New captains Ryosei Kobayashi & Tomotaka Endo have embraced their roles and are already establishing themselves as great leaders, bringing their unique blend of discipline, focus, and a sense of fun to proceedings. While the new captains have moved seamlessly into their roles, the new freshmen are also excelling in their roles of replacing last year’s departing seniors. Ricardo Lopez (Aguascalientes, Mexico) and Canadians Matthew Toth (Vancouver) and Alexander Riedelsheimer (Caledon, Ontario) are already stepping up and winning matches against some of the best teams in the nation. The future looks bright with such talented and committed athletes in the team.

CSA INTERCOLLEGIATE DOUBLES

The legacy of Neil Cordell & Mario Yanez winning the national title 2 years ago has placed high expectations on Yellowjackets entering this event. This year, Ricardo Lopez, a newcomer to the tricky angles of hardball doubles, partnered with experienced senior Michelangelo Bertocchi. The duo reached the semi-finals of the tournament before losing to the No.1 seed and eventual champions from Navy (although “Micky and Ricky” surely won in terms of team nickname equity). Once again, thank you to Dick Rice and Genesee Valley Club in helping our players prepare for the event.

PRICE-BULLINGTON TRIUMPH

The 46th version of this pre-season intercollegiate invitational event hosted by Ted Price at the Country Club of Virginia as usual compiled some of the very best players in the CSA from the top ranked colleges in the nation. While we have had past success with Mario Yanez reaching the final last year, it was left to Ryosei Kobayashi to take the final step by winning this year’s title. It is the first time a Yellowjacket has won this prestigious event, and another feather in the cap of the team legacy. We’re delighted for Ryo.
EARLY SEASON SUCCESS

A flurry of home matches after Thanksgiving break against Ivy League rivals Dartmouth, UPenn, and Princeton was a demanding start to the team season. Thankfully, the mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie worked its way out of the Jackets’ system in time for three impressive showings in a short five-day period.

The Yellowjackets’ first sting was sharp, beating Dartmouth 9-0 in a midweek matchup. Solid victories up and down the lineup bolstered confidence heading into that weekend’s matches.

First came UPenn, who shocked the ‘Jackets 6-3 in Philadelphia last December. In this year’s matchup, the Yellowjackets won five of the first six matches, clinching an early victory on the way to a 7-2 final score. Yet, of those five early wins, three came in five-set matches; Rodrigo Porras (at position #8), Aria Fazelimanesh (at #6), and Tomotaka Endo (at #2) won their 5th games by scores of 11-9, 12-10, and 11-9, respectively. When the going got tough, the ‘Jackets got going. Given UPenn beat St. Lawrence the next day on the road gives us a good indicator of where we are and what to expect from the season.

Princeton came into town the very next day, giving Rochester no time to bask in the glow of their payback versus Penn. Again, the Yellowjackets impressed, fighting to an 8-1 victory against a young and talented Tigers squad.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017

The team return in early January to get some training before going on the road to Yale & Columbia on January 10th & 12th respectively. Come cheer us on if you are in the New York City area, or attend our Jan 11th alumni dinner in NYC. With home matches the following week against Cornell, Drexel & Trinity, it’s again a tough schedule, though our team will be prepared and ready for the challenge.

As always, Meliora!

Schedule 2016-17

Oct 9-11 - Intercollegiate Doubles @ Philadelphia, PA
Oct 30-Nov 1 - Price-Bullington Invitational @ Richmond, VA
Nov 30 - Dartmouth @ Rochester (9-0 W)
Dec 3 - Penn @ Rochester (7-2 W)
Dec 4 - Princeton @ Rochester (8-1 W)
Jan 10 - 5pm - @ Yale
Jan 12 - 12pm - @ Columbia
Jan 18 - 6pm - Cornell @ Rochester
Jan 20 - 6pm - Drexel @ Rochester
Jan 21 - 1pm - Trinity @ Rochester
Jan 28 - 12pm - Harvard @ Rochester
Feb 3-4 - All Day - Liberty League (Bard, Vassar, SLU & Hobart) @ Rochester
Feb 11 - 12pm - Rochester @ F&M
Feb 17-19 - All Day - CSA Team Nationals @ Harvard
Mar 3-5 - All Day - CSA Individual Nationals @ Dartmouth