

Now serving: Monarch tennis action

Kenichi Yokota
Staff Writer

Women's Tennis

Kelly Brown, Methodist College's women's tennis head coach has a slogan for her first season at the helm, "Compete hard."

The Lady Monarchs have lost their No. 1 and No. 2 players, who won the Fall Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division-III National Doubles Championship, from last year. Regardless, Brown expects her six-player team to be tough competitors. "It will be a new experience for some players, so they will have to move up to the next level. We have been training and working really hard as a team."

"Everyone is going to be a key component this year. Every point is important. Everyone must come and do their part this year," Brown said.

Rather than strong individuals, Brown is focusing on the strength of the team as a "cohesive unit," and hopes they will compete together well.

Brown has set the two strategies to improve the team's chance of winning: 1) playing more aggressively; and 2) approaching toward the net. "These two strategies are something we can work on to construct points in a game and to have a better understanding of positioning on the court," Brown said.

The Monarchs played in two pre-



photos by Hannah Hamer

The Methodist College men and women's tennis teams have some strong individuals and some high goals set.

season tournaments last fall and Brown saw good effort, and is ready to see what they have to give this fall if they put their minds to it.

"Competing hard mentally and physically every point is all we can do. We might not play well one day, and sometimes play a little better the next. But you can still compete hard every point in a game," Brown concluded.

Men's Tennis

Head coach of the Monarch Men's Tennis Team, Mike Roberts and his 11 players are anxious to have their

shot at the conference title.

Despite losing three starters from last year's team are ready to compete this spring season. The team has three goals: 1) to win the conference; 2) to be ranked in the nation; and 3) to play in the national tournament.

Roberts points out maintaining focus is important. While the teams in the conference have weakened, Monarchs must keep their competitive edge against very strong national ranked teams.

"It's important that we approach every match the same. Even in prac-

tice, we prepare for games as if we were competing against the national ranked teams," Roberts said.

The team is composed of four experienced players and seven inexperienced, younger players. Brown forecasts that this season will depend heavily on the top four players with the younger ones filling in where needed.

According to Roberts, the match against Averett will be the toughest game in the conference. These two teams have been competing for the conference title the

last three years. "This year, we'd like to be regular season champions," Roberts said.

The Monarchs' first game will be at 3 p.m. this Saturday against North Carolina Central, and their first home match is at 3 p.m. on March 15th against Mississippi College.

Coach Roberts adds, "We best kept secret on campus. We have three conference championships in row. We had a lot of success last three years. It's been amazing. I am excited about the season."

As basketball season winds down, fans show up

