

Boys' netters hopes to repeat championship

JOSEPH MILLER

Staff Reporter

For the past four years, the Boys' Varsity Tennis

Team has been capturing the State League title, the State Championship, and in 2006, they hope to repeat in attaining the title again, as players to this year's catch.

They will have a harder time because of the senior players. Ward Lewis has been playing for 26 years and coach everything change, but positive ones.

"It's exciting like we're," Lewis said.

Lewis is a baseball player who switched to tennis when he was 19. His room-

number-one player of the college tennis team, and he

this season won't be as smooth-sailing as the past seasons. He feels this season may be slightly difficult. The

Callagan has been taking tennis lessons since the second grade, and decided

to play tennis in the summer. His brother, also, is playing tennis. His brother is on the top of the list for the year. He is better than

going to be because we are underdog. Lewis is going to have a lot to say.

Vital Stories

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March 2007

Sports

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March Madness preview: who to look out for in the tournament

ZAK LASTER & JON HELMKAMP

Sports Editors

Yes, at long last, it's finally that time of the year again: when college teams around the country try to make a name for themselves. It's the time when legends are born, upsets happen, Cinderella stories are written and when perennial powers collide in epic games. Yes, at long last, it's finally March Madness.

#1: Ohio State Buckeyes

(30-3, 15-1) -With Greg Oden, a 7' freshman center anchoring the team, the Buckeyes are poised for a solid NCAA tournament run. Oden, only a freshman, is a Player of The Year (POY) candidate averaging 3.5 blocks, 9.5 rebounds, and 15.3 points per game. Along with Oden, the Buckeyes feature a range of outside shooters like Mike Conley Jr., freshman guard.

#2: Kansas Jayhawks

(30-4, 14-2) -The Jayhawks are led by sophomore Brandon Rush who averages 13.8 points and 5.6 rebounds per game. They have been one of the most dominant teams this season, but in the past, they have had a way of being very successful during the regular season, then being an early exit from the tournament.

#3: UCLA Bruins

(26-5, 15-3) -The Bruins return a majority of the team who led them to National Championship game a year ago. UCLA's top players are Arron Afflalo who is averaging 17.5 points per game and Luc Richard Mbah a Moute who is averaging 8.7 points and 7.9 rebounds per game. Their added depth and already instilled emphasis on defense will lead to big things for the Bruins in the tournament.

#4: Wisconsin Badgers

(29-5, 13-3) -The Badgers also have a POY candidate in Alando Tucker, senior forward, who averages 19.9 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. Tucker, who has reached double figures in all 30 games this year, is a very smart player who never takes bad shots. Along with Tucker, the Badgers have Kammron Taylor, a senior guard who poses a threat on the perimeter.

#5: Memphis Tigers

(30-3, 16-0) -The Tigers have two point guards who average over 13 points per game, and a down low presence in Joey Dorsey who is averaging 8.7 points and 9.8 rebounds per game. Playing in a less competitive conference, they might not be "tournament tested" when the tournament starts.

#6: Florida Gators

(29-5, 13-3) -The Gators are the defending national champions and are dominating the Southeastern Conference. All five of their starters average over 10 points per game. One of them, senior POY candidate Joakim Noah, makes them a big threat to repeat as National Champs.

#7: Texas A&M Aggies

(25-6, 13-3) -With senior Acie Law IV at the point guard and Billy Gillispie as head coach, the Aggies can do no wrong. Three years ago, the year before Gillispie's arrival, A&M was 7-21 including an 0-16 conference mark, and had not had a winning season in 11 years. Now, the Aggies are on top of the Big 12.

#8: North Carolina Tar Heels

(28-6, 11-5) -North Carolina is a young team with a deep bench. They have a lot of talent, like Tyler Hansbrough, sophomore forward, who averages 18.7 points and 7.6 rebounds per game, and they feature a strong defense. Despite their talent, their inexperience in the tournament may hurt their chances of success.

#9: Georgetown Hoyas

(26-6, 13-3) -The Hoyas are led by their mostly junior roster with forwards Jeff Green and Roy Hibbert who are averaging 13.7 and 12.7 points per game, with guard Jonathan Wallace who is averaging 11.4 points. The Hoyas, with recent tournament experience, a good presence down low, and good perimeter shooting could be successful in the tournament.

#10: Nevada Wolf Pack

(28-4, 14-2) -The Wolf Pack are led by their POY candidate Nick Fazekas who is averaging 20.9 points and 11.4 rebounds per game. That, and the fact that they have two quality guards who are averaging 17.5 and 13.4 points per game, could lead to big things for the team this postseason.