

# MHS Tennis smacks the competition

By: Spenser Warren  
Sports Reporter

This winter, before the 2007 boys varsity tennis team even thought about getting out their tennis rackets, there was one question among the students that would be trying out for the team: Who is going to coach?

The answer to that question is Tom Derouin, a man whose name alone represents greatness in Moline High School sports. It was Coach Derouin who led the Maroons to 28 sectional championships to go along with 27 Western Big 6 crowns, as well as a state championship in 1993 in over 30 years as a coach.

It's no coincidence that this year's group of Maroons find themselves in position to once again reach an unprecedented level of success this season under Derouin's guidance. Led by standouts such as Ryan Rosenthal, Jason Doh, and Paul Gustafson, just to name a few, this season has panned out to be quite special for the team from Moline.

Most of the teams the Maroons have played have been some of the tougher schools in the state such as Belleville East, Glenbrook South, and Rockford Guilford. Beating the Rockford/Guilford team has been one of the highlights of the season so far, according to team member Hemanth Sirandas.

Recently defeating Naperville North and Prospect High has also boosted the teams spirits, high enough that the team feels they could be destined for a lot more than simply a conference championship.

"We'll go far, we plan on getting the most people in state," said Hemanth Sirandas.

"We'll go pretty far in state and take two doubles teams," said Luke Wood.

One of the biggest keys to success for this team is that they've been a very good all-around team, with several players competing well in both singles and doubles events. Ryan Rosenthal and Ian Golden have been the top singles players thus far, while the tandem of Paul Gustafson and Jason Doh on the doubles side have been very dominant through the season's early going.

Not only does the Doh-Gustafson combo have a strong chance of making a state appearance, other doubles partners such as the duo of Tom Lazenby and Kurt Sandholm could prove fellow teammates right on about the chances of having two doubles teams at state.

"We're an all around strong team, we just have good depth," Luke Wood added.

The Maroons proved their depth recently with two impressive performances the past two weeks.

On May 4th and 5th at the Moline/Rock Island Tournament, the Maroons vindicated just how good they could be by placing second in a field of 16 teams. The Moliners just came up short against strong sectional favorite Rockford Guilford as a team, but saw very encouraging results from the members participating.

In singles play, Ryan Rosenthal placed 7th among the group of #1 singles players, while Ian Golden placed 3rd in the #2 solo group. Equally impressive were the duo

of Paul Gustafson and Jason Doh and the partnership of Kurt Sandholm and Tom Lazenby finishing second overall in their respective doubles brackets.

Even more encouraging and important for Moline's post-season aspirations was clinching the Western Big Six conference championship on May 12th. By edging out archrivals Galesburg and Rock Island, the Maroons brought home the 28th WB6 title for Coach Tom Derouin, who also recorded his 600th career coaching victory this season.

In the event, Moline saw their top 2 singles competitors, Rosenthal and Golden place 3rd and 4th in the tournament. The team also placed 3rd and 4th in the doubles circuit with the Doh-Gustafson and Sandholm-Lazenby duos doing the damage for the Maroons.

The road ahead doesn't get any tougher for the squad as the IHSA state tournament will take place on May 24th-26th. Moline will place at least one doubles team and solo tennis star in the tournament, if not two apiece. Before they can do that, the Maroons will have to take care of some business at sectionals right here in Moline on May 18th and 19th.

"It might be hard to win sectionals," Hemanth Sirandas said.

Despite this statement, it appears the Maroons have the firepower and competitive edge they need to go far in the state tournament. If the team can keep these performances up, there's no reason why they can't keep smacking the competition.

# Maroons close in on a special season

By: Ryan Sergeant  
Sports Reporter

The Moline Maroons' baseball team has seen plenty of success this season. All the hard work and effort has led them to a number one seed in the Augustana Sectional. They will have to wait to find out their regional semifinal opponent, which will be the winner between (16) Peoria Richwoods and (14) Metamora.

The western big six champs are looking to bring back a trophy for the first time since the 99-00 season, where under current coach Derek Lindauer, the Maroons took 3rd place.

"I think we have a good enough team to make some noise come Regionals," Lindauer said. "If we stick to playing just solid baseball and don't have any mental lapses we have a chance."

Moline (19-5) lost just two games in the conference season. They dropped one on the road at United Township, and one at Galesburg. Junior Chris Larsen has been

dominant on the mound. He has only allowed two runs the entire season, taking the role as the Maroons' ace, after senior Mike Mack was sidelined due to injury.

Moline has taken a team-first attitude this season, which is a good indicator to all of their success.

"We have been playing well, because of our good chemistry," said junior Kevin Bradley. "Everyone gets along and we're all out for each other, not ourselves."

Moline will try to learn from their mistakes in those few losses to help them advance as far as possible in the state tournament.

"We learned a lot from our loss at Galesburg. If we execute the little things and take advantage of opportunities, then we should win," Bradley added.

The Maroons were victorious against Rock Island High School Monday May 14 with a close finish of 15-14. Moline led early on 11-0 but barely held off the Rocks and took the win.



Ethan Nabb, Joe Thompson, and Steve McGough celebrate after becoming the Western Big Six Conference Champs at Galesburg (Photo by Thompson).