



ASU MEN'S TENNIS HISTORY

Men's tennis started as a club sport in 1902, making it the third oldest sport to be played on ASU's campus, following only baseball (1891) and football (1896).

From 1903 to 1931, men's tennis was undergoing a metamorphosis from a club sport to an intercollegiate sport, as seen in 1913 when there was competition in both. In that year, the Tempe Normal team lost a dual match to the University of Arizona while the interclass senior team won the cup for the third year in a row.

In 1932, Arizona State Teachers College (ASTC) became part of the Border Conference and hired its first full-time coach, Earle Pomeroy. Pomeroy led the Bulldogs to a 7-3-1 record the following year, the first winning tennis season in ASU history.

Sketchy or nonexistent records typify Arizona State's experience in the Border Conference. However, coaches Pomeroy and Marlowe Keith, who boasts the longest tenure as head tennis coach (11 years), each posted back-to-back fourth-place finishes, Pomeroy in 1941 and '42 and Keith in 1957 and '58.

Charles Roach (1951-52), Fred Hickernell (1951-53) and Bob Gilbert (1952-54) were stalwarts in the Sun Devil lineup during the Border Conference days.

In 1963, Arizona State moved to the Western Athletic Conference under the guidance of coach Ted Bredehoff, who also coached wrestling at Arizona State from 1962-71.

Among numerous others, former Sun Devil all-Americans John Fort (1971) and Mark Joffey (1975) helped ASU accumulate a 253-107-1 (.700) record in the WAC.

ASU was represented by four singles players and two doubles teams at four NCAA Championships in a row (1973-76). At the 1978 NAAs, ASU downed Oklahoma State 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals before being ousted by eventual champion Stanford.

From 1973 to 1979, Marty Pincus coached the men's tennis team to three first-place finishes in the WAC (1975, '76, '78). In 1976, the Sun Devils posted their best NCAA finish ever — fifth.

During the Pincus era, ASU compiled a 161-31 (.839) record, giving him the second-highest winning percentage among coaches of NCAA-sanctioned sports at ASU. He trails only former football coach Dan Devine who had a percentage of .887.

All-Americans

(9 players on 12 occasions)

1995:	Sargis Sargsian (singles)
1994:	Sargis Sargsian (singles) Peter Jeschke/Sargsian (doubles)
1991:	Brian Gyetko (singles) Gyetko/Dave Lomicky (doubles)
1990:	Brian Gyetko (singles) Gyetko/Dave Lomicky (doubles)
1988:	Doug Sachs
1979:	Alan Waldman
1975:	Mark Joffey
1971:	John Fort

In 1979, ASU's men's tennis program entered the Pacific-10 Southern Division, the most competitive conference in the country. Since 1946, when the first Division I team champion was crowned, Pac-10 Southern Division teams have captured 40 of the 48 national titles.

Also in 1979, ASU produced its third all-America, Alan Waldman. He led his Sun Devil teammates to a 17th-place finish at the NAAs that year.

As ASU men's tennis entered the 1980s, Myron McNamara was named head coach and Gary Donnelly was just beginning his ASU tennis career. Donnelly, who played under the watchful eye of ASU's current head coach Lou Belken at Scottsdale Racquet Club, went on to achieve fame as a doubles finalist at Wimbledon in 1986. He also competed in the doubles semifinals at the 1985 U.S. Open and the 1987 French Open. Donnelly also competes in singles play. His singles career has been highlighted by his appearance in the round of 16 at the 1985 U.S. Open.

Lou Belken was named head tennis coach in 1983. He is the second-winningest coach in Sun Devil annals with 192 victories. In 1988, Belken's Devils, led by Doug Sachs, posted an 18-9 record, a fourth-place finish in the conference (ASU's best ever), and an 11th-place finish at the NAAs. ASU was ranked 11th in the nation and Sachs earned all-America accolades.

Dave Lomicky and Joel Finnigan won the 1989 U.S. Amateur doubles championship, while future Sun Devil Chris Gambino reached the semifinals in singles action.

In 1990, ASU had four national champions: Finnigan, Lomicky, Brian Gyetko and Ross Matheson. Finnigan captured the U.S. Amateur singles crown, while Lomicky won the 1990 National Amateur Indoor singles championship. Gyetko was crowned the Canadian National singles champion and Matheson earned the Scottish National singles and doubles titles.

In 1991, Belken led the Sun Devils to their best season ever during his reign, compiling a 21-10 record, and a quarterfinal berth at the NAAs. Brian Gyetko, who in 1990 became the first ASU tennis player to earn all-America acclaim in singles and doubles in the same year, duplicated the feat in 1991. Gyetko reached the quarterfinals of singles action at the NAAs (the farthest advancement by an ASU player since Mark Joffey in 1975) and the round of 16 in doubles with Lomicky.

Arizona State earned NCAA Tournament berths in 1988, '90 and '91. Also, since 1983, the Sun Devils' final postseason ranking has been higher than the preseason ranking every year but four.

In 1995, Sargis Sargsian became the first Sun Devil to win the NCAA Tournament, defeating USC's Brett Hansen in the finals 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. It was Sargsian's fourth collegiate Grand Slam title which is more than any other player in collegiate tennis history. He finished the year as the NCAA Player of the Year, an All-American and the top-ranked player in the country.

The 1997 doubles tandem of Ed Carter and Sergio Elias entered the first round of the NCAA doubles championships with an at large bid, and proceeded to defeat the second-seeded team from Fresno State 6-3, 6-4. The duo went on to the second round of the championships, but were defeated. Earlier in the season, Carter and Elias not once, but twice defeated the second-ranked doubles team from UCLA. The Sun Devils No. 1 doubles team ended the season ranked 18th in the nation.

The 1998 Sun Devils earned an NCAA postseason berth for the eighth time in the past 11 years. Junior Gustavo Marcaccio advanced to the second-round of the NCAA individual championships, finishing with a 28-12 record. Additionally, ASU posted its biggest win in several seasons, knocking off No. 6 ranked USC, 4-3.

Team Results (1962-98)

Year	Record	Place	Conf.	Coach	Year	Record	Place	Conf.	Coach
1998	11-11	T5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1979	21-10	5th	WAC	Marty Pincus
1997	13-10	T4th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1978	27-3	1st	WAC	Marty Pincus
1996	13-12	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1977	25-4	2nd	WAC	Marty Pincus
1995	14-9	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1976	23-3	1st	WAC	Marty Pincus
1994	8-13	6th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1975	25-3	1st	WAC	Marty Pincus
1993	6-14	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1974	21-3	3rd	WAC	Marty Pincus
1992	8-14	4th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1973	19-5	5th	WAC	Marty Pincus
1991	21-10	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1972	11-10	5th	WAC	Bill Lenoir
1990	10-12	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1971	13-6	4th	WAC	Bill Lenoir
1989	10-14	6th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1970	4-10	5th	WAC	Bill Lenoir
1988	18-9	4th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1969	7-10	6th	WAC	Bill Lenoir
1987	16-13	6th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1968	7-10	5th	WAC	Bill Lenoir
1986	15-12	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1967	14-9	6th	WAC	Ted Bredehoff
1985	19-13	6th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1966	10-11	6th	WAC	Ted Bredehoff
1984	13-19	6th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1965	21-2	5th	WAC	Ted Bredehoff
1983	8-19	5th	Pac-10	Lou Belken	1964	22-6	5th	WAC	Ted Bredehoff
1982	19-14	5th	Pac-10	Myron McNamara	1963	10-13	7th	WAC	Ted Bredehoff
1981	17-12	6th	Pac-10	Myron McNamara	1962	4-10	4th	Border	Ted Bredehoff
1980	20-10	5th	Pac-10	Myron McNamara	Totals	543-368	(.596)		