Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference



2024 MIAC Baseball Season Preview

Baseball

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. - Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) baseball teams are gearing up for a return to the diamond.

The first regular season non-conference action of 2024 officially occurred on Saturday, February 17 in Topeka, Kansas; however, an unseasonably warm Minnesota winter has several teams gearing up for home games as early as February 25. Early-season action will also see MIAC squads head back to Florida and Arizona for their traditional spring break trips ahead of the conference season

League play is scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 30, and will run through Saturday, May 4. The top four teams in the standings at the end of the regular season will head back to CHS Field in St. Paul for the 2024 MIAC Baseball Playoffs. The last team standing at the end of the double-elimination tournament will receive the conference's automatic bid to the 2024 NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament

2023 FINAL STANDINGS

Gustavus (16-4)* Bethel (14-6)#% Saint John's (14-6) Concordia (14-6) St. Olaf (11-9) Macalester (9-11) Saint Mary's (9-11) St. Scholastica (7-13) Augsburg (6-14) Hamline (6-14) Carleton (4-16)

*MIAC Regular Season Champion #MIAC Playoff Champion %NCAA Championship Participant

The NCAA Baseball Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) approved a slew of rule changes effective for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Among the more consequential changes is an amendment affecting the 20-second action clock. The pitcher is required to start the motion to deliver the pitch or attempt a pickoff before the 20-second time limit. A pitcher shall be limited to one step-off or "fake" move toward a baserunner per batter to reset the clock. A request for "time" by a defensive player would constitute a step-off. The first violation of the 20-second clock will result in a ball to the count.

One permissive NCAA rule change that the MIAC has NOT adopted is to allow teams to start each extra inning (10th inning in a 9-inning game or 8th inning in a 7-inning game) with a runner on second base. The NCAA now allows for this by either conference rule or mutual team consent before the game; however, the MIAC will not play under this format in 2024

The 2024 NCAA Baseball Rulebook is available for download from NCAA Publications

MIAC SPORTS NETWORK

The MIAC Sports Network powered by Hudl launched in August and will be the streaming home of all MIAC-hosted games, events, and championships. The MIAC Sports Network is available on the web (https://miacsportsnetwork.com/) along with streaming apps for television and mobile devices, including Android TV, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Roku (TV), iOS, Android (mobile), and Amazon Fire Tablet. The app can be found and installed free of charge by searching for the MIAC Sports Network.

The MIAC debuted its refreshed mobile app in 2022 through its partnership with SIDEARM Sports. The app provides live, in-game scoring with links to streaming, schedules, and standings. The MIAC app is free to fans and can be downloaded on both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for Android devices.

MIAC coaches will vote on the 2024 MIAC Baseball All-Conference honors after the regular season. In addition to a 33-player All-MIAC squad, coaches will also vote on individual awards for the MIAC Player, Pitcher,

Throughout the regular season, the MIAC will recognize top individual performances with the MIAC Baseball Player and Pitcher of the Week awards. Athlete of the Week awards will tentatively begin on Monday, February 26, and be announced each Monday following through the end of the regular season. During the week following the MIAC Playoffs, participating coaches will also select an 11-player All-Playoff Team to recognize outstanding performances throughout the conference tournament.

LOOKING AHEAD

D3baseball.com Preseason Rankings: RV Bethel, RV Gustavus First Non-Conference Game Date: Saturday, February 17 First Conference Game Date: Saturday, March 30 MIAC Playoffs: Thursday, May 9 - Saturday, May 11

Season Links: Standings | Schedule | News | Statistics | Athletes of the Week | Playoffs | Record Book Copyright ©2024 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference