The Misericordia University tennis teams enter the 2011 spring season looking to build on a promising fall and a successful 2009-10 campaign that saw both squads make the Freedom Conference playoffs. A new generation is looking to keep the women’s team near the top of the Freedom standings, while a men’s program still in its infancy seeks to continue its development.

MU head coach Allison Joanlanne was recently honored by the United States Tennis Association for her work in building the young Cougar tennis program. Joanlanne was named the Eastern Pennsylvania District Collegiate Coach of the Year for 2010.

Last year, the Misericordia women made their second consecutive league championship match, falling to powerhouse Wilkes in the final. The Cougars have lost team MVP Abby Searfoss (13-7 at first singles in 2009-10), but the team hasn’t lost a step despite playing rookies in the top two places.

Freshman Michelle Cameron has stepped into the first singles/singles spot vacated by Searfoss and performed admirably in the fall. She completed her first semester with a 6-1 mark at first doubles and a 6-2 record in singles play (3-2 in the top spot).

Fellow rookie Breanne Phillips has also had an outstanding start to the season, going 5-1 at second singles and 6-1 at first doubles with Cameron. Another freshman - Cassie Foy - should line up at third doubles and fifth singles, where she made the MAC semifinals.

Senior Ashley Mangabang has enjoyed a decorated career, with four conference final appearances in individual competition to go with two team championship match appearances. She was an All-PAC selection as a freshman, won the team Coaches Award in 2008, and made the MAC finals in doubles in both 2009 and 2010, with different partners.

Mangabang’s teammate this fall was classmate Courtney Otto, who competes at fourth singles as well. Otto has also enjoyed a successful career, winning team MVP honors in 2008 and earning an All-PAC selection in 2007 after making the finals of her singles bracket.

A pair of seniors with two-year experience - Jennifer Spott and Ellyn Wingert - both have MAC semifinal appearances on their resumes and will provide options for Coach Joanlanne.

Junior Lauren Verret, last season’s Coaches Award winner and a 2009 MAC semifinalist, could play in the sixth singles spot.

The 2009-10 season was just the third-ever varsity campaign for the MU men, but they found a way into the playoffs after a thrilling 5-4 win at Eastern on the final day of the regular season. The Cougars would ultimately fall in the Freedom semifinals to Manhattanville.

Misericordia lost last year’s number-one Brandon Loux, but returns an experienced group of five seniors and two juniors.

Senior Frank Nett has taken over the top spot after a semifinal appearance in MAC individuals last year.

Junior Fred Hockenbury has taken over the top spot after a semifinal appearance in MAC individuals last year.

Junior Kyle Capozzi and Junior Matt Erney should also compete for a singles spot.

Both teams begin Freedom play with a visit from King’s on March 26. Conference playoff matches are scheduled for the week of April 26-30.
Misericordia University is a member of the NCAA Division III. The largest of the NCAA's three divisions, Division III promotes a well-rounded approach to intercollegiate athletics participation. While Division III is best known by some for what it doesn’t offer—athletics scholarships—it has plenty to offer. Knowing that Division III student-athletes play for the love of the game, the Division III experience is structured to help participants develop fully as students, athletes and citizens. Athletics participation at many of the 432 institutions that comprise Division III allows student-athletes to succeed in the classroom and athletics. That certainly is the case at Misericordia as student-athletes are often active in student government, residence life and other extra-curricular activities. In addition, Division III playing seasons and class schedules are designed to minimize conflicts between athletics and academic needs and promote academic success. This is evidenced by MU’s overall 3.20 GPA among student-athletes and 107 all-academic honorees in 2009-10. While Division III athletics programs promote a wide range of participation, they don’t sacrifice when it comes to competition. In fact, the NCAA sponsors 36 national championships annually through the University, from programs of study to service projects. Small class size ensures personalized attention and a 13:1 student/faculty ratio allowing students to truly know one another. Located in Dallas, PA, MU’s 132-acre campus has a suburban atmosphere and is only nine miles from Wilkes-Barre and two hours from New York City and Philadelphia.

ATHLETICS FACILITIES

The athletics facilities at Misericordia University are highlighted by the Anderson Athletic Center and the Anderson Outdoor Athletic Complex. The facilities—located across campus—are designed to assist student-athletes with curricular activities.

A 2010 renovation project features the relocation and enhancement of the fitness center. In addition, the building houses the athletic department offices and campus health center.

Mangeldsdorf Field at the Anderson Athletic Complex was constructed in 2002 and serves as a home for the soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and track & field programs. The complex features a synthetic grass field and a six-lane synthetic track which allow MU’s student-athletes to remain active even when weather conditions are less than ideal.

Named for the late Dr. Robert S. and Geraldine Ruth Daley Anderson, the Anderson Sports-Health Center and Anderson Athletic Complex and Anderson Health Center are tributes to their commitment to Misericordia University.

Mangeldsorf Field honors the dedication of Jack and Dorothy Mangelesborf to MU and the region.

The Misericordia tennis complex opened in 2004 as part of a gift by the M & T Foundation.

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MISERICORDIA BELONGS TO FREEDOM/MAC, ECAC

In addition to membership in the NCAA Division III, Misericordia University belongs to the Freedom Conference/Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

MU is in its third full season of competition in the Freedom/MAC after 16 years as a member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference. Misericordia began ECAC and NCAA competition in 1992.

The Freedom Conference and MAC sponsor competition in 11 men’s sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis and outdoor track & field; and 11 women’s sports: basketball, cross country, field hockey, indoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, outdoor track & field and volleyball.

Formed in 1938, the ECAC is the nation’s largest athletics conference with more than 300 members in Divisions I, II and III from Maine to North Carolina.

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