



COURT-OF-THE-YEAR WINNER

Mary Washington College

The women's tennis team at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., has captured 10 straight Capital Athletic Conference titles. The Eagles have been to the nationals 14 of the last 18 years, winning championships in 1982, 1988 and 1991. The men's team has won six CAC championships since 1990 and made it to the NCAA Division III tournament in 1997 and again in 2000.

With those kinds of results, the college's 1999 decision to renovate its tennis center didn't require much deliberation. Besides, as men's tennis coach Todd Helbling points out, the courts, fences and lights had begun to look "a little tired."

The first change was the addition of two more courts, for a total of 12. To accommodate collegiate play, the courts were rearranged into two batteries of six with spectator seating between them. New lights and black, cornered fencing with gates onto every court were installed. Other amenities such as windscreens with logos, official's chairs, player seating and scorecards finished the look.

Off the courts, a gazebo with a wood-shingled roof offers shade and serves as a focal point where players congregate. A few low-lying shrubs dot the periphery of the complex, but designers made a conscious decision to keep landscaping to a minimum in an effort to maintain an open appearance.

"The new complex has

'class' written all over it," says women's coach Cindy Vanderberg. "It's a great selling point for our program, and we feel that if we can get prospects here to take a look at our campus and our tennis facility, they'll be impressed with what we have to offer."

Helbling echoes that sentiment. "All of our recruits can see themselves at this facility every day. Our current players like playing here and are proud of the facility."

"I really cannot envision a better place to play college tennis," said Vanderberg.

But school officials might disagree just a little bit. The continued success of their tennis program has prompted plans for a new four- to six-court indoor facility with construction to begin as early as 2001.

—Tony Lance

PROJECT NAME
Mary Washington College

LOCATION
Fredericksburg, Va.

TYPE
Stadium

OWNER
Commonwealth of Virginia, Mary Washington College

COMPLETION DATE
October 1999

DESIGNER/ARCHITECT
L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Architects & Engineers, Inc.

CONTRACTOR
Warren Flynn Construction

NUMBER OF COURTS
12

SURFACE
Tennis Courts Inc. Laytex-ite

FENCING
Hercules Fence

LIGHTING
Courtsider Lighting, LSI

POSTS
Douglas Industries Inc.

