

# 2011 MIAC Softball Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The University of St. Thomas softball team proved to be the class of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) in 2011, and that was reflected when the conference released its 2011 MIAC Softball Awards Tuesday, May 17. The league champ Tommies were honored with the Player-, Pitcher- and Coach-of-the-Year to headline the Awards.



St. Thomas junior **Kayla Boward** (Ostego, Minn./Elk River) was named the 2011 MIAC Player-of-the-Year for her outstanding season, particularly against conference foes. Overall, Boward hit .466 with 37 runs, 38 RBI, 13 doubles, a .647 slugging percentage, a .537 on-base percentage and she fielded at a .929 clip. However, Boward's conference numbers were even better as she led the league with a .567 batting average in MIAC games. She added 19 runs, 22 RBI, 10 doubles and two home runs to her impressive stat line in conference play while leading the Tommies to a perfect 22-0 MIAC record.

Boward's teammate, senior **Cassie Smith** (Elma, Iowa/New Hampton), was also a big reason for UST's conference title, and she was honored as the 2011 MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Year. Overall, Smith went 13-1 with a 2.36 ERA. She had five complete games, four complete-game shutouts and three shared shutouts. Smith allowed just 32 earned runs with 73 hits, 41 walks and 76 strikeouts in 95 innings, and opposing hitters managed just a .203 average against her in 2011. Like her team, Smith was unbeaten in conference play, going 8-0 with a miniscule 1.32 ERA. In 47.2 innings she allowed just nine earned runs on 27 hits and 16 walks with 46 strikeouts.

As a result of his team's success, St. Thomas' **John Tschida** was voted the 2011 MIAC Coach-of-the-Year for the ninth time in his career and fifth time while leading the Tommies. Tschida led UST to a perfect 22-0 record in conference play to claim its second-straight MIAC title and ninth in the past 11 years. St. Thomas added the 2011 MIAC Softball Playoff title last weekend by going 3-0 to win the event for the eighth-straight season, improving to a perfect 24-0 in the history of the event. Tschida's team had a 31-game winning streak this season, and was a perfect 25-0 against MIAC opponents. St. Thomas finished 42-6 overall and reached the Region championship, where it was eliminated in a 4-3 loss to fourth-ranked Luther College. This is Tschida's first MIAC Coach-of-the-Year honor since 2007 after winning the award four years in a row from 2004-2007. He also won the MIAC's coaching award four times from 1995 to 1999 while he was the head coach at Saint Mary's University.

The MIAC's other individual honor went to Carleton College freshman **Jenny Ramey** (Cottage Grove, Minn./New Life Academy), who played like a seasoned veteran in her first season with the Knights. Overall, Ramey hit .463 with 39 runs, 56 hits, four triples, five home runs, 15 stolen bases, a .678 slugging percentage and a .515 on-base percentage. She was her team's leader in all of those categories. In conference play, Ramey's .508 batting average ranked third in the league to go along with 22 runs, nine RBI, 33 hits and four home runs.

The league-champion Tommies and second-place Gustavus Adolphus College had the most All-Conference selections, with four apiece. Saint Mary's and Hamline University each placed three players on the 23-member team and Bethel University had two players honored. Augsburg College, Carleton College, Concordia College, Macalester College, College of Saint Benedict, St. Catherine University and St. Olaf College each had on representative on the team.

Eight of the 23 players were returning All-Conference selections. This was the third year in a row Bethel's **Kelly Berg** and Gustavus' **Lisa Klass** earned All-MIAC honors, and it was also the third selection for Saint Mary's **Katy Gannon**, who was also named All-Conference in 2008 and 2010. Augsburg's **Jessa Hinz**, Concordia's **Kesley Jones**, Hamline's **Heidi Larsen** and St. Thomas' **Sydney Marquardt** were all repeat selections from last year's squad, and Saint Mary's **Mallory Betzold** returned to the All-MIAC team after receiving the honor in 2009.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the fifth annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for softball. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.

## 2011 MIAC Softball Awards

**Player-of-the-Year** - Kayla Boward, St. Thomas (Jr., Ostego, Minn./Elk River)

**Pitcher-of-the-Year** - Cassie Smith, St. Thomas (Sr., Elma, Iowa/New Hampton)

**Rookie-of-the-Year** - Jenny Ramey, Carleton (Fr., Cottage Grove, Minn./New Life Academy)

**2011 MIAC All-Conference**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
Kelly Berg	Bethel	Sr.	INF	South Haven, Minn./Annandale
Mallory Betzold	Saint Mary's	Sr.	P/INF	Farmington, Minn.
Kayla Boward	St. Thomas	Jr.	INF	Ostego, Minn./Elk River
Paige Carter	Saint Mary's	So.	OF	Rosemount, Minn.
Dani Cattryse	Gustavus	Sr.	C	Mankato, Minn.
MacKenzie Dalton	Gustavus	So.	INF	Edina, Minn.
Erin Farley	Hamline	Sr.	INF	St. Paul, Minn./Hill-Murray
Julie Fergus	St. Olaf	So.	OF	Silverdale, Wash./Central Kitsap
Katy Gannon	Saint Mary's	Sr.	INF	Roselle, Ill./St. Viator
Bethany Hine	Hamline	So.	OF	Carver, Minn./Chaska
Jessa Hinz	Augsburg	Sr.	SS	Richfield, Minn.
Kesley Jones	Concordia	Jr.	P	Billings, Mont./West
Lisa Klass	Gustavus	Jr.	INF	Richfield, Minn.
Heidi Larsen	Hamline	Sr.	INF	Andover, Mich.
Alyssa Luedtke	St. Catherine	Fr.	OF	Spring Lake Park, Minn.
Sydney Marquardt	St. Thomas	Sr.	INF/OF	Regina Sask./Campbell
Megan Matson	Bethel	So.	INF	Mound, Minn./Orono
Cleo Nagy	Macalester	Fr.	OF	Eugene, Ore./Henry D. Sheldon
Jenny Ramey	Carleton	Fr.	INF	Cottage Grove, Minn./New Life Academy
Kate Rentschler	Gustavus	So.	UTIL	Lakefield, Minn./Jackson County
Biz Sitzman	St. Thomas	Sr.	P/1B	Appleton, Wis./North
Cassie Smith	St. Thomas	Sr.	P/1B	Elma, Iowa/New Hampton
Stacy Svihel	Saint Benedict	Fr.	INF	Cold Spring, Minn./Rocori

**2011 MIAC Honorable Mention All-Conference**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Hometown/High School</b>
Melanie Brooks	St. Olaf	Sr.	INF	Waseca, Minn.
Chandran Duffy	St. Thomas	Sr.	INF	Lansing, Iowa/Kee
Jenny Ewert	Gustavus	Sr.	OF/UTIL	St. James, Minn.
Jocelyn Friedman	Carleton	So.	C	Mount Kisco, N.Y./Fox Lane
Rachel Gilbert	Bethel	So.	C/OF	Becker, Minn.
Emily Gregory	St. Thomas	Fr.	C	Prior Lake, Minn./Prior Lake
Carissa Hancock	Saint Benedict	Sr.	C	Grand Rapids, Minn.
Kristen Herges	Saint Benedict	Sr.	INF	Rochester, Minn./John Marshall
Joanna Mangan	Saint Mary's	Sr.	C	Chicago, Ill./De La Salle
Rachel Nelson	Saint Benedict	Fr.	P	Lindstrom, Minn./Chisago Lakes
Kelsey Parsons	Carleton	So.	INF	Golden Valley, Minn./Hopkins
Laura Randall	Hamline	So.	OF/INF	Fridley, Minn./Spring Lake Park
Kaia Sele	Concordia	So.	1B	Bemidji, Minn.
Megan Sitek	St. Thomas	So.	UTIL	Roseville, Minn.
Erin Stenseth	Saint Mary's	So.	OF/INF	Eau Claire, Wis./North
Laura Strandell	Augsburg	Sr.	OF	Pine Island, Minn.

Kelsey Tacheny	Hamline	Sr.	P	St. Paul, Minn./Harding
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**2011 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team**

- Augsburg - Brittney Bruzek (Sr., Alexandria, Minn./Jefferson)
- Bethel - Kelley Newell (Sr., Sauk Centre, Minn.)
- Carleton - Alex Schefter (Sr., Mt. Vernon, Iowa)
- Concordia - Joelle Link (So., Hardin, Mont.)
- Gustavus - Amy Lynch (Sr., Watertown, Minn./Watertown-Mayer)
- Hamline - Kristi Gravem (Sr., Maplewood, Minn./Tartan)
- Macalester - Katie Fuller (Fr., Boulder, Colo.)
- Saint Benedict - Rachel Nelson (Fr., Lindstrom, Minn./Chisago Lakes)
- St. Catherine - Courtney Stender (Fr., Belle Plaine, Minn.)
- Saint Mary's - Hailey Ohl (So., Bloomington, Minn./Kennedy)
- St. Olaf - Amy Prok (So., Delano, Minn.)
- St. Thomas - Biz Sitzmann (Sr., Appleton, Wis./North)