



## 2007 MIAC WOMEN'S TENNIS PREVIEW

Gustavus, the 15-time reigning MIAC champion, is the coaches pick to capture the 2007 MIAC Championship. The Gusties combination of talent and depth has made them nearly unbeatable for more than a decade. Carleton and Saint Benedict will pose the toughest challenge for the Gusties in 2007. Both the Knights and Blazers have singles and doubles that have the ability to compete regionally, if not nationally. St. Thomas and St. Olaf look to be strong contenders for the playoffs, but they will be challenged by teams like St. Catherine, Saint Mary's and Hamline to make the top six. Bethel, Macalester, and Concordia will look to build off the experience they gained last season and move up in the standings.

The top six teams in the regular season will earn a spot in the 2007 MIAC Women's Tennis Playoffs held April 27-28 at St. Olaf.

### 2007 MIAC Preseason Women's Tennis Coaches Poll

(First Place Votes in Parentheses)

1. Gustavus (9)
2. Carleton (2)
3. Saint Benedict
4. St. Thomas
5. St. Olaf
6. St. Catherine
7. Saint Mary's
8. Hamline
9. Bethel
10. Macalester
11. Concordia

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### Bethel University

**Head Coach:** Dan Morton, 8th Season

**2006 Finish:** 9th in MIAC Regular Season

**Key Athletes:**

**Kari Blair** (Sr., Glenwood Minn./Minnewaska)


**Andrea Beegle** (Jr., Edina Minn.)


**Royce Chapman** (So., Elk River, Minn.)

**Katy Kiger** (Jr., Alexandria Minn./Jefferson)





<b>Preview:</b>	<p>After a ninth place finish in the 2006 MIAC standings and an eighth place finish in the MIAC tournament that saw a 8-13 overall season record paired with a 2-8 MIAC, the Bethel Royals return hopeful for this year's group of competitors.</p> <p>Bethel looks for determined play throughout the season from Senior Kari Blair (Glenwood Minn.) and co-captains Andrea Beegle (Edina Minn.) and Royce Chapman (Elk River, Minn.). Beegle finished last season as the team MVP after leading Bethel with a strong 12-6 record in singles play. Chapman brings number one doubles experience from last season along with an 8-9 singles record as a freshman. The team will also look to Katy Kiger (Alexandria Minn.) to help in the team's quest to compete within the 2007 MIAC tournament.</p> <p>The Royals have a hard working crew of underclassmen with great attitudes this year who look to improve their play with the high level of MIAC competition. Coach Morton feels the focus of this 2007 team will rely on fundamentals, skills and physical fitness, while producing a mental toughness for each and every match.</p>
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<b>Carleton College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Colby Carlson, 3rd Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	3rd in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Abby Beggs</b> (Sr., Exeter, Calif./Redwood)  <b>Shelley Getzendanner</b> (Sr., Olympia, Wash./Capital)  <b>Christina Walker</b> (Sr., Highlands Ranch, Colo./Thunderridge)	
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>After finishing in the top two in the final MIAC standings for the fifth time in the last 11 seasons, the Knights return three All-MIAC players in singles and two of their three doubles teams that also earned all-conference honors a season ago.</p> <p>The Knights posted a 14-7 mark in 2005-06 after coming off a 2005 NCAA Championships appearance as a team. They won eight of 10 conference matches and started the season with eight straight victories, including five conference wins. Six of Carleton's seven losses on the season were to team in the regional rankings and three were to nationally-ranked squads.</p> <p>Highlighting the returnees are a trio of seniors in Abby Beggs, Shelley Getzendanner and Christina Walker. Beggs split time between first and second singles and was named the team's most valuable player. Getzendanner held down the fifth singles slot in forming the second doubles combination and Walker played fourth singles and joined Beggs at third doubles. Junior Lisa Ottum and Getzendanner were All-MIAC performers at second doubles.</p> <p>The Knights, who lost their top singles player in Sarah Russell and her doubles partner, Eryn Koch, to graduation, will offset these losses by the addition of three solid newcomers. Frances Leung is a top-five rated player in the Northern California section and could step right in and fill Russell's spot, while Hannah Clemons and Hannah Goldberg should also see action in the starting line-up for the Knights. If the trio of newcomers can transition to the college game, the Knights could be seeking their fifth consecutive top-three MIAC finish this season, as well as its 10th top-four finish in the last 12 seasons.</p>	

<b>Concordia College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Troy Hanestad, 2nd Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	11th in MIAC Regular Season	

<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Katie Luther</b> (Sr., Park Rapids, Minn.) <b>Kelsey Schendel</b> (Jr., Willmar, Minn.)
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>The 2007 Concordia women's tennis team will have a fresh look. Lost to graduation were top singles stalwarts Annie Styba and Beth Meier and in their place second-year head coach Troy Hanestad has assembled a crew of freshmen and sophomores with a few juniors and seniors thrown in for good measure.</p> <p>The top returning players for the Cobbers will be senior Katie Luther (Park Rapids, Minn.) and junior Kelsey Schendel (Willmar, Minn.). Luther was the team's No.2 singles player last year and teamed with Styba to form the No.1 doubles tandem. She had a 4-12 record in singles play last season. Schendel played up and down the Cobber lineup last year and posted a 4-8 record. She also played for the No.2 doubles team.</p> <p>Concordia will rely on a pair of freshmen to come through in 2006-07. Ashley Leister (Thief River Falls, Minn./Lincoln HS) will start the year as the team's No.1 singles player and will team with Luther to form the No.1 doubles team. Leister was a five-year member of the varsity team at Lincoln High School. Joining Leister in the top six will be fellow newcomer Amy Freeman (Staples, Minn./Staples-Motley HS). She will be penciled into the No.6 singles spot and also as part of the No.3 doubles team. Freeman was a three-time all-conference performer and was captain of the Staples-Motley tennis team in her senior season.</p>


<b>Gustavus Adolphus College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Jon Carlson, 18th season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	1st in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Lauren Hom</b> (Sr., Stevens Point, Wis.) <b>Jamie Gaard</b> (Sr., Edina, Minn.)	
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>The Gustavus women's tennis team will be in a bit of a rebuilding mode in 2007 due to the graduation of national doubles champions Tara Houlihan and Lyndsey Palen as well as Marla Menne. Head Coach Jon Carlson will build around seniors Lauren Hom, Jaime Gaard, Darcy Haubrick, and Hannah Frericks. The Gusties, who are currently ranked #12 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association coaches poll, will be looking to claim their 16th consecutive MIAC title.</p> <p>Veterans Lauren Hom and Jaime Gaard will play #1 and #2 singles respectively. Both Hom and Gaard have received ITA All-America honors multiple times and are well prepared to play at the top of the Gusties lineup. Hom has compiled a career mark of 69-18 overall and 26-0 in the MIAC, while Gaard has posted a mark of 71-27 overall and 30-0 in the MIAC. Junior Jenny White will step into the #3 singles spot after playing in the #6 position last year. Rounding out the lineup for Gustavus will be senior Hannah Frericks at the #4 position, first year Sierra Krebsbach at #5 and senior Darcy Haubrick at #6.</p> <p>In doubles play, Gustavus will be led by the tandem of Hom and Krebsbach. This duo played very well in the fall posting a mark of 8-2 and advancing to the finals of the ITA Midwest Regional. Rounding out the doubles lineup will be Gaard and Frericks at the #2 position, and White and Haubrick at the #3 spot.</p>	


<b>Hamline University</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Nathan Klonecki, 1st Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	6th in MIAC Regular Season	

<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<p><b>Kristen Bothun</b> (Sr., La Crosse, Wis./Logan)</p> <p><b>Andrea Eilertson</b> (Sr., Kiester, Minn./United South Central)</p> <p><b>Trina Ellis</b> (Sr., Buffalo, Minn.)</p> <p><b>Kelly Gust</b> (So., East Grand Forks, Minn.)</p>
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>According to first-year head coach Nathan Klonecki, depth and the focus of competing as a team will be the key to the 2007 Hamline University women's tennis program.</p> <p>Klonecki, an assistant for the Hamline University men's and women's tennis teams during the 2006 season, took over the position of head women's tennis coach for Dan Haertl, who headed the Hamline women's tennis team for 20 seasons and was the only coach in the program's history.</p> <p>"Things haven't changed a lot because last year I got to know all of the girls, and we are returning everyone who played varsity last season. Since we do return everyone and have the edition of our first-years, our only major change will be that we will have a lot of depth, which we haven't had in the past," stated Klonecki.</p> <p>That depth will come in handy this season, as the MIAC has changed its requirements to make the conference tournament. Now, only the top six teams will be able to compete at the MIAC Championships. "I like the new requirements because it gives us more competition during the season and it makes our matches that much more important," Klonecki commented.</p> <p>With the focus of competing as a team the key for a successful season, the Pipers will use doubles matches to their advantage. The Pipers return all of their doubles teams and will look to build on strategy. "One-third of our points is from doubles play, so we will work a lot on our doubles strategy. We won't necessarily put our best two players together, but pair the best two players who work together," Klonecki explained.</p> <p>Double partners returning include number one Kristen Bothun (LaCrosse, Wis.) and Kelly Gust (East Grand Forks, Minn.), number two Andrea Eilertson (Kiester, Minn.) and Liz Gunderson (New Prague, Minn.), and number three Trina Ellis (Buffalo, Minn.) and Stephanie England (Forest Lake, Minn.). Last season, all pairs earned winning records. Bothun and Gust earned an impressive record of 16-6, Eilertson and Gunderson capped of the season with a 13-9 record, and England and Ellis finished 6-5.</p>


<b>Macalester College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Jason Muhl, 2nd Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	10th in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Megan Walsh</b> (So., Madison, Wis./East) <b>Anna Peschel</b> (Jr., St. Paul, Minn./Central) <b>Jenna Harris</b> (Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio/Seven Hills) <b>Becky Nieber</b> (So., Madison, Wis./East)	

<b>Preview:</b>	<p>Last season, the Scots matched their win total from the previous three seasons combined when they went 10-14. They beat Concordia at the MIAC tournament and lost a pair of close matches to St. Catherine and Saint Mary's, and now are ready to move up in the conference standings with the return of their top five singles players.</p> <p>Megan Walsh (So., Madison, Wis./East) was one of the top MIAC newcomers last year when she finished with a 9-13 singles record at No. 1 and 15-9 mark in doubles play. Anna Peschel (Jr., St. Paul, Minn./Central) and Jenna Harris (Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio/Seven Hills) split time at No. 2 a year ago, with Peschel wrapping up the year with a team-best 11-12 record and Harris going 7-15. Becky Nieber (So., Madison, Wis./East) went 9-13 in '06 at third and fourth singles, while Becky Schneider was 9-9 at No. 5.</p> <p>Walsh and Callie Recknagel (Jr., Waukesha, Wis./South) teamed up to go 13-5 in doubles play last year, including 4-2 in MIAC matches.</p>
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<b>College of Saint Benedict</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Scott Larsen, 1st Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	2nd in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Megan Tiegs</b> (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Lourdes)  <b>Angela Sigl</b> (Sr., Fargo, N.D./Shanley)  <b>Jen Kling</b> (Sr., Wyoming, Minn./Forest Lake)  <b>Megan Wrobel</b> (Jr., Willmar, Minn.)	
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>The College of Saint Benedict tennis team enters their 2007 spring season looking to build of an impressive 2006 season in which they compiled a 9-1 MIAC record and a 16-2 overall mark.</p> <p>The Blazers return All-MIAC Megan Tiegs at No. 1 singles. Last season, Tiegs went 17-1 during the season and also showed her versatility by posting a 14-4 record in No. 1 doubles with teammate Katie Ward. After narrowly missing qualifications to compete in the NCAA national tournament last season, Tiegs has her sights set on improving her game and making the tournament this spring.</p> <p>Seniors Angela Sigl and Jen Kling also return to Saint Benedict's line-up this spring and will provide the Blazers with experience and leadership. Sigl is expected to show her versatility this year by playing both doubles and singles. Kling is expected to move up in position on the line-up card this spring, which is a challenge that she is looking forward to.</p> <p>All-MIAC junior Megan Wrobel is coming of a great year in singles competition. Wrobel's competition will be greatly improved this spring as she moves up in the Blazers' line-up.</p> <p>First-years Amanda Forstrom, Susan Sass, and Christine Long will provide Saint Benedict with depth in both singles and doubles competition.</p> <p>First year head coach Scott Larsen is confident that the Blazers will carry over their success and energy from last season. "I'm optimistic for this spring based on the energy our team has shown so far," Larsen said. "We will be challenged by a tough MIAC and non-conference schedule and are excited to begin those matches."</p>	

<b>College of St. Catherine</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	P.J. Priest, 2nd Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	7th in MIAC Regular Season	


<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Shelly Bebler</b> (Sr., Wells, Minn.)  <b>Jamie Weber</b> (Jr., Benson, Minn)
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>The '05-'06 season was one of rebuilding for the Wildcat tennis program. Last season's team lost four of the top six players from the previous year but still managed to finish fifth in the MIAC Tournament. While only losing one player from last season's team and adding three significant first years, the Wildcats look to continue the climb towards a top three conference finish.</p> <p>"I am very excited about the direction of our team this year," says Wildcat head coach P.J. Priest. "We have some great additions to the team and we just continue to improve every match," added Priest. Coach Priest is referring to the slow start and strong finish the team went through last season. The Wildcats at one point won seven straight matches during the last half of the year and are looking to keep building on the momentum.</p> <p>Some key contributors this season should be co-captains Shelly Bebler (Sr., Wells, Minn.) and Jamie Weber (Jr., Benson, Minn). Bebler was all conference last year at number one singles and Weber finished the season by winning two key matches in the conference tournament.</p>

<b>Saint Mary's University</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Jeff Halberg, 9th Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	8th in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Ann Leeder</b> (Sr., Greenfield, Wis.)  <b>Aubrey Hirsch</b> (Jr., Topeka, Kan.)  <b>Val Meschke</b> (So., Pine River, Minn.)  <b>Shannon Cooney</b> (Fr., Eden Prairie, Minn.)	

<b>Preview:</b>	<p>The Saint Mary's University women's tennis team certainly has its share of familiar faces, Ann Leeder (Greenfield, Wis.), Aubrey Hirsch (Topeka, Kan.) and Val Meschke (Pine River, Minn.), to name a few.</p> <p>But along with the "old," there's plenty of new, and that puts a smile on head coach Jeff Halberg's face.</p> <p>"We've got a lot of experience coming back, but we've also got some very talented freshmen who should step in and contribute," added Halberg, whose roster boasts one senior (Leeder), one junior (Hirsch), four sophomores and six freshmen. "Our roster is a bit of an 'old-and-new' look to it."</p> <p>And the "new" are a deep and talented lot, led by Shannon Cooney (Eden Prairie, Minn.), who will open the season as Halberg's No. 1 singles player.</p> <p>"Top-to-bottom, this may be my most talented team yet," said Halberg, whose women went 10-12 overall a year ago. "We've got a lot of freshmen, so it's going to take a while to get everyone to gel together as a unit.</p> <p>"The biggest key when you have a young team is getting them to believe in themselves, getting them to understand that they are good enough to play at this level," said Halberg. "This team has the ability to do some great things, it's just a matter of having it all come together for us.</p> <p>"I'm excited about what the season has in store for our team, I think we have the potential to turn a few heads."</p>
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<b>St. Olaf College</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Scott Nesbit, 17th Season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	5th in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Kristina Poplavska</b> (Soph., Eden Prairie, Minn.) <b>Jorie Steffen</b> (Sr., Lake Geneva, Wis.) <b>Elizabeth Greener</b> (Sr., Elgin, Ill.) <b>Krista Germeroth</b> (Sr., Scottsdale, Ariz.) <b>Sarah Carlson</b> (Fy, Rochester, Minn.) <b>Aimee Ny</b> (Fy, Rochester, Minn.)	

<b>Preview:</b>	<p>The St. Olaf women's tennis team returns all but one athlete to exemplify a group bundled with experience.</p> <p>Emily Eggert was the lone senior on last year's squad. Occupying the No. 1 singles and doubles spot in which Eggert occupied will likely be filled by Kristina Poplavska (Soph., Eden Prairie, Minn.), who fared well a season ago with a 6-7 record in second singles play. Captain Jorie Steffen (Sr., Lake Geneva, Wis.) will contribute near the top of the Oles' lineup as well. The Oles will also enjoy the senior leadership of Elizabeth Greener (Sr., Elgin, Ill.) and Krista Germeroth (Sr., Scottsdale, Ariz.), in addition to Steffen's. Joining the Oles are successful high school players Sarah Carlson (Fy, Rochester, Minn.) and Aimee Ny (Fy, Rochester, Minn.).</p> <p>A tough non-conference schedule, which includes Wisconsin powers UW-La Crosse and Luther will be early tests before dual matches in a tough MIAC. A spring break trip to Tampa, Fla. will consist of five matches, prepping the group for outdoor play.</p> <p>Head Coach Scott Nesbit begins his 17th season leading the Ole troops. Assisting Nesbit will be Kristi Carlson Stets, a St. Olaf tennis alum, now in her sixth year. Tory Borovsky, a former NCAA Division I player, begins her second season.</p>
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<b>University of St. Thomas</b>		
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Terry Peck, 12th season	
<b>2006 Finish:</b>	4th in MIAC Regular Season	
<b>Key Athletes:</b>	<b>Dana Vilar</b> (Jr., Brookfield, Wis./East) <b>Brittany Bachman</b> (Jr., Litchfield, Minn.) <b>Christina Alexander</b> (Sr., Rochester, Minn./Lourdes) <b>Nickey Nichols</b> (Sr., North Oaks, Minn./Totino-Grace) <b>Kathryn Whaling</b> (So., Worthington, Ohio) <b>Cortney Dirks</b> (Sr., St. Peter, Minn.)	
<b>Preview:</b>	<p>Terry Peck is beginning his 17th season at St. Thomas and 12th as women's head coach. His teams are consistent top-four MIAC finishers, and over the last seven seasons have built a 128-34 record. Peck coached his 450th co-ed match with the Tommies in 2006. He comes into 2007 with a combined men's and women's dual record of 344-111 (.756 win%).</p> <p>St. Thomas boasts some of the top doubles teams in the region. They return two doubles teams that made All-MIAC for 2006 - Dana Vilar and Brittany Bachman and Christina Alexander and Nickey Nichols. Junior transfer Kathryn Whaling will join Vilar at first doubles. Vilar went 15-1 in doubles last season, while Alexander went 8-1 and Nichols went 7-2.</p> <p>Senior Cortney Dirks has played in the top spots in singles. Freshmen Hadley Syverud of Mounds View and Allison Brufloft of Eden Prairie will make the lineup.</p> <p>UST finished fourth in the conference in 2006, and had a 14-6 overall record.</p>	