

## **Bronco Men's Tennis Ranked No. 15 in pre-season**

NMMI Sports Press  
06-Dec-10

The Bronco men's tennis team is once again ranked among the top 15 junior college teams in the nation, according to the Nov. 8th Intercollegiate Tennis Association pre-season poll, conducted at the end of competition during the the Fall semester off-season. This final Fall ranking predicts the strength of the top teams as they prepare for their spring season.



The members of the Bronco Men's Tennis team are, from left to right: Yang Yang, Joshua Lup, Lorenzo Pineda, Jose, Cobo, William O'Connell, Bryan Cabriales, and Ian Honila. Head Coach Gene Hardman is in front on one knee.

The Broncos have a proven record of improvement from Fall to Spring in each of the past three years - after being ranked at No. 15 in the 2008, 2009, and 2010 ITA pre-season polls, the Broncos have finished 10<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

“ This year's Bronco team is young with only 2 sophomores," said head coach Gene Hardman. "It has always been the case that the new player improves drastically from the fall season to the spring. That is what makes this team so special. Not only are we going to be strong this year, but five of our top eight players will be back next year.”

Three of those eight players have been recognized by the ITA as being among the top 90 players in the nation for singles:

- #44 - William O'Connell - sophomore
- #55 - Lorenzo Pineda - sophomore
- #70 - Ian Honila - freshman

The soph tandem of O'Connell and Pineda are even tougher when playing together, and have cracked the top 25 list for men's doubles at No. 25 in the nation.

Come springtime, look for the Broncos to face a challenging schedule mostly against four-year-school NCAA Division II teams, in preparation for the NJCAA Championship Tournament, which the Broncos have earned the right to go to for the last three years.