

2016 All-Blue Water Area Tennis Team

Matt Sheehan , Times Herald 5:08 p.m. EST December 3, 2016

SINGLES

CHRIS ADAMS

SCHOOL: Port Huron Northern

YEAR: Senior

SEASON: The Times Herald Tennis Player of the Year compiled a 20-4 record at No. 1 singles, also reaching the Division 1 state semifinals to help Northern place ninth overall as a team. He won the Division 1 regional title by losing only two sets the entire day. Earned All-State and All-MAC Red honors to end his high school career as well.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Having a player like Chris on your team makes life very easy for a coach. You know he's always going to bring his 'A' game, he's going to compete until the last point is played, and he's going to bring home a victory a majority of the time. If there was a way to bring him back next season, I would," Chris Smith said.

JOHN BETRUS

SCHOOL: Port Huron Northern

YEAR: Junior

SEASON: Compiled a 14-10 overall record at No. 2 singles, also winning the Division 1 regional title to help Northern to the state tournament. At the state tournament, Betrus ended his season in the quarterfinals to help Northern take ninth overall. Also earned All-MAC Red honors.

COACH'S COMMENT: "John is one of those guys that can just pick up his racket and play at a high level, which is super annoying to those of us that have to practice at it. He really started playing well at the end of the season, and had two great matches at states. If he dedicates some time to tennis in the off-season, he's going to be a very dangerous player next year at No. 1 singles for us," Chris Smith said.

TROY DISTELRATH

SCHOOL: St. Clair

YEAR: Junior

SEASON: Pieced together a 22-4 record on the season at No. 4 singles, also winning the Division 3 regional title to help St. Clair to its 19th straight state tournament. He also earned the third seed at the state tournament, reaching the semifinals to help the Saints finish seventh overall. Also earned All-MAC Red honorable mention accolades.

COACH'S COMMENT: "He's a No. 1 singles player for almost every other school in the area, and about halfway through the season he just made a connection where he's playing the best tennis he has from a mental perspective," Dave Clutts said.

DEVON LaHAIE

SCHOOL: Armada

YEAR: Senior

SEASON: Compiled a 21-5 record at No. 1 singles while going unbeaten in the BWAC to end his career with the third-most career wins in program history, also earning BWAC MVP this season. Over his four years, he did not lose a BWAC match from No. 3 doubles as a freshman, No. 1 doubles as a sophomore and No. 2 singles as a junior.

COACH'S COMMENT: "We play a very competitive schedule and every year we play teams from all over the state. I could go on and on saying good things about Devon. Devon was a great player for us," Dave Fredette said.

NISHAAN MAKIM

SCHOOL: Port Huron Northern

YEAR: Junior

SEASON: Pieced together a 14-10 overall record at No. 3 singles with arguably his biggest win coming against the No. 4-seeded player at the Division 1 state meet to reach the quarterfinals. Also won the Division 1 regional championship to help Northern to the state tournament, where they took ninth. Also earned All-MAC Red honors.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Nishaan is a great athlete. Very smooth strokes. Lost four three-setters this season, he was definitely among the elite players at No. 3 singles in the state. When he gets locked in, he's tough to beat. Our team will be in good hands with him and John at singles again."

JOHN MASON

SCHOOL: St. Clair

YEAR: Sophomore

SEASON: Compiled a 17-7 record at No. 3 singles, also becoming a Division 3 regional champion to help St. Clair to its 19th straight state tournament. Earned the sixth seed at the state tournament and reached the quarterfinals to help the Saints finish seventh. Also ended his season with All-MAC Red honorable mention accolades.

COACH'S COMMENT: "He just had a huge improvement to this year from last year, his footwork has improved incredibly. He's slowly getting more mentally tough," Dave Clutts said.

JOE MYERS

SCHOOL: Port Huron

YEAR: Senior

SEASON: Compiled a 16-5 record at No. 1 singles while placing second in the MAC Blue tournament and Division 2 regional finals. Also earned All-MAC Blue First Team honors.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Joe was a perfect example of how hard work, dedication, natural ability, and love for a game can lead to success. Joe started playing his sophomore year and became one of the top players in the area," Jeremy Rosenau said.

ELI PINNOO

SCHOOL: St. Clair

YEAR: Freshman

SEASON: Came on the scene and made noise in No. 2 singles, compiling a 19-6 record at No. 2 singles and also capturing the Division 3 regional title to help the Saints to the state tournament. At the state tournament, he was seeded fourth and reached the quarterfinals to help the Saints finish seventh. He also earned All-MAC Red honors.

COACH'S COMMENT: "He's just couldn't have a better season as a freshman. Getting seeded at the state finals was fantastic as a freshman to play at that level. He's only going to get better and better. He always floats around the court and always knows what shot to hit," Dave Clutts said.

SETH PINNOO

SCHOOL: St. Clair

YEAR: Senior

SEASON: Compiled a 17-8 record and won the Division 3 regional championship in No. 1 singles to help St. Clair reach its 19th straight state tournament. Won his first match at the Division 3 state tournament before falling in the second round to the eventual champion. Earned First Team All-State and All-MAC Red honors as team captain.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Seth had another great year, and his four-year record was 78-25. I feel very comfortable in saying in the 21 years I've been coaching, he's been the best player I've had the opportunity to coach on the boys team," Dave Clutts said.

DOUBLES

PAUL BRETTSCHEIDER/ALEX WALTON

SCHOOL: Port Huron Northern

YEAR: Both juniors

SEASON: Compiled a 7-11 record while playing No. 1 doubles in the MAC Red, also winning the Division 1 regional title to help Northern reach the state tournament, where they took ninth. Also earned All-MAC Red honors.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Paul and Alex played some tough teams this year. They are two solid tennis players, big serves and consistent volleys, just started playing doubles together this year. I expect big things from them next year."

GRIFFIN VIGNERON/JOE MARCATH

SCHOOL: St. Clair

YEAR: Both seniors

SEASON: Helped St. Clair earn its 19th straight state tournament bid with a regional championship in Division 3 No. 1 doubles. The duo compiled a 12-12 overall record on the year, also earning All-MAC Red honorable mention.

COACH'S COMMENT: "Griffin only started playing his sophomore year of high school and Joe really never played until high school. To see them improve over the course of the season was great. Seeing them win the No. 1 region in doubles was the most pumped up and positive I saw these guys over the course of the year," Dave Clutts said.

BRETT MONARCH/JARROD BELLI

SCHOOL: Marine City

YEAR: Both seniors

SEASON: Compiled a 15-3 record while helping Marine City capture a MAC Gold title with a 6-0 conference record. Earned All-MAC Gold honors as a duo as well.

COACH'S COMMENT: "They were outstanding players and leaders. They are the two most competitive kids on the team. Jarrod made a seamless transition from singles last year to doubles, and Brett was first doubles for the past two years, posting an excellent record each year," Joe Daly said.

WHITNEY HUGHES/ADAM LEMOINE

SCHOOL: Yale

YEAR: Whitney is a junior, Adam is a senior

SEASON: Compiled a 17-4 overall record at No. 1 doubles and also placed second at the Division 3 regional tournament to help the Bulldogs reach the Division 3 state tournament. Earned All-BWAC status as well.

COACH'S COMMENT: "They really improved their game. There was a little bit of a language barrier (as Adam was a French exchange student) so it took each other a while to learn each other and by the end of the season they were peaking at the right time," Curt Manninen said.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

ARMADA – Frank Ferrari, Mason Smith; **CROSWELL-LEXINGTON** – Adam Craig, Abraham Davidson; **MARINE CITY** – Aubrey Comment, Nic Flasher; **MARYSVILLE** – Hunter Robbins, Marshal Hall; **PORT HURON** – Ryan Gilbert; **PORT HURON NORTHERN** – Chase Moeller, Abhishek Tekumulla, Neehal Tumma; **RICHMOND** – Marcel Fenwick; **SANDUSKY** – Justin Stone, Jan Garcia; **ST. CLAIR** – Ethan Knott, Ethan Urban; **YALE** – Justin Fuhman, Matt Donnellon, Tommy Sanders, Ryan Meyers