

2013 MIAC Softball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The 2012 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) softball season had two significant storylines - the battle at the top for the conference title, and the parity throughout the remaining 10 teams. As the MIAC's softball teams prepare to throw out the first pitch of the 2013 season, it appears St. Thomas and Gustavus are prepared to contend once again, but a strong crop of challengers are eager to make it more than a two-team race this time around.

The Tommies and Gusties were both nearly perfect in their quest for the MIAC title a year ago. They split their head-to-head series, but the Tommies swept their other 10 conference foes, and one other loss by Gustavus (20-2) was enough to give 21-1 UST its third-straight title. St. Thomas also went 2-1 against Gustavus to claim the MIAC Playoff title as well, giving Gustavus a pair of second-place finishes in 2012.

There was a significant gap between that duo and the rest of the league, which demonstrated both how good the MIAC's top two teams were, and the parity throughout the rest of a very deep conference. Augsburg (13-9) and Saint Mary's (11-1) grabbed the final two playoff spots, with five other teams in contention for postseason bids deep into the season. In fact, just seven games separated the final 10 spots in the 2012 MIAC standings.

Bethel, Saint Benedict and St. Olaf were a game out of the Playoffs in a three-way tie for fifth at 10-12, with Hamline and a surprising Macalester squad just another game back at 9-13 in league play. St. Catherine was 7-15, and Carleton and Concordia each went 6-16 in the MIAC in 2012.

The 2013 season starts later this month, and the MIAC should feature incredible parity yet again. However, it's possible the gap between St. Thomas and Gustavus and the rest of the league has closed, which could make for an incredibly intriguing season of conference play, and a must-see MIAC Softball Playoff tournament in early May.

Familiar two at the top

History is destined to repeat itself, at least in the eyes of the MIAC softball coaches, if their Preseason Poll is any indication. A year ago, St. Thomas and Gustavus battled atop the standings and again in the MIAC Softball Playoff championship, with the Tommies taking both titles. In fact, either UST or Gustavus has claimed each of the last 11 MIAC titles, with UST winning in 2002, 2004-08 and 2010-12, and the Gusties claiming the 2003 and 2009 titles.

The two rivals are again predicted to lead the league, with St. Thomas receiving 121 and 11 first-place votes to finish unanimously in first, as coaches are not allowed to vote for their own team. The Gusties received the other first-place vote and 111 points to grab the No. 2 spot in the poll.

The coaches also expect the four-team MIAC Playoff field to have an identical feel in 2013, although they expect the race for third to be too close to call. Both Augsburg and Saint Mary's - MIAC Playoff teams a year ago - received 92 points each to finish in a tie for third. There was a 20-point gap in the poll between third and fifth, but the next three spots were separated by just 10 points, as Bethel (72), Saint Benedict (68) and Hamline (62) finished fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively.

St. Olaf received 55 points to come in eight place, six points ahead of No. 9 Macalester. St. Catherine rounded out the top 10 in the poll with 32 points, with Carleton (20 points) edging Concordia (18 points) by just two points in the final two spots in the preseason predictions.

What's new?

Two MIAC teams enter the 2013 season under the direction of new head coaches, but neither is a stranger to the dugouts and diamonds around the league. **Rachael Click** embarks on her first season as the new Saint Benedict head coach, returning to the MIAC after a decorated playing career at Gustavus from 2006-2009. The former MIAC Player-of-the-Year and All-American replaces **Denny Johnson** and his 522 career coaching victories, though he remains with the Blazers as an assistant to Click.

Concordia also has new leadership, as **Mike Reese** replaces **Megan Johnson** after spending six seasons as the pitching coach for the Cobber baseball team. Reese brings more than 30 years of baseball and softball experience to Concordia's dugout.

With Johnson's transition to his new role, that means there is also a change to the league's longest-tenured coaches. St. Catherine Head Coach **Madge Makowske** is now the dean of MIAC coaches as she enters her 18th season on the bench. Carleton's **Amy Erickson** isn't far behind, as she starts her 16th season with the Knights.

Who's back?

Who's back in the MIAC in 2013? In a word ... everyone. Amazingly, only three of the 38 All-MIAC First Team and Honorable Mention selections were seniors a year ago, and among the numerous returning All-Conference selections are the league's top three award winners. St. Thomas returns both the MIAC Player-of-the-Year in senior **Kimmy Hassel** and MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Year in sophomore **Kendra Bowe**, and MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year **Sarah Rozell** returns to the Gustavus lineup for her sophomore season.

If the Tommies look loaded again for reigning MIAC Coach-of-the-Year **John Tschida**, it's because they are. In addition to Hassel, who hit .487 with 41 RBI, and Bowe, who was 22-3 with a 1.33 ERA, St. Thomas didn't have a single senior among its five total All-MIAC selections, which included catcher **Emily Gregory** and shortstop **Jenna Hoffman**.

Gustavus returns just as much firepower, despite the loss of star second baseman **Lisa Klass**. Rozell was 11-0 with an 0.80 ERA in MIAC play a year ago while also hitting .317. Two-time All-MIAC selection **Kate Rentschler** (17-4, 1.98 ERA, .329 batting average) and All-MIAC outfielder **Brittany Benke** (.333 average, 25 runs) also return for Head Coach Jeff Annis in 2013.

Augsburg will try to replace graduated star pitcher **Kylee Persing**, but also has a talented core back, led by All-MIAC shortstop **Allyson Ruedy**, who hit .377 with 30 RBI. Senior **Bri Dorale** - a 2010 All-MIAC pick - also returns and can play second or in the outfield for the Auggies. Saint Mary's welcomes back an All-MIAC trio, featuring First-Team selections **Erin Stenseth** and **Alex Raske** and Honorable Mention selection **Hailey Ohl**. All three hit better than .340 a year ago and combined to score 81 runs.

Bethel's hopes to return to the MIAC Playoffs are bolstered by an All-Conference duo. Outfielder **Rachel Gilbert** was tremendous as a junior, hitting .418 with 22 RBI, and infielder **Kalyn Sorenson** batted .311 and drove in 23 runs. Saint Benedict also has a pair of All-MIAC First Team juniors back in the lineup in outfielder **Lexi Alm** (.438 batting average, .786 slugging percentage) and pitcher **Rachel Nelson** (11-9, 1.78 ERA). Hamline will again be led by All-MIAC outfielder **Bethany Hine**, who hit .379 in 2012, and Honorable Mention outfielder **Laura Randall**, who hit .369 a year ago.

St. Olaf welcomes back All-MIAC Honorable Mention selections Jess Green (9-9, 2.58 ERA) and **Amy Prok** as well as **Christiana Miller** and her team-high .319 average. The middle of the Macalester order will again be bolstered by junior two-time All-MIAC outfielder **Cleo Nagy**, who is already the school's career leader in home runs with 13. All-MIAC Honorable Mention pitcher and utility player **Miranda Stokes** will also lend her versatility to the Scots again in 2013. Nagy and Stokes combined for 17 homers a year ago.

St. Catherine has one of the league's top hitters back in the outfield, as All-MIAC junior Alyssa Luedtke and her .487 average and 63 hits return to the Wildcats lineup. **Jenna (Brady) Ratliff** also returns for Makowske's crew after All-MIAC Honorable Mention honors as a sophomore. Carleton brings back All-MIAC pick **Chelsea Yost**, who will both hit (.365) and pitch (3-3, 3.89 ERA) for the Knights, with 2011 MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year **Jenny Ramey** back at shortstop for her third season. Concordia has senior slugger **Kaia Sele** - an All-MIAC pick - back at first base this season, and she needs just two more hits to become the school's all-time leader in that category. Honorable Mention selection **Joelle Link** (OF/P) also returns for the Cobbers' in Reese's debut season.

Circle these dates

Though temperatures have routinely been below zero and snow continues to fall in Minnesota, the first softball games of the 2013 season are a little more than two weeks away. Augsburg and St. Catherine both open with indoor games at the Vadnais Heights (Minn.) dome, and the rest of the league takes the field when the calendar flips to March.

The first MIAC contests of the season are set to start March 27, and the league's 12 teams will engage in 22 conference games over exactly one month. The final regular-season MIAC doubleheaders are scheduled for April 27, with plenty of intriguing dates crammed into those four weeks. The top two teams in the Coaches' Poll will meet for a MIAC doubleheader on April 13, with St. Thomas hosting Gustavus for a 1 p.m. twin bill that could decide the league title and Playoff positioning.

Augsburg and Saint Mary's - the league's other two postseason squads from a year ago - will open MIAC play against one another, with the Cardinals visiting the Auggies on March 28 at 4 p.m. The other top Playoff contenders will square off in crucial April doubleheaders, with Saint Benedict heading to Bethel on April 6 at 1 p.m., and Hamline hosting St. Olaf on April 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Macalester will host St. Catherine on April 4 at 3:30 p.m. in a good St. Paul cross-town rivalry, as both teams try to climb the MIAC ladder higher in 2012. Carleton and Concordia also meet early in the season - April 2 at Carleton at 3:30 p.m. - in an important MIAC twin bill for two teams trying to show marked improvement from a year ago.

The top four teams will advance to the 2013 MIAC Softball Playoffs, which will be hosted by Gustavus at Caswell Park in Mankato, Minn. , on May 3-4. There are four games scheduled for Friday, May 3, with two games - and a third, if necessary, set for Saturday, May 4 as the league determines its postseason champ with a double elimination tournament. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Softball Tournament.

A closer look

The rest of the 2013 MIAC Softball 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 2013 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll, Playoff information, helpful links and team-by-team previews along with links to each team's softball home page. This season, the team previews - provided by each school's sports information director - received a facelift to give fans a more user-friendly way to prepare for the upcoming season.

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](#), as well as the new MIAC Media site.

2013 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (11 for first, 10 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.

2013 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (11)	121
2	Gustavus (1)	111
T3	Augsburg	92
T3	Saint Mary's	92
5	Bethel	72
6	Saint Benedict	68
7	Hamline	62
8	St. Olaf	55
9	Macalester	49
10	St. Catherine	32
11	Carleton	20
12	Concordia	18

2013 MIAC Softball Playoffs

The 2013 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top six four in the conference standings playing in a single-site, double-elimination postseason tournament. This season's MIAC Playoffs will be hosted by Gustavus Adolphus College at Caswell Park in Mankato, Minn., on May 3-4. There will be four games held Friday, May 3, including one elimination game, with two or three games on Saturday's schedule depending on how the double-elimination plays out. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Softball Tournament.

| [MIAC Softball Playoffs Websites](#) | [2012](#) | [2013](#) |

MIAC Softball Links

| [Scoreboard & Stats](#) | [2013 Schedule](#) | [2012 Statistics](#) | [2012 Standings](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |



AUGSBURG | [Auggies' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Tim Gormley (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- 13-9 MIAC (Third place) | 20-22 overall

In the 2012 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoffs – L 7-2 to Gustavus; L 6-2 to St. Mary's

Top Returners

- Allyson Ruedy (SR, SS | All-MIAC and NFCA All-Midwest Region 3rd Team in 2012; hit .377 with 6 HR, 30 RBI, 10 2B, 1 3B, 5-of-6 SB, .608 slugging pct., .421 on-base pct. in 2012; career numbers: .323 average, .518 slugging pct., .374 on-base pct., 15 2B, 1 3B, 11 HR, 49 RBI, 42 runs, 8-of-9 SB)
- Bri Dorale (SR, CF/2B | Capital One Academic All-District in 2012; All-MIAC in 2010; hit .359 with 55 hits, 4 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 16 RBI, 34 runs scored, 12-of-12 SB, .471 slugging pct., .379 on-base pct. in 2012; career numbers: .358 average, .425 slugging pct., .402 on-base pct., 10 2B, 7 3B, 1 HR, 34 RBI, 98 runs, 57-of-64 SB)
- Amanda Eaton (JR, P/INF | Appeared in 31 games as pitcher, 8-11 record, 3.66 ERA, 77 strikeouts, 33 walks, 10 complete games, 1 shutout, .291 opponent batting average in 142.2 innings pitched in first season at Augsburg in 2012; played at St. Benedict in 2011)

Key Losses

- Kylee Persing (P/3B | All-MIAC and NFCA All-Midwest Region 3rd Team in 2012; hit .361 with 4 HR, 19 RBI, 10 2B, 2 3B, 11-of-11 SB, .556 slugging pct., .414 on-base pct. in 2012; 11-9 pitching record in 20 appearance, 5.22 ERA, 1 shutout, 62 strikeouts, 51 walks, .324 opponent batting average; career numbers: .295 average, .433 slugging pct., .358 on-base pct., 22 2B, 2 3B, 11 HR, 67 RBI, 76 runs, 24-of-28 SB; 87 pitching appearances, 34-23 record, 2 saves, 4.78 ERA, 3 shutouts, 193 strikeouts, 183 walks, .296 opponent batting average)
- Stephanie Saxe (2B | hit .261 with 1 HR, 14 RBI, 5 2B, 2-of-3 SB, .333 slugging pct., .291 on-base pct. in 2012; career numbers: .239 average, .321 slugging pct., .287 on-base pct., 21 2B, 3 HR, 39 RBI, 44 runs, 2-of-4 SB)
- Sammie Wagner (1B/OF | appeared in 11 games with .235 batting average in 2012; career numbers: .256 average, .359 slugging pct.,

.326 on-base pct., 6 runs scored, 1 2B, 1 HR, 7 RBI)

By the Numbers

- 4: Augsburg has recorded four 20-plus-win campaigns in the last five years under head coach Tim Gormley. Gormley has a 97-146 record in his six previous seasons at Augsburg, including a 93-112 record in the last five years.
- 20: Augsburg's home run total in 2012, the second straight year that Augsburg has recorded 20-plus home runs (Augsburg had a school-record 22 home runs in 2011). Allyson Ruedy led the Auggies last season with six home runs, tied for fourth-best among MIAC players in 2012.
- 342: Augsburg's single-season school-record hit total in 2012. Augsburg had 342 hits in a single-season school-record 1,174 at-bats, for a .291 team batting average in 2012.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg's Bri Dorale enters her senior season with 57 stolen bases in 64 attempts, the third-best total in school history. Augsburg's Tully Kaiser (1996-98, 2000) holds the school record with 108 stolen bases, the second-most total of any MIAC player (Carrie Embree of St. Thomas, 2004-07, had 109 stolen bases in her career).

Off the Field

- The Auggies spent this past Halloween volunteering with the Feed My Starving Children organization in Coon Rapids, Minn.



BETHEL | [Royals' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Rod Radcliffe (Ninth season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (T-5th place) | 16-24 overall

Top Returners

- Rachel Gilbert (Sr., OF | 2012 All-MIAC, 2012 NFCA Midwest Region Third Team, 2012 stats: .418 batting avg., 40-game starter, 51 hits, 22 RBI, 68 bases, .557 slg pct., .510 obp., 10 stolen bases)
- Kalyn Sorensen (So., INF | 2012 All-MIAC, .311 batting average, .434 slugging pct, 23 RBI, 38 hits)
- Angie Jackson (So., SS | .292 avg., 39-game starter, .367 slg pct., .360 obp., .901 fld pct.)

Key Losses

- Genna Bock (P | 123.0 innings pitched, 71 strikeouts, 22 appearances, 20 starts, 12 complete games, 3 shutouts)
- Anja Erlandson (P | 103.1 innings pitched, 68 strikeouts, 19 appearances, 17 starts, 12 complete games)
- Jessica Pudwill (C | .256 avg., .303 slg pct., .288 obp., .935 fld pct.)

By the Numbers

- 201: Throughout the 2012 campaign, Bethel scored the third most runs among all conference teams. The Royals crossed home plate 201 times, but a league-leading 103 errors and 63 stolen bases against kept Bethel one game away from advancing to the postseason. This stat alone gives BU great optimism in 2013.
- 87: The Royals showed exceptional patience at the plate a year ago, as BU recorded 87 walks in 1,111 plate appearances, ranking third among all teams conference-wide. Paving the way for Bethel was Rachel Gilbert, who led the league in individual walks with 22 free passes in 40 games played.
- 31: Bethel's softball squad, together with Hamline, recorded the most hits in a game by both teams throughout the 2012 season, as the Royals and Pipers recorded 31 hits collectively on April 29, 2012. BU outhit Hamline 17-14, but failed to capture the victory in a 13-9 defeat.

Did You Know?

- The Royals have big shoes to fill on the pitching mound in 2013, as Genna Bock and Anja Erlandson collectively pitched 226.1 innings last year—of a total 265.2 innings pitched. With both graduating, Bethel will have to find enough arms to take on over 85 percent of the pitching responsibilities from a year ago.

Off the Field

- Rachel Gilbert was not only dynamic on the field last year, but also in the classroom and in the community. 2012 welcomed an All-MIAC and NFCA All-Region Third Team award for the Becker, Minn., native, but it also embraced Gilbert as an MIAC Academic All-Conference player and a member of the 2012 MIAC All-Sportsmanship team. Gilbert was one of four softball players to receive the MIAC academic accolade, as Genna Bock, Cristina Masten, and Megan Matson also captured the top honor.



CARLETON | [Knights' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Amy Erickson (16th season)

A Year Ago

- 6-16 MIAC (T-11th place) | 9-30 overall

Top Returners

- Chelsea Yost (Sr., 1B/P | All-MIAC selection in 2012; .365 batting average with 3 HR; 3-3 record with 3.89 ERA on the mound)
- Jenny Ramey (Jr., SS | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2012; tied for MIAC lead with 5 triples, second with 19 SB; MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year in 2011)

Key Losses

- Dana Mackey (OF | 4-year starter, 2-year captain)

By the Numbers

- 7: This season the Knights will return 7 of last year's 9 regular starters.
- 15: Jenny Ramey led the conference with 15 steals during MIAC games. She totaled 19 stolen bases for the entire season.
- .446: Micaela LaRose hit .446 during MIAC games, second-best by a rookie in 2012

Did You Know?

- Carleton was the only MIAC squad to have more than three pitchers throw complete games last season. The Knights had four different players account for their five complete games.

Off the Field

- Chelsea Yost was named to the Capital One 2012 Academic All-District Team
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CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Mike Reese (First season)

A Year Ago

- 6-16 MIAC (T-11th place) | 8-30 overall

Top Returners

- Kaia Sele (Sr., 1B | (2012 MIAC All-Conference; led the MIAC in slugging percentage (.929), home runs (6), doubles (12) and total bases (65), second in the MIAC in batting average (.500))
- Joelle Link (Sr., OF | (2012 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention; fourth in the MIAC in doubles (8), third on the team in batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage)

Key Losses

- Kesley Jones (P | (4-Time MIAC All-Conference award winner, 333 career strikeouts, 30 career wins)

By the Numbers

- 2: Concordia senior Kaia Sele needs only two more hits to become the school's all-time hit leader.
- 7: Concordia has seven new players on the 2013 roster
- 12: The Cobbers turned 12 double plays against conference opponents which tied for the best mark in the MIAC

Did You Know?

- The Concordia softball complex underwent a series of improvements in the summer. The infield has been completely redone as well as new fencing in the outfield areas and in front of the dugouts. The bullpen area on the outside of the outfield fences have also been reconditioned and gone through a major improvement.
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GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jeff Annis (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 10-2 MIAC (2nd place) | 34-9 overall

In the 2011 Postseason

- Advanced to MIAC Playoff Championship where the Gusties defeated St. Thomas 5-2 in game one before suffering an 8-0 loss in game two.

Top Returners

- Kate Rentschler (Sr., Pitcher/DH, Lakefield, Minn.) - Two-time All-Conference performer (2011 and 2012)...2012 NFCA All-Midwest Region...Finished the season with a record of 17-4 and an ERA of 1.98...Recorded 85 strike outs in 138 innings and had an opponent batting average of .230...Within MIAC play, went 9-2 with an ERA of 2.15...Hit .329 with a .603 slugging percentage and a team-best six home runs.
- Sarah Rozell (So., Pitcher, Lakeville, Minn.) - 2012 All-Conference performer...2012 MIAC Rooke-of-the-Year...2012 NFCA All-Midwest Region...Went 11-0 with a 0.80 ERA within league play...Finished season 17-4 overall with a 1.76 ERA (2nd/MIAC), holding opponents to a .242 batting average (3rd/MIAC)...Her 112 strike outs in 174 innings ranked second in the league...At the plate Rozell hit .317 with 18 RBI and six runs...Hit a team-best .405 with runners in scoring position.
- Brittany Brenke (Jr., Outfield, Le Sueur, Minn.) - 2012 All-Conference performer...Started in 42-of-43 games at center field last season...Ranked third on the team in hitting with a .333 batting average...Finished second on the team in runs (25) and hits (44)...Drove in 20 runs and had 10 multiple-hit games.

Key Loss

- Lisa Klass (Second Base, Richfield, Minn.) - Four-time All-Conference...Four-time NFCA All-Midwest Region...Played in all 176 games of collegiate career...A career .387 hitter (198-511) with a .614 slugging percentage and a .457 on-base percentage...Holds school record for doubles in a career (48)...In 2012, Klass led the team in hitting (.393), slugging (.664), runs (42), hits (55), and extra base hits (25).

By the Numbers

- 29: The league-leading number of home runs Gustavus hit last season.
- 1.85: The combined ERA of Gustavus pitchers Kate Rentschler and Sarah Rozell last season. The pair held opposing hitters to a batting average of .236 and a league-best 76 earned runs.
- 6: The number of returning starters who hit .300 or better last season including Sam Breneman (.382), Brittany Brenke (.333), Kat Dahl (.333), Kate Rentschler (.329), Sarah Rozell (.317), and Carly Klass (.308).

Did You Know?

- The Gustavus softball team has won 30 or more games in six of the seven years that Jeff Annis has been at the helm of the program. During Annis' tenure, the Gusties have finished inside the top two in the MIAC every year and have compiled a record of 226-72-1 overall and 134-19-1 in the MIAC.

Off the Field

- Former Gustavus softball player Lisa Klass earned a spot on the 2012 Capital One Academic All-America Division III Softball Team last season. Klass was the sixth softball player in Gustavus history to be named Academic All-America. With a cumulative grade point average of 3.63 in management, Klass was the only representative from the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) on the first, second, or third team.



HAMLIN | [Pipers' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jim Rubbelke (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 9-13 MIAC (T-8th place) | 10-28 overall

Top Returners

- Bethany Hine, OF (Sr., Carver, Minn.) All-MIAC team, .379 BA, 9 2B, 19 RBI
- Laura Randall, OF (Sr., Fridley, Minn.) All-MIAC Hon. Mention, .369 BA, 12 2B, 19 RBI, .431 OBP

- Lauren Clouston, P (Jr., Lisle, Ill.) 7-11 on mound, also played 3B

Key Losses

- Jackie Brigl, OF, batted .274 last year in 27 games last year

By the Numbers

- .398: Career batting average for OF Bethany Hine (141-354)
- 14: players returning from 2012 roster (859 AB between them)
- 14: number of consecutive games Laura Randall garnered at least one hit before being stopped in the second last game of the season at UW-Stout (she started another streak in Game 2 of the DH)

Did You Know?

- HU head coach Jim Rubbelke passed the 100 career victory mark last season.

Off the Field

- The team takes part in the annual Polar Plunge fundraiser.



MACALESTER | [Scots' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jody Gabriel (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 9-13 MIAC (T-8th place) | 20-18 overall

Top Returners

- Cleo Nagy (OF | two-time All-MIAC, .360 avg., 648 slg., school record nine HRs)
- Miranda Stokes (P/OF/1B | All-MIAC as frosh, .376 avg., .615 slg., 6 HRs, 27 RBI, 2.97 ERA in 59 IP)
- Courtney Nussbaumer (OF | .351 avg.)

Key Losses

- Amanda Knopf (P / 1B | 11-7, 2.48 ERA, 103 K's, .247 avg.)

By the Numbers

- 9: All-MIAC center fielder Cleo Nagy blasted a school record nine home runs in 2012
- 6: Miranda Stokes matched the old school record with six round-trippers, which is a Mac record for frosh.
- 20: Macalester won 20 games under first-year coach Gabriel last spring, up from 8-30 in '11 and the first winning record for the Scots since 1997.

Did You Know?

- With two full seasons to go, Cleo Nagy already owns the school career home run mark with 13.

Off the Field

- Macalester boasted seven National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar-Athletes for the 2011-12 school year.



SAINT BENEDICT | [Blazers softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Rachael Click (First season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (T-5th place) | 12-12 overall

Top Returners

- Lexi Alm (Jr., OF | All-MIAC ... led team with a .438 BA, 29 R, 8 HR, 21 RBI & .786 Slg% ... 4th in MIAC in BA ... MIAC leader in Slg% ... 2nd in MIAC in HR)
- Rachel Nelson (Jr., P | All-MIAC ... went 11-9 with a 1.78 ERA ... struck out 88 batters ... 3rd in MIAC in ERA ... 4th in MIAC in K's ... 5th in

MIAC in Opp. BA [.248])

- Lonni Johnson (So., OF | .327 BA ... second on team with 37 hits ... 37 H ... 10 RBI)

Key Losses

- Sierra Dooley (IF | batted .271 ... started all 34 games ... 26 hits were third in team ... six doubles were fourth on team)

By the Numbers

- 1: Game away from the MIAC Tournament as the Blazers' 10 were just shy of Saint Mary's 11, who finished in fourth place.
- 2.64: Staff ERA, third best in the conference
- 522: Career wins for former coach Denny Johnson who led the Blazers from 1987-2012. Johnson stepped down following the season and will now serve as assistant coach to new leader Rachael Click.

Did You Know?

- New head coach Rachael Click has quite a history in the MIAC, starring for Gustavus from 2006-09. After starting her career as the MIAC Rookie of the Year, she capped it as the MIAC Player of the Year in 2009, earning numerous All-Conference, All-Region and All-America honors along the way.

Off the Field

- Lexi Alm and Maddie Lenker each return for their junior season's after earning Academic All-MIAC in their first year of eligibility as sophomores last season. Alm has also been an All-Academic performer on the volleyball court.



ST. CATHERINE | [Wildcats' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Madge Makowske (18th season)

A Year Ago

- 7-15 MIAC (10th place) | 18-22 overall

Top Returners

- Alyssa Luedtke (Jr., OF | All-MIAC, second in MIAC in batting avg. (.487) and hits (63), led team in at bats(135), hits, runs (30), total bases (108), slugging percentage (.578) and on base percentage(.486)
- Jenna (Brady) Ratliff (Jr., IF | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 30th in MIAC batting avg. (.336), second on team in at bats (119) and runs (22), third in hits (40) and RBI (20)
- Shae Elliot (Sr., IF | Played all 40 games, 25th in MIAC in batting avg. (.353), second on team in at bats (119), hits (42), RBI (24) and total bases (63), third in slugging percentage (.529), four home runs

Key Losses

- Jessica Kniefel (U | 14th in MIAC in batting avg. (.376), .441 slugging percentage, 93 at bats, 35 hits, 41 total bases
- Kaitlyn Frank (IF | .287 batting avg., 108 at bats, 31 hits, 56 total bases, five home runs, second on team in slugging percentage (.519)

By the Numbers

- 3: As a team, the Wildcats were third in the MIAC in multiple hitting categories including batting average (.310), slugging percentage (.418), on base percentage (.362), hits (348) and RBI (168)
- 12: The Wildcats hit 12 triples in 2012, which was tied with Augsburg for the most in the MIAC.
- 18: The team's 18 wins last season were the most by a St. Catherine squad since 2006 when the Wildcats finished 21-18.

Did You Know?

- Madge Makowske enters her 18th season as head coach of the Wildcats and is now the longest-tenured softball coach in the MIAC.

Off the Field

- St. Catherine ranked No. 5 out of all Division III softball teams in the NFCA All-Academic Top-10 Rankings for 2011-12 with a cumulative team GPA of 3.548. There were 13 Wildcats who earned the NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete honor and eight Wildcats earned Academic All-MIAC honors in 2012.



SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jen Miller (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- 11-10 MIAC (4th place) | 18-21 overall

In The Post-Season

- MIAC Tournament: vs. St. Thomas (L, 8-7), vs. Augsburg (W, 6-2), vs. Gustavus (L, 7-1)

Top Returners

- Erin Stenseth (5-4, Sr., IF | 36 GP, .381 BA, 113 AB, 15 R, 43 H, 10 2B, 2 HR, 17 RBIs, .522 SLG %, First-Team All-MIAC)
- Alex Raske (5-9, So., C/OF | 39 GP, .370 BA, 135 AB, 34 R, 50 H, 12 2B, 5 HR, 22 RBIs, 77 TB, .570 SLG %, First-Team All-MIAC)
- Hailey Ohl (5-9, Sr., 1B | 39 GP, .343 BA, 134 AB, 32 R, 46 H, 3 2B, 2 3B, 14 RBIs, 10 SB, Honorable-mention All-MIAC)

Key Losses

- Nicole Olson (31 GP, .268 BA, 97 AB, 4 R, 26 H, 3 2B, 1 HR, 12 RBIs)
- Michelle Carne (39 GP, .269 BA, 119 AB, 12 R, 32 H, 4 2B, 11 RBIs)

By The Numbers

- 1: Alex Raske had a memorable first season as a Cardinal, finishing No. 1 on the team in at-bats (135), runs (34), hits (50), doubles (12), home runs (5), total bases (77), slugging percentage (.570) and on-base percentage (.415). She was also second in batting average (.370).
- 4: The Cardinals posted four, four-hit performances last season — two by Alex Raske and one each by Erin Stenseth and Melanie Hamilton. Raske (both times) and Hamilton notched their four-hit performances by going 4-for-4, while Stenseth's came in a 4-for-5 showing.
- 12: Erin Stenseth owned the team's longest consecutive-game hitting streak, hitting safely in a career-best 12 straight games, while collecting at least one hit in 28 of the team's 38 games.

Did You Know?

- SMU's 7-6 victory over Emerson on March 9 was the 100th career collegiate coaching win for Cardinal coach Jen Miller.

Off The Field

- The Cardinals boasted four players on the MIAC All-Academic Team, including three — Nicole Olson (New Brighton, Minn.), Julianne Bartosz (Mokena, Ill.) and Kristen Thelen — who were named twice. Thelen also earned the MIAC's all-academic honor in cross country, while Olson and Bartosz were also selected as members of the SMU women's hockey team.

ST. OLAF



ST. OLAF | [Oles' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Ruthie Neuger (Ninth season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (T-5th place), 18-22 overall

Top Returners

- Christiania Miller (Jr., C/IF | Team-high .319 average in 2012)
- Jessica Wilson (Sr., OF | career .310 hitter with 74 RBIs and 10 HRs in 116 games)
- Jess Green (Jr., P | 2.58 ERA, 9-9 in 2012)

By the Numbers

- 2.67: St. Olaf had a team ERA in 2012, the best mark since 1998 (1.86). St. Olaf returns all three pitchers from the 2012 staff.
 - 17: Senior outfielder Julie Fergus led the nation, as she was hit 17 times last season.
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ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- John Tschida (13th season)

A Year Ago

- 21-1 MIAC (1st place) | 37-9 overall

In the 2012 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoff Champion - Defeated Saint Mary's (8-7), def. Gustavus (9-0); lost to Gustavus (5-2), def. Gustavus in championship (8-0)
- 2012 NCAA Division III Playoffs - Lost to Coe (3-0), lost to Luther (2-0)

Top Returners

- Kimmy Hassel, SR, 2B, All-America, MIAC Player of the Year (46 games, .487 BA, 75 hits, 41 RBI)
- Kendra Bowe, SO, RHP, MIAC Pitcher of the Year (22-3, 1.33 ERA, 165 Ks in 158.1 innings)
- Jenna Hoffman, JR, SS, 45 games, .422 BA, 37 runs, 54 hits, 28 RBI

Key Losses

- None

By the Numbers

- 2: Number of seniors on 2012 UST team (one co-starter), as 24 players return in 2013
- 19: Preseason Division III national ranking for Tommies
- 18: Home runs for Emily Gregory in her first two college seasons for UST

Did You Know?

- Coach John Tschida has guided the Toms to all nine MIAC playoff crowns and regular-season titles in 10 of his first 12 seasons. He has 692 career wins and an .849 win percentage in 18 seasons at St. Mary's and St. Thomas. In 12 seasons at St. Thomas, Tschida's teams have swept 122 conference twinbills, split nine, and have been swept just once.

Off the Field

- St. Thomas had 12 players honored on the 2012 NFCA National Scholar-Athlete Team with a 3.50 or higher gpa in 2011-12.
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