



University of Southern California 2019 WOMEN'S TENNIS

USC Sports Information

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March 12, 2019

USC Women's Tennis To Compete at BNP Paribas Open Collegiate Tennis Challenge

The Women of Troy travel to Indian Wells, Calif. to take on Baylor at the site of the professional tournament.

2019 USC WOMEN'S TENNIS

10-2 OVERALL, 2-0 PAC-12

TROJANS IN THE ORACLE/ITA NATIONAL RANKINGS

Team (as of March 12): #17

Singles (as of March 6):

Salma Ewing - #45

Angela Kulikov - #84

Danielle Willson - #118

Ana Nefa - #120

Doubles (as of March 6):

Angela Kulikov/Rianna Valdes - #13

2019 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT/TIME
Jan. 20	vs. Australian National Team	---
Jan. 21	vs. South Carolina (AU)	W, 4-1
Jan. 30	Loyola Marymount	W, 4-2
Jan. 30	San Diego	W, 4-2
Feb. 9	vs. SMU (College Station)	L, 4-3
Feb. 10	at Texas A&M	CANCELLED
Feb. 16	at UC Santa Barbara	W, 5-2
Feb. 24	at California	L, 5-2
Feb. 26	San Diego State	W, 5-2
March 1	at UCLA	W, 4-1
March 3	Saint Mary's	W, 4-0
March 3	Hawai'i	W, 4-1
March 8	at Arizona*	W, 6-1
March 9	at Arizona State*	W, 4-3
March 16	vs. Baylor (Indian Wells)	7pm PT
March 23	at Oregon	12pm PT
March 29	California*	1:30pm PT
March 30	Stanford*	12pm PT
April 2	Cal State Fullerton	1pm PT
April 5	Colorado*	12:30pm PT
April 6	Utah*	12pm PT
April 9	Pepperdine	2pm PT
April 12	at Washington*	1:30pm PT
April 14	at Washington State*	11am PT
April 20	UCLA*	12pm PT
Apr. 24-27	Pac-12 Championships% (P12)	
May 12-13	NCAA Regionals@	
May 17-23	NCAA Team Champs\$	
May 23-28	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 (Orlando, Fla.)

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THIS WEEK

The No. 17 ranked USC women's tennis team travels to Indian Wells, Calif. to participate in the BNP Paribas Open Collegiate Tennis Challenge. They will challenge Baylor on Saturday (March 16) at 7 p.m. PT at the site of the BNP Paribas Open.

ORACLE/ITA RANKINGS UPDATES

In the most recent ITA team rankings (March 12), the Women of Troy moved down three spots to No. 17.

The ITA also released new singles and doubles rankings on March 6 and four Trojans now hold national ranks.

Freshman Salma Ewing fell to No. 45 after previously holding the No. 34 position. Three Trojans earned national ranks this week. Junior Angela Kulikov earned the No. 84 rank and broke into the national singles rankings for the first time in her career. Freshman Danielle Willson and sophomore Ana Nefa both reentered the national rankings holding the No. 118 and No. 120 ranks, respectfully.

In doubles, Angela Kulikov/Rianna Valdes jumped to the No. 13 rank after recording a major upset over UCLA No. 8 ranked pair of Andrews/Broomfield last week.

GOING STREAKING

Freshman Danielle Willson continues to ride a strong winning streak as she improved to eleven straight victories. She also remains undefeated in dual matches (10-0). Willson is one of four players in the Top 20 ranked teams to remain undefeated in dual matches with 10 wins or more. Sophomore Ana Nefa and junior Angela Kulikov each hold five-match winning streaks.

SCOUTING BAYLOR

The Baylor Bears hold a 5-12 overall record and are 0-1 in Big 12 Conference play. Before they take on the Trojans, the Bears will face No. 12 NC State on Friday (March 15) evening. Baylor has two nationally ranked singles players: No. 59 Livia Kraus and No. 121T Jessica Hinojosa.

2018 FALL SEASON HONORS

2018 ITA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CHAMPION

Salma Ewing (Oct. 22)

2018 Battle of the Bay Singles Champion

Danielle Willson (Sept. 23)

2018 Battle of the Bay Doubles Champions

Constance Branstine/Ana Nefa (Sept. 23)

2018 ITA All-American Championships

Doubles Quarterfinalists

Angela Kulikov/Rianna Valdes (Oct. 5)

2018 ITA National Fall Championships

Invitees

Salma Ewing - Singles

Angela Kulikov/Rianna Valdes - Doubles

LIVE STATS

Links to live stats will be available at USCTrojans.com. For additional live, in-match updates, follow along on our Instagram and Twitter accounts @USC-WomensTennis.

FALL SEASON

The 2018 fall tournament season proved to be a strong preview of what the team has to offer. Freshman Salma Ewing defeated four nationally ranked opponents and won the 2018 ITA Southwest Regionals Championship title. In addition, freshman Danielle Willson won the 2018 Battle of the Bay singles championship title, and the duo of Constance Branstine/Ana Neffa took home the doubles championship. USC's top doubles pair of junior Angela Kulikov and senior Rianna Valdes defeated five nationally ranked teams and reached the quarterfinals of the 2018 ITA All-American Championships. In addition, Ewing (singles) and Kulikov/Valdes (doubles) were invited to compete at the 2018 ITA National Fall Championships.

LAST WEEK

The USC women's tennis team successfully won both matches of their doubleheader on Wednesday (Jan. 30) to improve their season record to 3-0. The Women of Troy collected a 4-2 win over Loyola Marymount in the first match, and then claimed another 4-2 victory over San Diego in the second.

"I'm so excited that we are 3-0 after our home opener today," said head coach Alison Swain. "Doubleheaders are always really physically and mentally challenging, and I thought that we carried some confidence from our match against South Carolina into today. We really competed hard throughout both matches to collect the wins."

In the first match against LMU, the Lions had the first word of the day as Anderson/Gabrielsen defeated USC's Ewing/Neffa 6-3 on Court 2. The Women of Troy responded with a win of their own from Court 3 as Trojan tandem Jaeger/Willson as they collected a victory over the Lion pair of Juravliova/Tumosa 6-3. Court 1 was locked neck in neck, but

Loyola Marymount proved triumphant as Miroshnichenko/Voracek beat Trojans Branstine/Weissmann 7-6 (2) to claim the doubles point. The Women of Troy entered singles at a 0-1 deficit.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, junior co-captain Angela Kulikov drummed up the first singles win of the day by taking down LMU's Eva Marie Voracek 6-3, 6-0 from Court 2. Soon thereafter, junior Sydney Van Alphen charged to the finish of her own match to put another point on the board for the Women of Troy. Van Alphen defeated Lion Lillian Gabrielsen 6-3, 6-2 on Court 5.

Loyola Marymount hadn't given up their fight and Siobhan Anderson proved that by notching another point for the Lions by beating USC's junior co-captain Becca Weissmann 6-2, 6-3 on Court 3. At this point USC and LMU were tied at 2-2 overall.

After losing her first set 1-6 to Lion opponent Elvira Juravliova on Court 4, sophomore Trojan Ana Neffa surged ahead to claim sets two and three for USC with winning scores of 6-3 and 6-2. The No. 87 ranked Neffa pushed USC ahead to 3-2 in the match.

Junior co-captain Constance Branstine clinched the match for the Women of Troy with her 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 victory over LMU's Camila Tumosa on Court 6.

After an hour break, it was time for USC to take on San Diego. The lineups altered a bit, and the new doubles pairs were ready to hit the court. The duo of Kulikov/Willson ran away with a 6-0 win over San Diego's Anderson/Morales on Court 1. The action turned to Court 3 where USC's Ewing/Jaeger beat San Diego's Garcia/Kukaras 6-3 to nab the doubles point. USC led 1-0 entering singles.

Singles began with the Trojans leading through the majority of the first sets. On Court 1, Kulikov was forced to retire after cramping, conceding the point to the Toreros. Minutes later, San Diego's Nicole Anderson was also forced to

retire on Court 2, giving the win to USC's Weissmann.

With the Trojans now leading 2-1 in the match, No. 99 ranked freshman Danielle Willson increased USC's lead from Court 4 with a victory over Kati Kukaras 7-5, 6-1. The Toreros responded with a win of their own as Daniela Morales beat USC's Neffa 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 on Court 3.

USC's Van Alphen closed out the day of play by clinching the match for the Women of Troy as she was victorious over San Diego's Gemma Garcia 7-6 (5), 6-2.

TROJANS DOWN UNDER

Kicking off the 2019 season was a trip overseas to Australia to compete in exhibition and regular-season matches during the 2019 Australian Open. These scheduled matches were the inaugural contests to take place on location during one of the four professional Grand Slam events.

Both the USC men's and women's teams made the international trip to participate in the collegiate matches.

Before the competition, both programs were able to explore the cities of Cairns and Melbourne and visiting interesting places like the Great Barrier Reef and a crocodile and wildlife park. At the wildlife park, the teams were able to watch crocodiles being fed, play with kangaroos and hold koala bears. In addition, they were able to watch some of the greatest tennis in the world at the Australian Open.

Junior co-captain Angela Kulikov blogged about her experience abroad for the USC Athletics website.

RETURNERS**Valdes**

USC has six Trojans returning for the 2019 campaign. Rianna Valdes is the lone senior on the Trojan squad who Rianna Valdes concluded her junior season ranked No. 105 in the nation in singles and No. 58 in the nation in doubles with her partner, Angela Kulikov.

She earned recognition as an All-Pac-12 Honorable Mention. She went 14-7 in singles and 11-9 in doubles with partner Kulikov in 2018.

Branstine

Constance Branstine, who transferred from UCI last year, finished the 2018 season 12-12 in singles and 8-6 in dual matches. She leads the 2019 squad as a team captain.

Kulikov

Angela Kulikov finished her 2018 sophomore campaign ranked 58 in the nation in doubles with her partner, Valdes. She went 6-12 in singles and 8-7 in dual matches. She leads the 2019 squad as a team captain.

Kulikov has made a name for herself in the world of football. She created an Instagram handle to house her alter-ego, the QB Chick. She posts videos of herself throwing, playing flag football and doing trick shots. The account has over 3,500 followers and some of her videos have reached over 20,000 views. She has been featured on Spectrum News LA and CBS LA, as well as in a feature story in the LA Times.

Van Alphen

Sydney Van Alphen went 5-8 in singles and 0-4 in dual matches to conclude her 2018 sophomore season.

Weissmann

Becca Weissmann, who transferred from LSU, finished the 2018 season going 18-8 in singles and 9-6 in dual matches. She leads the 2019 squad as a team captain.

Corcoleotes

Alexa Corcoleotes returns as a sophomore for the Women of Troy. She concluded her 2018 freshman campaign 8-9 in singles and 2-5 in dual matches.

NEWCOMERS

The Women of Troy welcome four newcomers to the squad: three freshmen and one transfer.

Ewing

Freshman Salma Ewing from Lakewood,

Calif. was named the No. 1 recruit in the 2018 tennis recruiting class by Tennis Recruiting Network and was ranked the No. 5 Freshman/Newcomer in the nation to begin the 2018 fall season.

While in juniors, she finished fourth place at the 2018 Hard Court Nationals and competed in multiple Jr. Grand Slams: the 2018 US Open, and 2017 Wimbledon.

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.

She was also the 2017 WTA Stellenbosch, South Africa \$15k Champion and was a 2016 ITF Costa Rica Grade 1 finalist.

Ewing won this tournament in her mother Reyana’s home country of South Africa – on a set of courts Reyana was prohibited from playing on as a little girl during apartheid.

“Knowing that my mom wasn’t allowed to play on those courts in Stellenbosch and that I could go there and not only play those tournaments, but win them, meant so much to me. It was so bitter-sweet,” Salma said.

Read her full story here: <https://www.uscbhm.com/fearless>

Jaeger

Freshman Estella Jaeger hails from Delbrück, Germany where she prepped at ISP International School. Jaeger is well-versed in international competition since she began competing worldwide in 2015. She holds an ITF Junior Singles title in Switzerland, as well as two ITF Junior Doubles titles in Doha, Qatar and Oslo, Norway. She has been competing in professional tennis events since 2017.

In addition to her ITF titles, Jaeger has advanced to the singles semifinals in multiple ITF events, achieving a high junior ITF ranking of 326. In November 2017, she competed in her first pro-cir-

cuit event where she advanced through three qualifying rounds to reach the main draw of a \$15,000 event.

At the age of 15, Jaeger was the No. 1 ranked junior player in Germany. When she was 14, she was voted “Female Athlete of the Year” in Delbrück, Germany, when she helped her state win the 2014 German Team Championship title playing in the #1 position and going undefeated through the tournament. Jaeger also won the 2014 German Junior Doubles Championship, has twice been runner-up (2014, 2016) and twice finished in third place in the German Junior Singles Championships (2014, 2016).

Neffa

Transfer sophomore Ana Neffa joins the Trojans after leaving St. Thomas University (Miami) where she did not play tennis.

Neffa, who is originally from Key Biscayne, Fla., had an ITF Junior ranking of #111 and a WTA ranking of #483 in the world, and she earned multiple notable ITF tournament wins including over the #69 and #198 ranked players in the world.

Her mother, Rosasana De Los Rios, was a professional tennis player from Paraguay and was the only female tennis representative for Paraguay in the 1992 and 2000 Olympics. Her father, Gustavo Neffa, was a professional soccer player who played for multiple Paraguayan and Italian teams.

Willson

Wrapping up the newcomers is Danielle Willson, a freshman from Corona del Mar, Calif. Willson helped to lead Corona del Mar High school to become the 2017 CIF Champions and Pacific Coast League Champions. She was crowned the 2017 CIF Singles champion and was named a 2017 and 2018 High School All-American. She was the 2018 Southern California Tennis MVP as well as the 2018 Pacific Coast League MVP. In addition, she was selected to the All-Pacific Coast League First Team all four years in high school.

After Willson went on a 11-match winning streak and was only one of four players in the Top 20 ranked teams to remain undefeated in dual matches with 10 wins or more (as of March 12), head coach Alison Swain rewarded her with a scholarship.

ACADEMICS

The USC women's tennis team recorded a stellar cumulative GPA of 3.375. As a whole, the team was recognized as a 2018 ITA All-Academic Team. This honor is presented to a team that has a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or above (on a 4.00 scale).

Angela Kulikov and Rianna Valdes were each honored by the ITA as Scholar-Athletes for their outstanding 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.

In addition, Kulikov was selected to the Pac-12 All-Academic First Team, and Valdes earned placement on the Pac-12 All-Academic Second Team.

SWAIN

Alison Swain enters her second season as the USC women's tennis head coach. She went 13-10 (.565) in her first season at Troy.

Swain built a women's tennis dynasty at Williams College by leading the Ephs to 8 NCAA Division III team championships, including in 2017.

Swain 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 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 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.

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.

WOOTTON

Chris Wootton enters his second year as the USC women's tennis assistant coach. Before coaching at Troy, he coached for one year at Williams College with Swain.

Before his year with the Ephs, Wootton was the men's graduate assistant for the University of Texas at Tyler, where he coached the Patriots to an 18-10 overall record and their eighth American Southwest Conference title. That season, UTT reached the Round of 16 at the NCAA Division III National Championships.

Before becoming a coach, Wootton competed for the men's tennis team at Mississippi College (2011-13) and the University of Texas at Tyler (2013-15) where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. While competing at UTT, Wootton was named an All-American in doubles in 2015. He is the oldest All-American in NCAA history in any sport across all divisions as he earned All-American status at age 39.

Wootton taught tennis throughout the South between the years of 1995 and 2011, when he coached over 50 NCAA college tennis players and seven ATP/WTA touring pros. In 2009, he was named the Director of Tennis at a 14-court public tennis facility in Jackson, Miss.

He played professionally for six years collecting both singles and doubles wins over top 100 ATP players.

As a youth player, Wootton was ranked in the Top 25 in both singles and doubles in the Boys 18's in the USTA in 1994. He earned the Reebok U.S. National Tennis Player of the Year Award in 1991 at the age of 15.

MANASSE

Rachel Manasse, who spent the last year as the head men's and women's tennis coach at Occidental College in Los Angeles, begins her first season as the USC women's tennis volunteer assistant coach.

During her tenure with the Tigers, both of her teams were regionally ranked in the West for Division III. The men's team closed out the year with the No. 16 rank after Manasse brought in the No. 20 Division III men's recruiting class in the country, while the women finished the season with the No. 18 rank. In addition, both programs were named ITA All-Academic teams.

Before coaching at Occidental, Manasse was an assistant coach for the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps women's tennis team for three years. While coaching the Athenas, her team went 75-9 overall

and 31-1 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) play. In addition to winning three SCIAC Championships, the Athenas competed in the NCAA Division III tournament each year, including a third place finish in 2015.

Manasse also brings a wealth of strength and conditioning knowledge as she is a certified strength and conditioning specialist by the National Strength and Condition Association and worked as a strength and conditioning coach during her time at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Before coaching at the collegiate level, Manasse was the Director of Operations at RAMP Tennis Academy in Carson, Calif. and was also a tennis instructor at RAMP Tennis Academy and the Manhattan Country Club in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Manasse graduated from California State University Long Beach in 2012 with a degree in nutrition and dietetics and a minor in chemistry. She was a member of the 49ers women's tennis team and was nationally ranked in both singles and doubles. After her collegiate career, Manasse played professionally where she earned one WTA point in doubles.

TENNIS TALENT

The USC women's tennis program has a strong legacy claiming seven team national championships, five singles national champions and two doubles championship pairs. It has produced 94 All-Americans, one Honda Award winner and other various ITA National Awards. USC also has seven former Trojans currently competing professionally: Kaitlyn Christian, Maria Sanchez, Danielle Lao, Sabrina Santamaria, Madison Westby, Zoë Scandalis and Giuliana Olmos.

2019 WOMEN'S TENNIS ROSTER

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

NAME	HT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE
Constance Branstine	5-9	Jr.	1V	Orange, Calif.	Villa Park HS / UC Irvine
Alexa Corcoleotes	5-10	So.	1V	Mountain View, Calif.	K12 Academy
Salma Ewing	5-9	Fr.	HS	Lakewood, Calif.	Laurel Springs
Estella Jaeger	5-7	Fr.	HS	Delbrück, Germany	ISP International
Angela Kulikov	5-7	Jr.	2V	Sun Valley, Calif.	Connections Academy
Ana Neffa	5-7	So.	TR	Key Biscayne, Fla.	Homeschool / St. Thomas University
Rianna Valdes	5-7	Sr.	3V	Boca Raton, Fla.	Allendale Academy
Sydney Van Alphen	5-6	Jr.	2V	Newport Beach, Calif.	Connections Academy
Becca Weissmann	5-7	Jr.	1V	Loveland, Colo.	Connections Academy / LSU
Danielle Willson	5-11	Fr.	HS	Newport Beach, Calif.	Corona del Mar HS

Constance **BRANSTINE**
bran-STINE

Alexa **CORCOLEOTES**
cor-co-lee-0-tis

Estella **JAEGER**
YAY-ger

Salma **EWING**
YOU-ing

Angela **KULIKOV**
KOO-lee-kov

HEAD COACH: Alison Swain (2nd season)

ASSISTANT COACH: Christopher Wootton (2nd season)

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT: Rachel Manasse (1st season)



CONSTANCE
BRANSTINE



ALEXA
CORCOLEOTES



SALMA
EWING



ESTELLA
JAEGER



ANGELA
KULIKOV



ANA
NEFFA



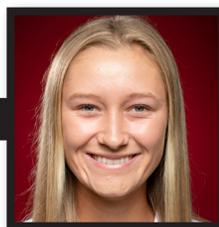
RIANNA
VALDES



SYDNEY
VAN ALPHEN



BECCA
WEISSMANN



DANIELLE
WILLSON



HEAD COACH
ALISON SWAIN



ASSISTANT COACH
CHRISTOPHER WOOTTON



VOL. ASST. COACH
RACHEL MANASSE

