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The Smith Tennis Team philosophy remains consistent with the overall Smith philosophy: EXCELLENCE. The superb facilities and overall tennis program has given all Smith tennis players a chance to test their limits and be the best they can be. The Smith Tennis Team is a special group of individuals who have taken an additional challenges of the game of tennis. They have earned many titles both as a team and as individuals. The Team has earned national rankings in the NCAA polls and ITA polls consistently between 1988-1999 and we remain quite proud of our accomplishments and our history. (The current tennis brochure offers details of the tennis records).

We fully support the Division III philosophy of opportunity for participation and; therefore, the Smith College Tennis Team is comprised of both a varsity and a junior varsity program. Although the top players at Smith are consistently ranked junior competitors with national exposure, many JV players join the team with only desire to work hard and improve. All Smith players compete and work with a great deal of heart and cooperation and support each other regardless of rank and ability. Balancing academics and athletics is always a challenge at Smith; however, most tennis players will tell you that they budget their time much better during their playing seasons.

Team is an opportunity to share our commonalities and differences, a time to push each other to be our best and to support each other through the more difficult times. The Smith team is a group that works together giving up some individual freedoms in order to promote the group.

Practice is an active verb at Smith College and Smith players, captains and coaches alike work hard during practices and competitions toward the team goals. Striking the tennis ball is the component that has initially brought this "group" together; however, it serves only as a fraction of what the Smith College Tennis Team is about. Cooperation, patience, communication, strategy development, cohesiveness as well as physical and emotional support make up the greater portion of the team components.

The Smith team is a place to deal with some hard issues and decisions. We value integrity and fair play and try to set those goals higher than winning and losing. Decisions are part of being Smith students as well as a tennis player and Smith players deal daily with many decisions as simple as lines calls and application of rules to selection of tournaments, balance of time and selection of sportsmanship awards. This team understands that many decisions and results will not always go their way but understand that that is also part of the team process. We believe that grace is an important element of the Smith Team: grace in winning, grace in losing, grace in competing, grace on and off the tennis court.