



2006 MIAC MEN'S TENNIS PREVIEW


2006 marks the 86th Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Men's Tennis season. Teams will be attempting to challenge Gustavus Adolphus College for the top spot in the MIAC. Gustavus was perfect in the 2005 MIAC regular season, finishing 9-0. Carleton, St. Thomas, Concordia and St. John's will look to rival Gustavus for the MIAC Championship while Saint Mary's, St. Olaf, Hamline, Bethel and Macalester look to improve in this year's standings.

The MIAC Championships are scheduled for April 28 and 29 and will be hosted by Carleton College. The Gusties have strung together 18 consecutive conference championships, finished fourth in last seasons NCAA Team Championships, and look to defend their title once again this season.


Bethel University		
Head Coach:	Dan Morton , 7th Season	
2005:	9th in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Chris Scheevel (So., St. Cloud, Minn. / Cathedral) Mark Hallstrom (Jr., Willmar, Minn. / Willmar) Mark Tarman (Jr., Mora, Minn. / Mora) Josh Widen (Sr., Fridley, Minn. / Fridley)	
Season Preview:	2005 saw the Royal men place a disappointing 9th place in the MIAC with a season record of 5-13 and 1-8 in MIAC play. Head Coach Dan Morton is confident however, the 2006 men's team is as ready as it has ever been to legitimately compete in the MIAC. The quality of competition within the team has risen causing the level of play amongst teammates to rise. Morton points to Proverbs 27:17 which states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another," as this season's team focus. Constantly pushing one another through preseason workouts excellent doubles teams have arose. Chris Scheevel, (St. Cloud, MN) and Mark Hallstrom, (Willmar, MN) will team up to form a dynamic doubles tandem, having had a successful 2005 season under their belt. Upper classmen Mark Tarman, (Mora, MN) and Josh Widen (Fridley, MN) will also form a solid doubles team in which a lot of success is expected. Individually, Scheevel will lead the charge as a genuine MIAC #1 singles player and set the foundation for what is to be a much more improved team from a season ago. Underclassmen Andy Hendel, (Eau Claire, WI) and Graham Johnson, (Bourbonnais, IL) round out the eight man roster and will be expected to play a pivotal point in deciding a tightly contested MIAC race. Morton is assisted by 2004 graduate and first year assistant Anthony Branitski.	

Carleton College		
Head Coach:	Stephan Zweifel, 9th Season	
2005:	2nd in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Andrew Tulloch (Sr., Vadnais Heights, Minn. / Mounds View) William Holmes (Sr., Edinburgh, Scotland / Merchiston Castle School) Pat Maloney (Jr.) Kartheek Koneru (So., Naperville, Ill. / Neuqua Valley)	


Season Preview:	<p>After back-to-back runner-up MAIC finishes and two years after posting a school-record 20 wins and advancing to the NCAA Championships for the first time in more than 20 seasons, Carleton enters the 2006 primed for another attack towards the national tournament.</p> <p>The Knights will need to replace two key players that graduated this past June in Jake Hoppe and Drew Piston. Piston was an All-MIAC pick at fifth singles while Hoppe garnered the same citation from the sixth slot; the pair combined for an All-MIAC effort at second doubles.</p> <p>Back, though, is senior William Holmes, a two-time all-conference performer who enters his final season regionally ranked with doubles partner and fellow senior Andrew Tulloch. A three-time All-MIAC performer, Tulloch manned the fourth singles slot last season. Also back after outstanding rookie campaign is sophomore Kartheek Koneru, an All-MIAC pick at third singles and third doubles last year.</p> <p>Other returning veterans that should crack Carleton's line-up include junior Robert Stern and sophomore Brendan Cooper. Top newcomers to watch include Norwegian import Eirik Thoen and Minnesota product Julian Tokarev of Shoreview</p> <p>Carleton has finished the past two seasons ranked in the top 10 in the region. In 2004, the Knights finished in the eighth slot, earning the school's second bid to the NCAA Championships. In 2005, Carleton ended the year ranked ninth.</p> <p>Head coach Stephan Zweifel, who returns to the Knights with assistant coach Zach Pruitt after missing last season while on a faculty sabbatical, is appreciative, but cautious, of the early ranking. "A top 10 preseason ranking puts a bit of pressure on us," he said. "The critics have spoken and now we need to prove that we are worth the price of admission."</p> <p>The Knights will take on five of the other top 15 teams during their ambitious 2006 campaign. Carleton will face the region's top team in Gustavus Adolphus College (#4 nationally); sixth-ranked University of Chicago (#25 nationally), 12th-ranked College of Wooster (Ohio), #13 University of Wisconsin, Whitewater and #15 Luther College (Iowa).</p>
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Concordia College		
Head Coach:	Dave Lester, 3rd Season	
2005:	4th in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	<p>Jordy Kamerling (Jr., Almere, The Netherlands / Moorhead)</p> <p>William Wischer (So., Grand Forks, N.D. / Red River)</p> <p>Paul Tuchscherer (Jr., - Baxter, Minn. / Brainerd)</p>	
Season Preview:	<p>The 2006 Concordia men's tennis team will be hoping to continue their upward trend that started in the middle of the 2005 season. Last year, the Cobbers rattled off seven straight wins which tied a program record. The 2006 squad returns five of the six players from last year, and with another year of experience, the Cobbers should improve on their fifth place finish at the 2005 MIAC Championship Meet.</p> <p>The only player lost from a year ago was #1 singles player Jake Thomas. Taking Thomas' place at the top spot for Dave Lester's crew will be junior Jordy Kamerling. Kamerling has shown the ability to play with the top players in the conference and should not have too much of a jump to move from #2 singles to #1. His familiarity with the league's best players from playing on the #1 doubles team in 2005 should help his transition to replace Thomas.</p> <p>Joining Kamerling on the #1 doubles team will be William Wischer. Wischer was 13-5 in his freshman season last year and his laid back playing style will be a perfect compliment to Kamerling's fiery demeanor. Wischer will also slide into the #2 singles spot after playing last year at #4.</p> <p>The other solid force for Concordia will be Paul Tuchscherer. Tuchscherer led the Cobbers in single wins last year. He has spent the first part of the 2006 season rehabilitating a hand injury but should find his stride by the middle of the season.</p> <p>The biggest question mark for Concordia will be the play from singles players Ryan Smith and Eric Torres. Both players have been regulars in the Cobber lineup for years and both will need to come up with key victories throughout the season if Concordia will have a chance at breaking into the top four in the conference.</p>	


Gustavus Adolphus College	
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Head Coach:	Steve Wilkinson, 36th Season	
2005:	1st in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Loren Collins (Sr., Dallas, Texas / Highland Park) Brett Morse-Karzen (Sr., Wilmette, Ill. / New Tier) Adam Morgan (Sr., Barrington, Ill. / Barrington)	
Season Preview:	<p>The Gustavus men's tennis team will be competing for its 18th consecutive Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team title this spring. The Gusties have claimed 31 MIAC team titles during current head coach Steve Wilkinson's 35 years at Gustavus.</p> <p>The Gusties return every player but one from a squad that finished the 2005 season with a 29-6 record, won the MIAC Championship, and finished fourth at the NCAA Team Championship. Gustavus will need to replace All-American Ben Lundell, but the rest of the lineup returns intact. Wilkinson will build the team around senior All-Americans Loren Collins, Brett Morse-Karzen and Adam Morgan. This past fall, Collins won the ITA Midwest Region singles title and continued on to place second at the ITA Small College Championships. Morgan took second place in the ITA Midwest Region singles tournament losing only to Collins in the finals. Morgan and Morse-Karzen also won the ITA Midwest Region doubles title and finished third place at the ITA Small College Championships.</p> <p>Joining Collins, Morgan, and Morse-Karzen in the singles lineup will be senior Roy Bryan, junior Jesse Brauer, and sophomore Andy Bryan. Brauer, who has been a part of the Gusties top six for the past two years, posted a 13-9 mark at the #3 position last spring, while Roy Bryan posted a 14-6 mark at the #5 position. Andy Bryan turned in a fine freshman campaign as he compiled a record of 21-3 at the #4 position. With the exception of Collins who did not play last spring due to an injury, the other five starters were a combined 87-28 overall and 31-0 in the MIAC.</p> <p>The doubles lineup will consist of Morgan and Morse-Karzen at the #1 position, the Bryan brothers at the #2 position, and Collins and Brauer at the #3 position. The Gusties, who won the doubles point in 31 of their 34 matches last year appear to very strong in doubles play again this year.</p>	


<u>Hamline University</u>		
Head Coach:	Dan Haertl, 8th Season	
2005:	8th in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Ben Watkins (Sr., Eau Claire, Wis. / Memorial) Jon Henning (Sr., New Prague, Minn.) Jon Breimhorst (Jr., New Prague, Minn.) Andy Carlson (Jr., Virginia, Minn.)	
Season Preview:	<p>Experience will give the Hamline men's tennis team the upper hand for a strong 2006 season. With eight juniors and seniors on the roster, head coach Dan Haertl expects his team to fight for a top four finish in conference.</p> <p>"Not having any first-years won't stop our team," Haertl said. "The men have worked hard all offseason and are in shape and ready to compete."</p> <p>Leading the team this year will be senior co-captains Ben Watkins (Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial) and Jon Henning (New Prague, Minn.) Watkins enters his final year as a two-time captain and All-MIAC player (2004 and 2005). Last season, he finished as the number one singles player with a 10-13 match record.</p> <p>"He is a tremendous athlete and positive young man, what we coaches call a dream come true," Haertl said.</p> <p>Henning was also named to the MIAC All-Conference in 2004 and 2005. He loves to compete and play the game and ended last ` season with an 11-12 match record as the number two singles player. He has made incredible improvements on his doubles game and is expecting great things.</p> <p>For the complete outlook, go to http://www.hamline.edu/hamline_info/athletics/mens_tennis/2006/outlook.html</p>	


<u>Macalester College</u>	


Head Coach:	Jason Muhl, 2nd Season	
2005:	10th in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Spencer Edelman (Sr., Tucson, Ariz. / University) Nick Werth (Sr., Bloomington, Ind. / North) Aaron Heerboth (So., Tucson, Ariz. / Catalina Foothills) Tobin Kaufman-Osborn (Jr., Walla Walla, Wash.)	
Season Preview:	Following a couple lean seasons, the Macalester Scots showed strong progress last spring and are eager to make another step forward in '06 under second-year coach Jason Muhl. The Scots snapped a 25-match MIAC losing streak when they toppled St. Olaf near the end of last season and are ready to add some more conference wins. The Scots lose Eric Brandt to graduation after he went 9-8 at No. 6 singles, but the top five players from the singles lineup all return and will compete for playing time with frosh like Charlie Edelman (Tucson, Ariz. / University) and Justin Chan (Bend, Ore. / Summit). Senior Spencer Edelman (Tucson, Ariz. / University) played first singles last year and finished at 5-15. Senior Nick Werth (Bloomington, Ind. / North) was 8-13, mostly at No. 2 singles, and sophomore Aaron Heerboth (Tucson, Ariz. / Catalina Foothills) went 7-14, primarily at third singles. In the middle of the Macalester lineup, the Scots also return juniors Tobin Kaufman-Osborn (Walla Walla, Wash.) and Andy Kessel (Hinesburg, Vt. / Champlain Valley Union). Kaufman-Osborn went 7-14 a year ago, mostly at fourth singles.	

<u>Saint John's University</u>		
Head Coach:	Jack Bowe, 9th Season	
2005:	5th in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Curtis Horton (Sr., Elk River, Minn.) Adam Putschoegl (Sr., Oakdale, Minn.) Steve Tacl (Sr., St. Cloud, Minn.)	
Season Preview:	<p>For the 2006 season, the Saint John's University tennis team hopes to improve from last season's performance with the help of solid senior leadership and experience. The Johnnies finished their 2005 season fifth in the MIAC standings with an 11-8 overall record and a 5-4 record in MIAC action.</p> <p>This season, SJU will be led by a five-member senior class. Three of these players are Curtis Horton (Elk River, Minn.), Adam Putschoegl (Oakdale, Minn.) and Steve Tacl (St. Cloud). Horton was 8-4 in singles play last season while Putschoegl was 7-10 in singles matches, with five wins coming at number three singles in 2005. Tacl played all his matches last year at number one singles and posted a 5-12 record. The Horton and Tacl duo finished 10-7 at number one doubles and was named to the 2005 MIAC All-Conference team.</p> <p>The team will also be getting some help from sophomore Trevor Beach (Grand Rapids, Mich.) who had a 10-7 record last season having two wins at number one singles and eight at number two. For his performance at number two singles, he was also named to the MIAC All-Conference team. Beach and sophomore Dan Ruehl (Excelsior, Minn.) worked together to finish 11-4 including 10 wins at number three doubles.</p> <p>The Johnnies will have to replace Matt Carlson and Ryan Hinman, who both graduated and played at number four and five singles, respectively. The duo combined for 15 wins on the season at singles. Carlson also played at number two doubles and won ten matches on the season.</p> <p>SJU will have its normal nine-match MIAC schedule, as well as other tough non-conference competition. During their annual spring break trip, the Johnnies are scheduled to play matches in Nevada. The MIAC Championship will be held April 27-29 in Northfield.</p> <p>SJU is coached by Jack Bowe, who was named MIAC Coach of the Year in 2003. Bowe is in his ninth year coaching the Johnnies and has an 84-79 career record in dual meets.</p>	

<u>Saint Mary's University</u>	
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Head Coach:	Jeff Halberg, 8th Season		
2005:	6th in MIAC Regular Season		
Key Returners:	Tyler Stevenson (Sr., Neenah, Wis. / Neenah) Dan Fahey (Sr., Brookfield, Ill. / Riverside)		
Season Preview:	<p>Jeff Halberg isn't about to predict a conference championship for his Saint Mary's University men's and women's tennis teams. Not as long as Gustavus and Carleton are in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Take those two teams out of the equation, however, and Halberg likes his teams' chances.</p> <p>"Our conference is so tough," said Halberg. "Top to bottom, it's got to be one of the toughest around, and Gustavus and Carleton are definitely the cream of the crop, they are both so deep and talented."</p> <p>"After that, it's going to be a wide-open race and I think we'll be right there in the thick of it."</p> <p>That's because both the Cardinal men's and women's teams are deeper than they have been in a long time. "We have a lot of new faces on both teams, but we've also got a lot of very talented players," said Halberg. "We had so many close matches last year that could have gone either way, and we weren't able to convert many of those into wins. Hopefully we can turn that around this year."</p> <p>Complete SMU tennis preview: http://sports.smumn.edu/tennis/2006/newsletter/tenpreview.html</p>		

St. Olaf College		
Head Coach:	Scott Nesbit, 16th Season	
2005:	7th in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Mike Matsuura (Sr., St. Cloud, Minn. / Cathedral) Pat Curran (So., Lakeville, Minn. / Lakeville) Drew Erie (So., Rochester, Minn. / Mayo)	
Season Preview:	<p>The St. Olaf men's tennis team looks to improve on their 7th place conference finish a year ago as all but two players return to the court.</p> <p>Filling a pivotal leadership role for the Oles is the lone senior and captain Mike Matsuura. Two promising newcomers in Ian Pray (Madison, Wisc.) and David Narvaez (Northfield, Minn.) have head coach Scott Nesbit, in his 16th season, feeling confident that they will be able to make an immediate impact. Both played #1 singles at their respective high schools.</p> <p>This youth combined with sophomore and junior experience may provide enough for the men to contend in a very competitive MIAC. Sophomores Patrick Curran (Lakeville, Minn.), Drew Erie (Rochester, Minn.), Eric Brandenburg (Orono, Wisc.), and junior Chase Donaldson (Kildeer, Ill.) are all expected to play significant roles.</p> <p>Over spring break, the Oles will travel to Arizona where they we will compete in four matches against junior colleges from the state.</p>	

University of St. Thomas		
Head Coach:	Terry Peck, 15th Season	
2005:	3rd in MIAC Regular Season	
Key Returners:	Grant Campbell (Sr., Dubuque, Iowa) Brandon Heath (Sr., Minneapolis, Minn. / South) Ben Herding (So., Hastings, Minn.)	

Season Preview:	The Tommies finished third in the MIAC in 2005 and posted a 16-4 dual record. Coach Terry Peck graduated four All-MIAC players, including CoSIDA Academic All-American Tut Fuller. Leading the 2006 returners are seniors Grant Campbell and Brandon Heath; junior transfer Pat Napurski; and sophomores Ben Herding (15-5 in doubles and 14-5 in singles in 2005), Murphy O'Hearn, Kevin Manzel and Joshua Tomashek. The Tommies will play again in Hilton Head, S.C., in March on their spring-break trip.
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