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Upcoming Morris Sports Matches

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MORRIS (3/31/76) — The University of Minnesota, Morris men's tennis team, having opened its season indoors at Breckenridge Wednesday (3/31), will have to rely on continued fair weather for its 11 match outdoor schedule this spring.

The Cougars faced North Dakota State School of Science Wednesday, and will open outside next Tuesday (4/6) at St. John's. Six home matches are set, starting April 13 with Augustana invading the UMM courts.

The recent tennis popularity phenomenon resulted in 19 hopefuls vying for starting positions, a far cry from the total of the 1960's when UMM coach Jerry Wangsness last served as tennis head.

"It was hard to scrape up six people who wanted to play in 1968," recalled Wangsness, "but this year the turnout has been excellent. It's really exciting to see so many interested and enthused about playing the game."

However, with limited facilities, large numbers do create some problems.

"More court space would certainly be helpful," remarked Wangsness. "We're running two practice sessions a day and there there will be a junior varsity team. So far, most of our play has been inside on a wooden floor, but the guys are looking good and I'm optimistic that we'll do all right. I'm pleased with the caliber of play shown."

"There are about 10 guys now who on any given day could earn the number six singles spot on the varsity. We'll find out just how good we are in a hurry when we face St. John's, Mankato, Gustavus and Augustana - all excellent teams - next week."

Three returning lettermen head the Cougar lineup, including returning top seeded single player, sophomore Rick Ronning of Milona. Burnsville sidekicks Lee Felicetta, playing number two singles and John Mannick, playing number three singles, also will form the Cougar's No. 1 doubles team. Ronning will pair with fourth seeded freshman Bruce Eckhart of Redwood Falls for the No. 2 doubles team.

Other team members vying for starting roles include Craig Denton and Sudhir Agarwal of Morris, Paul Foreman and Ken Kohler of Redwood Falls, Todd Middleton and Tom Houck of Minnetonka, Mike Iblings of Worthington, Brian Peterson of Windom, Bob Menzhuber of Crookston, Roger Hahn of Shakopee, Ken Discher of Elmore and Don Evans of St. Cloud.

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