

Silverstein presents tennis honors

TTU Sports Information

COOKEVILLE — With his first year in the books, Tennessee Tech Tennis coach Dan Silverstein announced the team honors for both his men's and women's squads at the annual Team Awards Dinner Thursday night. Three new awards were presented along with the Golden Eagle Award for both teams and the Johnny Donnelly Maverick Award.

Sophomores Dean O'Brien and Kelly Holtzhausen captured the Golden Eagle Award as the Most Valuable Players on their teams, while redshirt freshman Yianni Doropoulos received the prestigious Maverick Award.

"These awards were so difficult to decide," Silverstein said. "Every player on the team could have gotten the awards. Every single one has given something of themselves to this team and program."

The Johnny Donnelly Maverick Award, named for the late Johnny Donnelly, was presented by his parents, John and Marty Donnelly of Cookeville. Johnny Donnelly was a true TTU sports fan who passed away in October of 1998 after a long-fought battle with muscular dystrophy. In 1999, he was first Golden Eagle fan to be inducted into the Tech Sports Hall of Fame.

The award is given annually to a member of either the men's or women's tennis team who exhibits the same kind of determination that Johnny showed. Despite not being eligible to compete this season, Doropoulos proved to be the ultimate team player, according to Silverstein.

"Yianni was out there supporting both teams during the matches from the sidelines, and he worked just as hard during practices as anybody. He has given his heart and soul to this team, and the team would have not been the same without him," Silverstein said.

Dr. Lance Jasitt, TTU Assistant Athletic Director for Academics, was on hand to present the inaugural Academic Awards, which went to freshman Joana Corkern from Bentonville, Ark., and Doropoulos. Corkern owns a 3.50 GPA, while Doropoulos has fashioned a 3.75 GPA



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Tennessee Tech tennis coach Dan Silverstein (above, from left), and John and Marty Donnelly present the prestigious Johnny Donnelly Maverick Award to redshirt freshman Yianni Doropoulos. Below, Silverstein presents the "Heart of a Champion Award" to sophomore Katie Barnhill (left) and freshman Justin Kirstein (right).