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## IOWA CONFERENCE MEN'S TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . .** The 2008 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) Men's Tennis Championship is April 24-26, in Cedar Rapids. Cornell College is the host of the 2008 Championship that will be played at Veterans Memorial Tennis Courts at 8th Avenue and Rockford Road SW and at the Clark Racquet Center on the campus of Coe College.

The three-day event will feature a six-team Dual Team Tournament on Thursday, a three-flight singles Tournament and a two-flight doubles Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

**Team Championship:** The six-team Dual Tournament, which was seeded by a vote of the Conference tennis coaches conducted following the conclusion of the regular season, begins at 8:30 a.m. The winner of the Team Tournament will receive the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Championship which begins on May 2.

Luther College is the Tournament's top seed for the second consecutive season and enters this year's Championship with a 27-9 overall record, 8-0 in the IIAC. Coe College is the No. 2 seed and enters the tournament with a 14-9 record, 3-1 in the IIAC.

For the sixth time in the last seven years, Central College is the third seed with an 11-12 record, 7-2 in the IIAC. Cornell College (8-9, 4-4 IIAC), University of Dubuque (13-3, 3-1), and Wartburg College (6-15, 1-6) are seeds 4-6.

The dual matches will conclude once a team wins five points and are played out to determine place finishes one through six. First round and back draw matches (3rd- and 5th-place) will play singles first, semifinal and Championship matches will play doubles first. All matches with the exception of the fifth-place match will be played at Veterans Park. The fifth-place match will be played at Coe. Should the Team Tournament not be completed on Thursday, it will be completed prior to the start of the Individual Tournament on Friday.

Last year, Luther won its IIAC-record 27th Conference title with a 5-2 win over Coe in the Championship match, the fifth time in six years the two teams met in the final match. Central finished third after posting a 5-4 win over Wartburg. Fifth-seeded Loras defeated sixth-seeded Simpson to take the fifth-place match.

**Individual Flighted Tournament:** Individuals are placed in flights based on the players' strength. The draw for the singles and doubles Tournament will be available Thursday afternoon and posted on the Iowa Conference web site at that time.

The Individual Flighted Tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Brackets will be completed through the quarterfinals on Friday with Flight A matches at Coe, and Flight B and C matches at Veterans. All of Saturday's matches will be at Veterans.

Quarterfinalists in Flight A singles and semifinalists in Flight A doubles are deemed All-Conference.

Last year, **Max Busch** became the second consecutive Luther player to win the A Flight singles title and the 19th since 1967. Five of last year's eight All-Conference performers in singles return this year – Busch and Thomas **Orser** from Luther and **Joey Lankelma**, **Tom Jennings**, and **Greg Janssen** from Coe. Lankelma and Jennings are both two-time All-Conference performers in singles.

Luther's **Matt Olson** won the Flight B title and Dubuque's **Cory McCarthy** was the Champion of Flight C. Luther swept the doubles titles with **Brad Nelson** and **Utsab Rijal** winning Flight A, and **Cole Henry** and **Jared Wiklund** winning Flight B. For Nelson, it was his second A Flight doubles title, also winning in 2005 with **Jono Martin**.

The Dual Team Tournament bracket follows. Complete results from previous Iowa Conference men's tennis Championships can be found at: <http://www.iowaconference.com/men/tennis/tournaments.htm>

## 2008 IIAC Men's Tennis Team Tournament Bracket

