

# 2012 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Preview

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COON RAPIDS, Minn. -- If the 2012 MIAC Men's Golf Championships are anything like the 2011 edition, fans will be in for a treat all weekend long at the three-day event held at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn. The conference tournament tees off Saturday, and concludes with Monday's final round.

A year ago, St. Thomas used consistent greatness throughout the weekend to capture the team title, with Gustavus making a final-day run into second place and Saint John's in its usual role as a contender finishing third. The three at the top were separated by just five shots, with UST winning at 897, Gustavus finishing at 901 and the Johnnies a shot behind the Gusties at 902. All three scores are among the 13 best ever recorded at the MIAC Championships.

St. Olaf (908) edged Bethel (910) for fourth place as that duo rounded out the top five, and Concordia (928), Augsburg (952), Carleton (975), Macalester (980) and Saint Mary's (1,002) finishing out the rest of the men's field. The Tommies claimed the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2012 NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships, and Gustavus also joined UST in the field.

The same trio at the top is expected to be in contention again in 2012, with five total teams entering as legitimate title contenders. Gustavus, St. Thomas, Saint John's, St. Olaf and Concordia are all average less than 310 shots per round in 2012, with the Gusties leading the way at 299.7. St. Thomas isn't far behind at 301.2, the Johnnies average an even 302, St. Olaf is at 304.5 and the Cobbers are also in the mix at 309.8.

Augsburg (317), Bethel (319.8), Macalester (333.1), Carleton (333.4) and Saint Mary's (340.2) all enter the MIAC Championships hoping to improve on last year's finish and move into the top half of the standings.

There will be a ton of familiar names and faces on the course this weekend, as eight of the top 10 players from last year's tournament - who all received All-MIAC honors for their performance - are back. That includes co-medalist **Alex Kapraun**, who was also named MIAC Men's Golf Freshman-of-the-Year in the spring after his outstanding rookie season. Kapraun shared the top spot at last year's event with St. Olaf's Justin Volling, who was a senior, as both were plus-5 for the tournament at 221. This year, Kapraun's 75.7 scoring average ranks ninth in the MIAC.

Kapraun also has a pair of All-MIAC Tommie teammates back in the mix. **John Young** tied for seventh (225) at last year's MIAC meet, and this year he returns with a 76.4 scoring average. **Bennett Schroeder** is also back for the defending champs with the second-best scoring average in the conference this fall (73.8) after taking ninth place a year ago.

Gustavus also brings back a trio of All-MIAC honorees, led by **Alex Kolquist**. After finishing in a tie for fifth place (224) at last year's championship meet, Kolquist enters the 2012 even with the MIAC's top scoring average in 2012 at 73.6. Teammate **Andrew Oakes** tied for third a year ago (223) and also has the third-best stroke average in the conference this season (74.0). Meanwhile, Gustie **Coby Rowley** tied for 10th last season (228) and carries a 77.3 average into this weekend's competition.

Saint John's has a pair of All-Conference players back in its lineup - including the 2011-12 MIAC Player-of-the-Year - and a few new talented faces. **Dennis Granath** was voted the top individual in the league a year ago after his stellar season included a seventh-place finish at the MIAC Championships, and he'll be in contention yet again in 2012. Teammate **Casey Vangsness** tied for third to earn All-MIAC honors last year and enters the 2012 meet with the fourth-best average in the league at 74.1. **Drew Lynch** (75.4) and **Jacob Rydbeck** (75.8) make the Johnnies one of the deepest teams in the league yet again.

St. Olaf will be led by the talented duo of **Ryan Heide** and **J.R. Shimpach**, who have been among the MIAC's best this fall with scoring averages of 74.3 and 74.5, respectively. Concordia also has a dynamic duo atop its lineup, starting with 2010 MIAC Championships medalist **Andrew Whitchurch**, who has a 76.8 average this season, and teammate **Coy Papachek** (76.7).

Augsburg will lean on senior **Zach Johnson**, who had a top-15 finish in 2011 and leads the Auggie with a 77.9 average this fall. Bethel has a pair of top-15 finishers back from last season's MIAC meet, seniors **Taylor Tollette** and **Luke Johnson**. Macalester sophomore **Dan Shi** leads the Scots with a 79.5 average this fall, while Carleton will be led by junior **Aaron Buckley**, who was 21st at last year's conference meet. Saint Mary's freshman **Blake Westerberg** will be among the top newcomers to watch with a team-best 79.8 average this season.

As usual, each team will play one 18-hole round each day, with the champion and individual places decided by the cumulative scores after all 54 holes are complete. Saturday and Sunday will both begin with tee times starting at 11:20 a.m., and Monday's final round will start at 9 a.m. with a brief awards ceremony to conclude the tournament. The top individual will receive medalist honors, while the top 10 individuals - including ties - will be honored as All-Conference performers.

The MIAC men will play the East and West courses at Bunker Hills each day, with the women's playing the North and East courses. Pairings and tee times for Saturday's opening round are determined by last year's finish at the MIAC Championships, and Sunday and Monday's pairings and tee times will be dictated by the previous day's scores. As always, the winning team will receive the MIAC Men's Golf



Championship trophy and the conference's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships.

The MIAC Web site will offer live scoring updates throughout the tournament, along with complete results and recaps following each day of action with photos and videos to highlight the event as well. Stay tuned to the 2011 MIAC Golf Championship Home Page, as well as the MIAC's social media networks on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) throughout the weekend to stay connected to all the action at Bunker Hills.

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## 2012 MIAC Golf Championship Video Preview

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## 2012 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Coverage

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| [2012 MIAC Golf Championship Page](#) |

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 **AUGSBURG** | [Auggies' men's golf home page](#) |

### Head Coach

- Ted Vickerman (6th season)

### A Year Ago

- 7th place (952)

### Top Returners

- Zach Johnson (SR, 15th at 2011 MIAC Championships, 77.9 stroke average in fall 2012, 78.0 career stroke average)
- Justin Popp (SO, 42nd at 2011 MIAC Championships, 80.2 stroke average in fall 2012, 81.1 career stroke average)
- Eric Aughinbaugh (JR, 79.0 stroke average in fall 2012, 78.5 career stroke average)

### Key Losses

- Brian Deuel (27th at 2011 MIAC Championships, 78.0 stroke average in 2011-12, 79.6 career stroke average)

- Terry Gibbons (38th at 2011 MIAC Championships, 81.8 stroke average in 2011-12, 83.2 career stroke average)

#### By the Numbers

- 315.5: Augsburg's team stroke average in the fall half of the 2012-13 season.
- 7: Career top-10 finishes for Augsburg senior Zach Johnson in 32 career events.
- 33: Rounds in the 70s shot by Augsburg men's golfers during the fall half of the season.

#### Did You Know?

- Augsburg first-year Brandon Jones claimed an hole-in-one on the par-3 seventh hole at the Links at Northfork in Ramsey, Minn., during the second round of the Gustavus Twin Cities Classic on Sept. 30.

#### Off the Course

- Brian Deuel '12, now an assistant coach for the Auggies, earned Golf Coaches Association of America Division III Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar honors in 2011-12.



**BETHEL** | [Royals' men's golf home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Tony Weber (Second season)

#### A Year Ago

- 5th place | (910 – 304, 305, 301)

#### Top Returners

- Taylor Tollette (Sr., Andover, Minn. | T-15<sup>th</sup> [77-80-73] in 2011 MIAC Championship)
- Luke Johnson (Sr., Alexandria, Minn. | T-15<sup>th</sup> [78-77-75] in 2011 MIAC Championship)
- Luke Magnuson (Sr., Litchfield, Minn. | T-21<sup>st</sup> [78-73-81] in 2011 MIAC Championship)

#### Key Losses

- Toby Robinson (PING All-Region, All-MIAC, Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-American Scholar)

#### By the Numbers

- 3: Bethel University's men's golf team may potentially have three golfers compete in the 2012 MIAC Championships for the third consecutive year. Seniors Taylor Tollette, Luke Johnson, and Luke Magnuson all competed in the 2010 and 2011 meet held at Bunker Hills Golf Course.
- 228: The Royals' managed to get one golfer under 228 strokes in 2011's MIAC Championships, which was the magic number for All-MIAC finishers. However, two strokes kept Taylor Tollette and Luke Johnson off the All-MIAC group, as the BU duo both finished with 230. Additionally, Luke Magnuson ended the tournament four shots back.
- 76.8: After seven rounds played thus far, freshman Dillon John has led the team throughout the majority of the 2012 fall season. John's 76.8 average not only leads the Royals but stands among the Top 20 among the entire MIAC.

#### Did You Know?

- Bethel's men's golf team does an excellent job of keeping household names in the family, especially since both head coach Tony Weber and assistant coach Toby Robinson are both former standout players for the Royals. Weber was ranked in the Top 25 throughout his 2006 to 2008 campaign, while Robinson finished his 2008-12 run with a Top 5 finish at the MIAC Championships.

#### Off the Course

- Following the 2011-12 season, Bethel had two competitors announced as a Cleveland Golf/ Srixon All-America Scholar by the Golf Coaches Association of American (GCAA). Toby Robinson and Luke Magnuson were two of just 28 total Division III golfers to receive the award that honored athletes that have a stroke-average under 79.0, maintained a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.2, and played in 70 percent of his team's competitive rounds for at least three years.



**CARLETON** | [Knights' men's golf home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Jerry Ericksen (Fifth season)

#### A Year Ago

- 8th place | (325-326-324—975)

#### Top Returners

- Aaron Buckley (Jr. | Tied for 21<sup>st</sup> at last year's conference championship)
- Brian Chesley (Sr.)

#### Key Losses

- Brian Gilmore (Four-year starter, averaged 81.9 through his career)

#### By the Numbers

- 75: Score carded by Aaron Buckley in winning the Bethany Lutheran Triangular earlier this fall.
- 6: Players who have had a score count in the team standings at an event this season.

#### Did You Know?

- Junior Aaron Buckley has opened the fall season in strong fashion, pacing the Knights with a 79.6 stroke average. Buckley opened the year with a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish at the Bethany Lutheran Triangular, and has since completed four rounds, with finishes of 18 and 17 over par.

#### Off the Course

- 2012 senior Jake Reznick was awarded the prestigious Fulbright scholarship last spring. He will be using the grant to research water conservation and resource management in China's Yunnan Province throughout this year. The Fulbright Program is a federally funded exchange program that sponsors approximately 7,500 scholars annually. Reznick is working with the Asian International Resource Center to study efficient agricultural practices that have existed in the Yunnan Province for thousands of years. He will also explore the ways in which China might avoid conflict with its neighbors, and he hopes that his research will be applicable to the United States' own struggles with water management.



**CONCORDIA** | [Cobbers' men's golf home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Duane Siverson (Fifth season)

#### A Year Ago

- 6th place at MIAC Championship Meet

#### Top Returners

- Andrew Whitchurch (Sr., Litchfield, Minn.) | 2010 MIAC Individual Champion, leads team in 2012 with a 76.8 average
- Coy Papachek (So., Fargo, N.D.) | 2011-12 GCAA Central Region Freshman of the Year, 2011-12 GCAA Central All-Region Team, four top 10 finishes in 2012
- Jordie Siverson (Sr., Moorhead, Minn.) | 2012 UM-Morris individual champion, three top 10 finishes in 2012, third on the team in average (79.0)

#### Key Losses

- Pat Deitz (Moorhead, Minn.) | 2011-12 GCAA Central All-Region Team, 2-time All-MIAC, led the Cobbers in scoring in 2011 with a 75.4 average

#### By the Numbers

- 8: Concordia has posted eight different top 2 finishes in tournaments in the past two seasons
- 12: The Cobbers have posted 12 sub-295 individual round team scores in the past five seasons. Concordia's low round in 2012 is 294 which they fired at the season-opening Concordia Invite.
- 1,996: Concordia has had to travel 1,996 miles to get to, and back from, their six tournaments before the MIAC Championship Meet

#### Did You Know?

- Cobber head coach Duane Siverson will be inducted into the Concordia Hall of Fame this year. Siverson has been the head coach of five different teams during his 33 years at Concordia. Cobber senior Jordie Siverson is the youngest son of the longtime Cobber coach.



**GUSTAVUS** | [Gusties' men's soccer home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Scott Moe (16th Season)

#### **A Year Ago**

- 2nd place | 901 (+37)

#### **In the 2012 NCAA Championships**

- 2012 NCAA Men's Golf Championships - 12th place - Team score: 1,208

#### **Top Returners**

- Alex Kolquist (Sr. | Two-time All-Conference performer (2009, 2011)... Leads team in stroke average per 18 holes with 73.3)
- Andrew Oakes (Jr. | 2011 All-Conference performer... Back-to-back MIAC men's golf athlete-of-the-week... Second on the team with a stroke average of 74.5)
- Coby Rowley (Sr. | 2011 All-Conference performer)

#### **Key Losses**

- Simon Erlandsson (2012 GCAA Ping All-America Third Team... Second on the team with a stroke average of 75.5 last season)

#### **By the Numbers**

- 2: The Gusties have amassed two individual champions in the three tournaments they have competed in this season. Andrew Oakes (Hermantown, Minn.) won the Augsburg Invitational on September 8-9, and Alex Kolquist (Hermantown, Minn.) won the Frank Wrigglesworth Blugold Invitational on September 23-24.
- 73.3: Senior Alex Kolquist is averaging 73.3 strokes per round, the lowest of his career, which is also 0.3 strokes under the Gustavus all-time low for stroke average in a fall season and tied for the lowest stroke average per round of any season in the Gustie record book.
- 3: Gustavus has finished in the top three in all three of the tournaments they have competed in this season.

#### **Did You Know?**

- Alex Kolquist and Andrew Oakes have combined to receive three consecutive MIAC men's golf athletes of the week, the first time the Gusties have received the honor three times in-a-row in the history of the award.

#### **Off the Course**

- Gustavus had two members named to the MIAC Academic All-Conference team last season.



## **MACALESTER** | [Scots' men's golf home page](#) |

#### **Head coach**

- Tomas Adalsteinsson (First season)

#### **A Year Ago**

- 9th place | (980)

#### **Top Returners**

- Dan Shi (So., tops on team with 79.5 average)
- Tyler Hanck (Jr., second on team with 81.3 average)

#### **Key Losses**

- Matt Butler (31<sup>st</sup> at '11 MIAC tourney, 81.3 average)
- Dan Allen (36<sup>th</sup> at '11 MIAC tourney, 81.3 average)

#### **By the Numbers**

- 81.9: Dan Shi leads the Scots through the fall campaign with an 81.9 scoring average.
- 74: The low individual round posted by a Scot this fall, courtesy of Dan Shi.
- 3: The number of Scots to lead the team in scoring this fall: Dan Shi, Erik Alfvin and Tyler Hanck.

#### **Did You Know?**

- Dan Shi and his college search was profiled in the New York Times last summer. Shi visited 55 college campuses and applied at 24 of them.

#### **Off the Course**

- The Scots volunteered in August at the Special Olympics Golf Tournament at Oak Marsh Golf Course in Oakdale.



## SAINT JOHN'S | [Johnnies' men's golf home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Bob Alpers (20th season)

### A Year Ago

- Third place | (+38, 902)

### Top Returners

- Dennis Granath (Sr. | 2011-12 MIAC Player of the Year, 2012 All-America Scholar, 2011 and 2012 Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-Region Selection, 2011 and 2012 All-American, two-time All-MIAC)
- Casey Vangsness (Jr. | 2010-11 Region & MIAC Freshman of the Year, 2011 and 2012 GCAA All-Region, two-time All-MIAC)

### Key Losses

- Tony Krogen (2010 and 2011 MIAC Player of the Year, 2009 MIAC Individual Champion, 2010 and 2011 GCAA All-Region Selection, 2010 All-American, two-time All-MIAC)
- Alex Klehr (2011 and 2012 All-America Scholar, 2010 All-MIAC)

### By the Numbers

- 4: Four Johnnies have been named the MIAC Player of the Year multiple years. A Johnnie has won the honor each season it has been awarded since 2000-01.
- 12: SJU's streak of 12 consecutive NCAA Championship appearances ended last spring.
- 23: The Johnnies have collected 23 All-America honors since 2000.

### Did You Know?

- Saint John's has earned GCAA All-Academic team recognition each of the award's four years of existence.

### Off the Course

- SJU has had 25 All-America Scholars since 1997, including at least one each of the past 13 seasons.
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## SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' men's golf home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Kevin Landrum (Second season)

### A Year Ago

- 10th place

### Top Returners

- Blake Westerberg (5-8, 190, Fr. | Owns team-best 79.8 scoring average)
- Ethan Austin (5-11, 155, Sr. | 86.0 stroke average)
- Will Johnson (5-8, 150, Sr. | 86.5 stroke average)

### Key Losses

- Tim Wolford (Team-best 83.3 stroke average)
- D.J. Borgen (85.1 stroke average)

### By The Numbers:

- 33: Final-round back nine recorded by Blake Westerberg during the Saint John's Invitational on Sept. 16. The 3-under-par effort gave the Cardinal freshman a second-round 75 and a 158 two-day total
- 75: Low men's round of the 2012 regular season, carded by Blake Westerberg during the second round of the Saint John's Invitational on Sept. 16.
- 327: Low men's team round of the 2012 season, recorded during the Bethany Lutheran Triangular at the Waseca Lakeside Golf Course on Sept. 6.

### Did You Know?

- Blake Westerberg, Ethan Austin and Will Johnson have been the Cardinals' top three finishers in each of their last three events.
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## **ST. OLAF** | [Oles' men's golf home page](#) |

### **Head coach**

- Glen Peterson (8th season)

### **A Year Ago**

- 4th place | ( 301-300-307---908 +44)

### **Top Returners**

- Ryan Heide (Jr.) - leads team in scoring average, 74.3 strokes/rd. Ws 12th at MIAC's last year.
- J.R. Shimpach (Soph.) - second on team, 74.5 strokes/rd.

### **Key Losses**

- Justin Volling - Shared MIAC individual title. Was second on team in scoring
- Ryan Lubinsky - Was 19th at MIAC's... Led team in scoring average.

### **By the Numbers**

- 2: Number of under-par rounds by the Oles' Ryan Heide in six rounds this fall. St. Olaf had two as a team in 80 rounds last season.
  - 7: Seven of J.R. Shimpach's last eight rounds, dating to last spring, have been 75 or better. Only one of his first 15 career rounds broke 75.
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## **ST. THOMAS** | [Tommies' men's golf home page](#) |

### **Head coach**

- Scott Proshek (Third season)

### **A Year Ago**

- First place | 897

### **In the 2012 NCAA Championships**

- The 2011-12 Tommies advanced to the national meet for the first time and missed the 36-hole cut by just one stroke as it took a 16th-place finish out of 41 teams. Alex Kapraun received All-America honors and shared MIAC medalist honors as a freshman. He posted a 14th-place NCAA finish.

### **By the Numbers**

- 30: Number of years St. Thomas went without an MIAC men's golf championship before it won in 2011
- 8: Number of Tommies with a September scoring average of 77.0 or better

### **Did You Know?**

- Kapraun played on a state championship football team and a state runner-up basketball team at Rochester Lourdes.

### **Off the Course**

- Tommie senior Michael Mortenson, who has a 3.94 cumulative gpa, was one of 23 recipients of the Cleveland Scholar-Athlete Award for 2011-12. He also was named the Top 89 Award winner with the best gpa of all players at the national meet. Mortenson hails from Iola, Wis., population, 1,100.
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