



## A RETRIEVER AND A BEARCAT CAPTURE TENNIS HONORS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** – UMBC junior Mwali Phiri (Yonkers, N.Y./Tuckahoe/Tyler JC) went undefeated in conference play over the weekend to capture the male Tennis Player of the Week award while Binghamton University junior Lauren Bates (Buffalo, N.Y./Kenmore West) led the Bearcat women to a program record season start of seven consecutive wins to capture the female Tennis Player of the Week honor for the week ending February 28.

Phiri went undefeated in both singles and doubles against conference rivals Hartford and Boston U over the weekend. He recorded a 6-0, 6-0 win over Hartford's Edgardo Ureta at No. 5 singles and defeated Boston U.'s James Bernstein in a 10-point tiebreaker played in lieu of a third set. Phiri also claimed a 10-point tiebreaker victory over UConn's Dave Adams, leading the Retrievers to a 3-0 record over the weekend.

Bates went undefeated at the No. 1 spot in both singles and doubles this past weekend, helping the Bearcats improve to 7-0 on the season. The seven straight wins to start a season is the most in the program's history. With the two singles victories against Niagara and St. Bonaventure, Bates improved to 64-25 all time in singles. Her 64 wins rank her at eighth all time in program history for total career singles victories. In doubles, with a career record of 60-16, Bates ranks fourth all time in program history. This is Bates' second weekly honor of the season.

Albany – The Great Danes return to action on Saturday, March 6 against Fordham.

Binghamton – The #74 Bearcat women remained undefeated in dual matches this spring, tallying two wins over Niagara and St. Bonaventure this weekend to improve to 7-0. Binghamton blanked Niagara, starting the match with a sweep of doubles. The Bearcats only dropped 10 games as they swept the Purple Eagles in singles. On Saturday, Binghamton posted another 7-0 victory, defeating St. Bonaventure. With the win, the Bearcats set a program record for the most consecutive dual match wins to start a season. The women next play Marquette on Sunday, March 7. The Binghamton men blanked George Washington on Saturday to improve to 6-1 on the season. The Bearcats started the match with a sweep of doubles. The doubles duo of junior Sven Vloedgraven (Lochem, Netherlands/Isendoorn College) and sophomore Gilbert Wong (Hong Kong/Diocesan Boys School), ranked 10th in the Northeast, continued their winning ways, defeating GW at the No. 1 spot. Both Vloedgraven and Wong then claimed singles victories at the No. 1 and 3 spots, respectively. Binghamton's match against Bucknell scheduled for February 27 was postponed. The Bearcats next travel to Princeton on March 6.

Boston U. – The Terrier men fell to 2-5 on the season with a 6-1 loss to conference foe UMBC. Freshman Josh Friedman (Los Angeles, Calif./Milken Community) captured Boston U.'s only victory of the day, defeating last week's Player of the Week Fredi Voorman at the No. 2 singles spot in a 10-point tiebreaker, 10-8. The Terriers next travel to Orlando for their spring break trip. The Boston U. women also took on conference rival UMBC this past weekend. The Terrier women defeated the Retrievers, 5-2, for their third win of the season. Sophomore Stefanie Nunic (New York, N.Y./Broward Virtual Education) and freshman partner Vivien Laszloffy (Budapest, Hungary/Thomas Mann Gymnasium) captured an 8-1 victory at No. 1 doubles to capture the doubles point for the Terriers. Both Nunic and Laszloffy then claimed singles victories at the No. 1 and 4 spots, respectively. Sophomore Monika Mical (Stalowa Wola, Poland/Penn State) clinched the victory for Boston U. with a 6-1, 6-3 win at the No. 5 spot. The Terrier women next travel to Puerto Rico for their spring break trip where they will first face East Carolina.

Hartford – Hartford's men's and women's squads opened their seasons against conference rival UMBC and Quinnipiac over the weekend. Both squads fell to 0-2 on the season after suffering 7-0 losses to both teams. Freshman Livia Blasque (Andradina, Brazil/Colegio Stella Maris) fought hard to capture a set for the women against UMBC, but dropped the first set in a tiebreaker before falling 7-6(6), 6-2 at the No. 1 singles spot. Blasque and sophomore partner Maggie Sabatino (Antioch, Ill./Antioch) also hung tough at No. 1 doubles against Quinnipiac, dropping a close 9-7 decision. Both Hartford squads will return to action on March 14 against South Dakota State on their spring break trip.

UMBC - The UMBC men swept all three road matches this weekend and moved to 8-2 on the spring. The Retrievers defeated America East foes Hartford, 7-0, and Boston U., 6-1, and Big East rival U. Conn, 5-2. UMBC did not drop a set against the Hawk with junior Mwali Phiri (Yonkers, N.Y./Tuckahoe/Tyler JC) capturing a 6-0, 6-0 win over Edgardo Ureta at No. 5 singles. Against the Huskies, the Retrievers dropped the doubles point, but battled back to take five singles matches. Playing their third match in less than 48 hours, UMBC swept the doubles matches to open up a 1-0 lead over the Terriers. In singles, senior Chris Meyer (New Market, Md./Urbana) defeated Jeff Chudacoff, 6-0, 6-2 at the No. 1 slot, as the Retrievers captured five of the six singles contests. UMBC continues its six-match road swing with contests at Navy (March 6) and Old Dominion (March 7) this weekend. The UMBC women (4-3) split a pair of road matches vs. America East foes this weekend, blanking Hartford, 7-0, on Friday, but falling to Boston U., 5-2 on Sunday. UMBC did not drop a set in the victory over the Hawks with No. 4 Heidi Danielsson (Jonkoping, Sweden), No. 5 Emily Mannix (Hillsborough, N.J./Hillsborough) and No. 6 Barbara Couto (Teresopolis, Brazil/ Centrode Ensino Moderno) not losing a game in their singles matches. Against the Terriers, UMBC dropped the doubles point, but Couto and freshman Lorena Valente (Florinopolis, Brazil/ Coracao de Jesus) won their No. 3 doubles match, 8-6. Couto continued her winning ways, rallying for an 0-6, 7-5 (10-6) win over Jessi Linero at No. 6 singles. Senior Alice Chen (North Potomac, Md./Quince Orchard) also picked up a victory for the Retrievers, winning a hard-fought, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 decision over Francine Whu at No. 2 singles. The women are slated to meet Towson at home on Friday, March 5.

Stony Brook – The Seawolf men competed in the Yale 4-Way over the weekend, falling to Marist and Yale before rebounding with a victory over Fairleigh Dickinson. Against Marist, Stony Brook fell, 5-2, with senior Jon Epstein (Silver Spring, Md./Hebrew Academy) and freshman Palesh Tiwari capturing a pair of victories at No. 3 and 5 singles, respectively. The squad then suffered a close 4-3 loss to Yale. After dropping the doubles point, the Seawolves rebounded, capturing three singles victories at the No. 3, 4 and 5 spots. Tied at 3-3, Stony Brook needed Tiwari to pull out a win at the No. 6 spot, but the rookie fell in a third set tiebreaker. In their final match of the weekend, the men defeated Fairleigh Dickinson, 4-3. The squad posted a win at No. 1 doubles, but couldn't clinch the point. Down 0-1 entering singles, Stony Brook rebounded with victories at No. 2, 3 and 5 singles. Freshman Roope Kailheimo (Helsinki, Finland/Mäkelänrinteen Lukio) claimed the deciding point for the team, winning 6-1 in the third set at No. 1 singles. Stony Brook travels to Princeton today, March 3. The Seawolf women return to action on March 13 against Cornell.

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