

# St. Olaf's Graf and St. Catherine duo headline 2017 MIAC Softball Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The 2017 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) softball season was full of surprises, parity and plenty of unforgettable games and moments. Wednesday, the top performers from the season were honored with the announcement of the 2017 MIAC Softball Awards.

St. Olaf's first year pitcher Julie Graff (Sammamish, Wash. / Eastlake) was not only named the Rookie-of-the-Year, but also the Pitcher-of-the-Year in recognition for her outstanding season. St. Catherine duo sophomore Jenna George (Ellsworth, Wis.) was honored with the Player-of-the-Year award and her coach, Colleen Powers was honored by her peers with the Coach-of-the-Year award. The conference also announced the 2017 MIAC All-Conference Team, the All-Conference Honorable Mention Team and the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Julie Graff made her MIAC debut with an outstanding season receiving both the 2017 Rookie-of-the-Year and Pitcher-of-the-Year. Julie Graf had one of the best seasons in St. Olaf's history. As a National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) First Team All-Region selection, she posted a 0.73 ERA to go with school records for strikeouts (272), wins (22) and complete games (21). She was 22-5 and allowed one or less earned run in all but five of her 31 appearances. She was the MIAC's Pitcher of the Week four times and had two five-game stretches where she did not allow a run. She also led the MIAC in most statistical categories, including strikeouts by more than one hundred.

Graf kept St. Olaf in the hunt for a playoff spot down the stretch as she pitched in each of the team's final 14 conference games. Her best day was a double shutout of Gustavus on April 23 when she allowed just three hits in 14 innings, walking three while striking out a combined 28.

George earned the MIAC's highest honor after a career season both in the field and at the plate. The sophomore third baseman led the team and the MIAC in multiple offensive categories during the regular season, including slugging percentage (.851), on base percentage (.465), and home runs (10) and finished the season ranked second in the MIAC in overall batting average (.465). George was dangerously good in conference play, as she led the MIAC in slugging percentage (.891), total bases (57), home runs (7) and RBI (33) versus conference opponents.

George received multiple accolades during the 2017 softball season thanks to her outstanding play. She was named MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week three times during the regular season, HERO's Division III Player-of-the-Week, and was the first player from St. Kate's nominated for the NFCA Division III Player-of-the-Year award. George also made the 2017 MIAC All-Tournament team after going 3-7 at the plate with three runs, two RBI and three walks. George also cemented her place in the Wildcat record books, as she broke three school records and tied one in just her second season with the program. George broke St. Kate's school record for single season slugging percentage (.851), RBI (50), and walks (24) and tied the school record for single season home runs (10).

Powers earned her second consecutive Coach-of-the-Year honor after leading the Wildcats to their best finish in the MIAC standings in program history. With Powers at the helm, the Wildcats posted a 28-11 overall record during the regular season and went 17-5 in MIAC play to finish in second place in the conference standings. She also guided the Wildcats to their first ever MIAC Playoff and NCAA Regional Championships despite losing 2016 MIAC Softball Player-of-the-Year Robyn Rohr to graduation.

Powers also reached several milestones during the 2017 season, as she earned the 100<sup>th</sup> victory of her career with St. Kate's 3-1 win over Hamline in the MIAC Playoffs. Since taking over the program in 2014, Powers has only posted one losing record and has turned the Wildcats into not only one of the top programs in the MIAC but the nation as well. In four years, Powers has a career record of 106-58 and a 52-34 record in MIAC play.

The conference honored a 36-player All-Conference Team and a 12-player All-Conference Honorable Mention Team. As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 11th-annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for baseball. 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.



**Player-of-the-Year** - Jenna George, St. Catherine (So., Ellsworth, Wis.)  
**Pitcher-of-the-Year** - Julie Graf, St. Olaf (Fy., Sammamish, Wash. / Eastlake)  
**Rookie-of-the-Year** - Julie Graf, St. Olaf (Fy.,Sammamish, Wash. / Eastlake)  
**Coach-of-the-Year** - Colleen Powers, St. Catherine (4th season)

## 2017 MIAC SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>	<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown / High School</u></b>
Melissa Barry	St. Thomas	So.	UT	Apple Valley, Minn. / Eastview
Krista Flugstad	St. Catherine	Jr.	P/INF	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Julia Carpenter	Macalester	Fy.	OF	Stevensville, Mich. / Lakeshore
Jenna George	St. Catherine	So.	IF/C	Ellsworth, Wis.
Chelsea Koehn	Hamline	Sr.	IF/OF	Clyde, Mich. / Port Huron North
Mary-Clare Couillard	Hamline	Sr.	IF	Fridley, Minn. / St. Anthony Village
Kate Deming	St. Benedict	So.	OF	Bloomington, Minn. / Thomas Jefferson
Juile Graf	St. Olaf	Fy.	P/OF	Sammamish, Wash. / Eastlake
Chase Shortly	St. Thomas	So.	C/IF	Forest Lake, Minn.
Anna Lauko	Carleton	So.	OF	Whitefish Bay, Wis.
Samantha Anderson	Augsburg	So.	P/INF	Coon Rapids, Minn.
Megan Bush	St. Thomas	Sr.	OF	Chicago, Ill. / Mother McAuley
Emily Carr	St. Olaf	So.	C/OF	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Kylie Macziewski	St. Catherine	Jr.	IF	Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson
Anna Hinderaker	St. Catherine	So.	OF	Rosemount, Minn.
Casey Anderson	Hamline	Sr.	P/IF	Robbinsdale, Minn. / Cooper
Mariah Uphoff	Bethel	Fy.	OF	Lakeville, Minn. / Lakeville South
Sara Wennerstrand	St. Benedict	Jr.	IF	Baxter, Minn. / Brainerd
Hanna Heacox	Gustavus	Sr.	P	Stillwater, Minn.
Sam Kile	Carleton	So.	P/IF	Elk Grove, Calif. / Consumnes Oaks
Megan Tonianto	St. Benedict	Jr.	IF	Woodbury, Minn. / Hill-Murray
Amber Montero	St. Catherine	Fy.	UT	Circle Pines, Minn. / Centennial
Brenna Walek	St. Thomas	Sr.	DH/1B	Maple Grove, Minn. / Robbinsdale Cooper
Emilie Antony	St. Benedict	So.	OF	Forest Lake, Minn.
Aubree Douglas	Hamline	So.	C	San Jacinto, Calif.
Ashley Betzold	Saint Mary's	Sr.	P/INF	Farmington, Minn.
Kathi Opsahl	Saint Mary's	Sr.	OF	Elk River, Minn.
Jessica Bentley	St. Olaf	Jr.	P/OF	Minneapolis, Minn. / Edina
Wendy Roberts	Bethel	Jr.	INF	Grantsburg, Wis.
Jena Willis	Gustavus	Sr.	UT	Kalispell, Mt. / Glacier
Kaela Jackson	Macalester	Fy.	UT/C	Seattle, Wash. / James A. Garfield
Madison Little	Concordia	Sr.	OF	Fargo, N.D. / Fargo Shanley
Morghan Bean	Macalester	Jr.	P/UT	Muscatine, Iowa
Dana Connelly	St. Thomas	So.	OF	Mendota Heights, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Katie Eppard	Carleton	Jr.	OF/C	Pleasanton, Calif. / Amador Valley
Elise Barnes	St. Thomas	Fy.	IF	South St. Paul, Minn.

## 2017 MIAC SOFTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Schools</u></b>	<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown / High School</u></b>
Emily Carlson	Gustavus	Fy.	C	Burnsville, Minn.
Corrie Lucchesi	Carleton	Jr.	IF	Chicago, Ill. / Lane Tech
Anna Nichols	Bethel	Sr.	P/1B	Minnetonka, Minn.
SarahDeMars	Hamline	Sr.	P/IF	St. Anthony, Minn. / St. Anthony Village
Carly Dropik	Augsburg	So.	OF	Alexandria, Minn.
Claire Boatman	St. Benedict	So.	IF	Savage, Minn. / Burnsville
Katie Parker	Augsburg	Jr.	OF	Lakeville, Minn. / Lakeville North
Abbie Annen	Hamline	Jr.	C	Shakopee, Minn.
Brittney Birkhauser	Saint Mary's	Jr.	IF	Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. / Assumption

Nikki Caicedo	Macalester	Sr.	C	Clinton Township, Mich. / Chippewa Valley
Brianna Cline	Augsburg	Sr.	OF/INF	St. Clair, Minn.
Kiela DeVlaeminck	St. Benedict	Jr.	P	Waconia, Minn.

**2017 SOFTBALL ALL-MIAC SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM**

- Augsburg - Haley Larson (Sr., Shakopee, Minn. / Prior Lake)  
Bethel - Megan Bode (Jr., Rogers, Minn.)  
Carleton - Mia Orans (Sr., San Francisco, Calif. / Piedmont)  
Concordia - Maddie Little (Sr., Fargo, N.D. / Fargo Shanley)  
Gustavus - Emily Carlson (Fy., Burnsville, Minn.)  
Hamline - Roxanne Reinfeld (So., Coon, Rapids, Minn. / Legacy)  
Macalester -Natalie Platt (Jr, Boulder, Colo.)  
Saint Benedict - Linsey Sanchez (So., Omaha, Neb. / Marian)  
St. Catherine - Anna Hinderaker (So., Rosemount, Minn.)  
Saint Mary's - Amber Trendle (So., Chicago, Ill. / De La Salle)  
St. Olaf - Kate Arneson (So., Northfield, Minn.)  
St. Thomas - Brooke Pantila (Sr., Woodbury, Minn.)