

Kayla Peterson, Saint Mary's

Lewiston, Minn. / Lewiston-Altura

Week of: 2012-04-30



Saint Mary's scored a huge conference doubleheader sweep with major postseason implications over Saint Benedict Sunday to give the Cardinals control of their own MIAC Playoff fate. A big reason for the sweep was the brilliance of junior starter **Kayla Peterson** (Lewiston, Minn./Lewiston-Altura) on the mound. She threw a pair of complete games, allowing just one run in 14 innings, to lead SMU to the sweep of the Blazers and finished the week 2-1 overall with a 1.35 ERA in three total starts. For her pitching performance, Peterson has been named the final MIAC Softball Pitcher-of-the-Week for the 2012 season.

Peterson's week started with a 6-1 nonconference loss to UW-Eau Claire, where she surrendered just two earned runs in six innings, but she was at her best five days later in one of Saint Mary's biggest series of the season. Peterson threw a three-hit shutout in a 3-0 victory over the Blazers in the first game, and allowed just two hits in the second game, with only a seventh-inning Saint Benedict run standing between her and consecutive scoreless appearances. In all, she allowed just three earned runs and 13 hits over 20.0 innings pitched, with three complete games and six strikeouts. This season, Peterson ranks first in the MIAC in innings pitched (170.2), appearances (31), starts (30) and second in shutouts (three) and third in wins (14-10) and complete games (14).

The two wins against CSB helped Saint Mary's improve to 17-17 overall and 11-9 in the conference, and it currently sits in fourth place and in control of its destiny for the fourth and final bid to the 2012 MIAC Playoffs. Tuesday, SMU wraps up the regular season with a huge MIAC doubleheader against second-place Gustavus. One win against the Gusties would lock up a postseason bid for the Cardinals, but if they get swept, they'll need Bethel and Saint Benedict to lose at least one of their two final games Monday to still send Saint Mary's to the postseason.

Kendra Bowe, St. Thomas

Chippewa Falls, Wis. / Chippewa Falls

Week of: 2012-04-23



St. Thomas freshman sensation **Kendra Bowe** continued her incredible rookie campaign, earning two more wins last week to improve to 16-0 on the mound. The Tommie pitcher threw a six-inning complete-game shutout of Concordia and allowed just one run and eight hits over three appearances and 20 innings of work as the Tommies stayed in a tie for first place in the conference standings. For her performance, Bowe has been named the MIAC Softball Pitcher-of-the-Week for the third time in 2012.

Bowe worked two scoreless innings with two strikeouts and two hits in an 8-2 win over Carleton, and she picked up the victory in the second game, an 8-2 win where she went four innings, allowing four hits with six strikeouts and her only earned run of the week. She was even better Sunday, shutting out the Cobbers, allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out 10 in six innings. Bowe leads the MIAC in numerous categories this season. She's atop the MIAC pitching stats with an ERA of 1.29. Her 16 wins also lead the league, and she ranks first in first in strikeouts per game (7.68) and opponents batting average (.186 with 116 strikeouts in 104 innings).

The four wins helped UST improve to 28-6 overall and 15-1 in the conference, still deadlocked with Gustavus atop the MIAC standings after the two teams split the season series the previous week. The Tommies finish up the regular season with a trio of conference doubleheaders this week. Monday they host St. Catherine at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday they travel across town to face Macalester, and they wrap things up Saturday, hosting Saint Benedict for a 1 p.m. twin bill.

Sarah Rozell, Gustavus

Lakeville, Minn. / North
Week of: 2012-04-16



The Gustavus softball team won five of its six conference games last week, including a split with St. Thomas to stay even with the Tommies atop the MIAC standings. On the mound for three of the five wins was freshman pitcher **Sarah Rozell** (Lakeville, Minn./North). The Gusties' rookie had a tremendous week, tossing three shutouts, including one against UST to end the Tommies' impressive winning streaks (13 straight wins, 53 straight conference wins). For her performance, Rozell has been named the MIAC Softball Pitcher-of-the-Week.

Rozell's week started with a five-inning, one-hit shutout of St. Olaf last Monday with two walks and one strikeout in the 8-0, five-inning win. She tossed another five-inning shutout Wednesday, holding Macalester to four hits and one walk with three strikeouts in a 9-0 victory. However, her best effort halted St. Thomas' incredible streaks Saturday, as she allowed just four hits and one walk with three strikeouts in the 4-0, seven-inning shutout. She also had two relief appearances and didn't allow a run in 18.2 innings of work. This season, Rozell is 10-2 with a 2.12 ERA with 63 strikeouts and just 19 walks in 86.0 innings. Overall, she ranks second in wins, fifth in strikeouts and tied for first in shutouts in the MIAC during her stellar freshman campaign.

The Gusties' 5-1 week helped them improve to 19-7 overall and 11-1 in MIAC play to remain deadlocked with the defending champion Tommies in the race for the 2012 MIAC championship and No. 1 playoff seed. Gustavus faces another busy week of conference play, facing St. Catherine on the road Tuesday for a 3:30 p.m. doubleheader. The Gusties host Carleton Thursday for a 3:30 p.m. twin bill and Saturday they head to St. Joseph for two games against Saint Benedict at 1 p.m.

Kendra Bowe, St. Thomas

Chippewa Falls, Wis. / Chippewa Falls
Week of: 2012-04-09



One of the big questions surrounding defending MIAC champion St. Thomas softball team was how it would replace some of its graduated pitching talent. It hasn't taken long for freshman **Kendra Bowe** (Chippewa Falls, Wis.) to answer that question, as she had another stellar week with a 3-0 record and an 0.39 ERA with 24 strikeouts against just four walks in conference play last week. For her performance, Bowe has been named the MIAC Softball Pitcher-of-the-Week for the second time in three weeks to open her career. St. Thomas swept the weekly honors, as teammate Jenna Hoffman was named the MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week as well.

Bowe continued her brilliance on the mound with one win against Bethel (7-1) and a pair of victories against St. Olaf (8-2, 8-0) last week. She pitched eight great innings in the sweep of the Royals, allowing just one run on six hits and one walk with nine strikeouts to pick up a win. With the first game against the Oles tied 2-2, Bowe threw five hitless innings to earn the win, and she followed with five more scoreless innings in game two to earn that victory as well. In all, she threw 10 scoreless innings against St. Olaf with just three hits and three walks allowed and 15 strikeouts. This season, Bowe is still unbeaten at 12-0 with a 1.06 ERA and 89 strikeouts in 79 innings. She leads the MIAC in wins, strikeouts, appearances (19), opponent batting average (.162) and is second in ERA.

The Tommies, now ranked No. 25 in Division III, used last week's wins to improve to 21-5 overall and a perfect 8-0 in conference play to remain as one of two undefeated teams atop the league standings. UST will try to continue its winning ways - it has now won 10 games in a row - with a pair of MIAC doubleheaders on the schedule. Wednesday, the Tommies host Saint Mary's for a 3:30 p.m. doubleheader, and Saturday they'll face the league's other unbeaten team - Gustavus - in a big MIAC twin bill in St. Peter at 1 p.m.

Kate Rentschler, Gustavus



The Gustavus softball team got off to a strong start in MIAC play with a season-opening sweep last week and continued its success with a 3-1 nonconference showing over the weekend. Junior **Kate Rentschler** (Lakefield, Minn./Jackson County Central) was on the hill for three of those wins, including a pair of complete-game shutouts. She logged 21 innings with a 1.00 ERA, 11 strikeouts and 14 hits allowed. For her performance on the mound, Rentschler has been named the MIAC Softball Pitcher-of-the-Week.

Rentschler started her week by picking up the win in a 13-3 conference victory over Bethel, allowing three runs on eight hits with two strikeouts over six innings. However, she was even better over the weekend. Saturday, Rentschler threw an eight-inning, complete game shutout in a 1-0 win over UW-Oshkosh, allowing just four hits and striking out three in the process. She followed with another shutout Sunday, allowing just two hits with six strikeouts in seven innings in a 6-0 victory over Cornell. Rentschler's big week helped her improve to 5-1 this season with a 2.37 ERA with 30 strikeouts and 15 earned runs in 44.1 innings of work. Opponents are hitting just .222 against her in 2012.

After one week of MIAC play, Gustavus is one of just three teams without a conference loss at 2-0, behind only 4-0 Saint Benedict and St. Thomas. The Gusties' 5-1 record last week helped them improve to 9-5 overall. Gustavus opens a busy week Monday with a nonconference doubleheader at UW-La Crosse at 3 p.m. Thursday, the Gusties return to conference play with a 3:30 p.m. twin bill at Hamline, and they'll return to St. Peter to host Concordia in a 1 p.m. MIAC doubleheader Friday.

Kendra Bowe, St. Thomas

Chippewa Falls, Wis. / Chippewa Falls
Week of: 2012-03-26



The St. Thomas softball team is off to another great start in 2012, and versatile pitcher **Kendra Bowe** (Chippewa Falls, Wis.) has been one of the team's top contributors thus far in her first collegiate season. The freshman is 7-1 in 12 appearances, which have come as both a starter and a reliever, with an ERA under 2.00 and wins over two ranked opponents. She has been especially good lately, going 5-0 in her last seven appearances. For her performance thus far, Bowe has been named the inaugural MIAC Softball pitcher-of-the-Week for the 2012 season.

Bowe - who has started three games and come on in relief in nine others - has a 1.88 ERA in 45 innings of work thus far with more than a strikeout per inning and a strikeout-to-walk ratio that's better than 3-to-1 with 48 Ks and just 15 free passes. Opponents are hitting just .168 off the talented Tommie first-year player, who's recent hot streak has helped St. Thomas win seven of its last eight games. Two of her seven wins are against nationally-ranked UW-River Falls and UW-Eau Claire.

So far in 2012, the defending MIAC regular season and Playoff champion Tommies are 13-5 and have not lost back-to-back games yet this season. St. Thomas opens its defense of its conference crown this week with two MIAC doubleheaders against metro-area foes on the schedule. St. Thomas hosts Hamline for a 3:30 p.m. doubleheader Wednesday, and Saturday the Tommies travel across town to Augsburg for a 1 p.m. twin bill against the Auggies.

Allyson Ruedy, Augsburg

Waseca, Minn. / Waseca
Week of: 2012-04-30



The Augsburg softball team scored a big split with then-first place Gustavus Wednesday and swept St. Catherine Saturday to end the regular season on a high note and clinch a bid to the 2012 MIAC Softball Playoffs. Junior shortstop **Allyson Ruedy** (Waseca, Minn.) starred during the Auggies' big week, batting .643 with six RBI, a .688 on-base percentage and a .714 slugging percentage, and to go along with a flawless performance in the field without an error on 11 chances. As a result, Ruedy has been named the final MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week of the 2012 season.

Ruedy's first performance of the week may have been her best, as she leg Augsburg to a 6-3 upset of the Gusties by going 3-for-4 with a double and three RBI. She followed that up with a 2-for-3 performance with a pair of walks in the second game. In Saturday's sweep of the Wildcats, Ruedy went 4-for-7 with three runs and three RBI as Augsburg won by the scores 8-4 and 9-1. This season, Ruedy ranks in the top 10 in the MIAC in RBI (30, second), home runs (six, fourth), total bases (79, fifth), slugging percentage (.637, sixth), hits (49, seventh), doubles (10, seventh), on-base percentage (.440, ninth) and batting average (.395, 10th).

The 3-1 week helped the Auggies improve to 20-20 overall, and they locked up a bid to the MIAC Playoffs with a 13-9 conference record. Augsburg will be either the No. 3 or No. 4 seed in this week's postseason tournament, which will be held Friday and Saturday at Rice Creek Park in Shoreview, Minn. The Auggies have the inside track on the Playoffs' No. 3 seed, and would only drop to No. 4 in the event Saint Mary's sweeps Gustavus Tuesday.

Erin Stenseth, Saint Mary's

Eau Claire, Wis. / North
Week of: 2012-04-23



The Saint Mary's softball team got a remarkable performance from junior **Erin Stenseth** (Eau Claire, Wis./North) this week in a trio of MIAC doubleheaders. The infielder hit over .500 with a slugging percentage over .800 in the six games with six doubles, four runs and four RBI - including a three-game span that saw her go 10-for-11 at the plate. For her performance, Stenseth has been named the MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week.

The SMU star extended her current hitting streak to eight games by hitting safely in each game last week with a .565 batting average. She was particularly good in the middle part of the week, going 3-for-3 in the second game against St. Olaf Tuesday and 4-for-5 and 3-for-3 in a pair of games against St. Catherine on Saturday. For the week, Stenseth was 13-for-23 with an .826 slugging percentage. This season, the Cardinal senior is hitting .380 with nine doubles, two home runs and 15 RBI. Her nine doubles (0.32 per game) are tied for seventh-most in the MIAC.

Saint Mary's went 2-4 last week in MIAC play, and now sits in fifth place in the conference standings - just one spot out of the four-team Playoff field - with a .500 record (15-15 overall and 9-9 MIAC). The Cardinals end the regular season this week in a big way. Tuesday they travel to face UW-Eau Claire in a 4 p.m. nonconference doubleheader, Thursday they're at UW-La Crosse for a 1 p.m. twin bill, and they wrap up MIAC play Sunday at Saint Benedict with a 1 p.m. series. SMU closes the regular season next Monday with a home doubleheader against UW-River Falls at 4 p.m.

Kaia Sele, Concordia

Bemidji, Minn. / Bemidji
Week of: 2012-04-16



It was a busy week for the Concordia softball team, splitting three MIAC doubleheaders, and a record-setting week as well for the Cobbers' star first baseman. Junior **Kaia Sele** (Bemidji, Minn.) hit safely in all six games to extend her hitting streak to 18, which is a new Concordia school record. She added two home runs to her career school record in that category as well while hitting .600 with a 1.050 slugging percentage, seven RBI and three doubles in a 3-3 week for the Cobbers. For her record-setting performance, Sele has been named the MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week for the second time in 2012.

Sele's record 18-game hitting streak is the latest highlight in her great season, in which she has hit safely in 27 of 27 games. Her two home runs for the week pushed her school-record total to 16. Concordia split with Hamline Wednesday and also split with playoff contenders Saint Benedict and Augsburg over the weekend, with Sele going 9-for-14 over the four weekend games. This season, Sele is hitting .483 with 28 RBI, 22 runs, 11 doubles and six home runs with an .816 slugging percentage, a .545 on-base percentage and a .984 fielding percentage. In conference games only, she leads the MIAC in batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, RBI, hits, runs, home runs, doubles and total bases.

The 3-3 record against conference competition last week helped Concordia improve to 8-19 overall and 6-8 in MIAC play. This week, the Cobbers and their star slugger will hit the road Thursday for a 3:30 p.m. conference twin bill at Bethel in Arden Hills, and Saturday Concordia will host first-place St. Thomas in Moorhead, with a doubleheader scheduled to start at 1 p.m. The Cobbers have just four MIAC series left on their 2012 regular season schedule.

Jenna Hoffman, St. Thomas

Eagan, Minn. / Eagan
Week of: 2012-04-09



The St. Thomas softball team continued to roll through conference competition with a 4-0 performance last week, led by red-hot sophomore **Jenna Hoffman** (Eagan, Minn.). The Tommies' shortstop batted .720 in the four wins and reached base in 14-of-16 plate appearances. She was 8-for-11 with three RBI and five walks to lead her team to sweets of Bethel and St. Olaf. For her performance, Hoffman has been named the MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week. St. Thomas swept the weekly honors, as teammate Kendra Bowe was named the MIAC Softball Pitcher-of-the-Week as well.

Hoffman's big week started with a perfect performance at the plate in two wins - 7-1 and 9-4 - over Bethel. She was 5-for-5 with three walks in eight plate appearances. Her amazing streak continued against St. Olaf as Hoffman reached in 11 consecutive plate appearances over a three-game span (seven hits, three walks, one error). Against the Oles, Hoffman was 3-for-6 with two walks. Hoffman extended her current hitting streak to six-straight games, and she is batting .394 with 28 hits in 25 games.

The Tommies, now ranked No. 25 in Division III, used last week's wins to improve to 21-5 overall and a perfect 8-0 in conference play to remain as one of two undefeated teams atop the league standings. UST will try to continue its winning ways - it has now won 10 games in a row - with a pair of MIAC doubleheaders on the schedule. Wednesday, the Tommies host Saint Mary's for a 3:30 p.m. doubleheader, and Saturday they'll face the league's other unbeaten team - Gustavus - in a big MIAC twin bill in St. Peter at 1 p.m.

Kaia Sele, Concordia

Bemidji, Minn. / Bemidji
Week of: 2012-04-02



Last week, the Concordia softball team was picked to finish last in the MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll, but the Cobbers showed the prognosticators might have underestimated them with a 3-1 start in conference play. Behind a huge week from 1B **Kaia Sele** (Bemidji, Minn.), Concordia split with St. Olaf and swept Carleton as MIAC play began, with the junior hitting .667. Six of her 10 hits went for extra bases, and she didn't make an error in 39 chances. For her performance, Sele has been named the MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week.

Sele's big week started in Wednesday's split with St. Olaf Wednesday. Concordia lost a narrow 4-3 game in the opener, then rallied for an 8-3 win behind Sele's 5-for-8 performance, with all five hits going for extra bases (one home run, four doubles). Saturday, she went 5-for-7 with another double and two RBI to lead the Cobbers to a 7-1, 7-4, sweep of the Knights to finish the week with a slugging percentage of 1.200 to go along with four runs and five RBI. This season, Sele is hitting .463 with 15 RBI and 11 runs and a near-perfect .992 fielding percentage at first.

The 3-1 record helped the Cobbers improve to 5-12 overall this season, and their 3-1 MIAC start has them currently sitting in fourth place behind 4-0 Saint Benedict and St. Thomas and 2-0 Gustavus. This week, Concordia will try to continue its hot start in the MIAC in a pair of road doubleheaders against two of last year's playoff teams. Thursday, it travels to Winona to face Saint Mary's at 3:30 p.m. and Friday it takes on Gustavus in St. Peter with a 1 p.m. start.

Rachel Gilbert, Bethel

Becker, Minn. / Becker
Week of: 2012-03-26



The Bethel softball team opened the 2012 season with an extremely tough nonconference schedule, and has fared well thus far with an especially bright spot shining out in left field. Junior **Rachel Gilbert** (Becker, Minn.) has been prolific at the plate so far this season, batting over .450 with nearly a run and an RBI per game and terrific on-base and slugging percentages. For her hot start with the bat, Gilbert has been selected as the first MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Week of the 2012 season.

Starting and appearing in 15 of her team's first 16 games, the Royals' left fielder has been tremendous with a .458 batting average, 15 RBI and 14 runs scored. She also has a .536 on-base percentage and a .625 slugging percentage with six of her 22 hits going for extra bases (one home run and five doubles). She has 30 total bases and eight walks as well while leading Bethel to nonconference wins over Concordia-Wis., Wesleyan, Washington & Jefferson, Union, UW-Stevens Point and Manchester.

Thus far, the Royals are 6-10 this season, although four of the losses have come against opponents ranked in the Top 15 nationally. Bethel begins MIAC play this week with a pair of conference doubleheaders. Wednesday, it hosts Gustavus for a 3:30 p.m. twin bill, and Saturday the Royals head to Winona to take on Saint Mary's in a 1 p.m. doubleheader.