

Grizzlies Dominate at Home

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The Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) men's tennis team delivered decisive victories in the 2023 Grizzly Invitational. As play commenced on the 17th until the 19th of February, the Grizzlies went undefeated against the top 15 opponents. Coach Hannah Keeling commented on the invitational play. "Each year it's important to see them perform under pressure with multiple matches throughout the weekend, which provides valuable experience for them."

Feb. 17 vs. No. 8 Lindsey Wilson College (Kentucky) was a 4-0 victory. On Friday, the Grizzlies faced No. 8 Lindsey Wilson College (Kentucky) to open the invitation, snatching a 4-0 victory. Extreme winds and icy temperatures made play tough. A quick doubles point was secured by victories from the new combinations of Alex Gurmendi and Dhakshineswar Suresh (6-0) and reigning ITA national championship pair, Jose Dugo and Leonardo Sprovieri (6-2). Singles' play proved to follow a similar

fashion with three straight-set victories. Charly Zick took the #6 match 6-0, 6-2. Suresh took his opponent with a 6-1, 6-2 win at #2. Sprovieri finished the day off by clinching the match with a 6-2, 6-3 victory.

Feb. 18 vs. No. 5 Xavier University (Louisiana) was a 5-0 victory. Gurmendi and Suresh dominated on the #1 doubles court with a 6-3 victory. Another new doubles team of Aleksa Ciric and Santiago Villarruel took the #3 doubles with a 6-2 win. GGC went through singles play earning four straight set victories. Gurmendi won at the #1 position 6-1, 6-0. Suresh followed with a 6-0, 6-3 win. Villarruel steamrolled to a 6,0 6,0 victory at #5 along with Sprovieri. Villarruel taking the 6-0, 6-2 win at #4.

Feb. 19 vs. Cumberland University (Tennessee) was a 4-0 victory. GGC double sets victories from sets #1 and #3 with Gurmendi and Suresh taking a 6-3 victory and Ciric and Villarruel taking it 6-1. Once again, singles play was executed with all three singles not losing more than three 3 games in their respective victories: Villarruel at #4 won 6-1, 6-0, and Suresh had a 6-1, 6-1 win. The final victory was clinched with Zick taking the #5 singles 6-1, 6-2.

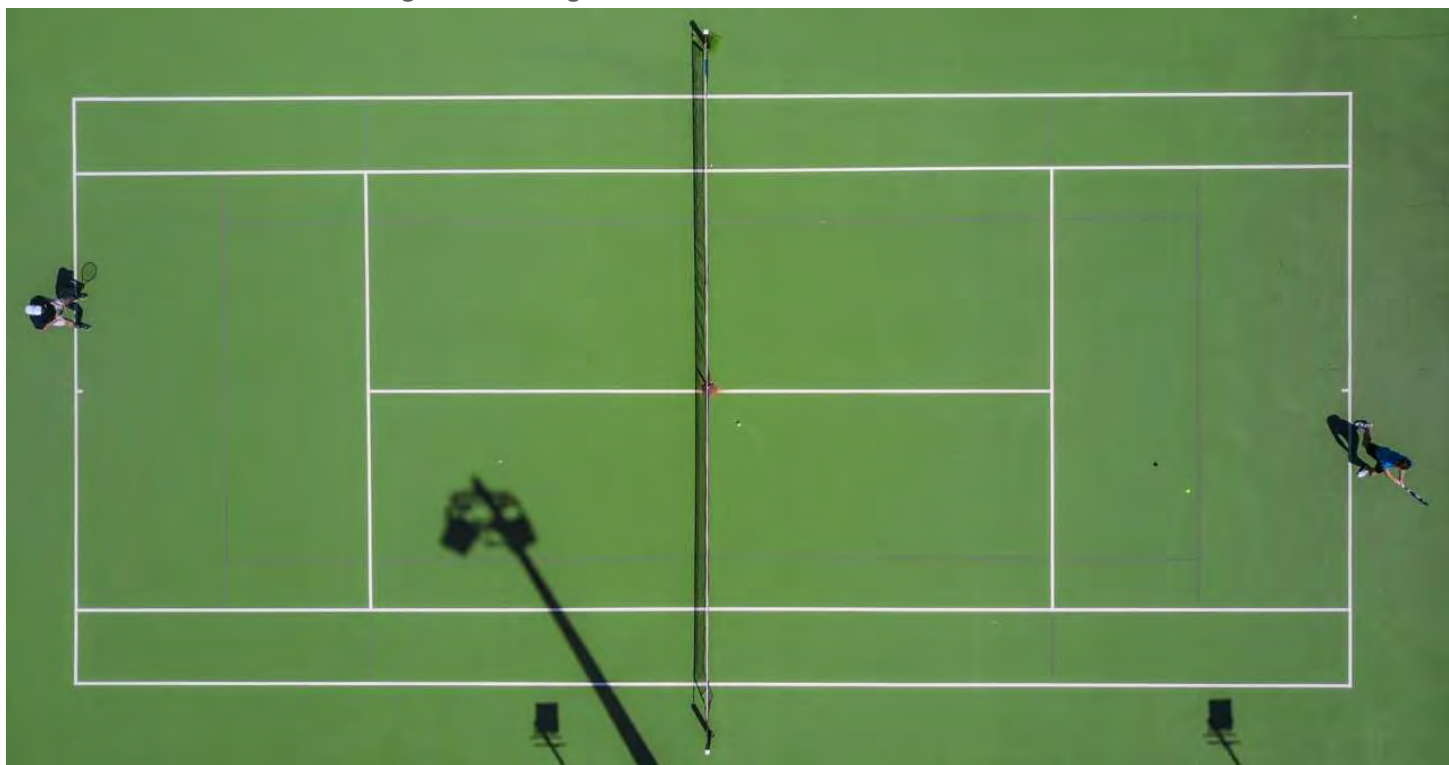


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The following set of home matches from March 4th to the 7th were also jam packed with quality tennis. The Grizzlies secured four victories across four days of competition at home. GGC is now (12-1) on the season.

Mar. 4 vs. William Carey University (Mississippi) was a 4-0 win. GGC had to fight to pull through the doubles point after the #3 court lost 6-1. Gurmendi and Suresh had a 6-2 victory. Dugo and Sprovieri followed up with a 6-3 win to take the doubles point. Singles was a straightforward affair. Gurmendi won 6-0, 6-1 at #1. Suresh won at #2 going 6-0, 7-5. Villarruel clinched the victory at #4 with a 6-1, 6-3 win.

Vs. Our Lady of the Lake University (Texas) was a 4-0 win. In doubles, the #1 team of Gurmendi and Suresh once again paved the way with a 6-1 victory. Federico Bonacia and Villarruel took the #3 match with a 6-2 win to give GGC the doubles point. Villarruel started off the singles with an impressive second singles victory at #4, 6-1, 6-0. Suresh to the #2 match 6-3, 6-2 convincingly. Zick finished the day off with a 6-3, 6-1 win at #5.

Mar. 5 vs. No. 9 Southeastern University (Florida) was a 4-0 win. The doubles point was secured by Gurmendi and Suresh, the #1 with a 6-2 victory. Another new pairing of Julius Kaufmann and Villarruel battled for a 6-3 at the #2 position. In Singles, Gurmendi battled to a 7-6, 6-4 victory at the #1 position. At #2, Suresh took control with a 6-4, 6-0 win. Bonacia finished the match off with a convincing win at #6, 6-2, 6-3.

Mar. 7 vs. No. 10 William Woods University (Missouri) was a 6-1 win. In doubles, Gurmendi and Suresh took the #1 match 6-3. Bonacia and Dugo also faced pressure and took the win 6-3. The Grizzlies won five of the six singles matches. Suresh had a 6-2, 6-0 victory at #2, followed by Gurmendi winning 6-3, 6-3 at #1. Mihailo Radosavljevic secured with a 6-2, 6-2 victory at the #4 position. Villarruel added to the winning tally with a 6-4, 6-1 win at #3. Dugo battled on the #6 court to claim the final victory of the day with a 6-4, 5-7, 10-4 win.

The set of home competitions for the Grizzlies is a step in the right direction after loosing in the finals of the Indoor National Championships. The Grizzlies are looking to prepare to reclaim the #1 ranking at the upcoming NAIA National Championships with 8 weeks of play against NAIA, NCAA Div II and III teams.