. Michael Sagas (Utah '92)

### Coaching Staff

Head Coach: .....Bryan Shelton (Georgia Tech, 1988)  
**Overall: ..... 287-144 (17th year)**  
**Florida Record: ..... 60-36 (4th year)**  
 Associate Head Coach: ..... Mark Merklein (Florida, 1994)  
 Volunteer Assistant Coach: ..... Scott Perelman  
 Academic Advisor: ..... Tom Williams  
 Athletic Trainer:..... Tony Munoz  
 Tennis Coordinator: ..... Kate Harte (Endicott '07; UF '09)  
 Manager:..... Peter Slaton  
 Strength Trainer:..... Sean Ferguson  
 Tennis Phone: .....352-375-4683, ext. 4600  
 Tennis FAX:..... 352-372-8159

### 2015-16 Roster Review

Letterwinners Returning / Lost from 2014: .....7 / 0  
 Newcomers: ..... 2  
 Seniors/Juniors/Sophomores/Freshmen: .....2 / 2 / 3 / 2

### 2014-15 Season

Overall Season Record:..... 14-9  
 SEC Record:.....8-4 (T-4th)  
 NCAA Championships: .....0-1 (No. 6 Seed)  
 SEC Tournament: ..... 1-1 (No. 7 Seed, Quarterfinalists)  
 SEC Honors (3) 3 Gators:..... First Team: Diego Hidalgo  
 ..... Second Team: Elliott Orkin  
 ..... All-Freshman: Chase Perez-Blanco

### NCAA History

NCAA Appearances:..... 25  
 91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-00-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12-13-14-15)  
 NCAA Record: ..... 43-25 (0-1 in 2015)  
 NCAA Singles Champions: .....2 Gators with 2 titles  
 ..... Mark Merklein (1994)  
 ..... & Jeff Morrison (1999)  
 NCAA Doubles Champions: ..... 1 team with 1 title  
 ..... Mark Merklein & David Blair (1993)

### Additional Program History

**Overall Record:.....1,201-497-6**  
 All-Americans:..... 22 Gators with 46 honors  
 SEC Championships:..... 8  
 1961, 1968, 1969, 1975, 1994, 2000, 2003, 2005  
 SEC Tournament Titles: ..... 4  
 1994, 2000, 2005, 2011  
 SEC Tournament Record: ..... 32-19

### Florida Communications/Sports Information

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 Web Site: ..... www.FloridaGators.com  
 Team Twitter:.....@GatorsMTN

### **Belga Earns First SEC Win**

Sophomore Jordan Belga earned his first SEC singles victory 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 over South Carolina's Wood Benton on April 10 to win his third dual singles match of the season.

### **SEC Player of the Week**

Junior Elliott Orkin garnered his first SEC Player of the Week Award on March 30 after a stellar weekend on the road at Mississippi State and Alabama

### **Win Number 75**

With his defeat of Alabama's Korey Lovett on March 27 in Tuscaloosa, Elliott Orkin recorded his 75th singles win.

### **Win Number 50**

Chase Perez-Blanco defeated Vanderbilt's Baker Newman on April 1 to reach 50 career singles victories.

### **SEC Freshman of the Week: Twice!**

Alfredo Perez earned his first collegiate honor on March 2, garnering SEC Freshman of the Week and then won the award again on March 23.

### **Florida vs. SEC Opponents**

Since beginning SEC play in 1950, the Orange and Blue is 390-228-4 all-time against SEC opponents.

### **No. 50**

Diego Hidalgo grabbed his 50th career singles victory in his match against Max de Vroome of USC.

### **Nineteen Matches, Nine Lineups**

The Gators have used eight different lineups in 19 matches this season. UF has compiled thirteen wins with five different Gators clinching the match victories.

### **Season-Opening Success**

UF is 65-6 all-time in season-opening dual matches. The Gators have not dropped an opener since 1998 against Indiana

### **Fall Headlines**

Hidalgo, Watson win doubles title at USTA/ITA Southeast Regional Championships, defeating the No. 1-ranked Georgia tandem in the semifinals.

Freshman Alfredo Perez wins seven matches to reach the main draw from the pre-qualifying rounds at the ITA All-American.

Elliott Orkin wins singles title at the SEC Fall Tournament. Chase Perez-Blanco and Josh Wardell take the doubles title at the Bedford Cup.

# 2015-2016 Florida Gators



Jordan Belga  
5-10  
Sophomore  
Right-Handed  
Boca Raton, Fla.  
Florida Virtual School

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 16-6  
Tournament Singles: 13-5  
Dual Singles: 3-1  
SEC Singles: 1-0  
Overall Doubles: 1-0  
Tournament Doubles: 0-0  
Dual Doubles: 1-0  
SEC Doubles: 0-0

Career Records

Overall Singles: 27-16  
Tournament Singles: 21-11  
Dual Singles: 6-5  
SEC Singles: 2-1  
Overall Doubles: 5-5  
Tournament Doubles: 4-5  
Dual Doubles: 1-0  
SEC Doubles: 0-0



Diego Hidalgo  
5-11  
Senior  
Left-Handed  
Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Pert High School

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 29-11  
Tournament Singles: 14-7  
Dual Singles: 15-4  
SEC Singles: 9-2  
Overall Doubles: 21-7  
Tournament Doubles: 12-2  
Dual Doubles: 10-5  
SEC Doubles: 6-3

Career Records

Overall Singles: 62-30  
Tournament Singles: 30-14  
Dual Singles: 32-16  
SEC Singles: 17-7  
Overall Doubles: 57-24  
Tournament Doubles: 25-5  
Dual Doubles: 32-19  
SEC Doubles: 15-11



McClain Kessler  
5-11  
Freshman  
Right-Handed  
Calhoun, Ga.  
Calhoun High School

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 24-10  
Tournament Singles: 14-5  
Dual Singles: 10-5  
SEC Singles: 6-2  
Overall Doubles: 8-3  
Tournament Doubles: 7-3  
Dual Doubles: 1-0  
SEC Doubles: 0-0

Career Records

Overall Singles: 24-10  
Tournament Singles: 14-5  
Dual Singles: 10-5  
SEC Singles: 6-2  
Overall Doubles: 8-3  
Tournament Doubles: 7-3  
Dual Doubles: 1-0  
SEC Doubles: 0-0



Maxx Lipman  
6-2  
Junior  
Right-Handed  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
Brentwood High School

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 12-11  
Tournament Singles: 11-9  
Dual Singles: 2-2  
SEC Singles: 1-0  
Overall Doubles: 16-10  
Tournament Doubles: 5-5  
Dual Doubles: 11-5  
SEC Doubles: 6-2

Career Records

Overall Singles: 55-34  
Tournament Singles: 31-18  
Dual Singles: 24-16  
SEC Singles: 12-7  
Overall Doubles: 52-33  
Tournament Doubles: 17-12  
Dual Doubles: 35-21  
SEC Doubles: 19-7



Elliott Orkin  
5-8  
Junior  
Right-Handed  
Marietta, Ga.  
Eaton Academy

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 27-11  
Tournament Singles: 13-5  
Dual Singles: 14-6  
SEC Singles: 7-4  
Overall Doubles: 16-11  
Tournament Doubles: 5-5  
Dual Doubles: 11-6  
SEC Doubles: 6-2

Career Records

Overall Singles: 77-32  
Tournament Singles: 40-14  
Dual Singles: 37-18  
SEC Singles: 21-9  
Overall Doubles: 58-36  
Tournament Doubles: 25-13  
Dual Doubles: 33-23  
SEC Doubles: 18-11



Alfredo Perez  
6-2  
Freshman  
Right-Handed  
Havana, Cuba  
Coral Gables High School

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 30-9  
Tournament Singles: 16-5  
Dual Singles: 14-4  
SEC Singles: 9-2  
Overall Doubles: 15-5  
Tournament Doubles: 5-2  
Dual Doubles: 10-3  
SEC Doubles: 6-3

Career Records

Overall Singles: 30-9  
Tournament Singles: 16-5  
Dual Singles: 14-4  
SEC Singles: 9-2  
Overall Doubles: 15-5  
Tournament Doubles: 5-2  
Dual Doubles: 10-3  
SEC Doubles: 6-3



Chase Perez-Blanco  
5-8  
Sophomore  
Right-Handed  
Miami, Fla.  
Gulliver Prep

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 27-11  
Tournament Singles: 15-4  
Dual Singles: 12-7  
SEC Singles: 6-5  
Overall Doubles: 15-3  
Tournament Doubles: 5-1  
Dual Doubles: 10-3  
SEC Doubles: 6-2

Career Records

Overall Singles: 52-22  
Tournament Singles: 26-11  
Dual Singles: 26-10  
SEC Singles: 14-6  
Overall Doubles: 26-9  
Tournament Doubles: 14-4  
Dual Doubles: 12-5  
SEC Doubles: 6-2



Josh Wardell  
5-11  
RS-Sophomore  
Right-Handed  
Fort Myers, Fla.  
Florida Virtual School

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 10-7  
Tournament Singles: 9-5  
Dual Singles: 1-1  
SEC Singles: 0-1  
Overall Doubles: 9-4  
Tournament Doubles: 7-2  
Dual Doubles: 2-2  
SEC Doubles: 0-1

Career Records

Overall Singles: 19-16  
Tournament Singles: 16-11  
Dual Singles: 3-6  
SEC Singles: 2-3  
Overall Doubles: 24-16  
Tournament Doubles: 15-6  
Dual Doubles: 10-10  
SEC Doubles: 3-7



Gordon Watson  
5-11  
Senior  
Right-Handed  
Naples, Fla.  
First Baptist Academy

2015-2016 Season

Overall Singles: 15-10  
Tournament Singles: 4-5  
Dual Singles: 11-5  
SEC Singles: 8-3  
Overall Doubles: 21-8  
Tournament Doubles: 11-2  
Dual Doubles: 10-6  
SEC Doubles: 6-3

Career Records

Overall Singles: 85-46  
Tournament Singles: 39-20  
Dual Singles: 45-26  
SEC Singles: 18-13  
Overall Doubles: 81-47  
Tournament Doubles: 48-12  
Dual Doubles: 43-35  
SEC Doubles: 24-18



# Florida Match Lineup/Clinchers

## DOUBLES

## SINGLES

DATE	OPPONENT	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
1/17	Troy (63)	Hidalgo/Watson	<b>Lipman/Orkin</b>	P-Blanco/Wardell	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	<b>Kessler</b>	Lipman
1/17	Stetson	Orkin/Watson	Perez/Wardell	<b>Belga/Kessler</b>	<b>Orkin</b>	P-Blanco	Kessler	Lipman	Wardell	Belga
1/23	Texas (20)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	<b>P-Blanco/Wardell</b>	Hidalgo	<b>Orkin</b>	Perez	P-Blanco	Kessler	Belga
1/24	Texas Tech (21)	Hidalgo/Watson	<b>Lipman/Orkin</b>	P-Blanco/Wardell	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	Kessler	Lipman
1/30	USC (8)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	P-Blanco/Wardell	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	Watson	Belga
2/13	Furman	<b>Hidalgo/Watson</b>	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Orkin	<b>P-Blanco</b>	Perez	Watson	Kessler
2/21	Ohio State (6)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	P-Blanco/Wardell	Hidalgo	Orkin	P-Blanco	Perez	Watson	Kessler
2/27	Florida State (35)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	<b>Perez/P-Blanco</b>	<b>Hidalgo</b>	Orkin	P-Blanco	Perez	Watson	Kessler
3/4	LSU (32)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/Wardell	<b>Hidalgo</b>	Orkin	P-Blanco	Perez	Watson	Kessler
3/6	Texas A&M (8)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	<b>Perez/P-Blanco</b>	Hidalgo	Orkin	P-Blanco	Perez	Watson	Kessler
3/11	Auburn (64)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	<b>Perez/P-Blanco</b>	Hidalgo	<b>Orkin</b>	Perez	P-Blanco	Watson	Kessler
3/18	Arkansas (13)	<b>Hidalgo/Watson</b>	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	<b>Orkin</b>	Perez	P-Blanco	Watson	Kessler
3/20	Ole Miss (22)	Hidalgo/Watson	<b>Lipman/Orkin</b>	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	Watson	<b>Kessler</b>
3/25	Mississippi State (24)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	<b>Watson</b>	Kessler
3/27	Alabama (41)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	<b>P-Blanco</b>	Watson	Kessler
4/1	Vanderbilt (43)	Hidalgo/Watson	<b>Lipman/Orkin</b>	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	<b>Watson</b>	Kessler
4/6	Virginia (3)	<b>Hidalgo/Watson</b>	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Orkin	Perez	P-Blanco	Watson	Kessler
4/8	Georgia (7)	<b>Hidalgo/Watson</b>	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	Hidalgo	Perez	Orkin	Watson	P-Blanco	Wardell
4/10	South Carolina	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	Perez/P-Blanco	<b>Hidalgo</b>	Perez	Orkin	Watson	P-Blanco	Belga
4/15	Kentucky (20)	Hidalgo/Watson	Lipman/Orkin	<b>Perez/P-Blanco</b>	<b>Hidalgo</b>	Perez	Orkin	P-Blanco	Watson	Lipman

2015-16 Honors, Awards, Milestones

### Team

#### Individual

Diego Hidalgo

SEC Player of the Week (4/13/16)

Alfredo Perez

SEC Freshman of the Week (3/23/16)

SEC Freshman of the Week (3/2/16)

Elliott Orkin

SEC Player of the Week (3/30/16)

### ITA Team Rankings

1. Virginia\*
2. TCU
3. Ohio State\*
4. UCLA\*
5. North Carolina
6. Georgia\*
7. Wake Forest
8. Oklahoma
9. USC\*
10. Texas Tech\*
11. Texas A&M\*
12. Arkansas\*
13. Florida
14. Oklahoma State
15. Northwestern
16. California
17. Illinois
18. Texas\*
19. South Florida
20. Kentucky\*
21. Michigan
22. Florida State\*
23. Mississippi State
24. Tulsa
25. Columbia

\*2015-16 Opponents

### SEC Team Standings

Team	SEC	Overall
Georgia	11-0	17-3
<b>Florida</b>	9-2	14-6
Texas A&M	8-4	24-8
Arkansas	7-4	19-6
Mississippi State	7-5	15-7
Kentucky	6-5	17-8
Alabama	5-6	14-11
Ole Miss	5-6	14-8
Vanderbilt	5-6	14-12
LSU	5-7	14-10
South Carolina	3-8	12-14
Auburn	2-9	12-12
Tennessee	0-11	11-15

# 2015-16 National Collegiate Tennis Rankings

## Administered by the ITA

Team rankings released every week, beginning Jan. 5

Individual Singles & Doubles rankings released bi-weekly, beginning Feb. 10

Date	J5	J20	J27	F3	F17	F23	M1	M8	M15	M22	M29	A5	A12
Team	24	21	20	22	23	41	30	25	24	16	11	14	13

Date	Fall	J5	F10	F23	M8	M22	A5	A12
Belga	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hidalgo	33	31	48	50	21	24	17	<u>13</u>
Lipman	60	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kessler	--	97	--	--	--	--	--	--
Orkin	86	49	21	22	33	29	33	38
Perez	--	91	54	77	75	122	109	--
Perez-Blanco	84	62	88	30	51	71	84	109
Wardell	--	--	--	124	--	--	--	--
Watson	108	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lipman/Orkin	12	40	54	32	60	52	58	62
Hidalgo/Watson	23	3	1	1	2	1	3	<u>1</u>

**BOLDFACE** = career-high ranking; UNDERLINE = season-high ranking