

2011 MIAC Men's Soccer Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- It may be tough for the 2011 campaign to match the excitement of the 2010 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) men's soccer season, which featured enough close games and dramatic moments to fill an entire highlight reel. However, with tons of returning talent and a lot of teams in contention for the championship and playoff spots, 2011 could be another banner year for the MIAC.

Last year, Macalester College (14-5-1, 8-2 MIAC) was able to capture the regular season title by a mere half-game over Augsburg College (16-5-1, 7-2-1 MIAC) and Carleton College (11-7-1, 7-2-1 MIAC), and that merely set the stage for more drama in the postseason. Fourth-seeded Concordia College (13-6-1, 6-3-1 MIAC) upset the Scots in the semifinals and appeared to be in position to win the championship before the Auggies got a pair of late goals to force overtime and clinch the MIAC's playoff title in an instant classic.

This year, expect the same superior standard of play and some of the same teams to battle for conference supremacy as the season gets started on Sept.

1. However, there could be a number of teams in contention for the title and the four playoff spots as last year's top teams try to maintain their success, and the rest of the league looks to jump into that upper echelon.

Tie at the top

With how close last year's standings ended up, it should come as no surprise that the 2011 MIAC Men's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll was equally competitive, especially near the top of the standings. Four different teams received first-place votes, and the top spot in the poll actually belongs to two teams with an identical number of points. Last year's champion, Macalester, received four first-place votes and 90 points, and Carleton also received 90 points with three first-place votes to enter the season as co-favorites for the conference crown.

The 2010 Playoff champion, Augsburg, isn't far behind with three first-place votes of its own and a total of 96 points to claim third place. The coaches predict a jump from Gustavus Adolphus College (10-5-3, 5-2-3 MIAC) in 2011, as the Gusties received 62 points and the fourth spot in the poll, which would also be the final playoff berth. St. Olaf College (7-6-5, 3-3-4 MIAC) received the final first-place vote and 59 points to finish fifth in the poll, and last year's playoff Cinderella - Concordia - was just two points behind the Oles with 57 and a sixth-place finish. It's realistic to think all six teams mentioned could contend for a conference title, as well as the four playoff spots.

The University of St. Thomas (7-8-3, 3-5-2 MIAC) came in seventh, just three points behind the Cobbers with a total of 54. Saint John's University (6-6-4, 5-3-2 MIAC) accumulated 47 points to take the No. 8 spot. Hamline University (6-12, 2-8 MIAC) received 31 points and a ninth-place finish, while Bethel University (3-13-2, 1-7-2 MIAC) scored 17 points and Saint Mary's University (2-16, 0-10 MIAC) finished with 12 points to round out the final spots in the poll.

What's new?

There will be two new faces on the MIAC sidelines this season, as the bottom two teams in last year's standings made coaching changes in the offseason. Bethel hired **Jeremy Iwaszkowicz** to run both its men's and women's programs, while Saint Mary's welcomed **Pete Watkins** to its staff to lead its men's soccer team. The other 10 head coaches all return, including 2010 MIAC Coach-of-the-Year **Greg Holker** at Augsburg, and the two longest-tenured MIAC coaches, St. Olaf's **Kurt Anderson** (23rd season) and Carleton's **Bob Carlson** (15th season).

Iwaszkowicz comes to Bethel after coaching stints as an assistant at Murray State University and head coach at Chrichton College (now Victory University). He played collegiately at Clemson University and twice helped the Tigers reach the NCAA Elite 8. Watkins comes to Saint Mary's after spending the last eight years as the head coach at Aurora University, where his team went 101-48-13. Watkins also had coaching stints at Ferris State University and Northwestern State University, and he played collegiately at MacMurray College in Illinois.

Who's back?

Though some of the conference's top teams will have to replace some scoring, veteran savvy and leadership due to graduation, there is a ton of talent back this year in the form of nine All-MIAC First Team selections and eight Honorable Mention picks, starting with 2010 MIAC Men's Soccer Player-of-the-Year **Chad Gilmer** from Augsburg. The junior defender anchored the Auggie defense last season and has two years of eligibility left to add to his accolades. He'll once again team with **Peter Loyd** - also an All-Conference junior defender - and Honorable Mention forward **Ahmed Gobana** to lead Augsburg's upstart team.

Also back is conference scoring leader **Riley McGlynn** from Concordia, and its goal-scoring leader, **Taylor Rasmussen** from Macalester. McGlynn had 16 goals and 10 assists for 42 points and an average of 2.21 per game, while Rasmussen scored 10 of his 12 goals in conference play to lead the MIAC. McGlynn is Concordia's lone All-MIAC returner, while Rasmussen will be joined by a pair of Honorable Mention midfielders, **Reid Usedom** and **Jesse Geary**.

Two of the conference favorites also return a ton of star power. Seniors **Tim Wills** and **Ryan Cammarota** both return to keep Carleton among the favorites to capture the conference title, and Gustavus' jump in the preseason poll is related to its four All-MIAC returners. **Lucas Thompson** and **Benjamin Ceder** were both First Team picks for the Gusties a year ago, and **Justin Eglseder** and **Doug**



Frey earned Honorable Mention honors.

St. Thomas returns three All-MIAC First Team selections in **Mike Hutton**, **Nick Rapisarda** and **Angel Riera**, and St. Olaf brings back a pair of Honorable Mention underclassmen in junior **Mohamed Haji** and sophomore **Adam Hadro**.

Saint John's will build its offense around one of the league's top newcomers from a year ago. **Michael Coborn** was one of the league's top freshmen in 2010 and he earned All-Conference First Team honors for his performance. Saint Mary's defense will be led by Honorable Mention pick **Gunnar Knutson**, a junior defender.

Circle these dates

The 2011 season is about to begin, with most teams opening with nonconference contests on Sept. 1 or 2. Conference play begins on Sept. 14 and runs through the final Saturday in October, when the regular season champion will be crowned and the four-team playoff field will be set.

This year's playoff dates are also set, with the high seed hosting each game. The men's semifinals will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 2, with the two winners advancing to the championship on Saturday, Nov. 6.

A closer look

The rest of the 2011 MIAC Men's Soccer Preview contains more details and information about each team to provide a closer look at each MIAC squad as the season draws near. Scroll down to see complete results from the 2011 MIAC Men's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll, helpful links, playoff dates and team-by-team previews along with links to each team's men's soccer home page, roster and schedule.

Continue to visit the MIAC Web site throughout the season for updated scores, standings, stats and more, and for additional updates and interaction connect to the MIAC on its social media pages, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

2011 MIAC Men's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (10 for first, nine for second, etc.) Teams are ranked in order of highest point total to lowest with vote totals listed and first-place votes shown in parentheses.

2011 MIAC Men's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
T-1	Macalester (4)	90
T-1	Carleton (3)	90
3	Augsburg (3)	86
4	Gustavus	62
5	St. Olaf (1)	59
6	Concordia	57
7	St. Thomas	54
8	Saint John's	47
9	Hamline	31
10	Bethel	17
11	Saint Mary's	12

Playoff Dates

Semifinals: Wed., Nov. 2

Championship: Sat., Nov. 6

Helpful links: [2011 MIAC Schedule](#) | [2010 MIAC Statistics](#) | [MIAC Recordbook](#) | [MIAC Archives](#) |



Augsburg

Coach: Greg Holker

Career Record: 72-47-16 (6 seasons)

2010 Finish: Tied 2nd (7-2-1 MIAC, 16-5-1 overall)

Augsburg Season Preview

The level of expectations has risen considerably during head coach Greg Holker's tenure as leader of the Augsburg College men's soccer team.

No longer is making the four-team Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference playoffs a luxury; the Auggies have reached the conference postseason three of the last five seasons.

No longer are double-digit win totals considered a luxury; Augsburg has won at least 10 games in four of the last five seasons, and has had at least five conference victories in four of the last five campaigns.

No longer are trips to the NCAA Division III national tournament considered a luxury; Augsburg has reached the national playoffs in two of the last three seasons.

Coming off one of the best seasons in school history, with a school-record 16 wins, a MIAC playoff championship and an NCAA tournament berth, the expectations for this season's Auggie squad are high. And with 20 letterwinners and nine starters returning to the lineup, the high expectations may be justified.

"We expect to be good every year," said Holker, entering his eighth season as Augsburg's head coach in 2011. "It's a different group and a different year, but the expectations of the program are still to meet the maximum potential of each individual, and to do it together as a group. We still expect to be competing at the end of the season to participate in the NCAA tournament every year."

Under Holker, the 2010 MIAC Coach of the Year, Augsburg finished 2010 with a 16-5-1 overall record and 7-2-1 mark in the MIAC, winning the conference postseason playoffs for the first time in school history and reaching the second round of the NCAA tournament. The high expectations remain for 2011, along with the possibility of winning the Auggies' fifth MIAC regular-season title in school history -- a feat Augsburg has not accomplished since 1980.

Solid defense a key to success

One of the keys to Augsburg's success last year was a rock-solid defense that allowed just 18 opponent goals, a 0.79 team goals-against-average that ranked third among MIAC teams in overall statistics.

The bulk of the Auggies' defense returns, including 2010 MIAC Player of the Year Chad Gilmer (JR, Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson HS), who became only the third sophomore to ever earn the conference's top honor. A versatile player who was one of the most dangerous finishers on set pieces in the league, Gilmer led the Auggies in scoring in 2010, with eight goals and five assists for 21 points. Gilmer earned All-MIAC and National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division III All-North Region first-team honors.

Holker describes center-back Peter Loyd (SR, Plymouth, Minn./Robbinsdale Armstrong HS) as "the backbone of our back four. He's going to anchor everything and make sure our goal is protected." A solid player who has started all but one of Augsburg's 62 games over the past three seasons, Loyd scored three goals last season while earning All-MIAC and third-team all-region honors.

Tyler Heaps (JR, St. Paul, Minn./DeLaSalle HS) had a strong campaign in his first Auggie season after transferring from North Park (Ill.), starting 20 games and contributing two assists. David Scheller (SR, Maple Grove, Minn.), who started 10 of 14 games last season, will likely fill a key role in the defense, as will international student Mathias Macody Lund (SO, Bergen, Norway).

Sherif Soud (JR, Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Eagan HS), who saw action in 16 games last year, also returns to the Auggie defense, as does O.P. Marcellino (JR, Rochester, Minn./Century HS) and Danny Osip (SO, Minneapolis, Minn./South HS). Casey Powell (FY, Burnsville, Minn.) an all-state honorable-mention selection last year and multiple all-conference and all-section honoree, joins the Auggie defense, along with Ryan Scheller (JR, Maple Grove, Minn.), who transfers from back-to-back Upper Midwest Athletic Conference titlist St. Scholastica; Carl Gilbertson (JR, Maplewood, Minn./Hill-Murray HS), who transfers from Century College; and Gabe Reese (FY, Minneapolis, Minn./DeLaSalle HS).

The defense will protect a group of goalkeepers who made huge strides in their debut campaigns last year. Will Morlock (SO, Grand Haven, Mich.) and Clayton Lynch (SO, Cedar Rapids, Iowa/Xavier HS) combined to record 13 shutouts last year, the most among MIAC teams and tied for 10th-most among NCAA Division III teams nationally. Morlock started 14 games and had a 0.95 goals-against-average, 9-4-1 record and eight shutouts, while Lynch started eight games with a 0.50 GAA, 7-1-0 record and five shutouts. Josh Biernat (SO, Coon Rapids, Minn.) also returns to the Auggies after a year's absence.

Forwards, midfielders strong

Augsburg will have a strong group of midfielders and forwards ready to contribute to the scoring column. Augsburg outscored its opponents by a 35-18 margin in 2010 -- including a 14-4 margin in a eight-game winning streak into the first round of the national tournament.

Ahmed Gobana (SR, Burnsville, Minn.), an All-MIAC honorable-mention selection last season, returns to lead the Auggie forwards. He scored three goals with six assists last season, ranking third on the team in total scoring (12 points). Jeff Butler (JR, Prior Lake, Minn.) was a key reserve last year, with a goal and two assists in 22 games, and could be counted on to take a larger role up front.

Mohamed Sankoh (SO, St. Paul, Minn./Como Park HS) came up big late in the season for the Auggies, providing several critical goals, including the game-winners in overtime in both Augsburg's win over Concordia-Moorhead in the MIAC playoff title game and in the win over St. Scholastica in the first round of the NCAA playoffs.

Newcomers Chinyan Ollor (FY, Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View HS) and Harald Fauskanger (FY, Bergen, Norway) should also figure in the forward mix. Ollor was an all-state honorable-mention and all-conference selection at Mounds View. Returners Gottlieb Uahengo (SO, Windhoek, Namibia/St. George's College), Nate Peltonen (SO, Fond du Lac, Wis.) and newcomer Matt Knutson (FY, Burnsville, Minn.) will also contribute at forward.

In the midfield, starters Peter Osborn (SR, Eagan, Minn./Eastview HS), Matt Bowman (SR, Maple Grove, Minn.) and Josh Sweeney (JR, Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson HS) return. Sweeney scored four goals with two assists last season, while Bowman had a goal and six assists, and Osborn contributed an assist in 19 game appearances.

Returner Edi Becerra (SO, Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Minneapolis Southwest HS) should see increased time in the midfield this season, and returner Owen Byrnes (SO, Minneapolis, Minn./South HS) will also contribute, along with newcomers Nathan Angell (FY, Appleton, Wis./Kaukauna HS), Scott Clinton (FY, Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson HS), Grant Griffin (FY, Bloomington, Minn./Kennedy HS) and Tanner McCarthy (FY, Windsor Heights, Iowa/West Des Moines Dowling HS). Clinton was an all-state and all-conference selection at Jefferson, while Angell and Griffin were two-time all-conference selections in high school. McCarthy earned three all-conference honors and was a member of a state champion team in Iowa.

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Bethel

Coach: Jeremy Iwaszkowiec

Career Record: 0-0 (First season)

2010 Finish: 10th (1-7-2 MIAC, 3-13-2 overall)

Bethel Season Preview

First-year Head Coach Jeremy Iwaszkowiec welcomes back 10 members from last year's squad.

"I am thrilled to get on the field and start kicking a ball," said Iwaszkowiec. "The guys are extremely excited for the fall. The attitude is wonderful among the returners, and we are very optimistic about starting this new chapter of Bethel soccer. We are anxious to get started."

The Royals will also look to add 10-15 new members to their roster.

"Being new this spring, there are definitely some unknowns with the incoming players," said Iwaszkowiec. "But most come from good high school and club programs, and some will be expected to step in and contribute right away."

The Royals will lean heavily on their three senior captains for leadership on and off the field: goalkeeper Leif Sundeborg, Defender Brady Anderson, and Midfielder/Defender Greg LeVere.

Bethel will host an exhibition match with Century College on Thursday, August 25. The Royals will then open the 2011 season at Buena Vista (Storm Lake, Iowa) on September 2 and play a couple of road games before hosting the first home game on Friday, September 9, at the Ona Orth Complex.

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Carleton

Coach: Bob Carlson

Career Record: 147-90-22 (14 seasons)

2009 Finish: Tied 2nd (7-2-1 MIAC, 11-7-1 overall)

Carleton Season Preview

After capturing three consecutive MIAC crowns, the Carleton Knights finished a half-game back in the standings in 2010 and are hungry to return to the top of the conference table. Graduation claimed a trio of starters, but the cupboard is hardly bare as the Knights welcome back several veterans.

Leading the way is a trio of seniors: All-Region midfielder Ryan Cammarota (Neenah, Wis.), All-Region forward Tim Wills (Portland, Ore./Central Catholic), and forward Miles Silbert (St. Louis Park, Minn.) Last year they accounted for 24 of the squad's 33 goals, tied for the second-highest scoring output by a trio of M IAC teammates.

Cammarota's playmaking ability is instrumental in the center of the Knights' midfield, and he totaled 13 points with three goals and seven assists in 2010.

Wills factored in on over half of the Knights' goals last year, notching 10 with eight assists to lead the team in both categories. He paced the MIAC in points and assists during conference contests and has led Carleton in points during each of his first three seasons. Already the Knights' all-time leader in assists (27) and second in in goals scored (25), Wills is one of only four players in the region to garner All-Region recognition for both his athletic and academic performances.

Silbert moved into the starting lineup in 2010 and did not disappoint, registering 16 points thanks to six goals and a quartet of assists.

Sophomore Will Corcoran (Mahtomedi, Minn.) appeared in all 19 contests last fall—including 10 starts—as a rookie, and his pace and finishing ability on the wing provides another offensive option for Carleton.

Defensively, the Knights will be looking for a new starting goalkeeper, and sophomore James Neher (Mahtomedi, Minn.) gives the Knights a viable option. He saw action in four matches last year and did not yield a goal.

Centerback Neil Bartholomay (So./St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall) stepped into the lineup immediately as a rookie in 2010, helping the Knights fill the void created by the graduation of two-time All-American Robert Carlton. Outside back Tyler Bechtel (Jr./Mattawan, Mich.) started every match over his first two years, providing constant energy and the ability to quickly activate into the offensive attack. Classmate Alex Voorhees (Winnetka, Ill./New Trier) serves as the third returner along the backline.

Brian Rhodes (Jr./Kalamazoo, Mich./Mattawan) took over the defensive midfielder role last year with bulldog-like toughness, frequently stifling the opposition before an attack could even begin.

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Concordia

Coach: Dan Weiler

Career Record: 115-51-13 (9 seasons)

2010 Finish: 4th (6-3-1 MIAC, 13-6-1 overall)

Concordia Season Preview

Concordia took a giant step forward in returning the program to its dominant days in the middle 1990's last season. The Cobbers earned their first-ever conference playoff berth in 2010 and then advanced to the MIAC playoff championship game where they lost in overtime. The 2011 season will be the answer to the question, "was it a one-hit wonder or do the Cobbers have the staying power to post another top 4 finish?"

The Cobbers will have a lot to overcome to grab back-to-back league playoff spots. Concordia graduated six of the eleven starters that took the field for the MIAC title tilt last November. Included in that group were four-year starters Marco Riboli, Alex Dahl and Kyle Quimby and three-year starter Philip Bruckbauer. Dahl, Riboli and Bruckbauer were all in the top 4 in scoring last season and Quimby was a mainstay in the middle of the park.

The one trump card that head coach Dan Weiler has in his hand which can overcome the loss of so many players is the magical scoring touch of senior Riley McGlynn (Hampstead, N.C./Bozeman (Mont.) HS). McGlynn ran away with the MIAC scoring title last season and was shortchanged in the MIAC MVP voting. McGlynn had 16 goals and 10 assists for 42 points in 2010. He was named to the NSCAA North All-Region First Team and was ranked fourth in all of NCAA Division III in points per game, sixth in total points and 10th in both goals per game and total goals. His 42 points and 16 goals tied the school's single season record. McGlynn has 79 career points and needs 21 to become only the second player in school history to reach the 100-point mark.

Unfortunately for McGlynn, and the rest of the Cobbers, he will have to rely on an untested midfield. That puzzle will be the key for Weiler as he tries to produce another 10-win season. The Cobbers do not have a single player on the roster that saw significant time in the middle of the park in 2010. Weiler will spend the entire preseason looking for combinations to fill the midfield gap.

Another positive for Concordia as they head into the season will be the return of three of the four starting defenders from a year ago as well as starting keeper Peter Runquist (So., Woodbury, Minn.). Runquist steadily improved in his freshman season and by the end of the year he showed a form that could make him one of the best goalies in the conference. He started all but one game in 2010 and finished the season with a 1.65 goals against average. A year of experience will help him solidify the CC defense which finished eighth in the MIAC last year.

The returning defensive trio of Drew Glogoza (Sr., Fargo, N.D./Shanley HS), Ethan Vogel (Sr., Willmar, Minn.) and Michael Redinger (Jr., Fargo, N.D./Fargo South HS) will give the Cobbers the ability to stay in every game until the offense can find its way. Another plus will be the return of wing defender Patty Rundlett (Sr., Bozeman, Mont.) who battled an injury in 2010.

The schedule will be another asset for Concordia as they host two of the other three 2010 MIAC playoff teams. The home games against Macalester and Carleton will give the Cobbers the chance to gain crucial league points in Moorhead. The highlight of the non-conference schedule is a trip to the West Coast where CC will play perennial national power UC-Santa Cruz as well as Chapman (Calif.).

If Weiler can find a consistent midfield to go with McGlynn's explosive scoring prowess and an experienced defense then a second straight chart topping smash hit might just be in the future.

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Gustavus

Coach: Mike Middleton

Career Record: 10-5-3 (1 season)

2010 Finish: 5th (5-2-3 MIAC, 10-5-3 overall)

Gustavus Season Preview

Hamline Season Preview

In 2010, the Piper men's soccer team started the way head coach Jon Lowery was hoping for. The finish, however, wasn't what was planned. Thus, the goal for 2011 is simple: "We need to be more consistent with our efforts on the field. The margin for error on our schedule is very small and we paid the price for inconsistent performances last year," Lowery said. "Bottom line, we will be better defensively and much more balanced, athletic and ultimately more dangerous in the attack."

If that occurs, HU figures to better last year's final mark of 6-12-0 (2-8 in the MIAC). "I know the final record didn't show it but we really did improve last year. We were a little unfortunate at times," Lowery said. "But it doesn't take much to get into trouble. We had several players who gained a lot of valuable playing time last year. Now they need to show what they have learned. We also have some exciting new players to help us attack better."

There are just four seniors on the 2011 Pipers. But one of them – goalkeeper Zach Nelson (Eagan, Minn.) is a three-year regular who started 13 games last season. "Zach had a great sophomore season," Lowery recalled. "The key for him is to find his consistency. He's big (6-3) and he has played a lot of games. We want him to find the form he is capable of showing."

Nelson has competition for the goalkeeper job. Fellow Eaganite Eric Feil saw action in seven games last year and may be ready to challenge for the top job. A third possibility is Spencer Von Behren (Bloomington, Minn.), a junior transfer from Dakota County Tech. "Eric and Spencer both have experience at the college level," Lowery said. "This is the kind of depth we have been trying to build," the third-year coach added.

The defensive figures to be a mix of experience and youth. Sophomore Michael Murphy (Mahtomedi, Minn.) and junior Sam Slagle (Appleton, Wis.) started every game on the back line in 2010. Having those two and sophomore Brian Stout (Lake Villa, Ill.) back is one reason Lowery feels good about his defense. "Murphy and Stout are not your average sophomores," Lowery said. "They got much better as the season went on." Slagle and Stout are very capable playing in front of the back line and may move up to midfield. If they do – or even if they don't – first-year player Kevin Gjersvig comes to HU from the highly regarded MTA club program and may well see considerable action right away.

Gjersvig, in fact, is an example of the upgrade in the talent level in the program. "We wanted to be more efficient technically this year and I think we have achieved that goal," Lowery said.

Last year's leading scorer, Javier Rios, has graduated. But Ibou Wone (Sr-Dakar, Senegal) who scored four times last year, is back. A pair of explosive newcomers – Midhat Mujic (Jr-Bosnia), a transfer from Rochester (Minn.) CC and first-year player Tyler Tallacksen (Coon Rapids, Minn.) are waiting to pick up the slack. Mujic was a top scorer when he played in high school at Rochester Mayo. "He's very explosive," Lowery said. His pace will be a tremendous addition to our attack." Tallaksen was named to the MSHSL Honorable Mention All-State team last fall. A terrific athlete, he also played basketball and ran track in high school. "He's very versatile," Lowery said.

Andrew Rorick (Mankato, Minn.) is another addition who may bolster the Pipers' offense. He is one of three first-year players off the highly regarded MTA club team. "Andrew is a terrific player with exceptional quickness, acceleration and overall pace," Lowery said. Marko Doder (Serbia), a sophomore who played in five games last year, is also a contender for an attacking position.

"We will, be much better offensively this year," Lowery contends. "Last year, we were often one dimensional. The combination of the players coming in with the ones returning will make our attack much more dynamic."

In a game where offense is frequently at a premium, little mistakes can go a long way. Lowery says the goal for 2011 is to avoid some of the mishaps that befell the 2010 contingent. "Last year, we fell behind early too often," he said. "Our goal is to change that. We intend to be relevant for the whole season."

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Macalester

Coach: Ian Barker

Career Record: 87-53-14 (8 seasons)

2010 Finish: 1st (8-2 MIAC, 14-5-1 overall)

Macalester Season Preview

Macalester collected its 10th MIAC crown in 2010 by going 8-2 in the league, and goes for two in a row this fall under head coach Ian Barker. The Scots are also going for their third straight (and 12th overall) trip to the NCAA post-season. Mac has gone 15-4-1 in the conference over the past two seasons, winning the MIAC playoffs two years ago and taking the regular-season trophy last season.

Coach Barker must replace a pair of four-year standouts to graduation: All-America defender Nate Juergens and All-North Region midfielder Stephen Murphy-Logue, and the great leadership they provided over the past four years. However, the returning talent should make the Scots a contender for the 2011 MIAC title.

Last year's team was often slow-starting, getting out-scored 13-10 in the first half, but out-scored their opponents 26-7 in the second half and in overtime, and will concentrate on getting off to quicker starts this year.

The Scots will be led by All-MIAC forward Taylor Rasmussen (Jr., Eagan, Minn. / Eastview), an all-region pick and Academic All-District 5 selection. Rasmussen became Macalester's first MIAC goal-scoring leader since 2001 when he netted eight goals in 10 league matches in 2010, finishing with a team-best 12 on the season (including five game-winners).

The Scots will also look for offensive production up front from the likes of Ryan Marshall (Sr., Plymouth, Minn. / Robbinsdale Armstrong), Chris Kartheiser (So., Shorewood, Wis.), Robin Forslund (So., Madison, Wis. / Memorial) and Jeremy Carp (Sr., Portland, Ore. / Portland Episcopal School)

Reid Usedom (Sr., Asheville, N.C. / A.C. Reynolds) and Jesse Geary (Sr., Duluth, Minn. / Marshall) lead the Macalester midfield. Other key returning midfielders who look to step up include Will Mackaman (So., Des Moines, Ia. / Roosevelt), Ben Dugoni (So., Portland, Ore. / Oregon Episcopal), Ty Hong (Jr., St. Louis Park, Minn.), Chris Lowen (Sr., Cherry Hills, N.J. / East) and Marshall Genn (Sr., Berkeley, Calif.).

Goalkeeper Matt Weyer (Sr., Cedarburg, Wis.) posted an 8-1-1 record with a 0.76 goals against average in 2010 and returns to provide reliability in the net. Weyer will be supported by Jansen Smith (Sr., LaCrosse, Wis. / Central). The keepers will look for protection from defenders such as Andrew Lund (Sr., Madison, Wis. / West) and Paul Lund (So., Madison, Wis. / West), as well as David Cameron (So., Portland, Ore. / Cleveland), Peter Martin (So., Summit, N.J. / Pingry School), Stephen Anderson (So., St. Charles, Ill./ Marmion Academy) and newcomer Cole Erickson (Fy., Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson).

"We are proud of the most successes of 2009 and 2010. That said, the MIAC only gets stronger every year in terms of coaching and playing talent," said coach Ian Barker. "Nothing can be taken for granted. The program will continue to develop and will always define itself positively beyond just wins and losses. For sure, our fan support is a huge part of the experience and really makes a difference."

Six of Macalester's first seven matches are on the home pitch. The campaign gets underway Sept. 1 at home against St. Scholastica. The team's first MIAC contest is Sept. 14 at home against St. John's.

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Saint John's

Coach: John Haws

Career Record: 6-6-4 (1 season)

2010 Finish: 6th (5-3-2 MIAC, 6-6-4 overall)

Saint John's Season Preview

The Saint John's University soccer team hopes the 2011 season plays out like the last five games of the 2010 season.

SJU won four of its last five MIAC matches last season. The lone loss during that stretch was a heartbreaking 4-3 loss in double overtime to eventual conference-champion Macalester. The Johnnies finished with a 6-6-4 overall record and a 5-3-2 mark in the MIAC, missing the four-team MIAC playoffs by two points.

Second-year head coach John Haws needs to replace eight graduated seniors from last fall but returns five of his top eight scorers from a year ago, including 13 of the 17 goals scored in 2010. Among the returnees is sophomore Michael Coborn (St. Cloud, Minn./Cathedral), an All-MIAC honoree as a freshman last fall and the team's leader in five statistical categories.

Here's a look at the 2011 Johnnies, by position:

Forwards

The Johnnies are expected to have plenty of youth at the forward position in 2011, including sophomores Joe Balder (Stillwater, Minn.) and Elliott Olsen (Cedar, Minn./St. Francis). Balder came on strong last season, registering all five points (1g/3a) in the season's final six matches. He could see time at forward, midfielder or defender this fall. Olsen, meanwhile, tallied the game-winning goal in the 1-0 win over Augsburg in the MIAC opener.

Haws needs to replace A.J. Sollom, who amassed 23 career points (6g/11a) in 56 matches for the Johnnies, including a goal and three assists last season.

Midfielders

Coborn is expected to lead the Johnnie midfielders and offense once again in 2011. He ended his freshman campaign as SJU's leader in goals (6), assists (5), points (17), shots (58) and shots-on-goal (28) en route to an All-MIAC honor. Coborn became the first SJU freshman to earn All-MIAC recognition since Tyler Kodet in 2005. He tallied five goals in the season's final two games, including a hat trick in the narrow loss to Macalester. SJU also returns junior Andrew Johnson (St. Louis Park, Minn.), who played in all 16 matches last season and finished second on the team with six points (2g/2a).

Sophomores Matt Carson (Waconia, Minn.) and Calvin Koep (Plymouth, Minn./Wayzata) also return after playing in eight and 13 matches, respectively, last fall. Koep posted a pair of assists in the 4-1 win over Cornell (Iowa) Sept. 5. Both are expected to contribute at either defender or midfielder this season.

The Johnnies need to replace J.C. Artavia, Andre Blaine and Colin Hall due to graduation. The three combined for 41 points (16g/9a) and six game-winning goals in 140 career matches played.

Defense

The Johnnies return a pair of starters from last season's backline, junior Ryan Fuchs (St. Michael, Minn./Rogers) and sophomore Joe Laue (St. Louis Park, Minn./Holy Angels). Fuchs ended the 2010 season with three points (1g/1a) in 14 games played. His first career goal proved to be the game-winner in the Johnnies' 1-0 victory at Saint Mary's Oct. 23. He finished third on the team with six shots-on-goal and fourth with 15 shots total. Fuchs became the eighth Johnnie to earn Academic All-District honors in the last six years. Laue, meanwhile, appeared in 14 matches (13 starts) and posted two goals on four shots, including the game-winner in the 1-0 win against Hamline Oct. 9.

Juniors Sam Hautman (Apple Valley, Minn.) and Andrew Karel (Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View) also return and are expected to contend for minutes on defense. Hautman missed all of last season with an ankle injury after seeing action in 12 matches as a sophomore in 2009. Karel saw action in four matches, including three starts, last fall.

SJU needs to replace a pair of experienced starters, Andrew Lilly and Austin Neuburger, as well as Bobby Schmidt on the backline. Neuburger tallied 12 points (2g/8a) in 60 career matches, including two assists in 15 starts last fall. Lilly recorded a pair of goals and an assist in 43 games, while Schmidt appeared in 12 matches each of the past two seasons.

Goalkeepers

Haws' most intriguing position battle is at keeper, where senior Mike Sikich (Apple Valley, Minn.) and sophomore Ryan Brutger (St. Cloud, Minn./Apollo) are expected to contend for playing time. Each allowed four goals on 19 shots last fall. The two will attempt to replace last year's regular starter, Matt Anderson, who posted a 5-3-2 record in 11 starts, including 80 saves and a 0.91 goals-against average last year. He tallied five shutouts and finished second in the conference (MIAC matches only) with a .870 save percentage to earn All-MIAC honorable-mention honors.

Haws, Coborn Lead Division III All-Star Team in Brazil

The 2011 Johnnies will be bolstered by another impressive recruiting class that includes six Associated Press All-State selections, as well as the experience and innovation Coborn and the coaching staff soaked in as part of the D-3 USA All-Star Team's trip to Brazil in May. Coborn scored four of Team USA's nine goals and led the squad with a total of nine points (4g/1a). Haws '99, assistant coach Tudor Flintham '06 and former head coach Pat Haws '72, coached the team to a 2-0-2 record during the nine-day trip.

2011 Schedule

SJU begins the season at home Sept. 1 against Minnesota-Morris and opens the MIAC schedule at Macalester Sept. 14. The Johnnies host six more matches this fall, including Gustavus for Homecoming (Sept. 24) and three consecutive matches against Bethel, St. Thomas and Saint Mary's in October. Haws' crew travels to face all four 2010 MIAC Playoff teams this fall: Macalester, Carleton (Sept. 17), Augsburg (Sept. 27) and Concordia (Oct. 29).

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Saint Mary's

Coach: Pete Watkins

Career Record: 0-0 (First season)

2010 Finish: 11th (0-10 MIAC, 2-16 overall)

Saint Mary's Season Preview

The date: Friday, September 2, 2011.

The place: Lake Forest, Ill.

The time: 5 p.m.

Aside from his wedding anniversary and the birthdays of his three children, that date could quite possibly be the most important date thus far for Pete Watkins.

After all, that evening in early September will mark the Watkins Era as the head coach of the Saint Mary's University men's soccer program.

And the first-year head coach can hardly wait to get the ball rolling.

"It was a pretty hectic summer, I spent quite a bit of time traveling back and forth to Chicago, and a lot of that was time spent recruiting — it was a lot of travel," said Watkins, who comes to Saint Mary's after spending the last eight seasons as the head men's soccer coach at Aurora University, where he compiled a 101-48-13 record. "Things have gone very well thus far — the team spirit is quite high."

Watkins took over an Aurora program that went 1-19-0 — and was winless in conference play — in 2002. During his eight years at the helm, the Spartans earned two Northern Illinois-Iowa Conference regular-season titles, one conference tournament crown and appeared in five conference tournament title games. Aurora, which earned its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance under Watkins' reign in 2006, has appeared in the NCAA regional rankings in 2005, 2006 and 2010, while also earning NSCAA regional recognition every year since 2005.

And he's hoping to have the same type of success at SMU, where he inherits a Cardinal squad that went 2-16-0 a year ago.

"My first objective was to attract quality student-athletes that fit the mission of Saint Mary's University, young men who will compete for us for four years and graduate from SMU leaving behind a great legacy on and off the field," explained Watkins. "The second objective is to become competitive in the MIAC and get to the top third of the league consistently."

"By achieving the first objective, we can greatly affect the second."

And if early signs are any indication, he is off to a blazing start.

Watkins was hired in March and hit the ground running, adding 20 newcomers to the 16 returners — including honorable-mention All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection Gunnar Knutson (Minneapolis, Minn.) — giving the first-year head coach 36 players on his preseason roster.

"We have a nice blend of returners and a lot of new faces," said Watkins. "Every guy is realizing right from the start that there's competition for every spot and I think that will make us better — rising tide floats all boats — and thus far we are seeing the best out of the guys because of the competition."

Watkins admits that there are plenty of similarities — not to mention several differences — between his teams at Aurora and the team he inherited at Saint Mary's, but one thing will remain constant: His coaching philosophy.

"What was on our wall (at Aurora) is on our wall here — 'We want young men of character who work to improve and love to compete' — and that really solidifies what we do," explained Watkins. "We don't talk about winning or beating so-and-so, we talk about being the right type of guys and putting the work in. Winning is a by-product of that."

"To the credit of the returners, they have bought in to that philosophy and are helping the young players to see the value in it."

Despite having won just two games a year ago, Watkins has high expectations for his 2011 squad.

"For sure, we want the wins and losses to improve over last year,"

admitted Wakins. "But the guys need to focus on the process, not just winning. Our goal is to get to the playoffs in our conference — and we will lay that out there every season.

"Our biggest challenge will be developing cohesion and understanding between a lot of new faces — and scoring goals," added Watkins, whose Cardinals netted just 14 goals a year ago, led by Juamaine Venter (Rochester, Minn.), who led the team in goals (5) and points (12). "I like what I've seen so far, hopefully that will continue."

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St. Olaf

Coach: Kurt Anderson

Career Record: 217-153-28 (22 seasons)

2010 Finish: 7th (3-3-4 MIAC, 7-6-5 overall)

St. Olaf Season Preview

The St. Olaf men's soccer team added a trio of transfers to a core of returners in its aspirations of getting back to postseason play in 2011.

FORWARDS

St. Olaf graduated four-time All-MIAC forward John Zietlow, but added a pair of Lund brothers -- Nick and Mackenzie -- to flag David Rosenthal (Soph., Apple Valley, Minn.). Nick Lund (Fy., Hudson, Wis.) redshirted at Division I Wisconsin while twin brother Mackenzie (Soph., Hudson, Wis.) played in 12 and started six games at Division I UW-Green Bay. Rosenthal, the former AP Metro Player of the Year, had four goals and four assists in his first season at St. Olaf last fall.

Backing up the trio will be Ryan Johnsrud, who played in all 18 games last fall, and first year Dahir Wako.

MIDFIELDERS

Another set of brothers -- Blake (Sr., Wayzata, Minn./Blake) and Austin Dressen (Jr., Wayzata, Minn./Blake) -- will hold down the midfield with Sean Legler (Sr., Burnsville, Minn.). Austin had a goal in 17 games last season, while Blake is returning to soccer after playing hockey only in 2010-11. Legler spent 2010-11 studying abroad.

The Oles will have a deep, experienced group to support the middle. Mohammed Haji (Jr., Owatonna, Minn.) had four goals and an assist last fall, on his way to All-MIAC honorable mention honors. St. Olaf will also have Jake Stark (Soph., Edina, Minn.), Soren Frykholm, Phumelela Sukati and Paul Benz (Soph., Superior, Wis.).

DEFENDERS

The third Lund, Max (Hudson, Wis.), is back as a senior captain to anchor the defenders. Lund played in 12 games in 2010, drawing three starts. He will be joined by Stephen Johnson (Soph., Apple Valley, Minn./Hamline Univ.), All-MIAC honorable mention sophomore Adam Hadro (Northfield, Minn.) and the speedy Will Totemeh (Soph., Coon Rapids, Minn./Fridley). Hadro played and started in all 18 games last year, while Totemeh saw action in 15 games, including 12 starts. Johnson had two goals and four assists for Hamline in 2010.

St. Olaf will look to Ken Ouren, Torbjorn, Spencer Schubert, James Miller and Gus Bruggeman off the bench in the backfield.

GOALKEEPERS

Harry Ullmann will hold down the goalkeeper duties for the Oles. Ullmann was 4-2-3 with a 1.16 GAA and .824 save percentage in 2010.

Luke Peterson and Preben Bay are the reserves in net.

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St. Thomas

Coach: Aaron Macke

Career Record: 95-50-19 (9 seasons)

2010 Finish: 8th (3-5-2 MIAC, 7-8-3 overall)

St. Thomas Season Preview

Aaron Macke is starting his 18th season with Tommie men's soccer as a player, assistant and head coach. Few previous UST seasons had the ups and downs the coach endured in 2010.

The Tommies shutout No. 10-ranked UW-Whitewater (0-0 tie) and St. John's (2-0 win), but fell short in several games. In a wide-open conference playoff chase, St. Thomas lost six one-goal decisions, including three in overtime. UST had a string of top-four MIAC finishes end at four, and its 7-8-3 record was Macke's first sub .500 record in his first nine seasons as head coach.

Macke will look for better bounces in 2011. He likes the speed and energy of this team thus far, although he said the Tommies will have to work through inexperience and youth in the early season. The squad has only four seniors.

"This is as good of team speed as I've had in a long time," Macke said. "We're young, but have good athleticism. Right now our chemistry is good."

St. Thomas returns three first-team All-MIAC honorees -- seniors Mike Hutton and Angel Riera, and sophomore Nick Rapisarda. Hutton earned his third All-MIAC honor and now has 27 goals and 12 assists on his career. Riera was a repeat All-MIAC honoree after scoring four goals for the second year in a row. He has 21 career points. Rapisarda was one of only three freshmen among the 38 players honored. He scored a team-best six goals in a 14-point season, including back-to-back two-goal games in the conference

Hutton, who's also an All-America track and field middle-distance runner for the Tommies, is joined in the captain role by junior defender Thomas Metzler.

Junior Sam Jensen, sophomore Jace Leiferman and freshman Mitchell Wolff are contending for the goalkeeper job.

Besides Wolff, other newcomers pushing for starting roles are sophomore midfielder Robert Courtney (Whitefish Bay, Wis.); and freshmen Connor Brush (Neenah, Wis.); Kevin Carrick (Germantown, Wis.); and Michael Eigenmann (Benilde-St. Margaret's). Courtney was a Wisconsin all-stater and conference Player of the Year as a senior in 2009 and played last season at Xavier (Ohio).

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