

HEAD COACH • Jill Hultquist

Fourth Season



Entering year four of her tenure, head coach Jill Hultquist has ushered in a rebirth of the women's tennis program. In just three years, Hultquist took a 3-17 team and restored stability, added depth and an influx of talent, and brought the Huskies back to national prominence and back to the NCAA Championships.

Last season Hultquist guided the Huskies back to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2005, and the Huskies climbed back into the ITA Top-40 after nearly a two-year absence. Hultquist brought in freshman Venise Chan, who went straight to the top of the singles lineup and reached the NCAA Singles Championship, helping to change the tenor of the program.

A former standout on the pro tour and in the collegiate ranks, Hultquist returned to Washington after serving as an assistant coach with the Huskies from 1997-2002, and was immediately faced with a team on the ropes.

Her initial team was ravaged by injuries and roster subtractions, leaving Hultquist to scramble some afternoons just to fill a lineup, and in several matches UW could only start five singles players, forfeiting the No. 6 point.

The following year was another struggle with injuries and depth, but, things finally came together near the end of the season for the Huskies, as they posted consecutive wins over Pac-10 rivals Oregon and Washington State to end the season. The wins were the first for Hultquist in conference play, and set the stage for Washington's return to prominence in 2008.

The 2008 Huskies won nine of their first ten matches and would go on to defeat seven ranked opponents including 12th-ranked Arizona State and 28th-ranked BYU. The Huskies swept both Arizona schools, and the thrilling 4-3 win over the Sun Devils was UW's first over a Top-25 team since 2005. After starting the season ranked 70th by the ITA, Washington had cut that number in half and entered the postseason at No. 35.

The future looks even brighter now for the 2009 Huskies and beyond, as Hultquist has continued to stockpile talent and looks to make the Huskies a postseason fixture once again as they were during her times as an assistant.

Hultquist is the fourth head coach in program history, and succeeded Patty McCain, whom Hultquist worked with as an assistant for five seasons. During her first tour of duty at UW, Hultquist helped lead the Huskies to five consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances including a school record trip to the NCAA Quarterfinals in 2001. In fact, it was Hultquist who served as the acting head coach for the team during its Elite Eight run, as McCain was unable to travel to Stone Mountain, Ga., due to the impending birth of her first child. That run included a Sweet-16 victory over fifth-ranked Tennessee.

Hultquist was named the National Assistant Coach of the Year by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association in 2001. She was also selected as the ITA Northwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year in both 2000 and 2001.

Among the players Hultquist mentored in her previous tenure at Washington were all four All-Americans in school history: Claire Carter, Kristina Kraszewski, Dea Sumantri and Darija Klaic. Carter, Washington's only four-time All-American, was a member of Hultquist's staff serving as her assistant coach in 2006.

Before joining the coaching ranks at Washington, Hultquist played professionally



Jill (Hetherington) Hultquist was a four-time All-American at the University of Florida from 1983-87.

on the WTA Tour from 1987-1997, winning more than 20 doubles titles. She ranked as high as sixth in the world in doubles and 64th in the world in singles. Hultquist teamed with McCain on the doubles circuit, and among their victories was a win over Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini in the semifinals of the 1988 U.S. Open. They also advanced to the finals of the 1989 Australian Open.

Hultquist reached the mixed doubles finals of the French Open in 1995 and competed in the Olympic Games for Canada in 1984, 1988 and 1996. She and Patricia Hy-Boulais advanced to the quarterfinals in Atlanta before falling to eventual bronze medalists Jana Novotna and Helena Sulcova of the Czech Republic.

Hultquist garnered a number of achievements during her years on the WTA, including the WTA Tour Sportsmanship Award, the Tennis Canada Sportsmanship Award and the 1988 Player of the Year Award in Canada. She is a member of the Tennis Canada Hall of Fame.

Also a standout collegian, Hultquist earned four All-America certificates at the University of Florida, while studying psychology from 1983-1987. She was inducted into the University of Florida Hall of Fame in the spring of 1999. She ended up earning her bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Washington in 2000.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Hultquist and her husband Rich have two children, Jack (7) and Maggie (5). The family resides in Renton, Washington.

HULTQUIST'S COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

- Coached UW to NCAA tournament in 2008
- Assistant coach at Washington from 1997-2002 as the Huskies made five consecutive NCAA appearances
- Guided 2001 team to first-ever trip to the NCAA Quarterfinals
- Named 2001 ITA National Assistant Coach of the Year
- Selected 2000 and 2001 ITA Northwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year
- Coached UW four-time All-American Claire Carter and three-time All-American Kristina Kraszewski

HULTQUIST'S PLAYING HIGHLIGHTS

- Played professionally on the WTA tour from 1987 to 1997
- Won more than 20 doubles titles on the WTA tour
- Ranked as high as sixth in the world in doubles and 64th in the world in singles
- Played doubles on the WTA tour with former UW head coach Patty McCain, picking up a win over Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini in the 1988 U.S. Open semifinals
- With McCain, advanced to the finals of the 1988 U.S. Open and the 1989 Australian Open
- Also advanced to the mixed doubles final at the 1996 French Open
- Three-time Canadian Olympian (1984, 1988, 1996)
- Earned WTA Tour Sportsmanship Award
- Earned Tennis Canada Sportsmanship Award
- 1988 Player of the Year in Canada
- Inducted into the Tennis Canada Hall of Fame
- Four-time All-American at Florida
- 1999 University of Florida Hall of Fame Inductee



The Hultquist family (l-r): Jill, Maggie, Rich and Jack.

ASSISTANT COACH • Damon Coupe

Second Season



Damon Coupe begins his second season as assistant coach at the University of Washington. His first season coincided with an about-face in the recent fortunes of the team as the Huskies posted their first winning record since 2005 and reached the NCAA Championships.

Part of the turnaround can certainly be attributed to Coupe, who brought a history of success and high standards to Seattle when head coach Jill Hultquist hired him in September of 2007. Coupe worked closely with Washington's top singles players and doubles teams and helped mentor freshman Venise Chan to an NCAA Singles Championship bid and a Top-30 singles ranking.

Coupe has had major successes at all five of his coaching stops up and down the west coast while working with both men and women. He came to Washington after serving as the assistant women's coach at California in 2007. In his one season in Berkeley, prior to longtime head coach Jan Brogan's retirement, Coupe helped lead the Golden Bears to the NCAA Semifinals and worked with a trio of All-Americans: Susie Babos, Zsuzsanna Fodor, and Nina Henkel.

"I am very fortunate to have found him and his knowledge and experience will definitely help our program move forward," Hultquist said about Coupe upon his hiring. "I am very excited that he has chosen to become a Husky!"

Prior to Cal, Coupe served as the women's head coach at Santa Clara (2004-06). He has also worked as the men's assistant head coach at Fresno State (2002-04) and the interim head coach at his alma mater, Sacramento State (2002). Coupe played at Sacramento State from 1993-1995.



He led Santa Clara to a record-setting 2004-05 season. Santa Clara finished the campaign with its best record in the history of the program at 16-7, and the squad also was nationally ranked for the first time.

While at Fresno State, the Bulldogs advanced to the 2004 NCAA Tournament, after reaching their highest national ranking of 30. The season before, Fresno State advanced to the round of 32 at the NCAA Tournament. Under Coupe's guidance, the No. 1 doubles team was ranked as high as No. 20 in the country and qualified to play in the NCAA Doubles Championships.

Serving as the men's interim head coach at Sacramento State, Coupe led the Hornets to the 2002 Big Sky Championship and a birth into the 2002 NCAA Tournament. He took over as head coach when the Hornets were 5-10, and the Hornets ended the season 12-11.

Coupe and his wife Michelle have a one-year-old son named Austin.

Tennis Support Staff



Karen Baebler
Asst. Dir. - Olympic Sports



Scott Baebler
Events Manager



Rose Baker
Strength and Conditioning



Michael Bruscas
Athletic Communications



Mike Dillon
Athletic Trainer



Jim Hagland
Equipment Manager



Rick Mulcahy
Academic Counselor



Molly Pavia
Tennis Center Manager