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Cedarville College

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SPORTS NEWS RELEASE

from Cedarville College Yellow Jackets

SPORTS INFORMATION
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For immediate release:

C.C. Tennis Teams Aim to Defend Titles

Cedarville College has dominated NAIA District 22 tennis in recent years and both the men's and women's teams have hopes of continuing that tradition this spring. The men have won the district and Mid-Ohio Conference titles in 16 of the past 17 years including the last 13 in a row. The women won their first district championship last season, but the Lady Jackets have made three straight trips to the nationals in Kansas City. Both squads open their respective seasons this Friday at home with the men hosting Marion (IN) College and the women taking on Miami-Middletown.

Men's coach Dr. Murray Murdoch begins his 20th year at the helm with a career mark of 321-41 which is an .887 winning percentage. His 1984 club was 21-3 and only two starters return. "We have lost eight starters in the last two years," proclaimed Murdoch. "By and large we have filled in with guys who have been in the program for a few years. So the excitement of this year is that the heart of our line-up is going to be comprised of new players. I think there is a good spirit and enthusiasm on the team because we have some people that have really paid their dues and are ready to play."

One of those two starters back is senior left-hander Gary Coiro who was 28-2 last spring and became the first Cedarville male tennis player to make it to the final round of 32 at the NAIA nationals. The NAIA has pre-season ranked Coiro 42nd among its top 50 singles players in the country for 1985. No other Yellow Jacket has ever received that honor.

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Number six man Frank Terkelsen is the other returning singles player, but Thurman Payton and Bruce Richards, who formed one doubles team a year ago, should move up to singles. Senior Kevin Crawford should make the move up from the junior varsity squad. Eight other players will be vying for the final varsity slot.

The top two players from last spring's women's team are gone and that includes Ann Berger who played number one for four years. "If we are going to have another winning season then we will have to win at the bottom," predicted coach Dr. Pam Diehl whose club went 6-3 in '84. "What I mean by that, is that we will be quite strong in positions three through six and we must win there. Our top two players will be in new spots and will play our opponents' best players. But this squad could gel and have a great year. We weren't supposed to win our district last year so we'll just have to wait and see what happens."

The players who played numbers three, four, and five are all back with senior Melanie Mathewson heading up that trio. She ended a fine 1984 season by being named to the NAIA Academic All-America Team. Mathewson also earned spots on the All-NAIA District 22 team and the Western Buckeye Collegiate Conference unit.

The other two varsity singles players returning are Dawn Reehl and Tracy Turner. That pair, along with junior Cindy Stoltzfus and Mathewson, all played at the NAIA Nationals last year. Stoltzfus made the All-WBCC squad as part of a doubles team.

Men's tennis action will continue on Saturday when Malone College will come to the campus for a match at noon. The women will host Wright State University on Monday.