

## REASONS FOR 9 POINT SCORING SYSTEM:

- 1) Division III men is the only small college division using the seven-point system. Division III women, Division II men, Division II women, NAIA men, NAIA women, Junior College Men, and Junior College women all use the nine-point system. The nine-point system brings consistency to small college tennis.
- 2) The nine-point system is easier to understand. There are nine matches in a college dual match. Each match counts a point. People who are unfamiliar with college tennis are usually confused by the seven-point system. Even the people who are familiar with both systems wonder if the scoring will be seven-point or nine-point when Division III men play a team in another small college division.
- 3) The seven-point system minimizes the importance of doubles. Doubles account for only 14.5 % of a dual match and singles account for 85.5%. Coaches can neglect doubles and be minimally concerned that it will affect the dual match outcome. The nine-point system gives 66.6% to singles and 33.3% to doubles.
- 4) Advocates of the seven-point system argue that three eight game pro sets in doubles should be worth the same as one two-out-of-three set singles match... because the length of three doubles matches is the equivalent of one singles match. This is like arguing that the one hundred yard dash, the two hundred yard dash, and the quarter mile run should all be worth one third of the mile run. An event that takes less time should not be less important because of the time it takes. Just as much training goes into short dashes as the longer distances, and the same is true for doubles and singles.
- 5) College tennis coaches are educators; assisting players develop skills for a lifetime sport. Most juniors play lots of singles, but get little preparation in doubles before they enter college. Most adults play primarily doubles. One of the greatest services that college coaches can provide is to teach their players how to play excellent doubles. The nine-point system offers more incentive for college coaches to do this.
- 6) Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) coaches switched to the nine-point system several years ago after a resolution recommending this change for all small college divisions was passed at the ITA convention in 2001. Since the spring of 2002 all matches in the MIAC have been nine-point matches. MIAC coaches continue to support the nine-point system unanimously.

Steve Wilkinson, Gustavus Tennis Coach