



COACHING STAFF



2009 SEASON

INTRODUCTION



Home of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns Tennis



Cajun Courts and Culotta Tennis Center

Cajun Courts, home of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns men's and women's tennis programs, enters its 36th season as both squad's home facility.

The complex, built in 1975, seats 1,200 fans.

Cajun Courts features a covered grandstand that provides fans with a shaded area to take in the exciting action of UL men's and women's tennis.

One of the newest additions to the complex, the Culotta Tennis Center, was constructed prior to the start of the 2001 season. The center provides the team a lounge area for relaxation and down time, as well as a meeting area. The coaches' offices are also housed in the building.

Since 1975, Cajun Courts has been the home of the some greatest tennis teams in school history.

The 2006 men's team captured 16 wins, a Sun Belt Conference championship and an NCAA Regionals appearance. The women's team recorded 14 wins and its first-ever national ranking in the same season.

The Ragin' Cajuns men's team won five Southland Conference Championships in six years (1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982) and Sun Belt Conference Championships in 1992 and 2006. The women won a Southland Conference crown in 1986 and back-to-back American South Conference championships in 1990 and 1991.

In 35 seasons at Cajun Courts, the men have enjoyed 23 winning seasons, including 10 season-ending national rankings.

In 1988, the Cajun men enjoyed the highest success of any tennis squad in school history. That team went 17-9 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. They finished the season No. 15 in the nation.

From 1978-1982, the Cajuns enjoyed a streak of five consecutive 20-win seasons. Four of those five seasons were conference championship seasons.

Cajun Courts has been the Ragin' Cajuns women's tennis program's only home in its 34-year history. The women have had 15 winning seasons, including six-straight winning seasons from 1990-1995.



Mark Jeffrey assumed coaching duties with the University of Louisiana tennis program in the 2007-08 season as associate head coach in charge of men's tennis. He was later elevated to head coach of the men's program prior to the start of the 2008-09 season.

Jeffrey was attracted to the position for several reasons.

"I think the climate and the environment is great for tennis," he said. "The average temperature is seasonally warm all year round...we are a sport that follows the sun. The second is definitely the warm friendly Cajun spirit and hospitality that defines Lafayette. And lastly, the location to nationally ranked teams is very important. We are less than three hours drive from five to six nationally ranked teams."

Jeffrey began his coaching career on the WTA Tour working with Catherine Barclay, a former Junior Wimbledon doubles champion. During their time together, Barclay improved her ranking from No. 180 in the world to a Top 50 ranking on the Professional Women's Tour.

He then worked at the Hong Kong Sports Institute where he worked solely with the National Junior Team. He traveled to the Australian, U.S. and Wimbledon Juniors helping John Hui move from a Top 200 ranking into the ITF Top 40.

Jeffrey served as head coach of both the men's and women's teams at William Carey College. He led the men's team to a national ranking of No. 4 and guided the women's team to No. 14. He has coached six All-Americans.

Jeffrey's playing career is equally as impressive.

He garnered All-America honors at Mississippi State and was an All-SEC selection three times. Jeffrey also consistently ranked in the Top 20 nationally in singles and Top 5 in doubles. He is listed as one of the top three winningest players in MSU men's tennis history. In 2005, Jeffrey was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

As a professional, Jeffrey has played in the U.S. and Australian Opens, while also qualifying for the Australian Indoors. Jeffrey achieved a weekly high ranking in the Top 350 in singles and Top 300 in doubles on the ATP Tour.

He has career wins over Johnathon Stark, Darren Cahill, Mark Kratzman, Ellis Ferreira, Murphy Jensen, Byron Talbot, Shelby Cannon, Al Parker, Cyril Suk and David McPherson - all were ranked in the world's Top 20 in doubles.

Jeffrey earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in marketing and a master's of science in sports administration from Mississippi State.

Originally from Sydney, Australia, he is a naturalized U.S. citizen and resides in Lafayette.

JEFFREY AT A GLANCE

Name	Mark Jeffrey
Birthdate	March 29, 1967
Hometown	Sydney, Australia
Alma Mater	Mississippi State, 1992 (Bachelor's) Mississippi State, 1996 (Master's)
Years at UL	Three (2008-10)
Years as Head Coach	Second (2009-10)
Record on Cajun Courts	6-0 (One season)





Tina Samara brings 21 years of tennis experience as both a player and a coach to the University of Louisiana. She was named head women's tennis coach in October 2008.

Prior to her arrival at UL, she served as an assistant coach at the University of Colorado the previous two years.

In her first year at CU the team finished with a 16-8 record and ranked No. 37 in the nation. She assisted in recruiting all over the world while at CU.

"I am very excited about the opportunity, and I look forward to seeing to what I can do to make the tennis program the best it can be," said Samara in a press release announcing her hiring. "One of the biggest deciding factors for me was having an athletic department that is supportive and I feel UL is moving in the right direction, not just for tennis, but for all their athletic programs.

"It is a pretty exciting time for everybody, and I am happy that I am going to be a part of it. I look forward to merging the tennis program and the community in Lafayette."

She has participated as a tennis professional since 1996 and has coached at the national, collegiate, and professional levels. As an active member on the USTA/WTA/LTA Pro Tour, Samara also played in the Federation Cup for Norway in 1996-1998, and qualified for the U.S. Open singles draw in 1994 and 1995.

As a tennis professional at the Creek Club in Locust Valley, N.Y., she developed a fitness program for men and women, in addition to instructing adults, juniors and clinics.

Samara is a 1996 graduate of the University of Georgia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in family and consumer sciences.

While in Athens, she was an outstanding tennis student-athlete earning All-American honors in 1994 and 1995. Samara was a member of the Bulldogs 1994 national champion team and was a member of the No. 1 nationally ranked doubles tandem in 1995.

She was crowned the 1993 Collegiate Grasscourt Singles champion and was a two-time national team indoor champion.

In 1995, she was listed in Sports Illustrated "Faces in the Crowd."

Samara is also bilingual, speaking fluent Norwegian.

She is assisted by her husband, Brian Sullivan, a pro at City Club.

SAMARA AT A GLANCE

Name

Tina Samara

Birthdate

July 26, 1974

Hometown

Oyster Bay, N.Y.

Alma Mater

University of Georgia, 1996

Years at UL

Second

Record on Cajun Courts

6-5 (One season)

Ragin' Cajuns Tennis Boosters

1,000 Club Members

Dr. Jay Culotta
Clara Mosing
Mike and Jovette Mosing
Champagne's Market

Executive Patron

John Breaux
Julie and Randy Pilgrim

Family Patron

Dr. Stephen and Gail Wilt
Susan and John Knowlton
Comeaux Engineering and Consulting, APC
Rita and Leale Slate
Jennifer Heno Marsh
Woody and Linda Woodward
Bill and Karen McGovern
Jenny and Deryl Felder
Theresa and Brent Mosing
Ginger and Michael Hebert
April and Chris Fontana

Individual Patrons

Mary H. Doiron
Sally Andrus
Emma Fox
Annette Boudreaux Milligan
Rick Revels
Maggie Lebas
Phonda Voorhies
Hub City Ford, Inc
Rick Cannon
Opelousas General Health System
Betty J. Foreman
Jim Creamer
Noemi Wyatt
Richard and Peggy Miller
Ashley Rust
Tom Carroll





2010 Cajuns (from left to right): Arlen Domoney, Robert Voss, Carlin Murray, Piotr Banas, Neil Schneider, Alexander Rupertsson, Tomasz Krzyszkowski, Javier Pulgar, Piotr Olechowski, Yanick Mandl and Head Coach Mark Jeffrey.

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns Men's Tennis Roster

NAME	Ht.	CL.-EXP.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
Tomasz Krzyszkowski	5-11	So.-TR	Gdynia, Poland (University of Physical Education)
Yanick Mandl	5-7	So.-1L	Thalwil, Switzerland (Kunstundsport Gymnasium)
Ben Melancon	5-9	Jr. -SQ	Lafayette (Lafayette)
Carlin Murray	5-11	So.-TR	Philadelphia, Pa. (Elon University)
Piotr Olechowski	6-0	Jr.-2L	Warsaw, Poland (Kardynala Stefana Wyszynskiego)
Javier Pulgar-Garcia	5-11	So.-1L	Madrid, Spain (Giner de los Rios)
Alexander Rupertsson	6-4	So.-1L	Goteburg, Sweden (Katrinelundsgymnasiet)
Neil Schneider	6-2	So.-1L	Katy, Texas (James E. Taylor)
Robert Voss	5-11	Fr.-RS	Houston, TX (Clear Lake)

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns Men's Tennis Schedule FALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sept. 11-13	UL Invitational	Cajun Courts	
Sept. 25-27	Baylor Invitational	at Waco, Texas	
Oct. 3-5	All American Championships	at Tulsa, Okla.	
Oct. 22-26	ITA Southern Regionals	at New Orleans, La.	

SPRING

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Jan. 22	Baylor	at Waco, Texas	
Feb. 5	Arkansas	at Fayetteville, Ark.	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 6	Wichita State	at Fayetteville, Ark.	5:00 p.m.
Feb. 8	Nicholls State	Cajun Courts	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 11	Grambling State	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 13	Florida A&M	Cajun Courts	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 18	Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Cajun Courts	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 19	Alcorn State	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 25	LSU	at Baton Rouge, La.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 27	Troy	at Troy, Ala.	2:00 p.m.
March 5-6	HEB Invitational	at Corpus Christi, Texas	All Day
March 11	LaMarch	Cajun Courts	6:00 p.m.
March 20	Memphis	at Memphis, Tenn.	12:00 p.m.
March 21	Belmont University	at Memphis, Tenn.	10:00 a.m.
March 26	New Orleans	Cajun Courts	6:00 p.m.
Apr. 2-4	Sun Belt Shootout	at Troy, Ala.	All Day
Apr. 10	Tulane	at New Orleans, La.	1:00 p.m.
Apr. 12	Southern Miss	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
Apr. 23-25	Sun Belt Championships	at New Orleans, La.	All Day





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2010 Cajuns (from left to right): Tara Vasovic, Briggitt Marcovich, Milou Israel, Mia Gordon, Audrey Wooland. **Bottom Row from left:** Julie Mazinova, Head Coach Tina Samara, Shelby Dufrene

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns Women's Tennis Roster

NAME	Ht.	CL.-EXP.	HOMETOWN (PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
Shelby Dufrene	5-5	Fr.-HS	Lafayette, La. (St. Thomas More)
Mia Gordon	5-11	Jr.-2L	Toronto, Canada (Thornhill Secondary School)
Milou Israel	5-11	So.- 1L	Breda, Netherlands (William II College)
Briggitt Marcovich	5-7	Jr.-2L	Barquisimeto, Venezuela (Unidad Educativa De Talento Deportivo)
Julie Mazinova	5-7	Jr.-2L	Pilsen, Czech Republic (Gymnasium of Sport)
Tara Vasovic	5-7	So.-1L	Toronto, Canada (Earl Haig Secondary School)
Audrey Wooland	5-5	Fr.-HS	Sugar Land, Texas (Dulles)

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns Women's Tennis Schedule

FALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sept. 25-27	Colorado Invitational	at Boulder, Colo.	
Oct. 2-4	UL Invitational	Cajun Courts	
Oct. 23-26	ITA Regionals	at Auburn, Ala.	

SPRING

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Jan. 24	LSU	at Baton Rouge, La.	
Feb. 4	Nicholls State	Cajun Courts	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 6	Arkansas	at Fayetteville, Ark.	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 7	Oral Roberts	at Fayetteville, Ark.	10:00 a.m.
Feb. 12	McNeese State	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	Southeastern Louisiana	Cajun Courts	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 18	Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
March 5	UCF	at Orlando, Fla.	10:00 a.m.
March 6	Florida Atlantic *	at Boca Raton, Fla.	2:00 p.m.
March 7	FIU	at Miami, Fla.	10:00 a.m.
March 12	Middle Tennessee	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
March 20	Northwestern State	at Natchitoches, La.	1:00 p.m.
March 21	Texas-Pan American	Cajun Courts	10:00 a.m.
March 27	Southern Miss	Cajun Courts	12:00 p.m.
Apr. 3	New Orleans	Cajun Courts	2:00 p.m.
Apr. 6	Rice	at Houston, Texas	2:00 p.m.
Apr. 8	Texas-Arlington	at Arlington, Texas	TBA
Apr. 9	North Texas	at Dallas, Texas	3:00 p.m.
Apr. 17	Troy	at Mobile, Ala.	1:00 p.m.
Apr. 18	South Alabama	at Mobile, Ala.	10:00 a.m.
Apr. 22-25	Sun Belt Championships	at New Orleans	All Day





Men's Tennis Preview

In coach Mark Jeffrey's third year as coach, the Ragin' Cajuns men's tennis team is close to turning the corner and reaching the level that he expects.

"We expect to be one of the upper echelon Sun Belt teams competing for the league championship," Jeffrey said. "Our schedule being much stronger this season – playing nine ranked teams out of 20 opponents – will help prepare us for our challenge."

Jeffrey said one of his goals is to have achieved a ranking by the end of the season. To accomplish this goal, he'll rely heavily on his senior leaders.

Jeffrey said he is hoping the momentum gained from the success this fall will carry over into the spring. He has already seen a steady improvement in the team's work ethic and a mature attitude.

"I would say that this is a very hard working team," Jeffrey said. "I found out that they are willing, individually, to work hard for the teams' benefit in the long run."

"Each individual has taken the responsibility to not only get their tennis game to a higher level, but



also their physical conditioning."

That hard work will hopefully result in a conference title and a Top 60 finish this season.

But there is more to college athletics than winning on the court. This Ragin' Cajuns tennis team is also having success in the classroom.

"Academic-wise, we are striving for our team GPA to be over 3.0 at season's end," Jeffrey said. "We're at a 2.9 right now, but we've never been over 3.0. We're getting closer."

Under Jeffrey's watch the program has turned around dramatically.

"When I first arrived it was September 2007 and the guys had been without a full-time coach the previous year...so things were pretty unstable," Jeffrey said. "That year the team went 7-12 and to be honest we could have easily gone 1-18. We pulled some rabbits out of the hat just to get to that point."

"So for us to go 16-7 last year, and this year be even better with our goals that we've stated for this year, is a huge accomplishment," he added. "As you can see we've come a long, long way. We are now at the point that after this year, our program will be one that attracts

interest on a national and world-wide scale."

The Ragin' Cajuns open the 2010 season on Friday, Jan. 22 against national power Baylor. Two weeks later the Cajuns meet SEC-member Arkansas in Fayetteville on Friday, Feb. 5.

The following week the Cajuns make their Cajun Courts debut, starting with a five-game home stand that runs Feb. 11 through Feb. 19.

In all, Louisiana will host eight home matches in the spring, beginning with Grambling State on Feb. 11 at Cajun Courts.

The Cajuns will face LSU on Feb. 25 in Baton Rouge and participate in the HEB Invitational in Corpus Christi, Texas (March 5-6) and the Sun Belt Shootout in Troy, Ala., April 2-4.

The 2010 Sun Belt Conference Tournament will be held April 22-25 in New Orleans.



STUDENT-ATHLETES

SEASON REVIEW

HISTORY AND RECORDS



Women's Tennis Preview

Progress is the name of the game for this year's Ragin' Cajuns women's tennis team.

Now in her second year as head women's coach, Tina Samara said she likes how this year's team is progressing in all aspects of their college careers.

"The fall season went really well," Samara said. "In our home tournament we had players in the finals of every flight. We were in the finals of a doubles flight and were forced to forfeit the match due to default. I think we made a lot of progress.

"Tara (Vasovic) made a lot of progress," Samara added. "She made some good decisions this summer that helped lead her to having a solid fall."

But with any new coach and new players, things weren't always running smooth.

"We had a lot of behind the scenes challenges and I guess we had a little battle," Samara said. "But now we're all on the same page. There have been some small adjustments in attitude and I think that was very important.

"I look at how very far we have come in only one season," Samara added. "We had to scramble to get a sixth player last season and I think there were unfair expectations coming in. Now it's not an excuse."

One nice addition to the team has been Julie Mazinova who had success in the fall tournaments, making it to the finals of two tournaments.

"I think Julie showed that level she can play at having beaten some SEC players," Samara said. "She believes she can play at a higher level now.

Since taking over the program, Samara has been able to see the players and team grow like she wanted it too.

"I have my own goals for this program and it's higher than just being ranked," Samara said. "It takes time to get the program to where I want it to be. We've done a good job of changing the way they think. It's important that they learn what they need to do and how hard they have to work.

"But most importantly that it can be fun...because that's the reason you play tennis."

The Ragin' Cajuns return nearly every contributor from last season's



team. Mia Gordon and Milou Israel return in addition to Mazinova and Vasovic.

Expect Mazinova, who was 9-1 at No. 2 singles in 2009, to be the leading force behind the 2010 team.

The Ragin' Cajuns open the season on Sunday, Jan. 24 at LSU. After a week off, the first home match of the season takes place Thursday, Feb. 4 against Nicholls State at 3 p.m., at Cajun Courts.

Like the men's team, the women's team travels to Fayetteville, Ark., to meet Arkansas the weekend of Feb. 5-7. While there UL will also play Oral Roberts.

The Cajuns close out February with three straight home matches, Feb. 12 through Feb. 18.

Other schedule highlights include the Florida road trip, March 5-7, to meet UCF, Florida Atlantic and FIU for the second straight season. The home finale is set for Saturday, April 3 vs. New Orleans at 2 p.m.

The 2010 Sun Belt Conference Tournament will be held April 22-25 in New Orleans.





2010 MEN'S TENNIS

STUDENT-ATHLETES

SEASON REVIEW



Tomasz Krzyzkowski
5-11 • Sophomore • TR
Gdynia, Poland



Yanick Mandl
5-7 • Sophomore • 1L
Thalwil, Switzerland



Ben Melancon
5-9 • Junior • SQ
Lafayette, Louisiana



Carlin Murray
5-11 • Sophomore • TR
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Poiter olechowski
6-0 • Junior • 2L
Warsaw, Poland



Javier Pulgar-Garcia
5-11 • Sophomore • 1L
Madrid, Spain



Alexander Rupertsson
6-4 • Junior • 1L
Goteburg, Sweden



Neil Schneider
6-2 • Sophomore • 1L
Katy, Texas



Robert Voss
5-11 • Freshman • RS
Houston, Texas

WOMEN'S TENNIS

HISTORY AND RECORDS



Shelby Dufrene
5-5 • Freshman • HS
Petal, Miss.



Mia Gordon
5-11 • Junior • 2L
Toronto, Canada



Milou Isreal
5-11 • Sophomore • 1L
Breda, Netherlands



Briggitt Marcovich
5-7 • Sophomore • 1L
Barquisimeto, Venezuela



Julie Mazinova
5-7 • Junior • 2L
Pilsen, Czech Republic



Tara Vasovic
5-7 • Sophomore • 1L
Toronto, Canada



Aubrey Wooland
5-5 • Freshman • HS
Sugarland, Texas



Mark Jeffrey
Head Coach
Men's Tennis



Tina Samara
Head Coach
Women's Tennis

