St. John's rallies to win third straight MIAC title

COON RAPIDS, Minn. (10/6/01) -- St. John's University rallied with a second-day 299 to claim its third straight Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference men's golf championship, bettering the first-round leader, Gustavus Adolphus College, by five strokes in the final round of the conference meet Saturday at the Bunker Hills Golf Course.

Tom Wroblewski (Sr., Neenah, Wis.) of the University of St. Thomas followed up his opening-round 3-under-par 69 with a 1-under-par 71 to finish with a two-day, 36-hole total of 4-under-par 140 to win the MIAC's individual championship. Wroblewski's score of 140 is the lowest two-day, 36-hole total on record during an MIAC Championship.

Trailing by three strokes after the first round, St. John's used an eight-stroke rally to claim the conference title for the third year in a row, denying Gustavus the championship. All five Johnnie golfers either equaled or improved upon their first-round scores in the second round, with four earning All-MIAC honors. Meanwhile, two Gustie golfers saw their scores fall from the first to second day, though four Gusties earned All-MIAC honors as well.

St. John's finished with a two-day 36-hole team total of 304-299--603 to win its fourth men's golf conference championship in school history, followed by Gustavus' 301-307--608. Concordia-Moorhead was third with a 311-304--615 total, followed by fourth-place Augsburg with 314-315--629 and fifth-place St. Thomas with 317-615--632.

Wroblewski's 4-under-par total of 69-71--140 was the lone under-par total of the event, as golfers had to handle tough weather conditions all weekend on the 6,901-yard Bunker Hills course. The final round was delayed for an hour due to frost on the golf course on Saturday morning, with temperatures in the low 30s as the round began. It eventually warmed up into the mid-40s.

Sammy Schmitz (Jr., Farmington, Minn.) of St. John's finished in second place with an even-par 72-72-144. Neil Johnson (So., River Falls, Wis.) of Gustavus was third with 4-over-par 71-77--148 and Adam Hanson (Jr., Barrett, Minn./West Central Area HS) of Concordia-Moorhead was fourth with a 5-over-par 73-76--149.

Others earning All-MIAC status were: Ted Vickerman (Jr., Eden Prairie, Minn.) of Augsburg and Josh Sherlin (Fr., Minnewaska, Minn.) of St. John's, tied for fifth at 7-over-par 151; Dan Suedbeck (Jr., Redwood Falls, Minn./Redwood Valley HS) of Gustavus, seventh at 8-over-par 152; Mike Hagen (Sr., Moorhead, Minn.) of Concordia-Moorhead, eighth at 9-over-par 153; and Gustavus golfers Luke Benoit (So., Faribault, Minn.) and Brooks Anderson (Sr., Lindstrom, Minn./Chisago Lakes HS) and St. John's golfers Nathan Proshek (So., New Prague, Minn.) and Paul Ponath (Jr., St. Cloud, Minn.), all tied for ninth at 10-over-par 154.

(Recap from Don Stoner - Augsburg Sports Information)