

2013 MIAC Men's Golf Preview

Posted: Sep 04, 2013

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2013 MIAC MEN'S GOLF CONFERENCE PREVIEW

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The men's golf outlook in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) has never been brighter. Not only is the league entering the 2013 with optimism for all 10 teams, but the conference also continues to make its presence felt in the region and all of Division III as a trio of MIAC teams - Saint John's, Gustavus and St. Thomas - all ranked in the top 18 in the country.

According to the Golf World/Nike Golf Division III College Preseason Coaches' Poll, there is much to look forward to in the MIAC this fall, with the fourth-ranked Johnnies, 10th-ranked Gusties and 18th-ranked Tommies leading the way, and the rest of the conference competing to join the three atop the prestigious conference leader board.

A year ago, conditions were less-than-ideal at the 2012 MIAC Golf Championships at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn., but that certainly wasn't reflected in the scores. Gustavus was remarkable en route to the conference championship, carding a 54-hole total of 885 (300-290-295) to claim a 16-shot victory. Then-senior Alex Kolquist led the Gusties to victory by shattering the MIAC Championships scoring record, carding a nine-under par 207 en route to MIAC Player-of-the-Year honors.

Though Gustavus was spectacular in victory, the conference's depth and talent was on full display, as the Johnnies finished second (901) and eventually sixth in the nation at the Division III Championships. St. Thomas, which won the MIAC title in 2012, was third at the MIAC meet with a three-day total of 931, and that trio again enters the season with high hopes for the MIAC Championships and beyond.

The rest of the league isn't far behind that talented trio. Bethel was just four shots back of the Tommies in 2012, carding a 935 to finish fourth, and Concordia was another six shots back at 941 to round out the top five. Augsburg (953) and St. Olaf (964) gave the conference an extremely talented top seven, with Carleton (987), Saint Mary's (1,013) and Macalester (1,030) rounding out the MIAC standings.

Two of the league's top three individuals - Kolquist and Saint John's star Dennis Granath - graduated a year ago, along with three-time All-MIAC golfer and 2010 MIAC medalist Andrew Whitchurch of Concordia, and St. Thomas' Michael Mortenson, who contributed to the Tommies NCAA appearances and received the NCAA Elite 89 Award.

However, the loss of those decorated seniors will be absorbed the amount of returning star power in the conference. Most of the 10-member All-MIAC squad returns, and a host of new faces and emerging stars add to the anticipation of what is expected to be an unforgettable fall in 2013.

WHAT'S NEW?

The MIAC has one new head coach in 2013, and a new format to its All-Conference honors. Ryan Egan replaces Kevin Landrum as the head coach of both the Saint Mary's men's and women's teams. Egan was promoted to the head gig after two years as the Saint Mary's assistant coach, and he is also an assistant men's hockey coach at SMU, a position he has held since the start of the 2009-10 season.

Saint John's Bob Alpers enters his 21st season leading the Johnnies, making him the longest-tenured men's coach. Gustavus' Scott Moe will try to guide his team to a successful defense of their title in his 18th season at the helm.

Also, the coaches and administrators agreed upon a new way to determine the All-MIAC honors. Previously, the honor was bestowed upon the top 10 finishers at the MIAC Championships. Now, those same top 10 individuals will be recognized at the meet as the All-MIAC Championship Team, and they will also automatically earn All-MIAC honors, which will now be awarded in May along with the rest of the MIAC Golf Awards. In addition, the coaches can elect to honor a total of 15 players. This new system allows someone who had an outstanding season but finished outside the top 10 at the MIAC meet to still be eligible for recognition. It also allows golf to present all of its honors at once, rather than the All-MIAC team in the fall and top individual honors in the spring.

WHO'S BACK?

Though Gustavus lost Kolquist to graduation, who put on quite a show with his record-setting medalist performance at the MIAC Championships, Moe's squad returns plenty of talent to aim for a second-straight conference crown. All-MIAC and Third Team All-American Tyler McMorrow is back for his senior year, as is All-MIAC and All-Region teammate Andrew Oakes to lead the Gusties in 2013.

The Johnnies also have the upperclassmen back in the fold to validate their No. 4 national ranking and ease the loss of Granath, the 2012 MIAC Player-of-the-Year. Senior Casey Vangsness is a three-time All-MIAC and All-Region player, and earned All-American honors a year ago. Junior Drew Lynch was also an All-MIAC and All-America Third Team selection last season, and senior Tommy Koehler is also back in Alpers' lineup.



St. Thomas will again be led by a trio of talented classmates. Junior Alex Kapraun is the brightest star back for Head Coach Scott Proshek, after earning All-MIAC and All-America honors in each of his first two seasons. Fellow juniors Bennett Scroeder and Pat Larkin help fuel the Tommies' high expectations in 2013.

Bethel returns two of its top three golfers, as it tries to join the ranked trio atop the MIAC. Sophomore Dillon John finished 12th at his first MIAC meet in 2012, and classmate Devon Johnson was also in the top 16 to give the Royals a strong, young nucleus. Concordia loses Whitchurch and Jordie Siverson to graduation, but welcomes back talented junior Coy Papachek and sophomore Landon Poss, who earned All-MIAC honors as a freshman.

Augsburg lost a pair of talented seniors in Zach Johnson and Justin Popp, but has high hopes for senior Eric Aughinbaugh and sophomore Brandon Jones, as both Auggies finished in the top 26 at the 2012 conference meet. St. Olaf is also a good bet to get back in contention with all of its top players back, led by All-MIAC star senior Ryan Heidi, junior J.R. Shimpach and 2012 MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year Charlie Johnson.

Carleton hopes to climb the leader board in 2013, as it will serve as the MIAC Championship host school. Senior Aaron Buckley and sophomore Ned Rohrbach are back to lead the Knights this season. In his first season as head coach, Saint Mary's Egan has the benefit of welcoming back Blake Westerberg, who led the Cardinals in scoring as a freshman in 2012, as well as senior Trevor Erickson. Macalester returns most of its lineup in the second season for Head Coach Tomas Adalsteinsson, including juniors Erik Alvin and Dan Shi.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

Clearly, the first three dates any MIAC men's golf fan will want to mark on the calendar are Oct. 5, 6 and 7, which are the three days the conference title will be decided at the 2013 MIAC Golf Championships. The three-day, 54-hole event will again be held at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn. Spectators are welcome and the MIAC will provide "live" updates throughout the tournament.

More than half the league will face off this weekend at the Augsburg College Fall Invite in Ham Lake, Minn. The field includes the host Auggies, Bethel, Carleton, Concordia, Gustavus, Macalester and Saint Mary's. On Sept. 14 and 15 the Saint John's Fall Invitational in Sauk Centre and Sartell, Minn., will include Augsburg, Bethel, Carleton, Concordia, Gustavus, Macalester, the host Johnnies, Saint Mary's and St. Thomas.

The Twin Cities Classic, a three-day event Sept. 28-30, will include numerous MIAC teams as well with Augsburg, Bethel, Carleton, Concordia, Gustavus, Saint John's and St. Olaf all competing. The 54-hole tournament will take place in Elk River, Ramsey and Maple Grove, Minn. Gustavus, Saint John's and St. Thomas will also travel to the NCAA Division III Preview in Greensboro, N.C. on Sept. 22-23.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2013 MIAC Women's Golf Preview contains MIAC Championship details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The new MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC women's golf news, schedules, results, stats and more throughout the 2013-14 season.

This year, the [MIAC scoreboard](#) will include women's golf events, with links to results to see how each fared throughout the season. Also, download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2013 MIAC MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2013 MIAC Golf Championships will be held Oct. 5-7 at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn. The 2013 host school is Carleton College. The MIAC has a championship home page for the event, which will feature complete details as well as live scoring and continual updates throughout the event. The three-day, 54-hole championship will crown the MIAC team championship, and the top 10 individuals (including ties) will be honored with All-Championship Team honors. Admission is free and spectators are encouraged to attend.

| [2013 MIAC Golf Championship Page](#) |

MIAC MEN'S GOLF LINKS

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TEAM-BY-TEAM PREVIEWS

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

Head Coach

- Ted Vickerman (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- Sixth place (953)



Top Returners

- Eric Aughinbaugh (SR | 80.7 stroke average, .557 (261-208) win-loss percentage in 2012-13; 24th place at 2012 MIAC Championships (239); 79.9 career stroke average)
- Brandon Jones (SO | 80.7 stroke average, .541 (305-259) win-loss percentage in 2012-13; t-26th place at 2012 MIAC Championships (242))
- Evan Krawczyk (SO | 82.2 stroke average, .407 (191-278) win-loss percentage in 2012-13; t-38th place at 2012 MIAC Championships (251))

Key Losses|

- Zach Johnson (78.1 stroke average, .665 (338-170) win-loss percentage in 2012-13; 15th place at 2011 MIAC Championships, t-20th in 2012, t-29th in 2010, t-32nd in 2009; 78.0 career stroke average)
- Justin Popp (79.9 stroke average, .526 (267-241) win-loss percentage in 2012-13; t-18th place at 2012 MIAC Championships, t-42nd in 2011; 80.9 career stroke average)

By the Numbers

- 320.3: Augsburg's team stroke average in 2012-13.
- 6th: Augsburg's team placing at the 2012 MIAC Championships, its best team placing since finishing third at the 2008 conference meet.
- 78.1: Career stroke average for 2013 graduate Zach Johnson, one of four Auggies to have a sub-80.0 career stroke average (minimum 30 career rounds) since 2007.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg and Bethel take part in an annual "Par Aide Cup" match, a unique multiple-event competition between the two schools. In the fall, the teams take part in an 18-hole match-play competition and a nine-hole alternate-shot match, and in the spring, the teams take part in a nine-hole, four-ball match and an 18-hole match-play competition.



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

Head coach

- Tony Weber (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- Fourth place (935)

Top Returners

- Dillon John (So. | Tied-12th at MIAC Championships,)
- Devon Johnson (So. | Tied-16th at MIAC Championships,)

Key Losses

- Luke Magnuson (Tied-12th at MIAC Championships,)
- Luke Johnson (Tied-18th at MIAC Championships,)
- Taylor Tollette (43rd at MIAC Championships,)

By the Numbers

- 6: Following the conclusion of the 2012 season, Dillon John finished with an average score of 77.3 per 18 holes. His 6-over-par mark led the Royals throughout the season.
- 317.4: Bethel's men's golf team finished one year ago with a total team average of 317.4 strokes per 18 holes. Divided up four ways (counted scores each day), the Royals averaged 79.4 strokes per player per round.
- 4: Of the 50 players within the field of student-athletes at the 2012 MIAC Championships, Bethel had four within the Top 20 finishers.

Did You Know?

- The Royals tallied a fourth-place finish in the 2012 MIAC Championships, but just missed a third-place finish by four strokes. Bethel's fourth-place result was the best since 2008, when BU won the MIAC Championships.

Off the Course

- Graduated senior Luke Magnuson received MIAC honors as a recipient of the MIAC Academic All-Conference accolade. This came after being honored as a PING Academic All-American the previous year.



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

Head coach

- Jerry Ericksen (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- Eighth place (987)

Top Returners

- Ned Rohrbach (So. | Finished T33rd at the 2012 MIAC Championships,)
- Aaron Buckley (Sr. | Finished T33rd at the 2012 MIAC Championships, posted the team's second best stroke average last season (81.6))

Key Losses

- Brian Chesley (Finished T36th at the 2012 MIAC Championships)

By the Numbers

- 79.7: Ned Rohrbach led the squad last season with a stroke average of 79.7
- 72: Rohrbach fired the Knights' lowest round of the season (72) at the SJU Winter Invitational
- 4: Aaron Buckley posted the low round for the Knights in four tournaments last season

Did You Know?

- After finishing 10th for five straight years from 2004-2008, the Knights have averaged an eighth place finish over the past four seasons
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CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' men's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Duane Siverson (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- Fifth Place (941)

Top Returners

- Coy Papachek (Jr. | 2011-12 NGCA Central Region Rookie of the Year, 2011 Twin Cities Classic Medalist)
- Landon Poss (So. | 2012 MIAC All-Conference, Tied for 2nd on the team in scoring average in 2012-13)

Key Losses

- Andrew Whitchurch (2010 MIAC Individual Champion; 3-Time MIAC All-Conference)
- Jordie Siverson (3 Top 10 Finishes In 2012-13; 4th on the team in scoring in 2012-13)

By the Numbers

- 17: Concordia has 17 athletes on this year's roster
- 68: Cobber junior Coy Papachek shot a career-best 68 in the second round of the team's opening meet of the year
- 291: Concordia fired a total team score of 291 in the first round of the year which is lower than any other round in all of last season

Did You Know?

- Concordia junior Sam Christian had three uncles and his grandfather all play on the United States Olympic hockey team. His uncle Dave played on the 1980 "Miracle On Ice" team.
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GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' men's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Scott Moe (18th Season)

A Year Ago

- First Place (885)

In the 2013 NCAA Championships

- The Gustavus men's golf team turned in a four-day team-total of 1,200 (+60) to finish in seventh place at the 2013 NCAA Championships.

Top Returners

- Tyler McMorrow (Sr., St. Cloud, Minn.) | 2012-13 GCAA Third Team All-American...Finished fifth overall with a four-day 290 (+2) at the 2013 NCAA Championships...Earned All-Conference honors with a fourth place finish (224, +8) at 2012 MIAC Championships...Concluded junior season ranked 33rd in the nation with a stroke average of 74.82 in 22 rounds...Registered eight finishes inside the top 10 last season.
- Andrew Oakes (Sr., Hermantown, Minn.) | 2012-13 PING All-Central Region First Team...Earned All-Conference honors with a fourth place finish (224, +8) at 2012 MIAC Championships...Finished third on the team in stroke average at 75.3 after 22 rounds...Won the 2012 Augsburg Fall Invite with a 147 (+3) on Sept. 8-9...Posted six finishes in the top 10 over the 2012-13 season.

Key Losses

- Alex Kolquist (Hermantown, Minn.) | Two-time GCAA All-American earning First Team honors in 2013 and Second Team recognition in 2011...Three-time All-Conference performer...2012 MIAC Individual Champion with an MIAC and Gustavus school record nine-under-par 207...Named Gustavus Senior Male Athlete-of-the-Year and Gustavus Male Athlete-of-the-Year...Finished his senior season with the sixth-best stroke average in NCAA Division III at 73.3 after 22 rounds.

By the Numbers

- 71: Sophomore Andrew Krasaway's average over the SJU Spring Invite and Bobby Krig Invite tournaments last season. He won the SJU Spring Invite with a one-under 70 and finished second in the Bobby Krig with a two-over 72.
- 4: The number of hole-in-ones senior Andrew Oakes has made during practice rounds within the 2012 calendar year.
- 138: The combined number of rounds seniors Tyler McMorrow (69) and Andrew Oakes (69) have played over their careers at Gustavus. The senior captains have yet to miss a tournament since stepping onto campus in 2010.

Did You Know?

- Senior Tyler McMorrow qualified for the 113th U.S. Amateur Championship after sharing individual medalist honors at the U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifier held at the St. Cloud Country Club in late July. At the U.S. Amateur Championship held in Brookline, Mass. in mid-August, McMorrow finished tied for 199th out of 312 competitors with a two-day 152 (+12).

Off the Course

- The 2012-13 Gustavus men's golf team was honored as an All-Academic Team by the GCAA following last season. Coby Rowley, Tyler McMorrow, and Andrew Oakes were named All-America Scholars by the GCAA at the 2013 NCAA Championships. Oakes also earned a place on the CoSIDA Academic All-District Men's At-Large Team last spring.

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



Head coach

- Tomas Adalsteinsson (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 10th place (1,030)

Top Returners

- Erik Alfvin (Jr.)
- Dan Shi (Jr.)

Key Losses

- Tyler Hanck

By the Numbers

- 312: Macalester's low team score last year was 312, set at the Bobby Krig Invitational.

Did You Know?

- Head Coach Tomas Adalsteinsson is a former golfer for Iceland's national team and in 2000 placed 25th at the European team championship. In 2001 he was Icelandic Junior champion and Icelandic Junior Tour champion.

Off the Course

- Two Scots made last year's Academic All-MIAC squad: Erik Alfvin and Andrew Gage.

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



Head coach

- Bob Alpers (21st season)

A Year Ago

- Second place (901)

In the 2013 NCAA Championships

- 6th place at NCAA Division III Championship

Top Returners

- Casey Vangsness (Sr. | 2013 PING Division III first-team All-American; participated at 2013 U.S. Amateur; 3-time All-MIAC; 3-time All-Region; led SJU with a 74.3 stroke average in 26 rounds)
- Drew Lynch (Jr. | 2013 PING Division III third-team All-American; 2013 All-MIAC; finished the season with a 75.2 stroke average, including a team-leading 73.2 average in 10 rounds during Spring 2013)
- Tommy Koehler (Sr. | Fourth on the team with a 76.3 stroke average in 25 rounds; five top-10 finishes, including four in the top five)

Key Losses

- Dennis Granath (3-time All-American, 2012 MIAC Player of the Year, 2-time Division III Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar, 2013 Capital One Academic All-America Men's At-Large third team, 74.6 career stroke average in 87 career rounds, 23 of which were at par or better; 26.4 percent)

By the Numbers

- 6: SJU has finished no lower than eighth with two national titles (2007 and 2008) in each of its last six national-tournament appearances.
- 7: Vangsness and Lynch each recorded seven rounds at par or below last season.
- 3: Over the summer, Vangsness became the third Johnnie to earn a trip to the U.S. Amateur and first since Tony Kroger '12 in 2011. Joe Schoolmeesters '09 was the first Johnnie to qualify, in 2007.

Did You Know?

- SJU has had at least one All-America Scholar in each of the past 14 seasons (a total of 22 during that span).

Off the Course

- The 2012-13 Saint John's University golf team earned Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-Academic team recognition for the fifth consecutive season. To be eligible for GCAA All-Academic Team honors, a college or university must submit the grade points earned and hours attempted for each player on its official squad list for the academic year and carry a team GPA of 3.00 or higher. The 16 Johnnies on the team combined for a 3.21 GPA to earn the program's fifth honor in the award's fifth year of existence.



SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' men's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Ryan Egan (First season)

A Year Ago

- Ninth place (1,013)

Top Returners

- Blake Westerberg (5-8, 190, So. | Team-best 81.1 scoring average)
- Trevor Erickson (5-9, 190, Sr. | 86.4 scoring average)

Key Losses

- Ethan Austin (85.5 stroke average)
- Will Johnson (87.5 stroke average)
- Eric Zimmerman (89.0 scoring average)

By the Numbers

- 33: Final-round back nine recorded by Blake Westerberg (Red Wing, Minn.) 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
- 77: Low men's round of the 2012-13 season, carded by Blake Westerberg (Red Wing, Minn.) during the second round of the Saint John's Invitational on Sept. 16, and matched by Trevor Erickson (Sparta, Wis.) en route to earning medalist honors at the Marywood University Spring Tournament at Bearfoot Resort's The Love Course in Myrtle Beach, S.C., on March 7.
- 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?

- Two of SMU's top three team scores in 2012 came at the MIAC Championships. The Cardinals recorded a second-day score of 332 — five strokes shy of the Cardinals' season-best 327 recorded at the Bethany Lutheran Triangular on Sept. 6 — and followed that up with a final-round 335 during the 54-hole event.

Off the Course

- Trevor Erickson represented the Cardinal men's golf team on the MIAC's 2012 All-Academic Team.



ST. OLAF | [Oles' men's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Glen Peterson (Ninth season)

A Year Ago

- Seventh place (964)

Top Returners

- Ryan Heide (Sr. | Was All-MIAC... Team's best player in 2012 at 75.2 strokes/round... Finished 2nd (tie) at Culver's Fall Invite, 7th at MIAC's)
- J.R. Shimpach (Jr. | Was team's second-best scorer (77.5) in 2012... Was 2nd (tie) at Culver's Invite.)
- Charlie Johnson (Soph. | Was MIAC's Rookie of the Year... 79.2 scoring average.)

By the Numbers

- 3: St. Olaf returns its top three scorers -- Ryan Heide, J.R. Shimpach and Charlie Johnson - from 2012
- 0: Rounds above 79 for Ryan Heide in 2012



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' men's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Scott Proshek (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- Third place (931)

In the 2012 NCAA Championships

- The 2012-13 Tommies advanced to the national meet and just missed the 36-hole cut. It still had a 19th-place finish out of 41 teams.

Alex Kapraun (27th) posted another top-30 NCAA finish.

Top Returners

- Alex Kapraun, JR; (2X All-America; 2nd MIAC, 27th NCAA; 74.2 average, second best in MIAC)
- Bennett Schroeder, JR; (tie 16th MIAC, 76.4 year average)
- Pat Larkin, JR; (stroke average of under 77 in 32 rounds over last two seasons)

Key Losses

- Michael Mortenson, Grad (20th MIAC, 77.8 year average, four-year starter)
- Brian Parkhurst, Grad (40th NCAA; 25th MIAC, 76.4 year average)
- John Young, Grad (26th MIAC, 77.8 year average, four-year starter)

By the Numbers

- 2-3-1-3: Last four year's Tommie team places at the MIAC Championships
- 18: Preseason ranking for St. Thomas, after consecutive top-20 NCAA team places
- 10: Number of returning players (only one senior) in the mix for varsity and JV roster spots in tryouts

Did You Know?

- St. Thomas opened its 2013 fall season on Aug. 31 with a 299-303 dual win over No. 10 Gustavus, led by Kapraun's two-under-par score of 71.

Off the Course

- Kapraun's 3.95 grade-point average makes him a strong candidate for Capital One Academic All-America honors.
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[MIAC Men's Golf Home Page](#)