

2001 MIAC MEN'S TENNIS PREVIEW

MIAC Men's Tennis

The MIAC Men's Tennis Championship is set for May 4-5, 2001 - hosted by St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minn.).

Bethel College

Head Coach: Dan Morton (3rd year)

2000 Record: 9th at MIAC Championship

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Mark Benson, Senior, Willmar, MN

Harrison Hanson, Senior, Long Prairie, MN

Dan Lehto, Junior, Rogers, MN

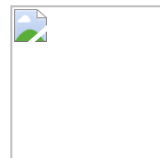
Craig Hinson, Senior, Detroit Lakes, MN

Peter Brulle, Sophomore, Sycamore, IL

Jason Strand, Senior, Long Lake, MN

Season Preview:

With a number of quality returning players, Coach Dan Morton expects the 2001 Royals to show consistency throughout the lineup and continue to climb in the MIAC standings. Senior captains Mark Benson and Harrison Hanson both have three years experience at the varsity level and will be called upon to lead Bethel throughout the season. Fellow seniors Chad Hanson, Jason Strand, and Craig Hinson and underclassmen Dan Lehto and Peter Brulle will add depth to the squad.



Carleton College

Head Coach: Sarah Hurst (sixth season)

2000 Record: 10-8, 3-6 MIAC; 7th at MIAC Championship

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

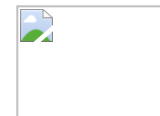
David Cho, Sr., 13-5 singles record in 2000

Evan Houston, Jr., 12-6 singles record in 2000

Nick Olson, Jr., Consolation champ at No. 6 singles and No. 2 doubles, MIAC Championships

Season Preview:

Despite the loss of top singles player and Arthur Ashe-award winner Zach Pruitt, as well as David Oji, who held down the No. 2 singles spot in 2000, the Knights seek to return to the top four of the MIAC in 2001. David Cho and Evan Houston are back as top singles threats and Nick Olson also figures to move up the ladder in 2001. Nat Lemke is another player that could make some noise for the Knights in 2001. Hurst will rely heavily upon a first year class of Aleks Diamond-Stanic, Brian Marson, and Mike Ottum if the Knights are to finish in the top four for the seventh time in nine seasons.



Concordia College

Head Coach: Bob Nick (34th season)

2000 Record: 5th at MIAC Championship

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

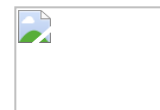
Andy Bakke (Jr., Grand Forks, ND)

Jake Olson (Jr., Crookston, MN)

Mark Tuchscherer (Jr., Baxter, MN)

Season Preview:

The Concordia men's tennis team will be hoping that the spirit of youth will overcome the experience of age. The Cobbers will take the courts without a senior on the roster and with only three juniors. Concordia is hoping to improve on their fifth place finish from the 2000 season. Last year the Cobbers won their last three dual matches and seven of their last nine.



The team lost number one singles player Jonah Beckerman (Detroit Lakes, MN) to an overseas mission so they will have to rely on overall team depth. The trio of juniors will compete at the top three singles spots. Jake Olson (Crookston, MN) will take over the number one singles while Mark Tuchscherer (Baxter, MN) and Andy Bakke (Grand Forks, MN) will round out the top three. Bakke will team with Joe Amsberry (So., Park Rapids, MN) to add punch to the doubles lineup.

Gustavus Adolphus College

Head Coach: Steve Wilkinson (31st Season)

2000 Record: 1st at MIAC Championship (12th consecutive title)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Mike Hom (Jr., Plover, Wisc., 2000 champion at #2 singles)

Nick Crossley (Jr., Rock Island, Ill., 2000 champion at #3 singles)

Kevin Whipple (So., St. Cloud, Minn., 2000 champion at #4 singles)

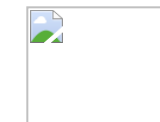
Josh Heiden (Jr., Aberdeen, So. Dakota, 2000 champion at #5 singles)

Greg Linder (So., Brooklyn Center, Minn., 2000 champion at #6 singles)

Daryn Collins (Jr., Duluth, Minn., 2000 champion at #2 doubles)

Tommy Valentini (Jr., Duluth, Minn., 2000 champion at #2 doubles)

Mike O'Brien (Sr., Elk River, Minn., 2000 champion at #3 doubles)



Brandon Dunigan (Jr., Brookfield, Wisc., 2000 champion at #3 doubles)

Eric Butorac (So., Rochester, Minn., transfer from Ball State University, former Minnesota State High School League Champion)

Season Preview:

The Gustavus men's tennis team returns nine of its top ten players from the 2000 squad that won its 12th consecutive MIAC Championship and finished second at the NCAA Team Championship. Coach Steve Wilkinson and his squad, which begin the season ranked second nationally have high hopes for the 2001 season with goals that include winning their 13th consecutive MIAC title and once again contending for the NCAA title. The team welcomes newcomer Eric Butorac (So., Rochester, Minn.) to the squad after he played regularly for Division I Ball State University last year. Butorac is expected to be a very significant contributor for the Gusties in both singles and doubles play.

The season opens with a late January trip to Hawaii, the World Team Tennis competition in California, and Division III National Indoor Championships at Whitworth College in Washington. Coach Wilkinson will again challenge his team with a schedule that includes seven teams ranked in the top twenty in Division III along with four Division I opponents.

Hamline University

Head Coach: Dan Haertl

2000 Record: 8th at MIAC Championship

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Season Preview:

The 2001 season should represent another positive step for Hamline in what is a perennially tough tennis conference. Coach Dan Haertl believes that this program has a bright future. The new Walker Field House, housing a 4800 square-foot fitness center and three tennis courts, provides a great indoor facility for in-season and off-season training. The six Holt Tennis Courts are the outdoor site for training and matches. The teams will benefit from the competition they face during their spring break trip to Phoenix.

The 2001 men's team may be the most talented group that Hamline has ever put on the courts. Returning #1 Ivan Guarin (sr) hopes to recover from elbow and shoulder problems to lead this team in his last campaign. Sophomore transfer Kris Premo and first-year John Schollmeier will compete for the top spots with returning sophomore Troy Kleven. Joe Vogel (jr) and Brian Niemczyk (so) return to fill out the lineup along with Perry Smiley (so). If the Pipers can stay healthy they may find themselves near the top of the MIAC standings at the end of the year.

Macalester College

Head Coach: Eric Eberhardt (3rd season)

2000 Record: 10-13 (5-4 MIAC / 4th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Johan Fryklund (Jr., Lund, Sweden) (9-15 last year - mostly at No. 1)

R.J. Laukitis (Jr., Holland, MI) (15-11 last year - mostly at No. 3 and 4)

Peter Loken (So., Duluth, MN / Marshall) (13-10 last year - mostly at No. 5)

Jeff Falk (So., Bremen, Germany) (16-7 last year - mostly at No. 6)

Season Preview:

Third-year coach Eric Eberhardt and the Scots are optimistic that the 2001 campaign can be one of the best ever at Macalester and are looking to finish near the top of the MIAC. The Scots are going for their sixth straight winning conference record after going 5-4 a year ago and taking fourth at the MIAC tournament. Macalester went 0-6 last season in matches decided by a single point and are hoping improved performance in doubles play can make the difference this year.

The Scots lost Mads Sorensen (12-12) and Peter Neumer (17-7) from the top half of the singles lineup to graduation, but return No. 1 player Johan Fryklund (Jr., Lund, Sweden). Fryklund went just 2-7 at No. 2 singles over the season's first half but went 6-7 after moving up to No. 1. R.J. Laukitis (Jr., Holland, MI) returns after going 15-11 - mostly at No. 3 and 4. Mac also welcomes back Peter Loken (So., Duluth, MN / Marshall) and Jeff Falk (So., Bremen, Germany). Loken went 13-10 last year, mostly at fifth singles, while Falk went 16-7 at No. 6.

Saint John's University

Head Coach: Jack Bowe (4th season, 29-35 career record)

2000 Record: 10-13 Overall (4-5 MIAC / MIAC Finish: 6th place)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Mike Solum, Freshman

John Zins, Senior, '99 MIAC champion at number two singles

Carl Robinson, Junior, '00 MIAC consolation champion at number two singles

Scott Loe, Sophomore, '00 MIAC consolation champion at number three singles

Season Preview:

The SJU tennis team, hoping to improve on its sixth place MIAC finish from last year, will be led in singles by freshman Mike Solum, Minneapolis. He will be followed by senior co-captain John Zins, St. Cloud, rounded out by Plymouth natives junior Carl Robinson and sophomore Scott Loe. Zins was the MIAC champion at number two singles in 1999. In doubles, teammates Solum and Zins look to be number one, followed at number two by Robinson and Loe. Finishing up in number three doubles is expected to be senior co-captain Mike Gander and freshman Sean Borg. The team will again be coached by Jack Bowe, who is in his fourth year at SJU with a 29-35 career record.

Saint Mary's University

Head Coach: Jeff Halberg (2nd season)

2000 Record: 2-14 (0-9 MIAC / 10th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Geoff Granseth (So., Winona, Minn., #1 singles/doubles)



Brad Reichuber (Jr., Mahtomedi, Minn., #2 singles/#1 doubles)

Season Preview:

Jeff Halberg will be the first to admit that, during his first two seasons as the Saint Mary's University men's and women's tennis coach, he put a lot of stock in the Cardinals' final overall records.

And, on paper, those records weren't exactly anything to write home about. His men's teams managed just two victories in 31 matches during that two-year span -- failing to win a match in 1999 (0-17), while winning twice in 16 matches a year ago.

"When you look at our teams, you can't judge the success of a season solely on how many matches we've won," admitted Halberg. "Our goal is to continue to improve and strive to get better with each match."

"Just because you don't win, doesn't mean you haven't improved." And therein lies the difference between the Halberg of the past two seasons, and the Halberg of 2001.

"Every one of the individuals on the men's team has improved his game since last season," said Halberg, who has penciled in a lineup that includes Geoff Granseth (Winona, Minn.), Brad Reichuber (Mahtomedi, Minn.), Andrew Jackola (Chisholm, Minn.), Chad Boyer (Albert Lea, Minn.), Chad Brusky (Fond du Lac, Wis.) and Dustin Noble (Spring Lake Park, Minn.) -- with Brusky the lone newcomer to the lineup. "They all put in a lot of time working over the summer, and that work will pay off."

St. Olaf College

Head Coach: Scott Nesbit (12th Season)

2000 Record: 10-3 (7-2) 3rd at MIAC Championship

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Pete Nau Sr. 1 Singles/1 Doubles #1 Doubles Champion 2000/#2 Singles Runner-up

Karl Wilbur Jr. 2 Singles/1 Doubles #3 Singles Runner-up

Peter Thoen So. 3 Singles/3 Doubles All-Conf. Semi-Finalist/Singles/Doubles

Brandon Hall Jr. 4 singles/3 doubles All-Conf. Semi-Finalist/Singles/Doubles

Season Preview:

The Oles have a great core of returning players. Captain Pete Nau (Sr., Cedar Rapids, IA) comes off an excellent 2000 season where he finished second in the conference at number two singles and first along with Jon Campbell (2000 graduate) at number one doubles. Nau is joined by Karl Wilbur (Jr., Edina, MN), who finished second in the conference at number three singles.

Considering the strong core of returning players, together with the addition of three excellent first-year players, the Oles are looking for another successful season. Said Coach Scott Nesbit, "We have added some very competitive matches to our schedule. As always, competing well in our conference matches will be one of our main goals. We hope to be right in the thick of things for the top spots in the standings."

University of St. Thomas

Head Coach: Terry Peck (starting 10th season)

2000 Record: Overall 15-2 (NCAA qualifier) 2nd at MIAC Championship

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Andy Horton, SR, Elk River, 2000 MIAC runner-up at No. 2 doubles

Derek Johnson, SR, Fridley, playing No. 2 singles in 2001

Matt Kramer, SO, Eagan, 2000 MIAC runner-up at No. 6; playing No. 1 singles in 2001

Jacob Kraus, JR, Owatonna, playing No. 4 singles in 2001

Dan Lattier, SR, Edmonds, Wash., missed 2000 season while studying abroad

Season Preview:

The 2000 St. Thomas men's tennis team received an invitation to the 27-team NCAA Division III tournament -- UST's first since 1993. The Toms, the MIAC runner-up, had a 15-2 dual-meet record. The Toms' lone dual losses came March 11 to eventual NCAA runner-up Gustavus, 6-1, in a match in which UST won all three doubles matches, and to Washington (Mo.) in the NCAA playoffs, 7-0.

NCAA individual qualifer at No. 1 singles Matt Hering was among three seniors who graduated, but the Toms have four returners who placed second in the 2000 MIAC Championships -- soph Matt Kramer took second at No. 6 singles (lost 6-4, 5-7, 6-2) and joined John Ryan to place second at No. 3 doubles; and Derek Johnson and Andy Horton took second at No. 2 doubles.

Freshman John Thomas of Winona Cotter joins six returners in the Toms' 2001 lineup.

2000 Final Team Totals

School	Points
Gustavus	158
St. Thomas	128
St. Olaf	114
Macalester	76
Concordia	62
St. John's	52
Carleton	49
Hamline	27
Bethel	18
St. Mary's	3