

2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Conference Preview

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The 2015 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) men's tennis season will continue a familiar narrative - can Gustavus continue its remarkable run of success, or will this finally be the year one of the contenders is able to unseat the Gusties and end one of the most impressive streaks in all of college sports? However, the difference this season will be the heavy hearts at Gustavus and around the conference following the recent loss of a legend.

Former Gustavus Men's Tennis Coach Steve Wilkinson - the winningest coach in college tennis history - died on Jan. 21 after a courageous seven-year battle with cancer. Wilkinson, who was 73, won a pair of national championships and 35 MIAC titles en route to an overall record of 929-278 and an unbelievable MIAC mark of 334-1. However, the lives he touched through coaching, mentoring and his Tennis and Life Camps supersedes even the most remarkable of his coaching achievements.

While Gustavus and its MIAC counterparts mourn the loss of a legend, the Gusties will aim to add to his legacy as they try to continue their remarkable run of success in the conference. Under Head Coach Tommy Valentini - who played for and coached under Wilkinson before taking over in 2009, Gustavus has kept right on rolling. The team has won the last 26 MIAC regular-season championships, a streak dating back to 1989, and the Gusties have won seven of the eight MIAC Playoff tournaments, which was established in 2007.

Last season, Gustavus (29-6 overall, 9-0 MIAC) didn't just run the table in the MIAC, Valentini's team only lost one individual match in conference play, winning eight of its conference matches 9-0 and the other 8-1. The Gusties continued that dominance in the MIAC Playoffs with a combined 17-1 score in its semifinal and final victories.

However, the competition to emerge as Gustavus' No. 1 contender should be fierce, as that next tier of teams in the MIAC is seemingly improving - and growing - each year. Carleton - the only team other than Gustavus to win a MIAC Playoff title - was the unquestioned runner-up a year ago with a 16-9 overall record and 8-1 MIAC mark, and the Knights should be in contention once again. St. Olaf and St. Thomas had identical 10-6 overall and 6-3 MIAC records last season, and both are hoping to challenge the Gusties and Knights once again. St. Olaf hopes to build off its run to the MIAC Playoffs title match.

Bethel took a step forward last year with a 5-4 conference mark (9-11 overall) and a trip to the postseason, and Saint John's (9-11 overall, 4-5 MIAC) won the tiebreaker with Macalester (8-8 overall, 4-5 MIAC) for the sixth and final postseason bid. Saint Mary's finished four matches over .500 (13-9) overall and came in eighth with a 2-7 MIAC record, and Hamline (5-15 overall, 1-8 MIAC) and Concordia (2-14 overall, 0-9 MIAC) rounded out the MIAC standings.

The 2015 season marks the second-straight year of an adjustment to the MIAC Men's Tennis Playoffs. In 2014, the tournament adopted a high-seed host format spread over five days. This season, the field is reduced from six teams to five teams, as a result of a comprehensive conference study on Playoffs. The MIAC administrators committed to a philosophy that allows 50 percent of participating teams to qualify for the conference postseason tournament, so with 10 men's tennis team competing in the MIAC, the Playoff number was set at five.

With another strong team back in St. Peter, the season opens with Gustavus eyeing its 27th-straight MIAC title. Will the streak continue? Or will 2015 be the year another team unseats the Gusties from their perch? With the season already under way, the answers will soon begin to emerge, with memorable matches and great shots sure to accumulate along the way.

IT'S THE GUSTIES AGAIN

After last season's dominance, and with several key returns back in the lineup, the coaches all expect the Gustavus reign to continue in 2015. The Gusties finished atop the 2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Preseason Coaches' Poll in unanimous fashion with 81 points and nine of 10 first-place votes, as coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team.

However, the Gusties will have as many as three teams gunning for the title, according to the coaches. Carleton finished as the runner-up in the poll with 71 points, but St. Thomas and St. Olaf were close behind. St. Thomas was third with 62 points, and MIAC Playoff runner-up St. Olaf received the other first-place vote and was close behind the Tommies in fourth with 59 points.

Macalester and Saint John's tied a year ago, and the coaches expect those two teams to be neck-and-neck once again, as the Scots finished fifth with 47 points, just two points ahead of the Johnnies (45). Bethel received 32 points to come in seventh, Concordia had 24 in eighth and Saint Mary's (19) and Hamline (10) completed the coaches' preseason predictions.



COACHING CONTINUITY

All 10 head coaches return to their posts in 2015, creating an impressive level of continuity around the conference. St. Olaf's Scott Nesbit is the dean of MIAC men's tennis coaches as he begins his 27th season leading the Oles, and St. Thomas' Terry Peck starts season No. 24 with the Tommies. Saint John's Jack Bowe is in season No. 18 and Saint Mary's Jeff Halberg and Carleton's Stephan Zweifel both begin their 17th seasons with their respective teams.

Macalester's Jason Muhl is also in double-digits as he begins season No. 11 with the Scots. Hamline's Jon Henning is starting his seventh season, Valentini opens up season No. 6 as the Gustavus head coach, Bethel's Drew Fernelius is in season No. 3 and Concordia Head Coach Steve Futchko begins his second campaign leading the Cobbers.

WHO TO WATCH FOR

As Gustavus pursues its 27th-straight MIAC crown, the Gusties will have to replace All-American Mya Smith-Dennis and longtime contributors Joey MacGibbon and Juan Luis Chu, but Valentini's squad always seems to reload. A pair of seniors are poised to lead the way, as Motasem Al-Houni has earned both singles and doubles All-MIAC honors in his career, and Brad Entwistle returns after posting a 21-6 singles record a season ago.

Carleton is again loaded with upperclassmen leadership, as it eyes another top-two finish in the MIAC. Junior Christian Nagy was an All-MIAC singles and doubles honoree last season, and fellow junior Erik Johnson was the team's No. 1 singles player and a doubles All-Conference pick. Senior Andrew Hwang is also back to lead the Knights, and has won at least eight singles matches in each of his previous seasons.

The Tommies are hoping to improve their position in the MIAC this season behind a trio of talented returners. Junior Brady Radermarcher is an All-MIAC returnee, and both Burke Anderson and Scott Wall had breakout freshmen seasons a year ago and are poised to take another step forward for UST in 2015.

The Oles have plenty of reason to enter 2015 with optimism after last season's trip to the MIAC Playoff title match, and no losses to graduation. St. Olaf will field a talented and experienced team led by Stephen Nolan, who has racked up multiple All-MIAC honors in his career, and junior Joey Kronzer and Ben Carlson, who each earned All-Conference honors in 2014.

Macalester has a great nucleus back, starting with No. 1 singles/doubles player Brian Utz. He'll be joined by junior Wilson Merrell and sophomore Carl Bergmann, who both contributed in singles and doubles play last season. Saint John's graduated a pair of All-MIAC players from its lineup, but is excited about the return of All-MIAC singles players Jack Hansen and Jordan Otto, and Andrew Nagel is also back to bolster the Johnnie lineup.

Bethel enters the 2015 season with optimism about a return to the Playoffs, as both Matt Schull and Kolin Kiekhoefer return after earning All-MIAC singles and doubles honors as freshmen a year ago, and All-MIAC senior Luke Palmquist also returns to the Royals' lineup. Concordia didn't suffer any significant losses, and hopes to improve in its second season under Futchko behind the return of its top two players - junior Zach Zitour and sophomore Jesse Schneeberger.

Saint Mary's has a trio of juniors back that have the Cardinals thinking about a trip to the MIAC Playoffs. Collin Kaczorowski, Tim Wolford and Warren Lawrenz all return after making a significant impact as sophomores a season ago. Hamline graduated its top two singles players from a year ago, but welcomes back much of its lineup in junior Kam Manthe and sophomores Brandon Kuether and Cody Jahrig, as the Pipers look to improve in 2015.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

Fortunately for MIAC men's tennis fans, the season is already under way, as it began last weekend on Jan. 31. Conference and nonconference matches will take place indoors over the next two months, before the bulk of the MIAC season is played outside in April, with the season set to conclude on Sunday, April 26.

The MIAC Playoffs will again feature the high-seed host format, with action starting on Tuesday, April 28, with the No. 4 seed hosting No. 5 in the lone quarterfinal match. The winner will join the top three seeds in the semifinals on Thursday, April 30, and the two semifinal winners will meet in the championship match on the home court of the top remaining seed on Saturday, May 2.

However, the path to the Playoffs will feature a number of marquee matchups along the way that fans won't want to miss. The Gusties will face one of their biggest obstacles between them and consecutive title No. 27 in their final match of the season, as Gustavus visits Carleton in a late-season thriller on Saturday, April 25, at 2:30 p.m. Another match with title implications will take place earlier in the final week, as St. Thomas visits St. Olaf on Tuesday, April 21, for a 4 p.m. showdown.

The final week will certainly be thrilling, but other key matches are spread throughout the schedule, starting with a big MIAC matchup between Bethel and Concordia. The Cobbers will host the Royals at Courts Plus in Fargo on Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. as both teams angle for upward movement in the standings. The Saint Mary's vs. Hamline match will carry similar weight when they meet in Winona on Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. And finally, the Macalester-Saint John's match factored into the Playoff tiebreaker a year ago, and this year's meeting could be just as huge. The Johnnies will host the Scots on March 29 at 1 p.m.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Preview contains complete results from the 2015 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC men's tennis news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2015 season.

Visit the [MIAC scoreboard](#) on game days to follow all the action, and download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (nine for first, eight for second, etc.) Teams are ranked in order of highest point total to lowest with vote totals listed and first-place votes shown in parentheses.

2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Preseason Coaches' Poll

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Gustavus (9)	81
2.	Carleton	71
3.	St. Thomas	62
4.	St. Olaf (1)	59
5.	Macalester	47
6.	Saint John's	45
7.	Bethel	32
8.	Concordia	24
9.	Saint Mary's	19
10.	Hamline	10

2015 MIAC Men's Tennis Playoffs

The 2015 MIAC Tennis Playoffs received a face lift for the second-straight season. Last year, the tournament evolved to a high-seed host format spread out over five days. This year, the field decreases to five teams to fit in the MIAC's playoff philosophy and model that allow 50 percent of participating teams to qualify for the postseason tournament. The field will include the top five teams in the conference standings, squaring off in a single-elimination tournament. The No. 4 and 5 seeds will square off on April 28 in the quarterfinals, with the winner joining the top three seeds in the semifinals on April 3. The championship match will be held May 2 on the home court of the top remaining seed. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2015 NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Tournament.

| [MIAC Men's Tennis Playoffs Websites](#) | [2014](#) | [2015](#) |

MIAC Men's Tennis Links

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Team-by-Team Previews

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BETHEL | [Royals' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head coach

- Drew Fernelius (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 5-4 MIAC (5th place) | 9-10 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost to No. 4 St. Olaf 6-3

Top Returners

- Matt Schull (No. 1 Singles/Doubles, So. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Singles & Doubles, 14-5 No. 1 singles record, 12-7 doubles record)
- Kolin Kiekhoefer (No. 3 Singles/No. 2 Doubles, So. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Singles & Doubles, 6-3 MIAC singles & doubles record)
- Luke Palmquist (No. 4 Singles, Sr. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Singles, 6-3 MIAC singles record)

Key Losses

- Kirby Ronning (No. 2 Singles/No. 2 Doubles | 2014 Captain)
- Steve Schull (No. 5 Singles/No. 3 Doubles | 7-2 MIAC singles record)

By the Numbers

- 13-5: The Schull brothers, freshman No. 1 singles player Matt and senior No. 5 singles player Steve, combined to go 13-5 in MIAC singles play last year. The brothers also combined forces for one doubles match during the spring break trip to Florida and came out victorious.
- 4-1: Bethel was 4-1 at home in 2014.
- 29: Nearly half of the Royals 62 singles victories in 2014 came from freshman. The 29 victories by freshman predominantly came from the No. 1, No. 3 and No. 6 spots in the lineup.

Did You Know?

- Kirby Ronning, who graduated last spring and was a captain for the Royals, is now working with State Farm Insurance and is serving as a volunteer assistant coach this year with aspirations of being a college tennis coach.

Off the Court

- The Royals team Christmas party consisted of both the men's and women's teams volunteering at Feed My Starving Children together.



CARLETON | [Knights' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head coach

- Stephan Zweifel (17th season)

A Year Ago

- 8-1 MIAC (2nd place) | 16-9 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC semifinals: lost 5-2 to St. Olaf in the semifinals

Top Returners

- Erik Johnson (Jr. | All-MIAC in doubles for 2014; played No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles last season)
- Andrew Hwang (Sr. | Posted at least eight singles victories each season)
- Christian Nagy (Jr. | All-MIAC in singles and doubles in 2014)

Key Losses

- McCoy Becker (posted a 10-4 singles record last year)
- Nelson Wolf (did not lose a match during his senior season as he went 9-0 in singles and 1-0 in doubles; named to All-MIAC Sportsmanship team)

By the Numbers

- 12: Carleton has finished among the conference's top two teams for 12 consecutive seasons.
- 25: After returning only 2 total wins from #1 and #2 singles for the 2014 campaign, this year the Knights welcome back players totaling 25 wins atop the singles lineup.
- 240: Since the start of the 2001-02 campaign, Carleton has posted a 240-75 overall record.

Did You Know?

- Head coach Stephan Zweifel is a geneticist and molecular biologist who serves as chair of the Biology Department at Carleton. He teaches Genetics, Molecular Biology, part of Introductory Biology, and a seminar on Behavioral Genetics.

Off the Court

- The Carleton men were one of only 54 NCAA Division III programs named a 2014 ITA All-Academic Team. Individually, seven members of the squad were named as ITA Scholar-Athletes: including returners Andrew Hwang, Ben Huang, Mark Conrad, and Patton McClelland.



CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head coach

- Steven Futchko (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 0-9 MIAC (10th place) | 2-14 Overall

Top Returners

- Zach Zitun (Jr. | Team's No.1 player in 2014)
- Jesse Schneeberger (So. | Team's No.2 player in 2014)

By the Numbers

- 4: Cobber freshman Isaac Toivonen won four matches in the ITA Regional Tournament in September and advanced all the way to the semifinals of the event.
- 13: Concordia has 13 matches on the schedule in 2015.
- 3750: Concordia will travel a total distance of 3,750 miles for their Spring Break trip when they train in California at the end of February.

Did You Know?

- Cobber freshman Isaac Toivonen became the first Concordia player to advance to the semifinals of the ITA Regional Tournament in program history.



GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head coach

- Tommy Valentini (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 9-0 MIAC (MIAC Champions) | 29-6 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Gustavus defeated Saint John's 9-0 in the MIAC Playoff Semifinals before winning the MIAC Playoff Championship with an 8-1 victory over St. Olaf.
- Gustavus was selected to host one of eight regional tournaments in the NCAA Tournament. The Gusties defeated UW-Whitewater 5-0 in their opening match and then saw their season come to an end with a 5-3 loss to Trinity University (Texas) in the region final.

Top Returners

- Motasem Al-Houni (Sr., Tripoli, Libya) | Earned All-Conference honors as a singles player in 2014 and a doubles player in 2013...Went 20-6 in singles and 23-7 in doubles last season...Won the singles championship and doubles title alongside brother Mohanad Al-Houni (Fr., Tripoli, Libya) at the 2014 USTA/ITA Midwest Regional Championships in late-September.
- Brad Entwistle (Sr., Sioux Falls, S.D.) | Locked down the bottom two spots of Gustavus's lineup last season and posted a singles record of 21-6...Entwistle finished with the second-most wins on the team a year ago.

Key Losses

- Joey MacGibbon (Apple Valley, Minn.) | Four-year staple in Gustavus's singles and doubles lineup...Led the team in individual wins his senior year with a record of 22-5...Alongside classmate Juan Luis Chu, MacGibbon went 20-8 in doubles in 2014.
- Mya Smith-Dennis (Savage, Minn.) | Played at the No. 1 and 2 spots throughout his senior season, going 14-9 in singles and 18-7 in doubles...Two-time ITA All-American earning the honor twice as a doubles player (2012 and 2013) and once in singles (2013).

By The Numbers

- 29 - The Gustavus men's tennis team's win total in 2014. It was the most wins for Tommy Valentini during his time as head coach. It is also the most victories by a Gustavus team since 2009 when Steve Wilkinson's squad went 29-6.

Did You Know?

- The Gustavus Adolphus men's tennis team was one of 48 NCAA Division III teams from across the nation to earn All-Academic Team honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) last season. The Gusties also had a strong showing in the ITA's individual accolades section of its post-season academic awards with eight student-athletes being awarded Scholar Athlete honors. The list of Gustavus's ITA Scholar Athletes included Cody Anderson (Maple Grove, Minn.), Matt Baker (Rosemount, Minn.), David Brown (Oakland, Calif.), Brad Entwistle (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Ben Halvorson (Englewood, Colo.), Bryan Miles (Wausau, Wis.), Nicholas Reiners (Cambridge, Minn.), and Colin Rieke (Rochester, Minn.).

Off the Court

- The Gustavus Adolphus College community mourns the passing of Steve Wilkinson, the longtime men's tennis coach at the College and founder of Tennis and Life Camps. Wilkinson passed away on Wednesday, January 21 at the age of 73 after courageously living with cancer for nearly seven years. A legend in the tennis world, Steve spent 39 years (1971-2009) at the helm of the Gustavus men's tennis program. His teams compiled 929 wins overall, the most victories in the history of collegiate men's tennis. Under Wilkinson's direction, the Gusties won two NCAA Division III titles (1980 and 1982) as well as 35 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) titles. He was named NAIA National Coach of the Year twice (1974 and 1984) and Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division III Coach of the Year three times (1982, 2001, and 2003).



HAMLIN | [Pipers' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jon Henning (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- 1-8 MIAC (9th place) | 5-15 Overall

Top Returners

- Brandon Kuether, So., 5-14 singles, won six doubles matches with three different partners
- Cody Jahrig, So, 4-8 at No. 4 singles, 3-5 at No. 2 doubles
- Kam Manthe, Jr., 6-12 at No. 6 singles, played with three doubles partners last year

Key Losses

- Dylan Sperry, 7-12 at No. 1 singles, 5-14 at No. 1 doubles
- Derek Lutz, 8-11 at No. 2 singles, 8-11 at No. 2 doubles

By the Numbers

- 0: seniors on 2015 roster
- 4: new faces (three freshmen, one transfer) who are expected to crack regular lineup
- 6: returnees from 2014 team

Did You Know?

- Gabriel Guarin, a freshman from Bogota, Columbia, had a half-brother, Ivan who played at Hamline from 1998-2002.

Off the Court

- The 2014 men's tennis team earned ITA Academic All-American status. It marked the third year in a row Hamline men's tennis has done this.

MACALESTER | [Scots' men's tennis home page](#) |



Head coach

- Jason Muhl (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 4-5 MIAC (T-6th place) | 8-8 Overall

Top Returners

- Brian Utz (Jr., 6-10 at no. 1 singles last season and 7-5 at no. 1 doubles)
- Wilson Merrell (Jr., 5-7 at no. 4 singles in 2014, 9-3 at no. 2 doubles)
- Carl Bergmann (So., 5-9 overall in FY singles competition at no. 4/5 and 3-4 at no. 3 singles)

Key Losses

- Max Soghikian (9-5 overall record at no.3 singles last season)
- Alasdair McClintic (10-4 overall record at no. 2 singles last season)

By the Numbers

- 5: Macalester had three players make academic all-conference honors last year
- 7: Macalester's roster is represented by players from seven states and one foreign country
- 26: Macalester was 26-22 in doubles play a season ago. The duo of Wilson Merrell and Max Soghikian was the team's top pair going 9-3 throughout the season.

Did You Know?

- The Scots have started their spring campaign with a week's worth of competition at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, for two decades.

Off the Court

- The Scots had five players represented on the Academic All-MIAC squad last year.

SAINT JOHN'S | [Johnnies' men's tennis home page](#) |



Head coach

- Jack Bowe (18th season)

A Year Ago

- 4-5 MIAC (Sixth place) | 9-11 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (Quarterfinals – def. St. Thomas, 5-4; Semifinals – lost Gustavus, 0-5)

Top Returners

- Jack Hansen (Jr. | 2014 All-MIAC in singles play...9-12/5-4 MIAC on the year in singles competition and combined for an 8-14 record in doubles play...made the jump from No. 4 singles as a freshman to No. 1 in 2014 and had an 8-11 record)
- Jordan Otto (Sr. | 2014 All-MIAC in singles play...led SJU with a 12-8 singles record/9-4 at No. 3 and a 10-10 doubles record/6-3 MIAC...was named the MIAC Men's Tennis Athlete of the Week April 29 for his perfect record as SJU closed the regular season with three straight victories.
- Andrew Nagel (Jr. | Collected a 10-4 singles record/4-1 MIAC, including an 8-2 mark at No. 6...went 8-12 in doubles competition/4-5 MIAC)

Key Losses

- Joe Laue (2014 All-MIAC in singles play...totaled a 10-10 singles record/4-5 MIAC, including a 10-9 mark at No. 2...went 10-9/4-5 MIAC as part of four different doubles tandems in 2014)
- Connor Rust (Three-time Academic All-MIAC honoree...tallied a 7-7 singles record in team play, including a 5-2 mark at No. 4 singles, and a 6-10 doubles record/3-5 MIAC)
- Alex Wiegmann (Posted a 9-9/5-4 MIAC record in singles play, including a 5-4 mark at No. 5...won five of his last eight singles matches)

By the Numbers

- 9/12: Outside of the five-match trip to Orlando March 2-6, SJU is scheduled to play nine of its 12 regular-season matches on a home

court, which consists of Fitness Evolution (indoor) in Sartell and the College of Saint Benedict Courts (outdoor) in St. Joseph, in 2015. The three road matches are Concordia-Moorhead (March 28), Gustavus Adolphus (April 18) and Carleton (April 25).

- 18th: SJU head coach Jack Bowe begins his 18th season at SJU with a 161-170 career dual record (78-75 in MIAC play).
- 5: The number of Johnnies who posted at least one singles win at the 2014 USTA/ITA Midwest Regional and Midwest Open back in September (2014). Hansen led the team with two wins, while Nagel and freshman Tim Larson each recorded a win in the Midwest Regional. Juniors Tanner Rayman and Joey Evavold registered one victory each in the Midwest Open.

Did You Know?

- Last year's opening-round, MIAC-playoff victory over St. Thomas (5-4) was the Johnnies' second in row. The last time SJU won a postseason dual, in back-to-back seasons, occurred over a three-year stretch from 2004-06.

Off the Court

- Saint John's and four of its student-athletes received academic honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) back in July. The 11-man SJU tennis team combined to record a 3.41 cumulative GPA during the 2013-14 academic year, surpassing the 3.2 requirement, to earn the ITA All-Academic Team award. Four individuals achieved ITA Scholar-Athlete status. In order to earn ITA Scholar-Athlete status, a player must be a varsity letter winner (appear in one varsity match), have a grade-point average of 3.50 or better for the current academic year and have been enrolled at the present institution for at least two semesters.

SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' men's tennis home page](#) |



Head coach

- Jeff Halberg (17th season)

A Year Ago

- 2-7 MIAC (8th place) | 13-9 Overall

Top Returners:

- Collin Kaczorowski (5-6, 125, Jr., Suamico, Wis. | 14-9 in singles, 12-10 in doubles | Has now posted 34 singles wins in first two seasons | Owns SMU single-season record with 20 singles wins)
- Tim Wolford (5-10, 165, Jr., Maple Grove, Minn. | 8-11 in singles, 11-9 in doubles | Played all but one singles match at No. 1, played all 20 doubles matches at No. 1)
- Warren Lawrenz (5-9, 135, Jr., Rochester, Minn. | 10-9 in singles, 9-12 in doubles)

Key Losses

- Gavin Smith (Four-year letterwinner | 14-9 in singles and 14-9 in doubles in 2014 | Led or shared the team lead in both singles and doubles wins a year ago)

By The Numbers

- 4: With their 9-0 win over Martin Luther on Feb. 1, the Cardinals have now won their last four season openers.
- 11: The Cardinals finished with an 11-2 record against nonconference opponents last season. Saint Mary's is now 24-4 in nonconference matches over the past two seasons and moved to 38-11 vs. non-MIAC foes over the past four years.
- 14: Gavin Smith (White Bear Lake, Minn.) closed out his senior season as the team-leader in both singles (14) and doubles (14) wins in 2014. Smith's 14 singles and 14 doubles wins were both career highs.

Did You Know?

- The Cardinals' season-opening five-match winning streak was the longest season-opening winning streak in coach Jeff Halberg's 16 years as SMU's head coach.

Off The Court

- Warren Lawrenz (Rochester, Minn.) represented the Cardinals on the Academic All-MIAC team a year ago.



ST. OLAF | [Oles' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head coach

- Scott Nesbit (27th season)

A Year Ago

- 6-3 MIAC (T-3rd place) | 10-6 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost in Championship match against Gustavus by a score of 8-1.

Top Returners

- Stephen Nolan (Position, Senior | Three time MIAC all-conference singles team, and two time MIAC all-conference doubles team. 10-4 in singles play, 7-7 in first doubles with teammate Joey Kronzer)
- Joey Kronzer (Position, Junior | MIAC all-conference singles team and MIAC all-conference doubles team winner in 2014. 12-5 record in singles play)
- Ben Carlson (Position, Junior | MIAC all-conference singles team in 2014, finished with a record of 11-7 in singles playing mostly in the 3rd position. Playing doubles his record was 4-7. ITA Scholar-Athlete)

Key Losses

- The Oles graduated no seniors from the 2014 roster.

By the Numbers

- 5: Consecutive years of top 4 finishes in the MIAC
- 10: Number of top three conference finishes with coach Scott Nesbit as head coach.

Did You Know?

- The team song is "Ugly Heart" by G.R.L.

Off the Court

- Mike Schroeder was the winner of the MIAC Elite 22 award for men's tennis. He helped lift St. Olaf to the MIAC championship match while posting a 3.91 GPA.



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' men's tennis home page](#) |

Head Coach

- Terry Peck (24th season)

A Year Ago

- 6-3 MIAC (T-3rd place) | 10-6 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- 0-1 in MIAC playoffs, lost in quarterfinals

Top Returners

- Brady Radermacher (JR, All-MIAC; Career: 16-15 singles, 20-11 doubles)
- Burke Anderson (SO, Career: 11-5 singles, 10-6 doubles)
- Scott Wall (SO; Career: 11-5 singles, 10-6 doubles)

Key Losses

- Steven Skanse (GRAD, Career: 26-14 doubles)

By the Numbers

- 33: MIAC wins, in 45 contests, for the Tommies over last five seasons
- 574: Career victories in college tennis (men and women) for Terry Peck over last 23 years|
- 6: Players from Wisconsin, Iowa on Tommies' roster

Did You Know?|

- Junior Allen-Michael Muench (3.94 grade-point average) returns after sitting out in 2014 for an academic sabbatical. In his first two seasons, Muench was 20-9 in singles and 25-7 in doubles in 2012 and 2013.

Off the Court

- The Tommies have seven players with grade-point averages of 3.25 or better, led by Dane Schreiber at 3.95 and Muench (3.94).

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