

# MIAC announces 2021 Softball Awards

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**BLOOMINGTON, Minn.** – The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced the 2021 MIAC Softball Awards on Monday, including the All-Conference and honorable mention Teams, All-Sportsmanship Team, and Player, Pitcher, Rookie, and Coach of the Year honors.

St. Catherine junior **Angela Huepfel** was named MIAC Player of the Year, while St. Olaf senior **Julie Graf** received MIAC Pitcher of the Year honors. Saint Benedict first-year infielder **Bryn Carlstrom** was selected as the MIAC Rookie of the Year, and St. Olaf's **Kayla Hatting** was honored by her peers with MIAC Coach of the Year distinction.

Huepfel (Jr. | Hudson, Wis.) enjoyed a breakout 2021 campaign at the plate, leading the MIAC with 35 hits, 10 home runs, and 72 total bases. Huepfel also led the league in batting average (.515), on-base percentage (.575), and slugging percentage (1.059). She is just the third MIAC softball player in history to club double-digit home runs in a single season of conference play, and her 12 long balls overall represent a new SCU program record. Huepfel becomes the third Wildcat to receive MIAC Player of the Year honors, joining 2016 selection Robyn Rohr and 2017 recipient Jenna George.

Graf (Sr. | Sammamish, Wash. | Eastlake) won a MIAC-best 17 conference games this season, striking out a league-high 208 MIAC batters while limiting conference foes to a 0.105 batting average with an earned-run average of 0.76. Nationally, Graf led all NCAA Divisions with an average of 13.04 strikeouts per seven innings in 2021. She finished her collegiate career with 1,208 strikeouts - more than any player in MIAC history and eighth-most in NCAA Division III history - while her 12.10 strikeouts-per-seven-innings average is the fifth-highest mark ever in Division III. This is Graf's second MIAC Pitcher of the Year honor, having previously received the honor following her debut season in 2017. She is now the sixth MIAC pitcher to win the award multiple times, joining four former and one current St. Thomas arms: Janet Nagle (2004-06), Maria Bye (2007-08), Marta Radcliffe (2009-10), Kendra Bowe (2012-14), and **Kierstin Anderson-Glass** (2016, 2019). Of the six, only Graf and Anderson-Glass won the award in non-consecutive seasons.

Carlstrom (Fy. | Rochester, Minn. | Mayo) played shortstop for the Bennies in her debut season, helping Saint Benedict return to the MIAC Playoffs for the first time since 2018. At the plate, Carlstrom went 20-for-54 (.370) with 15 runs batted in during conference play. She also has yet to strike out in her collegiate career. In the field, the first-year infielder was equally impressive, posting a .912 fielding percentage with just three errors in 34 total chances. Carlstrom joins 2013 selection Kimberly Lidstone and 2018 honoree **Ally Hjort** as MIAC Rookie of the Year recipients from CSB.

Hatting received MIAC Coach of the Year honors for the first time in her five-year career after leading the Oles to a program-record 20-2 mark in conference play this season. Hatting's team won the regular-season MIAC title and qualified for the NCAA Tournament, both for the first time since 1996. Hatting also becomes the first St. Olaf softball coach to be named MIAC Coach of the Year since Lori Littleton Brewer won the award back-to-back in 1995 and 1996.

In addition to individual awards, MIAC softball coaches also selected the All-Conference, Honorable Mention, and All-Sportsmanship Teams. Thirty-six players were honored with All-Conference status. St. Olaf's **Julie Graf** became the 24th woman on record to receive All-MIAC selection four times, while Bethel's **Allie Fauth**, Carleton's **Maris Daleo**, Saint Benedict's **Ally Hjort**, and St. Thomas' **Kierstin Anderson-Glass** earned the honor for the third time in their careers. Bethel's **Jamie Axelberg** received her second All-MIAC nod after being an honorable mention pick in 2018 and an All-Conference selection in 2019. Gustavus pitcher **Ashley Neuenfeldt** moved up to the All-Conference Team for the first time in her career after being an honorable mention selection in both 2018 and 2019. Six players - Saint Mary's catcher **Justine Schultz**, Hamline shortstop **Megan Rubbelke**, St. Catherine shortstop **Alex Ehde**, St. Olaf left fielder **Ally Bode**, St. Olaf center fielder **Tarah DeCroock**, and Saint Benedict right fielder **Mo Burns** - all received All-MIAC honors for the second time in their careers. Concordia pitcher **Megan Gavin** and Macalester utility player **Audrey Meade** also moved up from honorable mention to All-MIAC between the 2019 and 2021 seasons.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 14th 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.



## 2021 MIAC Softball Awards

### 2021 MIAC Softball Player of the Year

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School	Previous Selections
1B	Angela Huepfel	St. Catherine	Jr.	Hudson, Wis.	--

2021 MIAC Softball Pitcher of the Year

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School	Previous Selections
P	Julie Graf	St. Olaf	Sr.	Sammamish, Wash.   Eastlake	2017
2021 MIAC Softball Rookie of the Year					
Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School	
SS	Bryn Carlstrom	Saint Benedict	Fy.	Rochester, Minn.   Mayo	
2021 MIAC Softball Coach of the Year					
Name		Institution			Previous Selections
Kayla Hatting		St. Olaf			--

2021 MIAC Softball All-Conference Team

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School	Previous Selections
C	Cortney Hokanson	Bethel	Jr.	Shakopee, Minn.	--
C	Justine Schultz	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Winona, Minn.	2019
1B	Lexi Hanson	Saint Benedict	So.	Savage, Minn.   Prior Lake	--
1B	Angela Huepfel	St. Catherine	Jr.	Hudson, Wis.	--
1B	Hannah Matthies	St. Olaf	Sr.	Norfolk, Neb.	--
2B	Katie Manecke	Augsburg	Fy.	Shoreview, Minn.   Mounds View	--
2B	Allie Fauth	Bethel	Sr.	Hutchinson, Minn.	2018   2019
3B	Kaleigh Santmyer	St. Olaf	Jr.	Ladera Ranch, Calif.   San Juan Hills	--
SS	Jamie Axelberg	Bethel	Sr.	Monticello, Minn.	2018 (HM)   2019
SS	Maris Daleo	Carleton	Sr.	Stillman Valley, Ill.	2018   2019
SS	Megan Rubbelke	Hamline	Sr.	North St. Paul, Minn.	2019
SS	Bryn Carlstrom	Saint Benedict	Fy.	Rochester, Minn.   Mayo	--
SS	Alex Ehde	St. Catherine	Jr.	Stillwater, Minn.	2019
LF	Lexi DeBace	Bethel	Jr.	Little Canada, Minn.   Roseville	--
LF	Jordyn Swoboda	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Willmar, Minn.	--
LF	Lindsay Burr	St. Catherine	Jr.	Baldwin, Wis.   Baldwin-Woodville	--
LF	Ally Bode	St. Olaf	Sr.	Moose Lake, Minn.	2019
CF	Trina Eichel	Carleton	Jr.	Alameda, Calif.	--
CF	Madelyn Mueller	Gustavus	Fy.	North Mankato, Minn.   Mankato West	--
CF	Audrey Meade	Macalester	Sr.	Cedar Hills, Utah   Pleasant Grove	2019 (HM)
CF	Gabby Spencer	Saint Benedict	So.	St. Paul, Minn.   Roseville	--
CF	Taylor Brunn	St. Catherine	So.	Little Canada, Minn.   Concordia Academy	--
CF	Tarah DeCroock	St. Olaf	Jr.	Farmington, Minn.	2019
CF	Coryn Jacobson	St. Thomas	So.	Lino Lakes, Minn.   Centennial	--
RF	Amanda Gemuenden	Bethel	Sr.	Forest Lake, Minn.	--
RF	Mo Burns	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.   Providence Academy	2019
RF	Sam Birling	St. Thomas	Sr.	Appleton, Wis.   Fox Valley Lutheran	--

DP	Mackenzie Clarke	Macalester	Jr.	Redwood City, Calif.   Sequoia	--
DP	Megan Baniecke	St. Thomas	Jr.	Hastings, Minn.	--
P	Kayla Simacek	Bethel	Fy.	Hastings, Minn.	--
P	Megan Gavin	Concordia	Sr.	Cold Spring, Minn.   ROCORI	2019 (HM)
P	Ashley Neuenfeldt	Gustavus	Sr.	Bloomington, Minn.   Jefferson	2018 (HM)   2019 (HM)
P	Ally Hjort	Saint Benedict	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn.   Woodbury	2018   2019
P	Elly Novak	Saint Benedict	So.	Montgomery, Minn.   Tri-City United	--
P	Julie Graf	St. Olaf	Sr.	Sammamish, Wash.   Eastlake	2017   2018   2019
P	Kierstin Anderson-Glass	St. Thomas	Sr.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn.   Visitation	2016   2019

### 2021 MIAC Softball Honorable Mention

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School	Previous Selections
C	Julia Azure	St. Catherine	So.	Lino Lakes, Minn.   Centennial	--
C	Bridget Armstrong	St. Thomas	Sr.	Burnsville, Minn.	--
1B	Madison Collins	Carleton	Jr.	Elmhurst, Ill.   York	--
1B	Kate Lawhead	Macalester	Sr.	Battleground, Wash.   Prairie	--
2B	Abby Grismer	St. Olaf	Sr.	Rapid City, S.D.   Stevens	2018 (HM)
3B	Taylor Erholtz	Concordia	Sr.	Moorhead, Minn.   Fargo Shanley	--
3B	Sarah Hudson	St. Thomas	Jr.	Corcoran, Minn.   Buffalo	--
SS	Mackenzie Rudy	St. Thomas	So.	Hartland, Wis.   Arrowhead	--
LF	Piper Otto	Gustavus	Fy.	Brooklyn Park, Minn.   Champlin Park	--
DP	Katie Weisheit	St. Olaf	Fy.	Wheaton, Ill.   Wheaton Warrenville South	--
P	Theresa Klinnert	Hamline	Jr.	Kindred, N.D.	--
P	Kathryn Proper	St. Catherine	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn.   Como Park	2019 (1T)
P	Annabelle Schutte	St. Catherine	Jr.	St. Louis Park, Minn.	2019 (HM)

### 2021 MIAC Softball All-Sportsmanship Team

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown   High School	
P/UTL	Myia Sarff	Augsburg	Fy.	South St. Paul, Minn.	
OF	Katie Stewart	Bethel	Sr.	Prior Lake, Minn.	
2B	Anja Leitz-Najarian	Carleton	Sr.	Duluth, Minn.   East	
P	Cassie Bohnsack	Concordia	Sr.	Osakis, Minn.   Sauk Centre	
OF	Amanda Markert	Gustavus	So.	Shakopee, Minn.	
CF	Amber Peterson	Hamline	Jr.	Cottage Grove, Minn.   Hill-Murray	
OF	Olive Tambou	Macalester	Sr.	San Francisco, Calif.   Lowell	
OF	Lizzy Walker	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Minneapolis, Minn.   Bloomington Jefferson	
OF	Taylor Brunn	St. Catherine	So.	Little Canada, Minn.   Concordia Academy	
C	Anna Rystrom	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Andover, Minn.	
2B	Katie Howard	St. Olaf	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.   Clayton	

