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Furman University

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CHARLIE REGISTER

Scarpa sets record for Division I victories

Paul Scarpa's legend continues to grow.

On March 7, when the men's tennis team defeated Yale 6-1, the Furman coach earned his 820th match victory — and became the winningest NCAA Division I tennis coach of all time.

The feat earned Scarpa a good bit of media attention, including a lengthy story by Greg Garber on ESPN.com. Scarpa told Garber, "Honestly, I never chased records. If I had waited around 46 years just trying to break the record, I believe I would have given up. There are a lot of great coaches that I admire. Maybe they retired along the way — I just kept going."

Scarpa has spent the last 43 of his 46 years as a collegiate coach at Furman, where he has posted 40 consecutive winning seasons in league play and finished first or second in the standings 36 times. His teams have won seven regular-season titles and 13 tournament championships since 1992, when the conference began recognizing regular-season champs.

In addition, he developed the current dual match scoring system adopted by the NCAA in 1993. The "3-6" format specifies that all matches begin with doubles play featuring eight-game pro sets, with the doubles teams playing for one team point. The system brings more of a team aspect to what is traditionally considered an individual sport. Scarpa also invented Tenex, the plastic tape that marks the lines on clay courts.

Scarpa is in the U.S. Tennis Association Southern Tennis Hall of Fame, the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame and the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame.

First class: Selvy, Dunigan named to conference shrine

The star-studded inaugural class of the Southern Conference Athletic Hall of Fame includes two Furman legends: basketball's Frank Selvy '54 and tennis great Megan Dunigan '02.

Selvy, the only man to score 100 points in an NCAA Division I game, was a three-time All-American and 1954 United Press International National Player of the Year. He twice led the NCAA in scoring and still ranks fourth all-time with 2,538 points. He was the top pick in the 1954 National Basketball Association draft and went on to play nine seasons in the NBA. He returned to alma mater and was basketball coach from 1966-70. Now retired, he lives on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Dunigan is one of only two athletes to be a conference player of the year for four consecutive years. She led Furman to four straight regular season and tournament championships. Her career singles record was 79-19, and she was the 2002 conference Female Athlete of the Year. She was awarded an NCAA post-graduate scholarship and earned a master's degree in computer science from the University of North Carolina. She is a software engineer with Parata Systems in Durham, N.C.

The other inductees, representing 88 years of league history, are football stars Sam Huff of West Virginia, Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice of North Carolina and Adrian Peterson of Georgia Southern; basketball standouts Jerry West of West Virginia and Valorie Whiteside of Appalachian State; golfer Arnold Palmer of Wake Forest; track star Melissa Morrison of Appalachian State, a two-time Olympic medalist; and Dick Groat of Duke, a two-sport star (baseball and basketball).