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For immediate release

Saint Mary’s Wins MIAA Tennis Tournament and Team Title - again

Behind singles championships at the #2, #3, and #4 Singles Flights, Saint Mary's College won the 2004 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Tennis Tournament, and the 2004 MIAA Team Title.

Kristen Palombo (So., Livonia, Mich./Farmington Hills Mercy HS) won her second consecutive title at #2, Kaitlin Cutler (Sr., E. Grand Rapids, Mich./E. Grand Rapids HS) won her third consecutive title at #3, and Kris Spriggle (Sr., Holland, OH/Notre Dame Academy) won her third at #4. Cutler also won a title playing at #4 in 2001, and Spriggle won another at #5 in 2001.

First Team All-MIAA performer Jeannie Knish (Sr., Munster, Ind./Munster HS) improved her 2003 finish with a 3rd place match victory at #1 Singles, and Miranda Mikulyuk also improved her 2003 showing moving up to 4th place at #6 Singles. Kate Bowler (So., Attleboro, MA/Bishop Feehan HS), in her first MIAA Tournament, battled to third place for the Belles.

Knish and Bowler were fourth at #1 Doubles, Cutler and Spriggle were third at #2 Doubles, and the #3 pairing of Palombo and Grace Gordon (Fr., Wilmette, IL/Loyola Academy) made it all the way to the championship match before falling and settling for second.

Several Belles earned post-season awards in the conference. Knish’s placement on the All-MIAA First Team was her third consecutive, which follows a Second Team honor in her freshman year. Earning Second Team All-MIAA honors for 2004 were Cutler, her third consecutive, and Palombo, her second in a row.

In Tournament play, the Belles finished one point ahead of runner-up Albion College, 79.5 to 78.5, and Kalamazoo College followed at third with 69.5 points.

Three teams entered the tournament tied for first after the regular season as Albion and Calvin College, along with the Belles, then had the inside track on the Team Title, a combination of regular season and tournament results. With the Belles Tournament victory they claim their fourth in a row, and recapture the Team Title that they’d also won in 2002 and 2001.

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