

Erin Gudul, Carleton

North Oaks, Minn./Mounds View
Week of: 2012-05-08



Carleton became the first school not named Gustavus to win the MIAC Women's Tennis Playoffs this weekend thanks to a semifinal win over St. Thomas and a narrow victory over the defending champion Gusties to add the postseason championship to its regular-season title. **Erin Gudul** played a huge role in the Knights' title, winning both of her doubles matches and avenging a regular-season loss in her singles match against Gustavus to give Carleton two much-needed points in the final. For her role in the championship, Gudul has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Gudul teamed up with Kathryn Schmidt at No. 1 doubles for an 8-2 win that helped the Knights beat St. Thomas 5-0 in the semifinals. Carleton clinched the win with its fifth point before Gudul's No. 4 singles match was complete. In the championship, Gudul and Schmidt beat Gustavus' No. 1 doubles team 8-4 for one of the crucial points in the title-match win. She followed with a straight-sets, 6-1, 6-4, singles win at No. 4 over the Gusties' Megan Born, who had beaten Gudul just a week earlier. This season, Gudul is 10-7 overall in singles competition and Gudul and Schmidt are 10-2 overall (5-0 MIAC) as a tandem at No. 1 doubles.

As a result of the Knights' Playoff championship, Gudul and her teammates are headed to the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Tournament as the MIAC's automatic qualifier. Carleton (18-5, 10-0 MIAC) is headed to the Chicago regional, where it will face Grinnell at 3 p.m. Friday in a first-round match. With a win, Carleton would face the host school - the University of Chicago - in the second round Saturday at 3 p.m. with the regional championship match scheduled for Sunday at 1 p.m.

Molly Hemes, Carleton

Green Bay, Wis. / Preble
Week of: 2012-05-01



The Carleton women's tennis team claimed the 2012 MIAC women's tennis championship with a historic victory Sunday, dethroning 20-time defending champ Gustavus and handing the Gusties just their second loss in their last 221 conference matches. Sophomore **Molly Hemes** (Green Bay, Wis./Preble) was key in the Knights' victory, picking up a straight-sets singles win and a narrow victory at No. 3 doubles to provide two team points in the 5-4 win. For her performance in Carleton's championship-winning win, Hemes has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Co-Athlete-of-the-Week.

Hemes and teammate Katherine Greenberg got Carleton off to a good start with a 9-7 win at No. 3 doubles for an early 1-0 lead in the match. She then provided the Knights' first singles win of the day when she cruised to a 6-2, 6-3, victory at No. 5 singles. This season, Hemes has played an integral role for Carleton's title team with a 15-4 overall record in both singles and doubles play and she was a perfect 10-0 in singles competition in conference play, and 9-1 in MIAC doubles matches.

The big win helped Carleton improve to 16-5 overall and complete a perfect 10-0 regular season in MIAC play. The Knights also earned the No. 1 seed for this week's 2012 MIAC Women's Tennis Playoffs, which will be held Friday and Saturday at Gustavus in St. Peter. The Knights will have a first-round bye, and will await the lowest remaining seed in the semifinals, which will take place Saturday at 9 a.m. The championship match will be played Saturday at 2:30 p.m. with an automatic bid to the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Tournament on the line.

Lauren Beadnell, St. Catherine

Watertown, S.D. / Watertown
Week of: 2012-05-01



The St. Catherine women's tennis team rose the occasion Saturday with a regular-season ending 6-3 win over Saint Mary's that gave the Wildcats the sixth and final spot in the 2012 MIAC Women's Tennis Playoffs. Senior **Lauren Beadnell** (Watertown, S.D.) had her fingerprints all over the big SCU win as she helped engineer a huge upset at No. 1 doubles, and she claimed a straight-sets victory at No. 3 singles to help the Wildcats earn the victory and the playoff bid. For her clutch performance, Beadnell has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Co-Athlete-of-the-Week.

Beadnell teamed up with Michaela Burroughs for an 8-3 win in the top doubles spot against the Cardinals' Bailey and McKennah Edwards. The SMU duo was previously unbeaten in conference play and ranked No. 8 in the region, so the win by Beadnell and Burroughs was big on a number of levels. Beadnell followed that up with a 6-3, 6-3 win at No. 3 singles against Killian Edwards to give SCU another big point en route to the huge victory. Beadnell finished the regular season with a 7-6 overall singles record (6-4 in conference) and a 14-5 overall doubles record (6-4 in conference).

Thanks to Saturday's win, St. Catherine improved to 12-7 overall and 5-5 in conference play to separate itself from SMU and Concordia in the race for sixth place and the final playoff spot. The Wildcats will open postseason play Friday as the No. 6 seed with a quarterfinal match against No. 3 St. Olaf at 12 p.m. The tournament will be hosted by Gustavus in St. Peter with the quarterfinals Friday and the semifinals (9 a.m.) and championship (2:30 p.m.) to follow on Saturday.

Megan Gaard, Gustavus

Edina, Minn. / Edina
Week of: 2012-04-24



In Gustavus' most recent women's tennis win, senior captain **Megan Gaard** (Edina, Minn.) not only got the Gusties off to a great start with a win at No. 1 doubles, she also reached a sensational career milestone in the process. The win was Gaard's 100th doubles victory of her career, and highlighted a week that saw her win all four of her matches to help Gustavus move closer to another MIAC championship with a 9-0 win over Saint Benedict and 9-0 win over St. Thomas. For her historic performance, Gaard has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Gaard's big week started with a 6-1, 6-2, win at No. 2 singles and an 8-0 win at No. 1 doubles with teammate Laurel Krebsbach, setting up her milestone against St. Thomas. Gaard was a 6-1, 6-0, winner at No. 2 singles against the Tommies, but it was her and Krebsbach's 8-2 doubles victory that put Gaard in elite company as a member of the 100-win club. She now has a career doubles record of 100-36 (.735) and is just the third Gustie to reach the milestone since the turn of the century, joining former teammates Sierra Krebsbach and Samantha Frank. This season, Gaard is 12-11 overall and 4-1 in the MIAC in singles play, and 19-10 overall and 6-1 in the MIAC in doubles competition.

The two wins helped Gustavus improve to 14-7 overall and 7-0 in MIAC play, still locked in a tie atop the standings with Carleton. The Gusties have conference matches against St. Olaf and Bethel Thursday and Saturday, respectively, and two Gustavus wins would set up a winner-take-all match for the MIAC championship against the Knights (15-5, 9-0 MIAC). The Gusties will host the season-ending showdown with Carleton Sunday at 11 a.m.

Caitlin Harper, St. Olaf



The St. Olaf women's tennis team suffered its first loss of the 2012 season last week to a very good Carleton squad, but bounced back for a big conference win over St. Thomas. Leading the way in both matches was senior **Caitlin Harper** (Rochester, Minn./Mayo), who won both of her singles matches - including a thriller against the Knights - and one of her two doubles matches last week. For her performance, Harper has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Harper provided the Oles' only point in the 8-1 loss to Carleton, thanks to her thrilling 6-3, 5-7, 11-9, win over the Knight's Bridget Doyle. She also added a singles win in straight sets over St. Thomas' Mary Allen in Saturday's convincing 8-1 victory over the Tommies, and she added an 8-4 win at No. 1 singles with partner Christine Muller. This season, Harper is a terrific 9-1 in singles play, alternating between the Oles' top two spots, and her and Muller are 7-3 at No. 1 doubles.

The MIAC split helped St. Olaf improve to 9-1 overall and 6-1 in conference play, and the Oles locked up a spot in the 2012 MIAC Women's Tennis Playoff field in the process. Harper and her St. Olaf teammates will try to continue to improve their seeding for the postseason with a pair of MIAC matches on the schedule this week. Thursday, the Oles travel to Arden Hills, Minn., to face Bethel at 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, they host Saint Mary's on Carleton's Bell Field courts with 2 p.m. scheduled as the start time.

Anne Lombardi, Carleton



The Carleton women's tennis team went 2-1 over the weekend at the Midwest Invitational Tournament in Madison, Wis., with one significant highlight stealing the headline. Thanks to **Anne Lombardi's** (Hinsdale, Ill./Hinsdale Central) tiebreaker win, the Knights beat Gustavus, 5-4, for the first time since 1988. The match-clinching win at No. 3 singles highlighted a perfect weekend for the Carleton sophomore, who won all three of her matches at third singles and three more at No. 2 doubles to help the Knights to their great showing against top-notch competition. For her performance, Lombardi has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Friday, Lombardi's big weekend began with a 6-4, 6-0, win at No. 3 singles and an 8-2 second doubles victory against Kenyon College, and she added a comeback win (5-7, 6-4, 10-4) at No. 3 singles and a 8-5 victory at No. 2 doubles against DePauw University Friday. However, Lombardi saved her best for her final performance of the weekend, helping earn an 8-2 win at No. 2 doubles, then outlasting Gustavus' Laurel Krebsbach, 6-0, 4-6, (10-6), to claim the win at third singles, and seal the Knights' historic win over the Gusties. Gustavus has won 20-straight MIAC regular-season titles and all five Playoff championships, and has won 209 straight conference matches dating back to 1990. Though this was a nonconference match and didn't snap that streak, it still registered as a big win on the Carleton campus. Her unbeaten weekend helped Lombardi improve to 14-2 overall in singles competition, and she's a perfect 6-0 in MIAC singles play.

The 2-1 weekend helped the Knights improve to 11-5 overall, and they remain tied atop the MIAC standings with an undefeated 6-0 record. Carleton returns to conference play Thursday, as it hosts its cross-town rival St. Olaf in a MIAC match at 4:30 p.m. The Knights hit the road Saturday to face Luther in a nonconference match in Decorah, Iowa, at noon. Carleton has five matches remaining, including a rematch with Gustavus that could potentially decide the conference title on April 29 in St. Peter.

Megan Seipel, Saint Benedict



The Saint Benedict women's tennis team continued their winning ways last week with a 2-1 mark in three MIAC matches, beating St. Thomas and Saint Mary's and dropping a close decision to St. Olaf. Senior **Megan Seipel** (New London, Minn./New London-Spicer) was superb in all three matches, going a perfect 6-0 overall with three singles wins and a trio of doubles victories to her credit against tough conference competition. For her performance, Seipel has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Seipel started her stellar week Tuesday in a 6-3 Blazer win over the Tommies. She didn't lose a game against UST in singles competition, winning 6-0, 6-0, at No. 5 singles, and added an 8-3 No. 1 doubles win. In Friday's 5-4 loss against the Oles, Seipel contributed two of CSB's four team points. She earned a 6-2, 6-2, win at No. 5 singles, and added an 8-4 victory against St. Olaf's No. 2 doubles team. Seipel capped her week with a 6-2, 6-1, victory at No. 4 singles and another No. 2 doubles win (8-2) to help Saint Benedict beat a talented Saint Mary's squad, 6-3. This season, Seipel is 5-0 in both singles and doubles play without a loss on her resume' as of yet.

With another win Monday against conference foe Bethel, Saint Benedict is now 8-4 overall and one of five teams in the conference with one loss or less in MIAC play at 4-1. The Blazers face another busy week with three matches in four days coming up, all at home. Thursday they host Minnesota State-Mankato at 4 p.m., Friday Concordia comes to town for a 4 p.m. conference match, and Sunday Minnesota-Duluth travels to St. Joseph to face CSB at 10 a.m.

Andrea Koskiniemi, Concordia



The Concordia women's tennis team had a breakout weekend, scoring its first two MIAC victories of the season and adding to a stretch of seven wins in its last nine matches. Emerging in the Cobbers' big weekend was freshman **Andrea Koskiniemi** (Staples, Minn./Staples-Motley), who went 4-0 in two singles and two doubles matches to contribute to both victories in a big way. In each match, she was involved in a dramatic comeback win that was big for momentum and the final match score. For her performance, Koskiniemi has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Saturday, Koskiniemi scored a 6-3, 6-1, win at No. 3 singles and teamed with Julie Olson for a 9-7 win at No. 2 doubles in Concordia's 7-2 win over Macalester. In the doubles match, Koskiniemi and Olson twice faced match point, but battled back to eventually earn the win. Sunday, the Cobber freshman teamed with Olson for an 8-4 win at No. 2 doubles, and her No. 3 singles win again featured a dramatic rally. Koskiniemi dropped the first set, 4-6, and the second set went to a tie breaker. However, Koskiniemi emerged victorious in the second set, 7-6 (7-2), and took the third set 10-4 for the win. This season, she is 6-8 overall and 2-4 in MIAC play in both singles and doubles competition.

With the two wins, Concordia improved above the .500 mark with an 8-6 overall record, and it is now 2-4 in conference competition. The Cobbers and its talented first-year player will aim for continued success this weekend with two more conference matches on the schedule. Saturday, Concordia travels to Bethel for a 6 p.m. start, and Sunday it will take on Carleton in Northfield at 9 a.m.

Laurel Krebsbach, Gustavus

North Oaks, Minn. / Mounds View
Week of: 2012-03-20



The Gustavus women's tennis team has enjoyed a reign of dominance in recent years in the MIAC, and the Gusties are off to another great start this season thanks in part to the performance of a newcomer. Freshman **Laurel Krebsbach** (North Oaks, Minn./Mounds View) continued her impressive rookie campaign with the Gusties Saturday, winning two singles and two doubles matches to help her team roll to a pair of nonconference victories. For her performance, Krebsbach has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Krebsbach scored her four victories at No. 2 singles and No. 2 doubles in the Gustavus lineup as her team earned a 9-0 win over Division II Minnesota State-Mankato and an 8-1 victory over Upper Iowa. Krebsbach beat Mankato's Brandi Dohmen 6-3, 6-1, at No. 2 singles and added a 6-1, 6-1, win over Upper Iowa's Courtney Romer. She teamed with Megan Gaard in the Gusties' top doubles spot for an 8-2 win against MSU-M and an 8-4 victory against Upper Iowa's No. 1 doubles squad. This season, Krebsbach is 2-1 in conference play both in singles and doubles competition, with a 9-9 overall singles record and an 8-7 doubles mark.

The two nonconference wins helped Gustavus improve to 8-2 overall in 2012, and it remains as one of the MIAC's unbeaten teams in conference play with a perfect 3-0 record. Right now, the team is in the midst of a two-week hiatus before embarking on a spring trip to San Antonio, Texas. The Gusties will play three nonconference matches on its trip April 1-3, and will return to conference play at Hamline on April 14.

Alicia Vargas, Saint Benedict

Coon Rapids, Minn. / Coon Rapids
Week of: 2012-03-13



Most college students go on spring break trips to enjoy the beach, sun and a break from classes. Saint Benedict freshman **Alicia Vargas** (Coon Rapids, Minn.) instead used hers to continue her fantastic first year with the Blazers, going 3-1 in her singles matches during the team's trip to California. Vargas turned in a handful of impressive performances along the way and, as a result, has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Vargas started the trip with a narrow 7-6, 6-3, loss at No. 5 singles against Whittier - her only singles loss of the season thus far - but closed the trip with three-straight wins to help her earn the conference's weekly honor. Vargas scored a 7-6, 6-1, win at No. 5 singles against Cal Lutheran that tied the match 4-4 at the time in an eventual 4-5 loss. She added a 6-3, 6-2, win at No. 2 singles to help CSB beat Northwestern (Iowa), 8-1, and she scored the team's only victory against a very good Claremont team, 6-3, 7-6, at No. 6 singles. This season, Vargas is 5-1 overall and 1-0 in MIAC play in singles competition.

Currently, the Blazers are 3-3 overall and 1-0 in conference play. The team will enjoy more than two weeks off following its trip to California, as its next scheduled match is March 27 against St. Thomas at the University of Minnesota's Baseline Tennis Center at 6 p.m. Once it starts up again, Saint Benedict will face a tough stretch with four conference matches in a seven-day span.

Brittany Alexander, St. Thomas

Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes
Week of: 2012-03-06



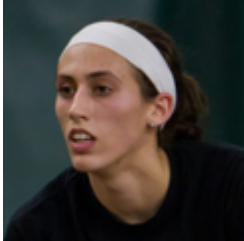
The St. Thomas women's tennis team remained unbeaten in MIAC play with a 6-3 win over cross-town rival Macalester Saturday. Leading the way with two big victories for the Tommies was freshman **Brittany Alexander** (Rochester, Minn./Lourdes). Alexander scored an impressive win at the No. 4 singles spot, and helped the Tommies' No. 2 doubles team also capture a win that helped propel her team past the Scots and remain perfect in the conference. For her performance, Alexander has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Alexander won in straight sets - and only dropped three games - in her victory at No. 4 singles for UST. She beat her Macalester opponent 6-2, 6-1. She also helped the Tommies score an 8-4 win at second doubles en route to the 6-3 conference win. This season, Alexander has played more like a veteran than a first-year player with 4-1 overall records in both singles and doubles competition, and perfect 3-0 records in both against MIAC competition. Her only loss in singles this season came at the hands of a Division I opponent.

The victory against Macalester helped St. Thomas improve to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in MIAC play. The Tommies are among four conference teams without a loss as of yet, along with Gustavus, Carleton and St. Olaf, to create quite a race for the MIAC title. This week, St. Thomas will attempt to improve to 4-0 in league play when it takes on Hamline Saturday. The match will take place at the University of Minnesota's Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis with a 3:30 p.m. start time.

Maria Koval, St. Catherine

Green Bay, Wis. / Notre Dame
Week of: 2012-02-28



St. Catherine's **Maria Koval** (Green Bay, Wis./Notre Dame) is in her first year playing for the Wildcats' tennis team, but the freshman showed the poise and confidence of a seasoned veteran last week. Koval went 4-0 on the week with two singles wins and two doubles wins against MIAC opponents, leading SCU to an 8-1 win over Macalester, and an extremely close 4-5 loss to St. Thomas. For her performance and contributions to her team, Koval has been named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Koval's week started in a big way, as she rolled to a 6-1, 6-4 win against the Scots in the Wildcats' No. 2 singles position, and she added an 8-4 win in the No. 1 doubles spot to lead SCU to its first conference victory of the 2012 season. She followed with a dominant 6-1, 6-1 No. 2 singles win against St. Thomas and added an 8-5 in the top doubles pairing to help St. Catherine push the Tommies throughout the match in an excruciatingly close loss. This season, Koval's only singles loss is a third-set defeat to a regionally-ranked opponent.

With last week's split, St. Catherine stayed above .500 overall at 3-2, and improved to 1-2 in conference play. The Wildcats will be back in action against a conference opponent Saturday, as they host St. Olaf at the University of Minnesota's Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis at 3 p.m.

Andrea Rognlien, Concordia

Fargo, N.D. / Oak Grove
Week of: 2012-02-21



The Concordia women's tennis team had a tough weekend with road matches at defending conference champion Gustavus and St. Thomas, but star senior **Andrea Rognlien** (Fargo, N.D./Oak Grove) was up to the task against the top-notch competition. Rognlien went 2-0, winning both matches in straight sets, from the No. 1 singles spot against the Gusties and Tommies. For her performance, Rognlien was named the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week.

Rognlien got off to a good start on Saturday by scoring the Cobbers only individual win in a loss at No. 15 Gustavus. She scored a 6-2, 7-5 win over the Gusties' Megan Gaard to give Concordia its lone point in the 8-1 setback. The next day, she contributed two of the Cobbers' three points in a 6-3 loss at St. Thomas. Rognlien won her No. 1 singles match, only losing two games in the 6-1, 6-1 victory, and she teamed with Emma Koskiniemi to score an 8-6 win at No. 1 doubles. This season, Rognlien is just one of two MIAC players with perfect 4-0 records at No. 1 singles, and she has a 2-2 record in the Cobbers' top doubles spot.

Concordia and its star senior will enjoy a week off before heading to Orlando, Fla., for its spring break trip where it will play four nonconference matches in four days. The Cobbers will take on Mount St. Mary's, Capital, Hanover and Alma from Feb. 26 to March 1 before returning to conference play on March 10 with a home match against St. Catherine.

Kathryn Schmidt, Carleton

Hopkins, Minn. / Hopkins
Week of: 2012-02-14



Though the 2012 women's season is just a few weeks old, Carleton's **Kathryn Schmidt** (Hopkins, Minn.) has already proven she can dominate a match, or she can battle from behind to beat a top-notch opponent. Schmidt has started the season 3-0 as the Knights' No. 1 singles player to go with a 2-1 record at No. 1 doubles to help her team start out with three-straight victories. For her performance and contributions to her team, Schmidt has been named the first-ever winner of the MIAC Women's Tennis Athlete-of-the-Week honor.

Schmidt was unstoppable in her first two singles matches of the season, only dropping one game over the course of both matches. She cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 win against Division II St. Cloud State and followed with a dominant 6-1, 6-0 win in her MIAC season debut against Hamline. However, her third win may have been her most impressive as she rallied to beat Saint Mary's McKennah Edwards, who was an ITA regional finalist. Edwards won the first set, 6-2, but Schmidt claimed 6-1 and 10-7 wins over the final two sets to win the match. She is one of just eight MIAC players to start the season 3-0 or better in singles play this year, and one of just two to do it exclusively from the top spot in the lineup.

Thanks to Schmidt and her teammates, Carleton has cruised to a 3-0 overall start and a 2-0 start in conference play by the scores 9-0, 9-0 and 8-1. The Knights are ranked No. 6 in the region, and they'll look to remain unbeaten with a pair of MIAC matches coming up this weekend. They'll travel to Bloomington to take on Macalester Friday at Lifetime Fitness at 7:30 p.m., and they also host St. Catherine Saturday in Owatonna at 6:30 p.m.