

Vithoontien named Arthur Ashe winner as MIAC announces Men's Tennis awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced the 2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Awards on Tuesday, including the Arthur Ashe Award, Coach of the Year, All-Conference and honorable mention teams, and All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Carleton senior **Leo Vithoontien** was selected as the 2021 MIAC Arthur Ashe Award winner. The award annually recognizes a senior men's tennis student-athlete who exhibits outstanding sportsmanship and exemplary athletic, academic, and humanitarian accomplishments. In addition, MIAC tennis coaches also selected Macalester head coach **Jason Muhl** as the 2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year.



Vithoontien (Sr. | Bangkok, Thailand | Patana School) earned his third consecutive Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-America honor last spring and wrapped up the 2021 regular season with a perfect 6-0 record in conference play as the Knights' No. 1 singles competitor along with a 5-1 mark in MIAC doubles play. For his career, Vithoontien is 52-2 at No. 1 singles.

"I have worked with many fine student-athletes, but few display the talent, sense of fair play, and unselfish devotion to the team that typifies Leo," Carleton head coach Stephan Zweifel said.

The NCAA national runner-up in 2019, Vithoontien came to the United States from Thailand four years ago to begin his academic career at Carleton College. Four years later, he has not only found a sense of belonging but also a sense of purpose on the tennis court as the Knights' team captain throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am not naturally a very vocal person, but I tried to lead by example as best as I could," Vithoontien said of his approach to leadership. "I made sure the guys saw I was continuing to work as hard as possible in practice and continued to try and display patience and tranquility during times of frustration."

In addition to the Arthur Ashe Award, MIAC tennis coaches also selected Macalester's Jason Muhl as the MIAC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year. Muhl guided the Scots to a 6-3 record and a berth in the MIAC Playoffs in 2021. Muhl was also selected as the MIAC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. He is now a two-time winner of both awards, having been previously recognized as Women's Coach of the Year in 2008 and Men's Coach of the Year in 2010.

The 2021 MIAC Men's Tennis All-Conference Singles and Doubles teams were also recognized. The All-Conference team is selected based on performance during conference dual matches, with the top 18 players (including ties) recognized for both singles and doubles. A player must play in five conference matches at any position to be eligible for the honor. Coaches also voted on an honorable mention team.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the 14th 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.

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Awards

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Arthur Ashe Award

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
Leo Vithoontien	Carleton	Sr.	Bangkok, Thailand Patana School	--

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year

Name	Institution	Previous Selections
Jason Muhl	Macalester	2010

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis All-Conference Singles Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
Erik Beckers	Bethel	Jr.	Bloomington, Minn. Jefferson	2019
Jack Bergmeyer	Gustavus	So.	Lincoln, Neb. Southeast	--
Anshul Bharath	St. Thomas	Jr.	Rosemount, Minn.	--
Lennart Buhl	St. Thomas	Fy.	Wiesbaden, Germany Celsius Academy	--
Tyler Creelman	Bethel	Jr.	Elk River, Minn.	--
Tristan Fjelstad	St. Thomas	Jr.	Eden Prairie, Minn. Benilde-St. Margaret's	2019
Thomas Gillach	Saint John's	Sr.	Lindstrom, Minn. Chisago Lakes	2018 2019
Sam Hochberger	Macalester	Sr.	Maple Grove, Minn.	2018 2019
Jeffrey Jorgensen	Macalester	Jr.	Menlo Park, Calif. Menlo-Atherton	2019
Yuv Kataria	Carleton	Fy.	Kolkata, India Weil Academy & College Prep	--
Myles Krzewinski	St. Thomas	Fy.	Green Bay, Wis.	--
Wil McDowell	Saint John's	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman	--
Indraneel Raut	Gustavus	Jr.	Oshkosh, Wis. West	2019 (HM)
Jason Reilly	Bethel	Jr.	Andover, Kan. Central	--
Xander Roti	Carleton	Jr.	Locust Valley, N.Y. Friends Academy	2019
Frank Stich	St. Thomas	Jr.	Minnetonka, Minn.	--
Leo Vithoontien	Carleton	Sr.	Bangkok, Thailand Patana School	2018 2019
Ben White	Macalester	Sr.	Parkersburg, W.V. South	2018 2019
Spencer Wick	St. Olaf	Sr.	Stillwater, Minn. Mahtomedi	--
Michael Yousef	St. Olaf	Fy.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman	--

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis All-Conference Doubles Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
Nick Aney	Gustavus	Jr.	Rochester, Minn. Century	2019
Erik Beckers	Bethel	Jr.	Bloomington, Minn. Jefferson	--
Aashish Bharath	St. Thomas	Fy.	Rosemount, Minn.	--
Anshul Bharath	St. Thomas	Jr.	Rosemount, Minn.	--
Alex Budde	Gustavus	So.	Menomonee Falls, Wis.	--
Daniel Fouchier	Gustavus	So.	Nootdorp, Netherlands International School of Dusseldorf	--
Thomas Gillach	Saint John's	Sr.	Lindstrom, Minn. Chisago Lakes	2018 2019
Yuv Kataria	Carleton	Fy.	Kolkata, India Weil Academy & College Prep	--
Myles Krzewinski	St. Thomas	Fy.	Green Bay, Wis.	--
Wil McDowell	Saint John's	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman	--
Jason Reilly	Bethel	Jr.	Andover, Kan. Central	2019
Xavier Sanga	Gustavus	Sr.	Madison, Wis. Middleton	2019 (HM)
Sterling Sibley	St. Thomas	Gr.	Deephaven, Minn. Minnetonka	--
Matthew Sullivan	Macalester	So.	Tacoma, Wash. Weil	--
Aidan Toner-Rodgers	Macalester	Sr.	Sebastopol, Calif. Analy	--

Aniketh Vipparla	Carleton	Fy.	Cary, N.C. Green Hope	--
Aswath Viswanathan	Carleton	So.	Lincolnshire, Ill. Adlai E. Stevenson	--
Leo Vithoontien	Carleton	Sr.	Bangkok, Thailand Patana School	2018 2019
Spencer Wick	St. Olaf	Sr.	Stillwater, Minn. Mahtomedi	--
Michael Yousef	St. Olaf	Fy.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman	--

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Honorable Mention Singles

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
Nick Aney	Gustavus	Jr.	Rochester, Minn. Century	2019 (HM)
Alex Budde	Gustavus	So.	Menomonee Falls, Wis.	--
Daniel Fouchier	Gustavus	So.	Nootdorp, Netherlands International School of Dusseldorf	--
Caleb Fridinger	Gustavus	Fy.	Woodbury, Minn. East Ridge	--
Joey Mueller	Bethel	Sr.	Hutchinson, Minn.	2019 (HM)

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis Honorable Mention Doubles

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
Tristan Fjelstad	St. Thomas	Jr.	Eden Prairie, Minn.	--
Caleb Fridinger	Gustavus	Fy.	Woodbury, Minn. Eastridge	--
Nazeer Robinson	Hamline	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo. Parkway North	--
Frank Stich	St. Thomas	Jr.	Minnetonka, Minn.	--
Sam Thompson	Hamline	Fy.	Apple Valley, Minn.	--

2021 MIAC Men's Tennis All-Sportsmanship Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Erik Beckers	Bethel	Jr.	Bloomington, Minn. Jefferson
Yuv Kataria	Carleton	Fy.	Kolkata, India Weil Academy & College Prep
Kipton Jenson	Concordia	Fy.	Worthington, Minn. Worthington
Xavier Sanga	Gustavus	Sr.	Madison, Wis. Middleton
Nazeer Robinson	Hamline	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo. Parkway North
Sam Hochberger	Macalester	Sr.	Maple Grove, Minn.
Thomas Gillach	Saint John's	Sr.	Lindstrom, Minn. Chisago Lakes
Gabe Graves	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Littleton, Colo. Columbine
Dez Young	St. Olaf	Sr.	Northfield, Minn.
Aashish Bharath	St. Thomas	Fy.	Rosemount, Minn.