

By ROY ALLEN

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Following a successful fall in which they combined to go 70-64 in six different tournaments, the Seward County Lady Saints Tennis Team will open the 2013-2014 season ranked No. 13.



Seward draws the lucky No. 13 ranking as a team, while their top two players, Paula Lopez and Paula Coyos were ranked inside the top 30 individually. The Lady Saints top two doubles teams of Coyos and Lopez and Vippavee Ngamsiri and Kathryn Roohan both drew top 35 spots.

As a team, the Lady Saints trail only No. 9 Cowley as far as Jayhawk Conference squads. Tyler, as expected takes the top spot, followed by ASA, Collin and St. Petersburg.

The Lady Saints fell in their only dual of the fall, but posted winning records in four of their six tournaments.

Individually, Lopez leads the way for Seward, ranking No. 14, while fellow Argentinean Coyos comes in at No.27. Lopez and Coyos wowed in their first two months as Lady Saints, in both singles and doubles play.

Lopez won the Bethany Invitational and the Metro State Invitational, while going undefeated in the Tabor Tournament as well. She finished the fall with a 14-2 mark for the Lady Saints.

Coyos had her fair share of success as well, sharing the Metro State Invitational title with Lopez, and breezing through the Tabor Tournament. Coyos finished third at the Bethany Tournament, and fifth at the Wichita ITA Tournament. She ended her first fall for the Lady Saints with an 11-3 record.

Cowley's Ana Ruzir was the top ranked player from Region VI at No. 8, while Georgia Perimeter's Niriantisa Rosolomalala was tabbed the top player in the country.

Seward had two of their doubles teams placed favorably in the rankings as well. Lopez and Coyos will open the 2014 season ranked No. 5 in the country, the highest ranking for a Lady Saints team since the program transitioned to Division I in 2005. Also ranked, was the doubles squad of Ngamsiri and Roohan who were No. 34 in the opening rankings.

Coyos and Lopez had a spectacular fall together on the court, going 14-3 while capturing the Metro State Invitational Championship, and finishing in the top three at four other tournaments, including the ITA National Tournament where they finished third.

Ngamsiri and Roohan played together just eight times in the fall of 2013, posting a 3-5 record which included wins at the Metro State Invitational and the Bethany Tournament.

Coyos and Lopez were the top ranked team in the Jayhawk Conference with the next Kansas squad coming in at No. 11, from Cowley.