

2003 Season Preview

by Gene Cassell
Sports Information Director

Lady Blues

After missing the NCAA playoffs for the first time since the 1995 season, the Lady Blues are on a mission to return to the postseason.

The Lady Blues return five of their top six singles players from last season who finished a combined 70-41 in singles play. Junior Erin Underwood moves up from the No. 2 spot after Aisha Butt's graduation. Underwood was 14-8 at No. 2 hole and finished the fall schedule 4-0 in dual matches.

Also returning are juniors Caitlin Day, Lindsay Sullivan and Holly Munro as well as sophomore Kris Castillo.

Day was 14-9 at No. 3 singles and was a finalist in the MIAA Tournament. Sullivan was 16-8 at No. 4 and was also a finalist in the conference tournament. Munro won the No. 5 tournament finishing the season 10-8 and Castillo finished third winning the consolation bracket.

"We are going to rely on our experience at the top this season without any seniors on the roster," head coach Jennifer Hastert said. "The girls have been through the season two times now and they will know what to expect."

Newcomers to the team include Katie Schmidt who finished the fall season 1-1

at No. 3 singles and 2-1 at the ITA Midwest Regional Tournament.

Ichabods

The Ichabods went 2-0 in the fall portion of the schedule and a combine 17-8 in singles matches. Junior newcomer Sydney Bwalya has settled into the No. 1 spot on the roster replacing current assistant coach Fernando Sierra. Bwalya finished the fall slate 5-1 including a semi-final in the ITA Midwest Regional

Tournament. Another transfer, sophomore John Johnson from West Florida, will man the No. 2 singles spot

Rafeal Valdez, one of two top six returners, was a perfect 2-0 at No. 3 singles. Last season, Valdez was 10-4 at No. 2 singles.

Fellow returner Nate Hurd was 7-4 at No. 5 singles last season, finishing second at the MIAA Tournament.

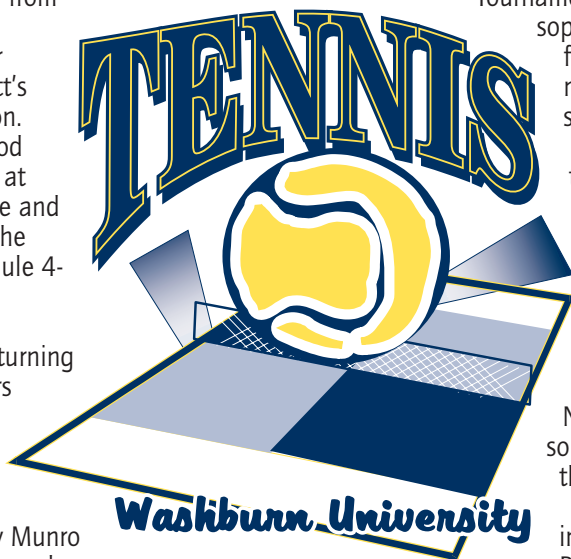
Other newcomers include Brett Coleman, Blake Edwards and Tyler

Kinder.

"We're excited about the season," Hastert said. "Our top three singles players are all regional ranked following the fall season and we want to carry that momentum over to the spring season."

Changes are coming

This season will be the first time for the conference tournament to move to a dual match format instead of the tallying of team points depending on individual performances. This will be like how the NCAA regional tournaments have been decided with the first team winning five matches advancing to the next round.



2002-03 Washburn Lady Blues



2003 Washburn Lady Blues: (Front Row) Katie Schmidt, Erin Underwood, Kris Castillo and Caitlin Day. (Back Row) Assistant Coach Fernando Sierra, Holly Munro, Carrie Wadley, Lindsey Sullivan, Sara Neiswanger and Head Coach Jennifer Hastert.

2003 Washburn Lady Blues

Kris Castillo	5-3	SO	San Antonio, Texas/James Madison High School
Caitlin Day	5-5	JR	Topeka, Kan./Topeka West High School
Holly Munro	5-7	JR	Topeka, Kan./Highland Park High School
Sarah Neiswanger	5-8	FR	Topeka, Kan./Topeka West High School
Katie Schmidt	5-9	FR	Omaha, Neb./Millard North High School
Lindsay Sullivan	5-4	JR	St. Louis Mo./Lutheran High School South
Erin Underwood	5-7	JR	Topeka, Kan./Washburn Rural High School
Carrie Wadley	5-6	JR	Berryton, Kan./Shawnee Heights High School
Head Coach: Jennifer Hastert			
Assistant Coach: Fernando Sierra			

Lady Blues Profiles



Holly Munro

Junior • Topeka, Kan.

Highland Park High School

As a sophomore in 2001-02: Finished the season 10-8 playing mainly the No. 5 singles spot and teamed with Lindsey Sullivan to record a 12-5 mark at No. 3 doubles. In the MIAA Tournament won the Lady Blues only singles championship taking the No. 5 flight and finished third with Sullivan at No. 3 doubles.

As a freshman in 2000-01: Finished third at No. 5 singles recording an 18-11 record. In doubles play with Carrie Wadley, she compiled a 15-12 mark finishing third at No. 3 doubles.

Background: Was No. 1 in singles and doubles for a Scotties team that took home the Centennial league title. Was named to the all-city team. She placed seventh at state as a junior and senior. She was a four-year honor roll student at Highland Park.

Personal: Born March 14, 1982. Daughter of Michael and Jane Munro. Undecided on a major.





Lindsay Sullivan

Junior • St. Louis, Mo.

Lutheran South High School

As a sophomore in 2001-02: Finished the season 16-8 at No. 4 singles while teaming with Holly Munro to go 12-5 at No. 3 doubles. At the MIAA Tournament, placed second in No. 4 singles and third in No. 3 doubles.

As a freshman in 2000-01: Finished the season with a 15-10 record playing primarily No. 4 singles. In doubles play she teamed with Erin Underwood at No. 2, taking the MIAA Championship compiling a 23-6 record.

Background: Was part of a duo that won the 1A-3A Missouri state title in doubles in 1999. As captain of the team. She was named MVP and received the sportsmanship award.

Personal: Born October 22, 1981. Daughter of Paul and Pamela Sullivan. Majoring in criminology.



Lady Blues Profiles



Erin Underwood

Junior • Topeka, Kan.

Washburn Rural High School

As a sophomore in 2001-02: Was named the team's Most Valuable Player after going 16-9 at No. 2 singles and teaming with Aisha Butt to take the No. 1 doubles title at the MIAA Tournament going 19-8. In singles play at the conference tournament, finished fourth in the No. 2 singles spot.

As a freshman in 2000-01: Recorded a 20-7 singles mark playing primarily at the No. 3 spot. In doubles at No. 2, teamed with Lindsay Sullivan to compile a 23-6 mark and the flight championship at the MIAA Tournament.

Background: Placed a career-best tenth at state as a senior for Rural Coach Kevin Hedberg. Was named to the all-city team as a senior. Excelled of the courts as well, ranking in the top 10 percent of her class with a 4.1 GPA.

Personal: Born July 7, 1982. Daughter of David and Luanne Underwood. Majoring in Physical Therapy and sports medicine.





Carrie Wadley

Junior • Topeka, Kan.

Shawnee Heights High School

As a sophomore in 2001-02: Was 0-1 in singles play and 0-2 in doubles play.

As a freshman in 2000-01: Recorded a 19-7 record playing mainly at No. 6 singles finishing fourth at the MIAA Championship Tournament. In doubles, she teamed with Holly Munro at No. 3

doubles to place third compiling a 15-12 record.

Background: A four-year letter winner at Shawnee Heights. Was a first team selection to the all-city and all-league teams as a senior. She placed third at the 5A state tournament.

Personal: Born January 23, 1982. Daughter of Gary and Joan Wadley. Majoring in nursing.



Lady Blues Profiles



Kris Castillo

Sophomore • San Antonio, Texas

James Madison High School

As a freshman in 2001-02: Tallied a 12-8 singles record at No. 6 and a combined 11-13 doubles record at No. 2 in her first season at Washburn. She finished third at No. 6 singles at the MIAA Tournament.

Background: Played No. 1 singles for high school squad and team captain her senior year. She was the team MVP her sophomore and senior seasons and a super-championship player. She finished third in the district tournament. Was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students, treasurer of the Criminal Justice Club and an honor roll student with a 3.4 GPA. She was also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Personal: Born Aug. 13, 1983. Daughter of Ruben and Sulvia Castillo. Undecided on major.





Caitlin Day

Sophomore • Topeka, Kan.

Topeka West High School

As a freshman in 2001-02: Finished the season 14-9 at No. 3 singles and recorded a combined 16-13 doubles record playing No. 2. At the MIAA Tournament, she finished second at the No. 3 singles spot.

Background: Day qualified all four years for state finishing as high as third in singles play. She won the Topeka city tournament three years in a row and honored with all-city and all-league titles. She was also a member of the honor roll every semester.

Personal: Born Aug. 11, 1983. Daughter of Gwen Beegle and Robert Day. Undecided on major.



Lady Blues Newcomers



Katie Schmidt

**Freshman • Omaha, Neb.
Millard North High School**

Background: Enters the spring season at Washburn as the No. 10 ranked singles player in the region after reaching the round of 16 at the ITA Midwest Regional Tournament in her first semester playing college tennis. At Millard North, she was part of the state championship squad in 2001 and 2002. In doubles play, she was a Metro

champion at No. 1 while winning the Metro team championship. Team finished second in 2000 while taking a third place finish in double at the No. 1 spot and a third place finish as a freshman. She was also a multiple All-Metro Academic selection.

Personal: Born on March 20, 1984. Daughter of Keith and Cheryl Schmidt. Majoring in criminal justice and biology.



Sarah Neiswanger

**Freshman • Topeka, Kan.
Topeka West High School**

At Washburn: Will redshirt this season. **Background:** At Topeka West, qualified for state three seasons winning regionals in doubles as a senior and was part of two team regional titles.

Personal: Born on Dec. 26, 1983. Daughter of Bill and Nancy Neiswanger. Majoring in business.

2002-03 Washburn Ichabods



2003 Washburn Ichabods: (Front Row) Tyler Kinder, Nate Hurd, Brett Coleman and Blake Edwards. (Back Row) Assistant Coach Fernando Sierra, Sydney Bwalya, John Johnson, Rafeal Valdez and Head Coach Jennifer Hastert.

2003 Washburn Ichabods

Sydney Bwalya	6-1	170	JR	Mufulira, Zambia/Barton County CC
Brett Coleman	5-8	155	JR	Olathe, Kan./Johnson County CC
Blake Edwards	6-0	175	FRRS	Columbia, Mo./Hickman High School
Nathan Hurd	5-10	180	FR	SO Columbus, Kan./Columbus, Kan.
John Johnson	6-0	180	SO	Pittsburg, Kan./Florida Atlantic
Tyler Kinder	5-11	175	FR	Topeka, Kan./Shawnee Heights HS
Rafeal Valdez	6-0	145	JR	Culiacan, Mexcio/Pratt Community College
Head Coach: Jennifer Hastert				
Assistant Coach: Fernando Sierra				

Ichabod Profiles



Rafeal Valdez

Junior • Culiacan, Mexico

Pratt Community College

As a sophomore in 2002-03: Finished the season 15-7 in singles play mainly at No. 2 and was 14-13 in doubles play. In singles play at the MIAA Tournament, he placed third in doubles play.

Background: Was named the team MVP and finished 24th in the National Junior College Association rankings at Pratt Community

College while being ranked No. 18 in doubles. As a team the Beavers were ranked No. 26 in the nation on the junior college circuit.

Personal: Born March 6, 1981. Son of Rafeal Valdez and Elvira Sanchez. Undecided on major.





Nathan Hurd

Sophomore • Columbus, Kan.

Columbus High School

As a freshman in 2002-03: Finished the season 11-8 playing both the No. 4 and No. 5 singles spots and had a combined 9-15 playing No. 2 and No. 3 doubles. At the MIAA Tournament, he finished second at No. 5 singles falling in three sets and finished fourth at No. 3 doubles.

Background: Placed fifth at the 5A state doubles tournament and finished first at the Wichita Invitational tournament in doubles.

Personal: Born Nov. 23, 1981. Son of Eric and Nancy Hurd. Majoring in business.



Ichabod Profiles



Blake Edwards

Redshirt Freshman • Columbia, Mo.

Hickman High School

As a freshman in 2002-03: Redshirted the season.

Background: At Hickman High School, he was a two-time state qualifier, finishing in seventh in doubles as a junior. Was the district champion at No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles following his junior and senior seasons.

Personal: Born July 30, 1982. Son of Bryce and Lisa Edwards. Majoring in physical education.





Sydney Bwalya

Junior • Mufulira, Zambia

Barton County Community College

Background: Enters this season as the No. 46 ranked player in Division II. Also ranked No. 20 in doubles with John Johnson. Played two years for the Cougars at Barton County reaching a ranking of No. 13 in the NJCAA singles national rankings, helping the Cougars to a No. 4 national ranking in the NJCAA team poll. Also reached a No. 5 ranking in the NJCAA national doubles poll. Bwalya earned All-American honors by finishing second at No. 3 singles in the NJCAA National Tournament

and winning the No. 3 double national title as a sophomore. The Cougars finished second in the national tournament.

Personal: Son of Ruth Besa and Adrian Bwalya. Majoring in sports administration.



John Johnson

Sophomore • Pittsburg, Kan.

Florida Atlantic University

Background: Enters this season ranked No. 20 in doubles with Sydney

Bwalya. At FAU, Johnson played both No. 1 doubles and Nos. 3-5 singles. At Pittsburg High School, Johnson played the No. 1 spot for Team Kansas. He won the Kansas State Open and placed third at state in singles his junior season. He graduated a semester early not playing high school tennis his senior season.

Personal: Born on June 23, 1982. Son of Jack and Nancy Johnson. Undeclared on major.



Ichabod Newcomers



Brett Coleman

Junior • Olathe, Kan.

Johnson County Community College

Background: At Johnson County, was 1-3 as a freshman at No. 6 singles, but 7-0 in extra matches. As a sophomore finished 17-8 playing No. 5 singles and was the region Vi runner-up at No. 5 singles and was 11-7 at No. 3 doubles and third place at the regional tournament. Was a four-year letterman in tennis and two-time let-

termman in soccer. Finished fourth in the 6A state singles tournament as a senior, placed fourth in the conference tournament and second in regionals and was named to the Kansas City Star's All-Metro Second Team. Finished 10th at the state tournament as a junior.

Personal: Born on Aug. 25, 1982. Son of Don and Gin Coleman. Majoring in business. His father played tennis at Johnson County in 1978.



Tyler Kinder

Freshman • Topeka, Kan.

Shawnee Heights

High School

Background: He won the No. 1 singles championship at the Topeka city

meet as a junior and a senior and also won the Centennial Leagues No. 1 singles title as well. Finished fifth in the state in singles as a senior. Was part of the state championship T-Birds as a junior.

Personal: Born June 23, 1984. Son of Dan and Malesa Kinder. Undecided on major.

