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IOWA CONFERENCE WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . The 2008 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) Women's Tennis Championship begins this weekend, October 10-11, at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Complex in Iowa City. The six-school Team Championship was seeded by a vote of the Conference women's tennis coaches. All nine Conference schools will participate in next weekend's Individual Tournament to be held at the Veterans Park Tennis Complex and at Cornell College.

Two-time defending champion Coe College has the only unblemished league mark at 11-1 overall and 8-0 in IIAC play. Luther College wrapped up its fall schedule with a 13-3 mark overall and a 6-1 mark in league play with their only IIAC loss coming to the Kohawks. Cornell College sits third at 12-3 overall and 5-2 in the IIAC with only an October 8 dual with Loras remaining on their schedule. Central College (8-7-1, 5-3 IIAC), Simpson College (6-8, 5-4 IIAC), and Wartburg College (1-13, 1-5 IIAC) have also been selected for the IIAC Team Tournament field. Loras College (4-8, 2-5 IIAC), University of Dubuque (2-8, 0-6 IIAC), and Buena Vista University (2-8, 0-6 IIAC) round out the Iowa Conference standings.

The dual matches will start with doubles and conclude once a team wins five points and are played out to determine place finishes one through six. All matches will take place at the Don Klotz Tennis Courts at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Complex with the exception of Saturday's fifth-place match, which will be at Cornell College in Mount Vernon at 9 a.m. The top four teams from this weekend will advance to next April's Iowa Conference NCAA Automatic Qualifier Tournament to determine the recipient of the league's automatic berth in the 2009 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championship field.

2007 Team Tournament Recap: Coe College won its second Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) Women's Tennis Championship in as many years, defeating Luther College, 5-4, in the Championship match on the Don Klotz Tennis Courts at the Hawkeye Tennis and Recreation Complex in Iowa City. With the victory, the top-seeded Kohawks earned the opportunity to host the Conference's Automatic Qualifier Tournament in April where they captured an automatic bid to the 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championship with another 5-4 win over the Norse.

Central edged Wartburg for third place, 5-4, in a dual that saw the momentum shift between the teams on numerous occasions. Cornell beat Simpson 5-0 in the fifth-place match played at Coe College.

Luther has placed first or second 25 times in the 26 years of the Iowa Conference Women's Tennis Championship. The Norse have won 23 titles, finished runner-up twice (2001, 2007) and third once (2006). The third-place finish last year was Central's best finish since 2004 when they finished also finished third, while Wartburg's finish was its best since a fourth-place finish in 1999.

Previous IIAC Women's Tennis Championship results can be found at:
<http://www.iowaconference.com/women/tennis/tournaments.htm>.

The bracket for the 2008 Team Championship is attached. The brackets and preview for the Individual Championship will be released on the Iowa Conference web site (www.iowaconference.com) next week.