

Men's Tennis Competes at ITA Midwest Regional

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Posted: Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 10:21 PM

ST. PETER, Minn. (UWECBlugolds.com) - The UW-Eau Claire men's tennis team competed in singles and doubles events at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Midwest Regional hosted by Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.) this weekend.

The Blugolds had four singles players competing and two doubles teams taking part in the ITA event.

In doubles play, the team of **Chris Kuna** (So.-Edina, Minn.) and partner **Phil Loprinzi** (Sr.-Rochester, Minn./Mayo) defeated the St. Mary's (Minn.) team of Jack Schway and Mike Lunka, 8-0 to open the tournament and advanced all the way to the finals. The No. 8 seed Scott Sundstrom and Ustab Rijal of Luther College (Iowa) knocked off the top-seeded Mike Greenberg and Will Vandenberg of Kenyon in the semifinals to face the Blugold duo in the championship. Unfortunately, the Blugolds fell short in a competitive final round 6-4, 6-7 (5), 10-7 to take second place in the doubles draw.

In singles competition, **Kevin Fawcett** (Sr.-Madison, Wis./Verona), **Lars Olson** (Jr.-De Pere, Wis.) and Kuna all advanced to the third round of the tournament, but were unable to advance any further.

Also taking place this weekend was the Midwest Open. Two Blugolds, **Ben Robertson** (Fr.-Plymouth, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong) and **Eric Wollum** (Jr.-Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial), made it to round four in the singles competition before falling. In doubles play, **Jeff Liegel** (So.-Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial) and **Matt Hambidge** (So.-St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall) advanced all the way to the semifinal round before falling to Gustavus' Brooks Stapleton and Rodrigo Otero, who went on to take second place in the open.

Top-seeded Mike Greenberg of Kenyon College won the singles title and the duo of Sundstrom and Rijal won the doubles title at the Wilson/ITA Midwest Regional.

The Wilson/ITA Midwest Regional at Gustavus featured the top small college tennis players from 26 schools in the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio. As champions of the Midwest Regional, Greenberg, Sundstrom and Rijal now advance to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Small College Championships which will take place Oct. 15-18 at the Copeland-Cox Tennis Center in Mobile, Alabama.

The ITA National Small College Championships began in 1986 and annually crowns men's and women's singles and doubles national champions in each of the ITA's four small college divisions (NCAA Divisions II and III, NAIA and Junior/Community College). These championships are the only national tournaments for singles and doubles at the NCAA Division II and NAIA level, and the only tournaments that combine all levels of Junior/Community Colleges (NJCAA Divisions I-III, and California Community Colleges).

The Blugolds' men's tennis team will be back in competition beginning in the spring.