

2015 MIAC Men's Golf Championship Preview

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COON RAPIDS, Minn. -- History was made at the 2014 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Men's Golf Championships with Bethel University capturing its first-ever conference title. As the 2015 MIAC meet prepares to tee off Saturday, fans are eager to see if history will repeat itself - either in the form of a Royal repeat, or another new face rising to the top.

A year ago, Bethel stunned the nationally-ranked usual suspects atop the MIAC standings to give the Royals their first-ever crown, and a trip to the NCAA Championships. St. Thomas also joined Bethel in the men's national tournament field, and represented the conference well with a 12th-place showing.

The Royals improved on each of the three days of the MIAC Championships a year ago to pull away for a six-shot win over Gustavus to claim the team's first title with a cumulative score of 906. Gustavus was in second with a 912, with Saint John's (917) and St. Thomas (921) rounding out the top four. Concordia (928) took fifth with Augsburg (930), Carleton (934), St. Olaf (946), Macalester (960) and Saint Mary's (1,007) finishing out the rest of the 2014 standings.

This season, several of the same contenders expect to be in the mix based on this fall's results. St. Thomas enters with the top team scoring average of 296.9, with defending champ Bethel also below 300 at 298.3. Gustavus comes into the MIAC meet with an average of 300.4, with Saint John's (302.0) and Augsburg (303.4) right on the Gusties' heels.

Concordia is also in a top six that all averages below 307 shots per round. Saint Mary's (314.4) has been one of the MIAC's most improved teams under new Head Coach Greg Moore. Macalester averages an even 315.0 shots per round, and St. Olaf (318.1) and Carleton (318.4) round out the 2015 leader board.

The defending champion Royals have nearly their entire lineup back intact from last year's championship run, which resulted in the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year award for Tony Weber. Alex Case was an All-MIAC selection in 2014-15, and has the league's fourth-best scoring average this season at 73.8. Junior Grant Exsted is right behind case at 74.0, and two-time All-MIAC golfer Dillon John is averaging an event 75 shots per round.

Gustavus was the runner-up a year ago behind a brilliant individual performance from a bright young star. Chris Captain was the MIAC Championships medalist, Rookie-of-the-Year and an All-Conference pick as a freshman, and this season he's tied for second with a 73.6 average. Senior Matt Spier also returns after earning All-MIAC honors a year ago.

Saint John's has high hopes for another top-three MIAC finish with a talented lineup back in Collegeville. Ryan Gallagher was second at the 2014 MIAC Championships and qualified for the NCAA Championships as an individual, and he was joined on the All-MIAC team by fellow junior Collin Seal a year ago.

St. Thomas has the tough task of replacing 2014-15 MIAC Player-of-the-Year Alex Kapraun, and all five of its players from the 2014 MIAC Championships lineup, but it appears Head Coach Scott Proshek has re-loaded in 2015. The Tommies lead the MIAC in team scoring average (296.9) with Pete Sienko's 72.4 average leading the conference's individual leader board. Junior Nick Nielsen earned medalist honors last weekend and has a 74.9 average to lead UST as well.

Concordia has some serious top-end talent as the Cobbers try for another top-five finish, led by two-time all-MIAC senior Landon Poss, and junior Cade Montplaisir, who leads the team with a 74.6 scoring average. Augsburg is eyeing upward mobility in the MIAC Championship standings with a talented crew back. led by senior Brandon Jones (74.9 stroke average) and junior Brett Gaustad (73.6 stroke average), who both bring plenty of conference championship experience.

Carleton has its top player back in senior Ned Rohrbach, who is a two-time All-Conference selection and finished second in the MIAC with a 74.2 scoring average last season. Sophomore Perry Strong slots in behind Rohrbach to also lead the team's sophomore-heavy lineup. St. Olaf has a pair of upperclassmen leading the way this fall with a host of young talent coming up behind them. Senior Charlie Johnson and junior Chris Winge will lead the Oles into the 2015 MIAC meet with hopes of improving on last year's eighth-place finish.

Macalester's young team is continuing to grow, with juniors Josh Wingardner and Drew Gumila both back atop the Scots lineup in 2015. Saint Mary's has been a pleasant surprise in 2015 under Moore's direction, with senior Blake Westerberg playing outstanding, consistent golf all fall with a 74.1 scoring average. Sophomore Brett Jackson also averages under 80 shots per round to lead the Cardinals.



The three-day, 54-hole MIAC Golf Championships will tee off Saturday at 11 a.m. at Bunker Hills. Sunday's second round will also tee off at 11 a.m., and Monday's final round will tee off at 9 a.m. Spectators are welcome to attend and there is no admission fee, and spectators are encouraged to read and follow the tournament's [spectator rules](#).

There will be a short awards ceremony following Monday's final round to honor the top teams and individuals. The championship team will receive the MIAC championship plaque, as well as the conference's automatic bid to the 2016 NCAA Division III Golf Championships. The top 10 individual finishers will be named to the All-Championship team, and will be automatically eligible for All-Conference honors in the spring.

Fans who can't make the trip to Coon Rapids can follow all the action on the [MIAC Golf Championships web site](#), which will include [unofficial hole-by-hole live scoring updates](#), results, pairings, tee times, recaps, photos and more. Fans can interact on social media throughout the tournament on the MIAC's [Facebook](#) page, [Instagram](#) or on [Twitter](#) using the hashtag [#MIACgolf](#). The [MIAC's YouTube channel](#) also includes a [promotional video](#) for the event.

FOLLOW THE ACTION

There are numerous ways fans that aren't traveling to Coon Rapids can follow all the action throughout the tournament. The MIAC has enhanced its (unofficial) live scoring, and now offers hole-by-hole updates through Golfstat's live scoring system. Fans will easily be able to track team and individual progress throughout all three rounds.

The MIAC has a championship home page for the event, that will serve as the online home of the tournament. The championship page will include tee times, pairings and results as they become available, as well as recaps, photos and more.

| [Championship Home Page](#) | [Men's Live Scoring](#) |

MIAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

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TEAM-BY-TEAM PREVIEWS

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

Head Coach

- Eric Rolland (3rd season)



A Year Ago

- 6th place | 930 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Brandon Jones (SR | 74.9 stroke average this season, with .890 W-L percentage (379-47); 77.2 career stroke average and .725 career W-L percentage (1839-696); Top-15 finishes in all 4 events this fall, including t-9th at UW-Eau Claire Wrigglesworth-Blugold Invite on 9/13-14; All-MIAC in 2013-14 and 2014-15; 11th at 2014 MIAC Championships (229), 3rd at 2013 MIAC Championships (224), t-26th at 2012 MIAC Championships (242), has 3 of

team's top-10 single-round scores this fall, with all 9 rounds shot in the 70s.)

- Brett Gaustad (JR | Team-best 73.6 stroke average this season, with .915 W-L percentage (290-27); 76.0 career stroke average with .771 career W-L percentage (1377-410); Has top-15 finishes in all 3 events he has completed this fall, including t-4th at Augsburg Fall Invitational on 9/5-6 with season-best 143; All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team in 2014-15; t-19th at 2014 MIAC Championships (234) and t-18th at 2013 MIAC Championships (231), has 4 of team's top-10 single-round scores this fall, with all 8 rounds shot in the 70s.)
- Dakota Krech (FY | 76.9 stroke average this season, with .676 W-L percentage (288-138); 6 of 9 rounds this season shot in the 70s; finished t-7th at UW-Eau Claire Wrigglesworth-Blugold Invite on 9/13-14, with season-best 149; shot season-best single-round of 71 at Gustavus Twin Cities Classic on 9/26.)
- Michael Barrette (JR | 78.4 stroke average this season with .540 W-L percentage (230-196); 78.8 career stroke average and .530 career W-L percentage (1068-947); 5 of 9 rounds this season shot in the 70s; t-22nd at 2014 MIAC Championships (235) and t-26th at 2013 MIAC Championships (234).)
- Macalester Holm (SR | 79.4 stroke average this season, with .477 W-L percentage (203-223); 82.1 career stroke average and .373 career W-L percentage (.504-846); 5 of 9 rounds this season shot in the 70s.)

By the Numbers |

- 3: Sub-300 team rounds shot by the Auggies this season, including a 291 in the second-round of the Augsburg Fall Invitational on 9/6, the team's best single-round score since the 2005-06 season. Augsburg's 589 two-round total at the meet was its best 36-hole finish since the 1999-2000 season.
- 303.4: Augsburg's team stroke average so far this season, 4.1 strokes better than last year's 307.5 average and currently the best of nine sub-310.0 season-long stroke averages dating to the 1994-95 season.
- 41: Rounds shot in the 70s among the 74 rounds (55.4 percent) shot by Augsburg golfers this fall.

Did You Know?

- Brett Gaustad won the 2015 Minnesota Public Golf Association's State Match Play Championship in August at the Emerald Greens Golf Course in Hastings, Minn., claiming a 1-up win in the finals.

Off the Course

- Augsburg Head Coach Eric Rolland, who also serves as director of player development and assistant professional at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minn., advanced to sectional qualifying for the 2015 U.S. Open with a second-place finish at a local qualifier in May. He won the National Car Rental Minnesota PGA Assistant Championship on Monday at the Golden Valley Golf and Country Club, winning the meet with a 7-under-par 139 (68-71), 7 strokes ahead of the second-place finisher.



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

Head coach

- Tony Weber (Fifth season)

A Year Ago

- 1st place | 906 strokes

In the 2014 NCAA Championships

- NCAA Championships participant

Golfers to Watch

- Alex Case (Jr. | 2014 All-MIAC, No. 4 average across the MIAC)
- Grant Exsted (Jr. | No. 5 average across the MIAC)
- Dillon John (Sr. | 2013, 2014 All-MIAC, No. 7 average across the MIAC)
- Bennett Smed (Sr. | 2014 All-MIAC)
- Davis Tollette (Sr. | 2013 All-MIAC)

By the Numbers

- 1: Bethel's men's golf team captured its first MIAC title one year ago after shooting a program-best 906 strokes at the three-day event. The Royals edged their competition by six strokes.
- 12: BU's first place finish last year was due in part to their 12 birdies on the final day of competition. Bethel's under-par performance increased their three-stroke lead after day two.
- 298: The Royals have averaged 298 strokes per round as a team this year, resulting in one tournament championship, two third-place finishes, and one fourth-place finish.

Did You Know?

- Not only does Bethel return the same five golfers that won the program's first-ever MIAC title last year, but the Royals return five

individuals, who at one point, have earned MIAC All-Conference recognition. No other team across the conference can boast that statistic.

Off the Course

- Nick Manoles was honored by the conference last spring as an MIAC Academic All-Conference recipient for posting a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.



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

Head coach

- Jerry Ericksen (ninth season)

A Year Ago

- 7th place | 934 (+70)

Golfers to Watch

- Ned Rohrbach (Sr. | All-MIAC in 2013-14 and again in 2014-15; ranked second among MIAC players in 2014-15 with a 74.2 stroke average; tied for 8th at the 2014 MIAC Championships; owns a team-best 76.2 stroke average so far this season)
- Perry Strong (So. | second on team this season with 79.2 stroke average)
- David Bae (So. | third on the squad with a 81.0 stroke average during 2015; posted team's second-lowest score at 2014 MIAC Championships)
- Brian Herlihy (Sr. | ranks fourth on squad by posting a career-best 81.6 stroke average in 2015)
- Evan Anderson (So. | Paced the Knights in rounds played [20] last season and currently ranks fifth on the team with an 81.7 stroke average)

By the Numbers

- 228: Last year, Ned Rohrbach fired a three-day total of 228 (75-74-79), the best MIAC Championships performance of his career. He gained MIAC All-Championship Team honors for being one of the top-10 individual players. He is the first Knight to finish among the top-10 at the conference tourney since David Flynn in 2010.
- 4: The Knights used 4 different lineups in the team's 4 tournaments this fall.

Did You Know?

- Out of frustration with obtaining practice space for his players in the mid 1970's, Coach Ericksen turned pasture land on his 35-acre property in nearby Bridgewater Township into a nine-hole, par-32 pasture golf course.

Off the Course

- Jorde Ranum '15 was honored as the recipient of the 2015 Andy Engel '82 Memorial Award, given annually to a male or female student-athlete who embodies characteristics Andy was known for: leadership, athleticism, and intelligence. Award recipients are recognized for their athletic achievement at Carleton in addition to being acknowledged as great teammates and classmates.



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

Head coach

- Duane Siverson (8th season)

A Year Ago

- 5th place | 928 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Landon Poss (Sr. | 2012 & 2013 MIAC All-Conference; 2013 MIAC individual runner-up; second on the team in scoring average in 2015 with a 75.7 stroke average)
- Cade Montplaisir (Jr. | Leads the team in scoring in 2015 with a 74.6 average; four top 20 finishes in four events in 2015; finished second at the Wis.-Eau Claire Frank Wrigglesworth Invite)

By the Numbers

- 8: Concordia has finished in the top 5 in the MIAC in eight of the past 11 seasons
- 11: Cobber senior Landon Poss has 11 top 20 finishes in his career at Concordia
- 13: Concordia has had 13 golfers earn MIAC All-Conference honors since 2004

Did You Know?

- Concordia senior golfer Landon Poss has had two hip surgeries

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

Head coach

- Scott Moe (19th season)

A Year Ago



- 2nd place | 912 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Chris Captain (So., Rochester, Minn.) | 2014 MIAC Individual Medalist, MIAC Freshman of the Year, All-Conference honoree, GCAA Division III All-Freshman selection)
- Matt Spier (Sr., Prior Lake, Minn.) | 2014 All-Conference selection, 13th place finish at MIAC Championships)

By the Numbers

- 100: The percentage of the Gustie lineup that returns from last season's second place squad at the MIAC

Championships

- 4: The number of freshman individual medalists Gustavus has had all-time at the MIAC Championships, including 2014 rookie Chris Captain.

Did You Know?

- Gustavus's new state-of-the-art Drenttel Golf Facility is in its first year of use. Located on the northwest corner of campus and designed by Minnesota-based architectural firm TKDA, the 2,650-square foot Drenttel Golf Facility features three heated hitting bays that open to an outdoor driving range, a putting green, space designated for a golf simulator and new video analysis equipment, a team lounge and full restrooms.

Off the Course

- Gustavus received academic honors from the GCAA again last year, for the 10th time in 11 years. The Gusties had a 3.25 GPA for 12 players.

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



Head coach

- Tomas Adalsteinsson (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 9th place | 960 total strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Josh Wingardner (JR | Won the Mac/Mary Dual with a school-record 70; team-low 76.4 average)
- Drew Gumlia (JR | 78.0 average)
- Jack Buan (SO | 80.1 average)

By the Numbers

- 297: The Scots shot a one-round score of 297 at the Mac/Mary Dual to break the program mark for a one-round score.
- 70: Josh Wingardner carded a school-record round of 70 at the Mac/Mary Dual

Did You Know?

- Macalester's 297 at the Mac/Mary Dual was the first time the Scots have scored under 300 in a round in the history of the program.

Off the Course

- Sophomore Blaze Beecher had an orthopedics internship this past summer.

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



Head coach

- Bob Alpers (23rd season)

A Year Ago

- Third place | 917 (+53)

In the 2015 NCAA Championships

- Ryan Gallagher – 95th out of 210 golfers

Golfers to Watch

- Mack Farley (Jr. | Is fourth on the team with a 76.1 scoring average in 10 rounds this season...outside of the Division I Gopher Invitational, Farley has a 74.3 stroke average in seven rounds this fall, an average of +2.3 per round)
- Austin Fowler (Sr. | Has a 77.2 stroke average in 10 rounds this fall...played only four competitive rounds last fall...studied abroad in Australia during Spring 2015)
- Ryan Gallagher (Jr. | Earned All-MIAC honors with a second-place finish at the 2014 MIAC Championship...qualified as an individual for the 2015 NCAA Division III Championship...earned medalist honors at the 2015 SJU Fall Invitational with two day total of 143 (-1)...is second on the team with a 75.4 scoring average in 10 rounds this season)
- Sam Olson (So. | Leads the team with a 75.3 stroke average in seven rounds this fall...has one round at par)
- Collin Seal (Jr. | 2014-15 All-MIAC selection...leads the team with five rounds at/or under par and three top-10 finishes this season...has the team's best three rounds this fall, a 67 and two 70's...has a 75.8 scoring average in 10 rounds this season...outside of the Division I Gopher Invitational, Seal has a 72.9 stroke average in seven rounds)

By the Numbers

- 8: Eight SJU golfers have won the MIAC Championship since 2000, more than any other school in the conference.
- 29: SJU has produced 29 All-Americans in the last 16 seasons (since 2000), including 18 honorees in the last nine years.
- 25: The Johnnies have had an All-America Scholar each of the past 16 seasons, for a total of 25 during the span.

Did You Know?

- Last year's third-place finish at the MIAC Championship was only SJU's second outside of the top two in the past 16 seasons.

Off the Course

- The 2014-15 Saint John's golf team earned Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) All-Academic team recognition for the seventh 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. A total of 17 Johnnies combined for a 3.15 team GPA to earn the program's seventh honor in the award's seventh year of existence.



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

Head coach

- Greg Moore (1st season)

A Year Ago

- 10th place | 1,007 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Blake Westerberg (5-8, 190, Sr. | Leads team with a 74.11 scoring average. ... Has not posted a round over 79 all season. ... Owns single-round school record with 4-under 69. ... 3rd all-time in career scoring average)
- Brett Jackson (6-3, 185, So. | Second on team with 79.4 scoring average. ... Had streak of 5 straight rounds of 75 or better this season)
- Kyle Brodt (5-9, 150, Fr. | Heads into 1st MIAC Championships with 81.95 scoring average. ... Shot then-school-record 3-under 69 at Augsburg Invitational)

By the Numbers

- 19: The Cardinals carded 19 rounds of 79 or better this season—including nine from Blake Westerberg (Red Wing, Minn.) and five from Brett Jackson (Edmonton, Alaska).
- 68: Blake Westerberg (Red Wing, Minn.) carded a school-record 4-under-par 69 during the first round of the Midwest Region Classic on Sept. 25. He followed that up with a 3-over 75 to earn medalist honors in the 36-hole event.
- 297: As a team, the Cardinals shot a school-record 297 during the second round of the Augsburg Invitational on Sept. 12.

Did You Know?

- The Cardinals posted five rounds of even-par or better in 2015—including a three-under 69 by Kyle Brodt (Roseville, Minn.) and a school-record four-under 68 by Blake Westerberg (Red Wing, Minn.).



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

Head coach

- Glen Peterson (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 8th place | 946 total strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Charlie Johnson (Sr. | 78.2 stroke avg. in 2015... Low round of 76... One top-20 finish.)
- Chris Winge (Jr. | Low round of 73... One top 10 finish... 74.5 stroke avg. in 2015)
- Kristian Woie (Fr. | 77.5 stroke avg. in 2015... Second lowest round on team with 72)
- Isaac Armitage (Fr. | 80.6 stroke avg. in 2015)
- Steven Magagna (Fr. | 80.6 stroke avg. in 2015)

By the Numbers

- 3: The number of first years in the lineup for the MIAC Championships
- 540: The number of competitive holes played in the 2015 season thus far

Did You Know?

- Kristian Woie is a foreign student from Norway

Off the Course

- All five competitors are economics Majors at St. Olaf



Head coach

- Scott Proshek (6th season)

A Year Ago

- 4th in MIAC | 921 total

In the 2015 NCAA Championships

- 12th place, 1211 (+59), Alex Kapraun t-13th (+5)

Golfers to Watch

- Pete Sienko, Sophomore | Transfer, 72.4 avg. in nine rounds, lowest in MIAC
- Matt Radke, Freshman | 75.6 average in seven rounds
- Nick Nielsen, Junior | 74.9 avg, 8th best in MIAC this season; medalist at GAC tourney
- Jack Riester, Senior | 76.3 stroke average in 2014-15, including seven rounds of 73 or better
- Riley Gannon, Sophomore | 76.6 average in nine rounds

By the Numbers

- 14: Number of rounds of 72 or better this fall in three tournaments for Tommie golfers
- 3: Top-2 team finishes this fall for Tommies
- 0: Returners from UST's lineup at the 2014 conference meet

Did You Know?

- Both Nick Nielsen and Pete Sienko play ice hockey for the Tommies. Nielsen has been part of three MIAC champion teams.

Off the Course

- St. Thomas had one Capital One Academic All-American in each of the last two seasons. Senior Jack Riester leads this year's upperclassmen.