



University of Southern California 2018 WOMEN'S TENNIS

USC Sports Information

3501 Watt Way • Heritage Hall 103 • Los Angeles, CA 90089

Phone: (213) 740-8480 • FAX: (213) 740-7584

Tennis Sports Information Director: Katie Ryan • email: katierya@usc.edu

Release #1 — Jan. 9, 2018

USC Women's Tennis Opens Season with Dual Against San Diego

First-year head coach Alison Swain leads the Women of Troy into a new era.

2018 USC WOMEN'S TENNIS 0-0 OVERALL, 0-0 PAC-12

TROJANS IN THE ORACLE/ITA NATIONAL RANKINGS

Team (as of Jan. 3): NR

Singles (as of Nov. 15):

Gabby Smtih - No. 35
Madison Westby - No. 85

Doubles (as of Nov. 15):

Kulikov/Valdes - No. 46

2018 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT/TIME
Jan. 14	San Diego	11 a.m. PT
Jan. 19	Loyola Marymount	1:30 p.m. PT
Jan. 20	UC Santa Barbara	10 a.m. PT
Jan. 26	ITA Kick Off at South Carolina	TBD
Jan. 29	ITA Kick Off at South Carolina	TBD
Feb. 8-11	ITA National Indoors	All Day
Feb. 16	at San Diego State	2 p.m. PT
Feb. 23	California	1:30 p.m. PT
Feb. 24	Fresno State	12 p.m. PT
Feb. 24	Long Beach State	4 p.m. PT
March 2	UCLA	1:30 p.m. PT
March 9	at California*	1:30 p.m. PT
March 10	at Stanford*	12 p.m. PT
March 16	Oregon	1:30 p.m. PT
March 17	vs. Baylor (Indian Wells)	7 p.m. PT
March 23	Washington State*	1:30 p.m. PT
March 24	Washington*	12 p.m. PT
April 3	at Pepperdine	1:30 p.m. PT
April 6	at Utah*	1:30 p.m. PT
April 8	at Colorado*	10 a.m. PT
April 13	Arizona*	1:30 p.m. PT
April 14	Arizona State*	12 p.m. PT
April 20	at UCLA*	2:30 p.m. PT
Apr. 25-28	Pac-12 Championships% (P12)	
May 12-13	NCAA Regionals@	
May 17-23	NCAA Team Champs\$	
May 24-28	NCAA Individual Champs\$	

Home matches in Bold (at Marks Stadium) * Pac-12 match
All times are local to match site
% Pac-12 Championships (Ojai, Calif.)
@ NCAA Regionals (Site TBD)
\$ NCAA Championships (Winston Salem, N.C.)
(P12) = televised on Pac-12 Networks

TWITTER @uscwomenstennis
 FACEBOOK facebook.com/USCWomensTennis
 INSTAGRAM @uscwomenstennis

THIS WEEK

The USC women's tennis team will open the spring season this Sunday (Jan. 14) as they host San Diego at 11 a.m. in Marks Stadium. The first 50 fans to arrive at Mark's Tennis Stadium on Sunday for the match will receive a free USC Tennis T-shirt.

ORACLE/ITA RANKINGS UPDATES

After competing in eight tournaments throughout the fall season, the Women of Troy have two players ranked in singles and one USC pair ranked in doubles in the final ITA fall rankings.

Senior Gabby Smith is USC's highest ranked singles player at No. 35. She finished the fall with a 12-6 record and defeated three opponents ranked in the Top 12 in singles. She reached the semifinals of the main draw at the USTA Pro Circuit event in Lubbock, Texas and competed in the quarterfinals of the ITA All-American Championships.

Fellow senior Madison Westby earned placement in the rankings as she secured the No. 85 spot. Westby concluded the fall season with a 7-5 record as she reached the semifinals of the Battle of the Bay and the Round of 16 at the ITA Southwest Regionals.

In doubles, the Trojan tandem of Angela Kulikov and Rianna Valdes broke into the rankings at the No. 46 spot. The duo went 3-0 in the fall and won all of their matches at the Roberta Alison Fall Classic.

SCOUTING SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Toreros also begin their 2018 campaign on Sunday (Jan. 14). The Toreros are not ranked in the Top 25 and do not have any nationally ranked singles or doubles players. Carolin Nonnenmacher leads San Diego with the most wins after the fall season with a 7-3 record. Close behind her is Gemma Garcia who holds a fall season record of 6-5. Nonnenmacher and Garcia together went undefeated in doubles in the fall boasting a 5-0 record.

LIVE STATS/VIDEO

This week's match can be viewed on the USC Playsight live stream at USCTrojans.

2017 FALL SEASON HONORS

2017 LUBBOCK USTA PRO CIRCUIT SEMIFINALIST

Gabby Smith (Sept. 21)

2017 ITA All-American Championships

Quarterfinalist

Gabby Smtih (Oct. 7)

2017 ITA Southwest Regional

Quarterfinalist

Angela Kulikov (Oct. 21)

UNDEFEATED AT 2017 ROBERTA ALISON FALL CLASSIC

Rianna Valdes & Alexa Corcoleotes - singles (Oct. 29)

Angela Kulikov/Rianna Valdes - doubles (Oct. 29)

com.

SWAIN TO TROY

Alison Swain, who built a women's tennis dynasty at Williams College by leading the Ephs to 8 NCAA Division III team championships, including the 2017 season, was named the women's head coach at USC, Trojan athletic director Lynn Swann announced on June 7, 2017.

"We are delighted and excited to welcome Alison Swain to the Trojan Family," said Swann. "She is a proven winner as a head coach. Winning a national championship at any level is difficult to do; winning 8 of them like Alison has done in a 10-year span is beyond impressive. We are confident that she can bring the Women of Troy to that championship level.

"She has a vision and a plan for our program. She is an educator and a developer of tennis players, of scholar-athletes and of women. She will create a supportive and healthy culture for our program that will lead to success in the classroom, in life and on the tennis court."

Said Swain: "I would first like to thank Lynn Swann, (USC associate athletic director) Scott Jacobson and the entire search committee for the incredible opportunity to join the USC family. USC has an exceptional athletics tradition, but more importantly the university truly values creating an overall amazing experience for its student-athletes in the classroom, on the court and beyond.

"I have had an incredible 10 years at Williams and am so grateful for the opportunity I was given to coach high-caliber student-athletes and be part of a close-knit and driven athletic department. It is exciting for me to enter into a similar environment at USC. I am honored to have this opportunity to work with the players to create an exciting future for USC women's tennis. I can't wait to meet the entire team and get started."

Swain, 38, posted an .889 winning percentage (224-28) in her 10 seasons (2008-17) at Williams, including 48-2

in NCAA tournament play. She led the Ephs to 8 NCAA team championships, including in each of her first 6 seasons (an NCAA Division III record and tying Stanford for most consecutive at any level) as well as in 2015 (going 25-0) and the just-concluded 2017 campaign. In her other 2 seasons, Williams was the NCAA runnerup in 2016 and was third in 2014. She also helped Williams win 5 conference championships.

She was named the 2013 ITA National Division III Coach of the Year, was a 5-time conference Coach of the Year and twice (2010-13) was the ITA Northeast Coach of the Year. She produced 2 NCAA champion doubles teams (Juli Raventos and Linda Shin in 2015 and 2016) and a trio of NCAA singles runners-up, along with 18 All-Americans, 2 ITA National Senior Players of the Year and an ITA National Most Improved Senior of the Year.

She also was an assistant professor of physical education at Williams.

"What an inspired choice!" said Timothy Russell, chief executive officer of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. "USC has made a triple crown appointment. With Alison Swain, the Trojans have a great coach with a championship pedigree, a fabulous teacher with a proven commitment to the highest levels of academic achievement and a splendid mentor of extraordinary character. Alison is a proven leader in the world of college tennis, including as a magnificent member of the new ITA Board. She is poised for an incredibly successful future."

Swain was the second person in any division to win an NCAA tennis team championship as a player and a coach. She co-captained Williams' 2001 NCAA championship squad (the first in school history). She won All-New England Small College Athletic Conference honors and was named a Scholar-Athlete All-American.

After graduating from Williams in 2001 with a degree in American studies, she taught eighth grade and coached the

girls' tennis team at Woodward Academy in College Park, Ga., for 3 years (2002-04), winning the region each year and getting to the state finals in 2004. She received a master's degree in education from Washington in 2006 and then taught upper schoolers at Telluride (Colo.) Mountain School for a year (2006-07) before returning to her alma mater to take the Williams head job in the summer of 2007.

Swain is a native of Bainbridge, Wash. She is a member of the board of directors of the ITA through June of 2018. She and her mother, Sue Swain, were the nation's top-ranked mother/daughter doubles team in 2003, winning both the National Mother/Daughter Indoor and Grass Court doubles tournaments. She has been an instructor in indoor cycling and downhill skiing, as well as a white water rafting guide.

Swain brings along from Williams College assistant coach Chris Wootton and volunteer assistant coach Kristina Hovsepyan.

OPPONENTS

The Women of Troy will enjoy a three-match homestand at Marks Stadium as they take on San Diego (Jan. 14), Loyola Marymount (Jan. 19) and UC Santa Barbara (Jan. 20) to open the season. USC then will hit the road as they travel to Columbia, S.C. for ITA Kick Off Weekend.

February brings ITA National Team Indoors (Feb. 8-11), a trip to San Diego State (Feb. 16), taking on California in a non-conference match-up (Feb. 23) and a double header at Marks Stadium against Fresno State and Long Beach State (Feb. 24).

March 3 opens conference play against UCLA at home, with two non-conference games sprinkled in: a trip to Indian Wells, Calif. to face off with Baylor and a short drive to Malibu, Calif. to play Pepperdine.

RETURNERS

The Women of Troy will be led in their 2018 campaign by senior captains Gabby Smith and Madison Westby.

In 2017, Smith finished her junior season ranked No. 29 in the nation in singles and No. 54 in the nation in doubles with her partner, former Trojan Zoë Katz. She reached the Second Round of the NCAA Singles Draw and was named to the All-Pac-12 First Team. She was a three-time Pac-12 Player of the Week selection, which made her the most decorated Pac-12 women's tennis player in regards to this award in 2017.

Westby's junior campaign concluded going 24-13 in singles and 14-9 in doubles. She had two team clinching wins in 2017, and won the Jack Kramer Doubles Championship with partner, former Trojan Zoë Katz.

Rianna Valdes, the only junior, returns to the Trojan squad, as well as sophomores Angela Kulikov and Sydney Van Alphen.

NEWCOMERS

The 2017-18 season brought in three new young women to Troy. Constance Branstine arrives at USC after competing her freshman year at UC Irvine, while Rebecca Weissmann transfers to Troy as a sophomore from LSU. In addition, Alexa Corcoleotes joins the team as a freshman from Hillsborough, Calif.

Constance Branstine formerly competed for the UCI Anteaters during her freshman season where she played at the No. 1 position for both singles and doubles. She was selected to the 2017 All-Big West First Team in singles and was an honorable mention in doubles.

Before competing at UCI, Branstine was a member of the 2015 Southern California section team that won the USTA National 18's National Team championship. While at Villa Park High School, Branstine was named the 2016 OC Register Girls' Tennis Player of the Year in addition to earning All-Orange County First Team honors. She helped to lead the Spartans to back-to-back Crestview League team titles. As a senior, Branstine had a 45-2 record and was a five-star blue chip recruit according to TennisRecruiting.net. She held a Top-30 national ranking and was ranked sixth overall in the Southern

California 18's division.

"Constance brings strong experience playing No. 1 singles at her former institution, and I believe that competitive experience will be valuable to our team," said Swain.

Rebecca Weissmann competed her freshman season as a member of LSU's 2016 No. 1 recruiting class in the nation. She played primarily in the No. 5 singles position and No. 2 in doubles.

Weissmann was a five-star blue chip recruit according to TennisRecruiting.net. She was ranked as the No. 1 player in the state of Colorado and as high as 12th in the nation. She won the Colorado 5A state singles title in 2013 as a freshman and was the U18 Girls Championship winner at the 2013 Florida Open. In addition to her many accolades, Weissmann won the 2014 Eddie Herr International 16's doubles tournament and won a Gold Ball at the Alabama Team National Championships. Weissmann also received the Sportsmanship Award at the 2013 Winter Nationals.

Said Swain, "I'm thrilled to welcome Becca to the Trojan family. During the recruiting process, I was impressed with Becca's positive attitude, work ethic, and insight into her priorities for her college and tennis career. Becca will bring a lot of energy and a great attitude to USC tennis."

Alexa Corcoleotes will join USC women's tennis as a true freshman. In September 2016, she was ranked the No. 39 player nationally in the Class of 2017. The International Junior Tennis Federation also ranked her the No. 365 player in the world in February of 2015. Corcoleotes won the Gold Ball in doubles at the 2016 Women's Grass Court Nationals and the Silver Ball in doubles at the 2016 Women's Hard Court Nationals. She also placed second in singles and first in doubles at the 2014 Girls' 14's USTA Regional Championships. In addition, Corcoleotes competed in and reached the semifinals of both singles and doubles tournaments in multiple international events from 2013-15, tak-

ing place in Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States.

"I'm excited to welcome Alexa to USC women's tennis," said Swain. "Alexa is motivated, has a strong work ethic, and is a team player. Her enthusiasm for all that USC has to offer both on and off the court is contagious, and I look forward to the energy she will bring to our program."

LAST SEASON

The USC women's tennis team had its NCAA path come to a close in Lubbock, Texas as the No. 25 Trojans fell to No. 44 Denver 4-2 in the NCAA First Round. The Loss wrapped up the Trojans' 2017 season with a 13-11 overall record, having reached the NCAA Tournament for the 26th consecutive year. The USC women have recorded a 72-34 all-time record in the NCAA Tournament and their appearances include three NCAA Semifinal trips in the last 12 seasons.

In March of 2017, former head coach Richard Gallien, a six-time Pac-12 Coach of the Year, announced that he was ending his 22-year tenure at the conclusion of the 2017 season.

During his USC career, each of Gallien's teams advanced to the NCAA tourney, with three appearing the in the semifinals and five other making it to the quarterfinals. Under his watch, USC also won four Pac-12 titles and four of his players were named conference Player of the Year.

ACADEMICS

The USC women's tennis team had a 100% graduation rate, which was an all-time high GSR rate for the program. The team also has a cumulative GPA of 3.49.

In 2017, three returning women's tennis players earned Pac-12 All-Academic honors. Juniors Gabby Smith and Madison Westby and sophomore Rianna Valdes were each selected to the All-Academic Second Team. This was the second Pac-12 All-Academic honor for both Smith and Westby.

In addition, Angela Kulikov and Madison

Westby were each honored by the ITA as Scholar-Athletes because of their stellar performance in the classroom. An ITA Scholar-Athlete must be a varsity letter winner, have at least a 3.50 GPA and have been enrolled at their present school for at least two semesters.

As a whole, the USC women's tennis team was recognized as a 2017 ITA All-Academic Team. This honor is presented to a team that has a cumulative team GPA of 3.20 or above (on a 4.00 scale).

In addition, the Women of Troy were honored by the NCAA as recipients of a Public Recognition Award in 2017 for their outstanding performance in the classroom. Public Recognition Awards are based upon teams' commitment to academic progress and retention of student-athletes by achieving multiyear Academic Progress Rates (APR) within the top 10 percent in their respective sports.

A team's APR accounts for eligibility, retention and graduation to generate a measure of academic performance. Each semester, the APR creates a snapshot of a team's academic success as it tracks the progress of each student-athlete on scholarship.

2018 SIGNEE

Lakewood, Calif. product Salma Ewing has signed a national letter of intent with the USC women's tennis team, head coach Alison Swain announced on Nov. 9, 2017.

"Salma brings a wealth of high-level playing experience in both USTA and ITF junior circuits to our program," said Swain. "Her work ethic, high standards for herself, and future goals are in line with our vision for the future of USC women's tennis. I am thrilled to have a person of such high character as well as tennis ability contributing to our team's success in the years ahead."

Ewing will arrive at Troy with a plethora of advanced experience. According to TennisRecruiting.net, she was ranked the No. 3 national recruit in her graduating class during the summer of 2017, and as

high as No. 2 in the state of California.

While competing in the 16-Under age group, Ewing earned a national USTA ranking of No. 48. In 2016, she decided to focus on competing internationally and quickly rose to a notable ITF ranking as the No. 120 junior player in the world.

Two of Ewing's most distinguished accomplishments were qualifying for both Junior Wimbledon and the Junior US Open this past summer. In addition, she has notable finishes including advancing to the finals of a Grade 1 ITF tournament, the highest level of junior tournaments other than Open tournaments, and winning a Grade 4 tournament.

Ewing will arrive in the fall of 2018 ready to contribute to the Women of Troy.

2018 WOMEN'S TENNIS ROSTER

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

NAME	HT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE
Constance Branstine	5-9	So.	TR	Orange, Calif.	Villa Park HS / UC Irvine
Alexa Corcoleotes	5-10	Fr.	HS	Mountain View, Calif.	K12 Academy
Angela Kulikov	5-7	So.	1V	Sun Valley, Calif.	Connections Academy
Gabby Smith	5-5	Sr.	3V	Henderson, Nev.	Coronado HS
Rianna Valdes	5-7	Jr.	2V	Boca Raton, Fla.	Allendale Academy
Sydney Van Alphen	5-6	So.	1V	Newport Beach, Calif.	Connections Academy
Becca Weissmann	5-7	So.	TR	Loveland, Colo.	Connections Academy / LSU
Madison Westby	6-1	Sr.	3V	Tulsa, Okla.	Bishop Kelley HS

Constance Branstine
bran-STINE

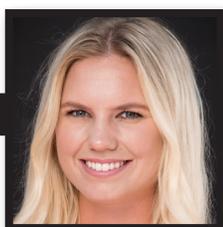
Alexa CORCOLEOTES
cor-co-lee-0-tis

Angela KULIKOV
KOO-lee-kov

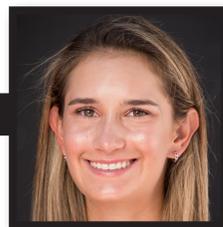
Becca Weissmann
WISE-man

Kristina Hovsepyan
hov-see-PEE-ee-an

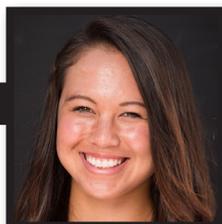
HEAD COACH: Alison Swain (1st season)
ASSISTANT COACH: Christopher Wootton (1st season)
VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT: Kristina Hovsepyan (1st season)



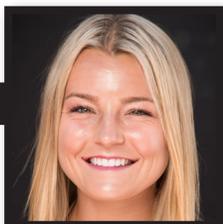
CONSTANCE
BRANSTINE



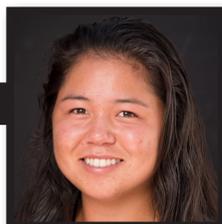
ALEXA
CORCOLEOTES



ANGELA
KULIKOV



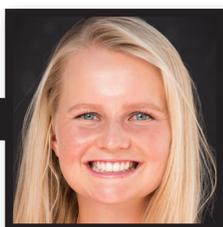
GABBY
SMITH



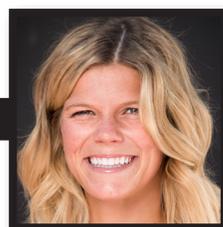
RIANNA
VALDES



SYDNEY
VAN ALPHEN



BECCA
WEISSMANN



MADISON
WESTBY



HEAD COACH
ALISON SWAIN



ASSISTANT COACH
CHRISTOPHER WOOTTON



VOL. ASST. COACH
KRISTINA HOVSEPYAN