

## **JEFF BROWN**

Jeff Brown has been a part of LSU tennis for almost half his life, playing a major role in nearly all of the most successful teams in the program's history. Now in his 12th season as the Tigers' head coach, Brown has done more than just maintain the standards of excellence that have characterized LSU tennis since his days as a player here. He has raised the bar substantially.

Brown took the reins of the program in 1998 after serving as an assistant to Jerry Simmons for three seasons. He was an All-American doubles player for LSU in 1988 and spent five years on the professional circuit.

Brown led the Tigers to back-to-back SEC Championships in 1998 and 1999, becoming the first person in league history to do so in his first two seasons as head coach. The Tigers also won the SEC Tournament both years.

He has since proven those feats were more than just beginner's luck. Brown quickly earned respect among his peers due to his lengthy list of achievements. Brown has never failed to take his teams to the NCAA Tournament, and earned Louisiana Coach of the Year honors in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2008. He has coached 13 All-Americans in his tenure, and after young teams fell out of the top 20 in 2002 and 2003, he brought the team back to the national spotlight in 2004. In 2005, Brown helped the Tigers return to the top 10 for the first time since 1998.

Last season's final ranking of No. 18 marked the eighth time in Brown's 11 seasons that his team was among the top 20 in the country and his team has finished in the top 10 three times during his tenure. But he's not ready to stop there. More than anyone, Brown himself would like to get back to the top of the conference because he remembers the thrill of being a part of championship teams.

"The years when we won the SEC and got to the Final Fours set the standard that we want to get back to," he said. "When you have a couple of years where you don't make it you really appreciate it and you're hungry for more."

Brown has put his Tigers in position to succeed on and off the court. Brown helped setup "Duel Under the Oaks" on October 29, 2006, a charity event held on LSU's campus that helped raise more than \$400,000 for LSU Health Sciences Center students impacted by the hurricanes that ripped through Louisiana in 2005. The event included a youth tennis clinic, tennis exhibitions with LSU tennis players and local celebrities and the main event of an exhibition match with former tennis pros Pete Sampras against Todd Martin at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center.

During Brown's LSU tenure, the Tigers have had 3 SEC Scholar Athlete's of the Year with a combined four awards, 9 ITA Scholar-Athletes and 50 SEC Honor Roll members.

The Tigers were honored by the NCAA in 2008 for its Academic Progress Rate score. The Tigers scored a perfect APR of 1000 in the report by the NCAA. The LSU men's tennis team scored the highest among LSU sports for the fourth year in a row. The program is one of only eight SEC teams to receive NCAA recognition for finishing in the top 10 percent nationwide in its respective sport.

When Brown took over the program in 1998, he was already well acquainted with the demands of being successful in college tennis. He enjoyed tremendous success as a player at LSU from 1985-88, as evidenced by his two All-SEC awards. He joined the Tiger tennis elite in his senior season when he eclipsed the 100-career victory mark. That same year he captained LSU's only NCAA finals team. He still has the fourth-most wins of any player in LSU history. Brown helped lead the Tigers to an 85-35 record as an assistant coach from 1994-97. LSU finished in the top-10 three of those years.

"To be a part of LSU from so many angles, first as a player, then as an assistant and now as a head coach has been wonderful," Brown said. "The tradition that has been here is that we're competing for championships and we're going to fight you to the end. That's the thing that's always been known about LSU in most sports and particularly tennis.

"LSU's overall sports excellence helps because our guys are around other people who are used to winning. Athletes

here run into each other often and it's almost like there's a silent competition amongst the sports. You are pulling for each other of course, but at the same time you're driven not to fall behind the other sports on campus."

"Jeff represents what the LSU tennis program is all about," said Hall of Fame coach Jerry Simmons, who coached Brown on the 1988 LSU team that reached the NCAA Tournament championship match. Brown was team captain that year, leading the Tigers to a 27-2 record. Three years earlier as a freshman, Brown won a crucial SEC match at No. 4 singles that enabled LSU to win the conference crown.

"I knew as a player that I probably wanted to be a coach," Brown said. "I could see that it was something that kept you young and kept you around young people. Everyone I came in contact with as a player has had some influence on me as a coach."

Brown came across quite a few tennis legends as a player. He earned his degree at LSU in 1989 while serving as an assistant coach, then left Baton Rouge for the ATP tour. He won the doubles title at the Volvo International in 1990 and advanced to the round of 16 at the U.S. Open by beating the team of Pete Sampras and Jim Courier in the first round. Brown also advanced to the round of 16 at both the Australian Open and Wimbledon. His No. 45 international ranking in doubles is the highest ranking ever for a former LSU player.

Brown married the former Deborah Schaeffer of Colorado Springs, Colo., on Nov. 19, 1999. They have two young boys, Connor (2) and Cameron who was born on Jan. 28, 2007.

#### Year School Record Pct. SEC Finish Final Rank

1998	LSU	25-2	.926	1st	2nd
1999	LSU	20-7	.740	1st	4th
2000	LSU	20-6	.769	4th	12th
2001	LSU	16-8	.667	3rd	13th
2002	LSU	11-14	.440	11th	29th
2003	LSU	13-11	.542	5th (tie)	24th
2004	LSU	18-7	.720	3rd (tie)	13th
2005	LSU	21-9	.700	3rd (tie)	10th
2006	LSU	15-10	.600	3rd (tie)	25th
2007	LSU	18-7	.720	3rd (tie)	15th
2008	LSU	15-9	.625	3rd	18th
TOTALS		192-90	.680		

#### PLAYING EXPERIENCE

- LSU's Fourth All-Time Winningest Singles Player (100 Career Wins)
- 1988 Team Captain
- 1985 All-SEC Singles
- 1985 SEC No. 4 Singles Champion
- 1986 SEC No. 3 Doubles Champion
- 1988 SEC All-SEC Singles and Doubles
- 1988 NCAA Singles and Doubles Participant
- 1988 Doubles All-American
- Four-year Letterman (1985-88)

#### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 1990 Volvo International Doubles Champion
- 1990 U.S. Open Doubles Round of 16
- 1991 Volvo International Doubles Finalist
- 1991 Australian Open Doubles Round of 16
- 1991 Wimbledon Doubles Round of 16

#### COACHING HONORS

1998 SEC Co-Coach of the Year  
1998 ITA Region III Coach of the Year  
1998 Louisiana Coach of the Year  
1999 College Tennis Magazine National Coach of the Year  
1999 Louisiana Coach of the Year  
2001 Louisiana Coach of the Year  
2002 Louisiana Coach of the Year  
2005 Louisiana Coach of the Year  
2007 Louisiana Coach of the Year  
2008 Louisiana Coach of the Year