

# A HISTORY OF NORTHWESTERN MEN'S TENNIS

## BUILDING ON A LEGACY

Since the program's first days in the 1920s, Northwestern University Men's Tennis has a proud tradition of success. At both the team and individual player level, over many years and several distinguished coaches, the 'Cats have established themselves in the Big Ten and on the national stage. The current coaching partnership of Head Coach Arvid Swan and Associate Head Coach Chris Klingemann has built and inspired a succession of teams that qualified for eight of the last 11 NCAA Tournaments, including six trips to the Round of 32.



The 2023 team advanced past UCLA in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to secure Northwestern's third straight trip to the Round of 32.

Throughout its history, Northwestern has qualified 18 times for the NCAA Championships. The Wildcats' best finish in program history was an NCAA ranking of No. 3 in 1963. In conference action, the Wildcats have claimed nine Big Ten Championships. In addition, the program, which prioritizes player development, academic excellence, and community service, has produced 60 student-athletes who have earned All-Big Ten distinction.

ITA Hall of Fame and NU Athletic Hall of Fame Coach Paul Torricelli, who led the team from 1984-2007, is the program's winningest coach to date, accumulating 343 match wins, nine NCAA Championship tournament appearances including two undefeated conference seasons, and a Big Ten Championship in 1990. Torricelli's teams also reached the NCAA Round of 16 in 1990 and 1997. The 1990 team was led by All-American players Todd Martin and Steve Herdoiza. Upon graduation, Martin achieved an ATP ranking of No. 4, reached the finals of the US Open and Australian Open, and was a US Davis Cup player. Torricelli also coached Alex Witt and Marc Silva to Big Ten Player of the Year honors.

Coach Vandy Christie coached the team from 1976-1983. During that time, he led the team to three consecutive second-place finishes in the Big Ten. Great players such as Paul Wei, Mike Balkin, Daniel Weiss and Jonathan Kamisar played for Christie.



The 1963 Northwestern Men's Tennis Team finished third in the NCAA - the best finish by any team in program history.

ITA Hall of Fame Coach Clare Riessen, who led the team from 1959-1975, achieved 196 career wins, a Big Ten Championship, and a third-place finish in the NCAA Championship in 1963, which remains the best finish by any Wildcat team to this day. Riessen coached his son, Marty Riessen, to three NCAA singles finals. Marty Riessen and Clark Graebner were Big Ten Singles and Doubles Champions, achieved All-American status, and eventually became US Davis Cup players. Riessen also coached Big Ten Singles Champions Denny Konicki and Don Lutz.

ITA Hall of Fame and NU Athletic Hall of Fame Coach Paul Bennett coached the team to 172 career wins and seven Big Ten Championships during his tenure from 1931-1958. Bennett coached Big Ten Singles Champions Al Kuhn, Grant Golden, Robert Jake, Ted Peterson, Roger Downs, and Seymour Greenberg. Golden and Greenberg had great success as Davis Cup players and competitors at the Grand Slams after graduation.



Head Coach Arvid Swan and Associate Head Coach Chris Klingemann have coached 14 seasons together.



Steve Herdoiza (top) and Todd Martin (bottom) both earned All-American honors during their time at Northwestern.

