

Arthur Ashe winner Brian Utz headlines 2016 MIAC Men's Tennis Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced the 2016 MIAC Men's Tennis Awards Tuesday, and individuals from Macalester College and Gustavus Adolphus College received the top honors in recognition of their outstanding seasons.

Scots' senior Brian Utz was named the winner of the MIAC Arthur Ashe Award, and Gusties' Head Coach Tommy Valentini was voted the winner of the MIAC Steve Wilkinson Coach-of-the-Year award by his peers. In addition, the 2016 MIAC All-Conference Singles and Doubles teams were announced, as was the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Utz's (Sr., Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes) selection as the Arthur Ashe Award winner was a result of his outstanding career both on and off the court. The award annually recognizes a senior tennis student-athlete with outstanding sportsmanship and exemplary athletic, academic and humanitarian accomplishments.

From his work on the court alone, Utz is certainly deserving of recognition. This season he earned his third-straight All-MIAC Singles honor, and his second career All-MIAC Doubles award. This season he went 12-7 overall at No. 2 singles and 13-6 at No. 1 doubles, with an even better performance in conference play. He was a combined 14-4 - 6-3 in singles play and 8-1 in doubles - in conference matches. He helped Macalester go 10-9 overall, 5-4 in the MIAC, and earn a spot in the MIAC Playoffs.

However, Utz's accomplishments certainly extend beyond the scoreboard and on-court results. He is an outstanding student and Macalester Head Coach Jason Muhl praised his outstanding sportsmanship to teammates, opponents, officials, fans, and everyone involved in collegiate tennis. He was also Macalester's selection for the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team, further evidence of his positive impact on the game, and of his worthy candidacy for the MIAC's Arthur Ashe Award.

Valentini received the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year, named for his college coach and the man he succeeded, for the third time in his seven seasons at the helm of his alma mater. In 2016, the Gustavus coach helped his team continue a remarkable dynasty as they won their 28th-straight MIAC regular-season title, sixth-straight MIAC Playoff championship, and pushed their regular-season conference-match winning streak to 260 in a row and counting.

Valentini's team will enter the NCAA Tournament with a 24-7 overall record, and it went a perfect 9-0 in conference play. Of those nine wins, five were by a 9-0 score, three were 8-1 wins and two were 7-2, as his team lost just a total of seven points in nine conference matches. The Gusties were even better in the Playoffs, winning 9-0 in the semifinals and 5-0 in the championship. The team received an NCAA first-round bye, and will open National Tournament play Friday against Coe College. Valentini coached five players to All-MIAC Singles honors, and four to All-Conference Doubles accolades.

The MIAC Men's Tennis All-Conference Singles and Doubles teams were determined using a point system for conference wins at each position, with the top 18 - including ties - recognized. This season, the All-Conference Singles Team includes 20 players and the Doubles Team includes 21 student-athletes. There were 11 student-athletes that earned both singles and doubles honors in 2016.

The Singles Team includes five seniors, five juniors, seven sophomores and three freshmen. MIAC champion Gustavus led the way with five All-Conference singles players, followed by runner-up Carleton with four All-MIAC singles selections. St. Olaf and Bethel each had three players receive the honor, St. Thomas and Macalester had two singles players honored each, and Saint John's had one player named to the team.

The Doubles Team features nine seniors, four juniors, seven sophomores and one freshman. Three teams - Gustavus, St. Thomas and Saint John's - led the way with four All-MIAC doubles honorees apiece. St. Olaf had three players honored for their doubles work, and Carleton, Macalester and Bethel each had two players named to the MIAC's All-Conference doubles squad.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the 10th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for men's tennis. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.



2016 MIAC MEN'S TENNIS AWARDS

Arthur Ashe Award: Brian Utz, Macalester (Sr., Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes)

Steve Wilkinson Coach-of-the-Year: Tommy Valentini, Gustavus (7th season)

2016 MIAC MEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE SINGLES TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/Previous School</u>
Mohanad Alhouni	Gustavus	So.	Tripoli, Libya / West Lutheran
Christian Beck	St. Olaf	So.	Los Altos, Calif.
Ben Carlson	St. Olaf	Sr.	Hastings, Minn.
Josh Doyle	Macalester	So.	Cologne, Germany / Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium
Zach Ekstein	Gustavus	So.	Eagan, Minn.
Luke Elifson	St. Thomas	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn. / South
Mitch Elofson	Gustavus	Sr.	St. Peter, Minn.
Hunter Fernelius	Bethel	Fr.	New Hope, Minn.
Kolin Kiekhoefer	Bethel	Jr.	Woodbury, Minn. / New Life Academy
Joey Kronzer	St. Olaf	Sr.	Duluth, Minn. / Marshall
Tim Larson	Saint John's	So.	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Patton McClelland	Carleton	Jr.	Rock Hill, S.C. / Charlotte Latin
Kevin Mei	Carleton	So.	Ann Arbor, Mich. / Huron
Jordon O'Kelly	Carleton	Fr.	Lake Forest, Ill.
Andrew Qi	Carleton	Fr.	Auckland, New Zealand / Saint Kentigern
Andres Saenz	Gustavus	Sr.	Cancun, Mexico / Gonzalo Guerrero
Matt Schull	Bethel	Jr.	Eagan, Minn. / Henry Sibley
Gabe Steinwand	Gustavus	So.	Moorhead, Minn.
Brian Utz	Macalester	Sr.	Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes
Scott Wall	St. Thomas	Jr.	De Pere, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy

2016 MIAC MEN'S TENNIS ALL-CONFERENCE DOUBLES TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown/Previous School</u>
Mohanad Alhouni	Gustavus	So.	Tripoli, Libya / West Lutheran
Christian Beck	St. Olaf	So.	Los Altos, Calif.
Josh Doyle	Macalester	So.	Cologne, Germany / Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium
Zach Ekstein	Gustavus	So.	Eagan, Minn.
Luke Elifson	St. Thomas	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn. / South
Tommy Entwistle	Gustavus	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D. / O'Gorman
Ezra Frankel	Carleton	Jr.	Lincoln, Mass. / Belmont Hill
Aaron Goodman	Carleton	Fr.	Minneapolis, Minn. / St. Louis Park
Jack Hansen	Saint John's	Sr.	Dawson, Minn. / Dawson-Boyd
Danny Hogan	St. Olaf	So.	Edina, Minn. / Beinilde-St. Margaret's
Joey Kronzer	St. Olaf	Sr.	Duluth, Minn. / Marshall
Ben Lahren	Saint John's	Sr.	Wausau, Wis. / West
Tim Larson	Saint John's	So.	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Allen-Michael Muench	St. Thomas	Sr.	Flower Mound, Texas
Andrew Nagel	Saint John's	Sr.	Maple Grove, Minn.
Luke Palmquist	Bethel	Sr.	South St. Paul, Minn.
Brady Radermacher	St. Thomas	Sr.	Eagan, Minn.
Andres Saenz	Gustavus	Sr.	Cancun, Mexico / Gonzalo Guerrero
Matt Schull	Bethel	Jr.	Eagan, Minn. / Henry Sibley
Brian Utz	Macalester	Sr.	Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes
Scott Wall	St. Thomas	Jr.	De Pere, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy

2016 MEN'S TENNIS ALL-MIAC SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM

Bethel - Matt Schull (Jr., Eagan, Minn. / Henry Sibley)
 Carleton - Patton McClelland (Jr., Rock Hill, S.C. / Charlotte Latin)
 Concordia - Isaac Toivonen (So., Red Wing, Minn.)
 Gustavus - Andres Saenz (Sr., Cancun, Mexico / Gonzalo Guerrero)
 Hamline - Cody Jahrig (Jr., Missoula, Mont. / Hellgate)
 Macalester - Brian Utz (Sr., Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes)
 Saint John's - Andrew Nagel (Sr., Maple Grove, Minn.)

Saint Mary's - Warren Lawrenz (Sr., Rochester, Minn. / Stewartville)
St. Olaf - Joey Kronzer (Sr., Duluth, Minn. / Marshall)
St. Thomas - Ben Wait (So., Germantown, Wis.)

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