



MLC Battles Crown but Falls 61-54



The women's basketball team faced off against Crown on Friday, January 20. The Knights overcame a 10-point deficit at halftime, tying the game at 51-51 in the second half, but were unable to come away with the victory. They fell to the Polars 61-54.

The Knights' rally was highlighted by a trio of 3-pointers in the second half. **Jordyn Heckendorf** (*KML*, pictured) got things going with a 3-pointer from the top of the key, while **Kortney Behnke** (*FVL*) hit a 3-pointer off the backboard, and **Emma Nelson** (*MVL*) connected on a pull-up triple off the dribble that eventually tied the game.

The Polars showed their composure in the final minutes and iced the game with a layup from Isabelle Sager that came off a Madi Hecox drive to the basket. Crown then took advantage of MLC fouling a 3-point shooter and hit all three free-throws to seal the seven-point win.

Despite the loss, MLC gave a gutsy performance and hung tough without two key players—**Lydia Feidt** (*FVL*) and **Lauren Paulsen**

(*LPS*), who were out due to injury. The Knights were led by Heckendorf's double-double, as she scored 14 points and grabbed 14 rebounds.

MLC Tennis Ready for Season Opener at SMU

Both the MLC men and women start their tennis seasons this week. The women are looking to improve on last season's fourth-place finish, where they ended the season with a loss in the semifinal of the UMAC Tennis Championships. The Knights return seven players from last season's team. Junior **McKenzy Crowley** (*Rapid City SD*, pictured) leads the returners, along with **Josie Bieberitz** (*LPS*) and **Charis Glende** (*LPS*).

The men's tennis team also enters the 2023 season coming off a fourth-place finish in the UMAC. They return six players from last season's team. Junior **Josiah Wordell** (*KML*) leads the returners, along with **Elijah Schulz** (*LPS*) and **Josiah Koelpin** (*LPS*).

Professor Paul Koelpin enters his first season as head coach of men's and women's tennis after being the MLC men's soccer head coach for 27 years.

Upcoming Events at MLC

- 1/28 MTN @ St. Mary's
WTN @ St. Mary's
MBB vs. Bethany (Parent's Day)
WBB vs. Bethany (Parent's Day)
- 2/3 MBB @ UW-Superior
WBB @ UW-Superior
- 2/4 MBB @ Northland
WBB @ Northland
- 2/7 MBB @ Beloit

