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"K" WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM WINS MIAA CHAMPIONSHIP

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Regional tennis competition is next on the schedule for the Kalamazoo College women's tennis squad. Coach Tish Loveless' Hornets will travel to St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, May 24-26 for the Midwest Women's regional tournament.

The team is coming off of a winning 5-1 season topped by their return as Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) champions. This is the twenty-first time in Loveless' twenty-four years as coach that the Hornets have taken the league title.

Kalamazoo players advanced to the finals of the championship tournament in seven of the nine matches and went on to win two championship matches.

Freshwoman Janine Ihssen (Fort Wayne, IN) netted the crown in the fourth singles match while the team of sophomores Cindy Chiappetta (Marco Island, FL) and Joan Thomson (Grosse Pointe Park) were winners in the third doubles competition. Freshwoman Tracy Berg (Grand Blanc), senior April Kenworthy (Grand Rapids) and senior Merrill Smith (Grand Rapids) advanced to the finals in the third, fifth and sixth singles competition, but were knocked out in the final round.

Two Kalamazoo doubles teams also advanced to the finals, but were beaten in the last matches. The first doubles team of Kenworthy and Smith and the second doubles combination of senior captain Christy Bishop (St. Louis, MO) and senior Sue Fitzgerald (Glen Ellyn, IL) lost in the final competitions.

(MORE)

The squad was thwarted May 12 by Calvin College in its bid to return as Michigan small college champions. The margin of defeat was only a single point.

Strong playing, however, by four freshmen at the Michigan tournament secured the second-place ranking for Kalamazoo. Berg and Ihssen each triumphed in their third and fourth singles matches, while the team of Chiappetta and Thomson captured the third doubles title. Kenworthy and Smith advanced to the finals in both fifth and sixth singles as well as together in first doubles, while Bishop and Fitzgerald played in the final competition for the second doubles title.

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