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Cedarville College

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# Cedarville Tennis Coaches Two of a Kind

While the phrase "two of a kind" seems a bit cliché, few phrases better describe Murray Murdoch and Pam Diehl from Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio.

The similarities between the two go from coincidental to remarkable.

Both are full professors with their doctorate degrees, having started at Cedarville right out of graduate school; both learned the game of tennis after assuming a head coaching position in tennis at Cedarville; both originated the NAIA's scholar-athlete programs for tennis (Murdoch for men's and Diehl for women's); and both serve as the tournament directors for the NAIA National Tennis Championships (Murdoch for men's and Diehl for women's).

In talking with both, it's clear that the mutual resemblance begins with similar value systems. Both have found comfort in Cedarville's belief in a sound, Christian education, and both enjoy the opportunities available for learning through athletics.

"Cedarville and the NAIA are both interested in the same thing," said Diehl. "They both want what's best for the kids. They are both sensitive to the students, and in the NAIA's case, the student-athletes."

Murdoch agrees.

"One of the great opportunities Cedarville has provided me as an educator is to teach that actions have to be rooted in values and that it's vital that we develop a good value system," he said. "In sports and the NAIA, the playing field provides a practical workshop for applying one's value system."

Murdoch, who began at Cedarville in 1965, is preparing for his 27th consecutive year of coming to Kansas City for the men's tennis championship. This will be his 15th year on the men's tournament committee and his third as the chair of that committee.

"I believe the greatness of this tournament lies in the fact that everyone that comes to the tournament is a champion, even though we may fight and scratch to get only a few points in the team total,"

Murdoch said. "In a very real sense, everyone out there is a winner and it provides a memorable lifetime experience for all who

Diehl, who is entering her tenth year on the women's tennis tournament committee and fourth as chair, echoes that sentiment.

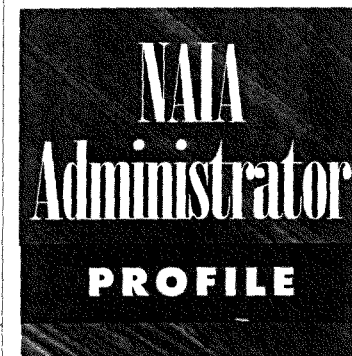
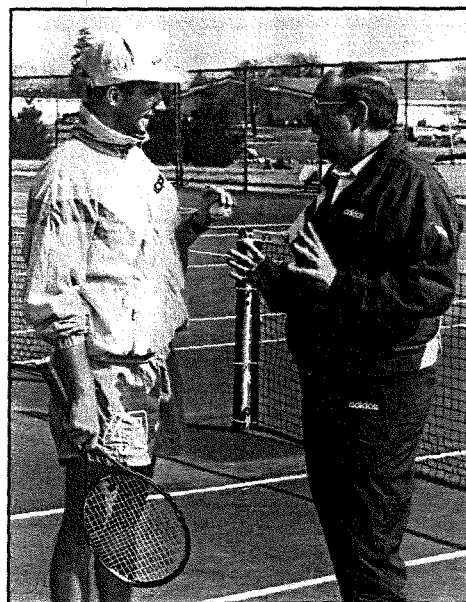
"I believe in an old-fashioned philosophy," she said. "This is really just a game. It's worth is in what it teaches our young people.



Fortunately, that is exactly what Cedarville believes, too. When we go to the tournament, many times we lose, but in many ways we win. That's not just a line — it's really true. That's why I stay in it."

Without question, the relationship between the two educators and coaches reflects their similar attitudes toward life — very positive.

"Pam and I have always had a close working relationship," Murdoch said. "It sounds cornball, but it's true



BY: TIM STALEY  
NAIA

Top: Murdoch (right) and Diehl (left). Above: Murdoch pauses during tennis practice to explain a strategy to one of his players, Sino Rasberger.

