

Gusties' Pedersen picks up top honors as MIAC announces 2018-19 Men's Golf Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Before Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) men's golf teams head to Kentucky for next week's NCAA Championships, the conference recognized its top performers from the regular season with the announcement of the league's annual awards on Friday.

Gustavus first-year golfer **Jacob Pedersen** took home top honors as the 2018-19 MIAC Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year, while Saint John's coach **Bob Alpers** was honored by his peers with Coach of the Year recognition. In addition to individual awards, the MIAC also announced its All-Conference and All-Sportsmanship squads.

Pedersen (Fy. | Minnetonka, Minn.) took the league by storm back in October when he posted the second-lowest 54-hole mark in MIAC Championship history, shooting a three-round total of 210 (six-under-par) to earn medalist honors. Pedersen continued his stellar play throughout the year, averaging 73.7 shots per 18 holes - second-best in the MIAC and one of just three sub-74 lines in the conference this year. Pedersen finished his debut season with three top-five and five top-10 outcomes.

Alpers was recognized as MIAC Coach of the Year for the 12th time in his career after leading the Johnnies to the nation's No. 15 ranking and an at-large berth in the 2019 NCAA Championships. The trip to nationals will be SJU's 17th in the last 20 seasons, the third-most in Division III over the last two decades. Following a fourth-place finish at the 2018 MIAC Championships, the Johnnies buckled down to lower their team average to 298.0 on the season, the best scoring average in the MIAC.

The MIAC Golf All-Conference team was selected using a combination of MIAC championship results and end-of-season voting. The top 10 finishers (including ties) at the MIAC championships in October automatically earned All-MIAC honors, and the coaches nominated and voted to add five additional players to the 15-member squad based on their body of work throughout the season. The conference also recognized honorable mention selections for the first time this year, bestowing the accolade upon any individual who did not place among the top-five vote-getters, but still received consideration on multiple ballots.

Augsburg's **Brett Buckingham** and Bethel's **Noah Bragg** became three-time All-Conference honorees on Friday, while Augsburg's **Harrison Cooper**, Bethel's **Jon Espe**, Concordia's **Nathaniel Kalbaugh**, Gustavus' **Ben Hauge**, Saint John's **Jack Koehler** and **David Schneider**, and St. Thomas' **Emmet Herb** were each named All-MIAC for the second time in their careers.

The 2018-19 MIAC Men's Golf All-Conference Team is comprised of five seniors, seven juniors, two sophomores, and one first-year competitor. Augsburg, Gustavus, Saint John's, and St. Thomas each had three golfers selected, followed by Bethel with two and Concordia with one. Saint Mary's and St. Olaf each had an honorable mention selection.

As part of a Conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 13th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for men's golf. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.



Jacob Pedersen was named MIAC Player and Freshman of the Year on Friday.

2018-19 MIAC Men's Golf Awards

Player of the Year – Jacob Pedersen | Gustavus Adolphus College (Fy. | Minnetonka, Minn.)

Freshman of the Year – Jacob Pedersen | Gustavus Adolphus College (Fy. | Minnetonka, Minn.)

Coach of the Year – Bob Alpers | Saint John's University (26th Season)

2018-19 MIAC Men's Golf All-Conference Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
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Noah Bragg	Bethel	Sr.	Minnetonka, Minn. Hopkins
Brett Buckingham	Augsburg	Jr.	Glenwood, Minn. Minnewaska
Harrison Cooper	Augsburg	Jr.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Simley
Jon Espe	Bethel	Jr.	Duluth, Minn. Duluth Marshall
Ben Hauge	Gustavus	Jr.	Ramsey, Minn. Anoka
Emmet Herb	St. Thomas	Jr.	Middleton, Wis.
Nathaniel Kahlbaugh	Concordia	Sr.	Mahnomen, Minn.
Jack Koehler	Saint John's	Sr.	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Dakota Krech	Augsburg	Sr.	Blaine, Minn.
Peder Larson	St. Thomas	So.	Medina, Minn. Wayzata
Matt Mellin	St. Thomas	Sr.	Duluth, Minn. East
Jacob Pedersen	Gustavus	Fy.	Minnetonka, Minn.
David Schneider	Saint John's	Jr.	Albany Minn.
Max Ullan	Gustavus	So.	Blaine, Minn.
Matt Wahl	Saint John's	Jr.	Minnetonka, Minn. Hopkins
Kyle Brodt (HM)	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Roseville, Minn. Totino-Grace
Kristian Woie (HM)	St. Olaf	Sr.	Stavanger, Norway Wang Videregaende

2018-19 MIAC Men's Golf All-Sportsmanship Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Gunnar Goodmanson	Augsburg	So.	Buffalo, Minn.
Dallas Marvin	Bethel	Sr.	Newbury Park, Calif. Grace Brethren
Sam Reategui	Carleton	Sr.	Highland Park, Ill. North Shore
Gage Stromme	Concordia	Jr.	Fargo, N.D. Park Christian
Ben Hauge	Gustavus	Jr.	Ramsey, Minn. Anoka
Jim Smith	Macalester	So.	Shippensburg, Pa.
Matt Lutz	Saint John's	Jr.	Maple Grove, Minn. Totino-Grace
Bryce Galewski	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Winona, Minn.
Hank Grunau	St. Olaf	Sr.	Milwaukee, Wis. Whitefish Bay
Matthew Radke	St. Thomas	Sr.	Hastings, Minn.