

2014 MIAC Softball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2014 MIAC Softball Conference Preview

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- At the dawn of most Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) softball seasons, the 12 teams all enter with hopes of improvement over the previous season. Certainly this season each team is hoping for more wins and more success, but after the spring of 2013, just completing all 22 conference games would be a dramatic step in the right direction.

The previous season featured winter weather all the way through the conclusion of the regular season, and there was a noticeable lack of consistency in the standings. Not one MIAC team played all 22 scheduled conference games due to an unforgettably harsh performance by Mother Nature. Most of the league completed 20 games, but teams like St. Olaf (16) and Concordia (10) didn't come close to playing the full slate.

As a result, the conference made a one-time exception to alter the MIAC Softball Playoffs to try and make up for the regular season, or lack thereof. All 12 teams were invited to the tournament, where four three-team polls played round-robin games on the first day, with the four pool winners advancing to the usual double-elimination format. Though the snow-covered season was difficult, the 2013 Playoffs will be an event long remembered the coaches, student-athletes and fans.

Though the standings were uneven, they clearly indicated that St. Thomas was again the top team in the league with a perfect 20-0 record, and the Tommies went on to add the MIAC Playoff title as well, finishing 41-7 overall. It was the fourth-straight MIAC title for Head Coach John Tschida and his club, and UST has now won nine of the last 10 regular-season conference titles. St. Thomas' MIAC Playoff championship was its 10th in a row, as it has won each title in the tournament's 10-year history.

Bethel emerged as the top title contender in both the regular and post seasons, as the Royals were second with a 14-6 conference mark (27-15 overall) and also the runner-up in the MIAC Playoffs. Hamline was 12-8 in the MIAC (18-16 overall) to finish third, and Saint Mary's was also above .500 in conference play at 11-9 (18-15) to take fourth.

St. Olaf (15-17, 8-8 MIAC) and Gustavus (15-19, 9-9 MIAC) both finished .500 in conference play to tie for fifth place, and both won their pools to reach the double-elimination portion of the 2013 Playoffs. Carleton was 8-10 (14-19 overall) in sixth and Saint Benedict came in seventh at 8-12 in the MIAC, with an overall record (20-18) above .500. St. Catherine was 7-11 in conference play (16-17 overall) to finish eighth and Concordia (7-19, 3-7 MIAC), Macalester (13-27, 5-15 MIAC) and Augsburg (12-28, 5-15 MIAC) rounded out the final spots in the 2013 standings.

In 2014, the Tommies will again headline the conference in their "drive for five" consecutive MIAC titles. Another regular-season crown would make St. Thomas the first MIAC team to claim 20 total championships. Bethel and Gustavus return strong teams after last season's deep Playoff runs, and Hamline, Saint Benedict, Saint Mary's lead a group of talented contenders also looking to return to the postseason, and challenge UST at the top of the standings.

However, after the decimated 2013 season, simply playing all the games would be a step in the right direction. The conference's collective fingers are crossed for less winter and more spring in 2014 and, if the weather cooperates better, the outstanding product on the MIAC fields will be a tremendous bonus.

ST. THOMAS SELECTED TO SCORE FIFTH-STRAIGHT TITLE

Tschida's Tommie club has a ton of talent back from 2013's title team, and it's no surprise the conference coaches consider them the favorites once again. St. Thomas was the unanimous favorite to win the MIAC title in the 2014 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll with 121 points and 11 first-place votes. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams.

After that, the coaches expect some serious competition throughout the standings. Bethel was picked to again finish as the runner-up with 108 points, but Gustavus was close behind in third with 101 points and the other first-place vote. The MIAC coaches expect a serious battle for the fourth and final spot in the four-team conference Playoff field, as Hamline, Saint Benedict and Saint Mary's all tied for fourth in the poll with 80 points apiece.

St. Olaf (55 points) edged cross-town rival Carleton (49 points) for seventh place by just six points, and ninth-place St. Catherine was just four points (45) behind the Knights. Augsburg (31) edged Macalester (28) for the final spot in the top 10 by just three points, and Concordia (14) completed the final spot in the coaches' predictions.



WHAT'S NEW?

There will be one new face in a MIAC dugout this season, as Colleen Powers takes over as the head coach at St. Catherine. Powers joins the Wildcats after coaching at nearby Lakeville South High School following college stints West Texas A&M and Central Michigan. The former University of Minnesota star player replaces Madge Makowske, who stepped down after 18 seasons to focus on her associate athletic director role at the school.

In other coaching news, Tschida is celebrating his milestone 20th season, and he is the longest-tenured conference coach. St. Olaf's Ruthie Neuger is celebrating a decade as the Oles' head coach, and has the third-longest tenure in the league behind Tschida and Carleton's Amy Erickson (16th season).

WHO'S BACK?

The Tommies are in prime position to defend their MIAC title with many of their top stars back. All-American infielder Kimmy Hassel graduated, but catcher Emily Gregory and shortstop Jenna Hoffman have both earned multiple All-MIAC and All-Region awards. As for the mound, the Tommies welcome back star junior Kendra Bowe, who has been named MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Year in each of her first two collegiate seasons.

St. Thomas isn't the only team with stars back, as Bethel's Rod Radcliff - the reigning MIAC Coach-of-the-Year - has plenty of talent back as well. Junior shortstop Angie Jackson was named the MIAC Most Valuable Player and an All-American in 2013 after hitting .479 and driving in 59 runs. Sophomore pitcher Karli Persson joined Jackson on the All-MIAC team, and talented catcher Caroline Kivisto is also back behind the Royals' plate.

Gustavus will be led by a trio of returning All-Conference stars, as Jeff Annis' club looks to again challenge for the MIAC title and a postseason bid. Pitcher Sarah Rozell is a two-time All-MIAC selection, and outfielder Brittany Brenke and Carly Klass (2B) were also honored for their 2013 performances. Hamline said goodbye to graduated three-time All-MIAC selection Bethany Hine, but Jim Rubbelke's team has All-MIAC pitcher Brianna Vela back, along with a pair of talented Laurens - Turitto and Clouston.

Saint Benedict had a breakout season in Head Coach Racheal Click's first season, led by All-MIAC outfielder Lexi Alm and MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year Kim Lidstone, who had a 31-game hitting streak. Both are back - along with pitcher Rachel Nelson - as the Blazers attempt to return to the Playoffs. Saint Mary's has been a fixture in the MIAC postseason in recent years, and Head Coach Jen Miller has high hopes for her 2014 team as well. Two-time All-MIAC catcher Alex Raske is back to lead the Cardinals, and infielders Kristen Thelen and Mariah Harper are also back in the lineup.

St. Olaf has high hopes in Neuger's 10th season after reaching the final four in last year's Playoffs. All-MIAC sophomore Becca Walz returns to the hot corner in 2013, and Haley Schreier returns at first after leading the Oles in homers (six) and RBI (24) a year ago. Across town, Carleton is also hoping to move up into contention this season, led by three-time All-MIAC shortstop Jenny Ramey. Erickson also has talented pitcher Keelin Davis and infielder Kaitlyn Bagley back to bolster her team's 2014 hopes.

Powers will be aided in her first season leading St. Catherine by the return of three-time All-MIAC outfielder Alyssa Luedtke. Senior infielder Alyssa McKee and sophomore pitcher Lindsey Klein are also back for the Wildcats. Augsburg graduated a pair of stars in Bri Dorale and Allyson Ruedy, but All-MIAC Honorable Mention P/1B Lindsay Helbach returns for Tim Gormley's club, as do versatile veterans Bekka Kelly and Amanda Eaton.

Jody Gabriel has both talent and power back in her Macalester lineup with Scots' all-time home run leader Cleo Nagy back for her junior season, and All-MIAC junior Miranda Stokes also returns. Macalester shortstop Saraswati Wilson hit over .400 as a sophomore in 2013. In his second season as Concordia's head coach, Mike Reese must replace graduated star Kaia Sele, but has talented veterans back to lead the way. Junior shortstop Paige Beseman was an All-MIAC pick last season, and senior outfielder Heather Jonasson and junior pitcher Hilary Rotunda also return for the Cobbers.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

The 2014 season is already under way, as Saint Benedict began the MIAC schedule with a sweep of UW-Stout on Feb. 14. Most of the conference's teams will start their seasons with nonconference contests next week, with all 12 teams in action by early May. Conference play begins on Saturday, March 29, and runs through Sunday, April 27, with the MIAC Playoffs returning to its four-team, double-elimination format May 2-3 at Rice Creek Park in Mounds View, Minn.

There will be plenty of important dates for MIAC fans to track sprinkled throughout the conference's regular season. Perhaps the top marquee matchup will take place before the calendar flips to April, as defending champ St. Thomas travels to face last year's runner up, Bethel, in a MIAC Playoff championship game rematch on March 30.

In another heated battle of Playoff hopefuls, Click takes her Saint Benedict squad to Gustavus to take on her alma mater in a highly-anticipated doubleheader on April 3. Macalester will travel to Augsburg for a Twin Cities showdown on April 5, as both hope to score a pair of wins to facilitate upward movement in the standings. April 17 will have a pair of marquee doubleheaders, as recent MIAC Playoff mainstays Saint Mary's and Hamline square off on the Pipers' home field, and the two Northfield rivals - Carleton and St. Olaf - will meet the same day. Finally, two of the MIAC's newest coaches will meet in a big series for their teams, when Powers' St. Catherine squad hosts Reese's Concordia team on April 23.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2014 MIAC Softball Preview contains complete results from the 2014 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The new MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC softball news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2014 season.

Visit the [MIAC scoreboard](#) on game days to follow all the action, and download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2014 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.

2014 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (11)	121
2	Bethel	108
3	Gustavus (1)	101
T4	Hamline	80
T4	Saint Benedict	80
T4	Saint Mary's	80
7	St. Olaf	55
8	Carleton	49
9	St. Catherine	45
10	Augsburg	31
11	Macalester	28
12	Concordia	14

2014 MIAC Softball Playoffs

The 2014 MIAC Softball Playoffs will return to the four-team, double-elimination format. The 2013 Playoffs were expanded to make up for the awful spring weather and amount of canceled games, so all 12 teams engaged in pool play, with the four pool winners advancing to the double-elimination bracket.

However, things are back to normal for 2014, and the four-team, two-day tournament will be held at Rice Creek Park in Mounds View, Minn., May 2-3. Friday, May 2, will feature four games, and the Saturday, May 3, schedule will include two or three games to decide the tournament's champion. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2014 NCAA Division III Softball Tournament.

| [MIAC Softball Playoffs Web Sites](#) | [2013](#) | [2014](#) |

MIAC Softball Links

| [2014 MIAC Schedule](#) | [2013 MIAC Statistics](#) | [MIAC Recordbook](#) | [MIAC Archives](#) |

MIAC Team-by-Team Previews

| [AUG](#) | [BU](#) | [CAR](#) | [CON](#) | [GAC](#) | [HU](#) | [MAC](#) | [CSB](#) | [SCU](#) | [SMU](#) | [STO](#) | [UST](#) |



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

Head coach

- Tim Gormley (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 5-15 MIAC (T-11th place) | 12-28 overall

Top Returners

- Lindsay Helbach (P/1B, JR | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2013; hit .344 (.429 MIAC) with 32 hits, 5 2B, 3 HR, 14 RBI, 12 runs scored, .495 slugging pct., .392 on-base pct. in 2013)
- Bekka Kelly (OF/INF, JR | hit .226 with 28 hits, 3 2B, 3 3B, 12 RBI, 14 runs scored, 8-of-9 SB, .298 slugging pct., .244 on-base pct. in 2013)
- Amanda Eaton (P/INF, SR | Appeared in 30 games as a pitcher, 7-16 record, 5.75 ERA, 98 strikeouts, 50 walks, 7 complete games, .327 opponent batting average in 125.1 innings pitched in 2013)

Key Losses

- Bri Dorale (CF/2B | Capital One (CoSIDA) Academic All-America first team, All-MIAC, NFCA All-Midwest Region first team in 2013; hit .523 (led MIAC) with 67 hits, 3 2B, 3 3B, 12 RBI, 35 runs scored, 25-of-28 SB, .594 slugging pct., .561 on-base pct. in 2013; career numbers: .398 average, .465 slugging pct., 212 hits, 133 runs scored, 10 3B, 82 SB, 248 total bases)
- Allyson Ruedy (SS | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2013, All-MIAC and NFCA All-Midwest Region third team in 2012; hit .349, with 45 hits, 7 2B, 1 3B, 5 HR, 21 RBI, 25 runs scored, .535 slugging pct., .413 on-base pct. in 2013; career numbers: .332 average, .523 slugging pct., 128 hits, 67 runs scored, 70 RBI, 202 total bases)

By the Numbers

- 11: Players with multiple hit games, along with seven players recording three-hit games in 2013.
- 100: Head coach Tim Gormley became the third coach in Augsburg history to surpass 100 career wins in 2013. He has 109 wins in his Auggie career.
- 10/1: 10 double headers postponed last season and one cancelled due to weather.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg is the only MIAC team with an on-campus dome, the air structure over Edor Nelson Field in the winter months. The Auggie softball team kicks off its season each year with a tournament the last weekend in February, and in 2014 will host five teams.

Off the Field

- The Augsburg softball team participated in the American Lung Association's "Fight For Air Stair Climb", running 31 floors (682 steps) in the US Bank Plaza building downtown Minneapolis.



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

Head coach

- Rod Radcliffe (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 14-6 MIAC (Second place) | 27-15 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC Runner-Up (11-2 W over Augsburg, 7-5 W over Saint Benedict, 10-2 W over St. Olaf, 2-3 L (8 inn.) to St. Thomas, 5-2 W over Gustavus, 1-8 L to St. Thomas)

Top Returners

- Angie Jackson (SS, Jr. | 2013 MIAC Most Valuable Player, 2013 NFCA All-American, 2013 NFCA All-Region, .479/.789/.522, 68 H, 59 R, 16 2B, 112 TB, 8 HR, 39 RBI, 2 3B)
- Karli Persson (P, So. | 2013 All-MIAC, 33 Appearances, 19 W, 21 CG, 4 SO, 171.2 IP, 140 K)
- Caroline Kivisto (C, So. | .414/.649/.493, 46 H, 8 2B, 6 HR, 41 RBI, 34 R, 72 TB)

Key Losses

- Rachel Gilbert (OF | 2012, 2013 All-MIAC, 2011 All-MIAC HM, 2013 stats: 57 H, 38 R, 5 HR, 18 W)
- Jess Newstrom (3B | 2013 All-MIAC, 2013 stats: 54 H, 7 2B, 3 3B, 5 HR)
- Megan Matson (OF | 2011 All-MIAC, 2013 All-MIAC HM, 2013 stats: 47 H, 35 R, 27 RBI, 63 TB, 15 SB)

By the Numbers

- 37: Bethel's softball team shattered the previous program record for team home runs in single season, as the Royals churned out 37 homers in 2013. At one point in the season BU hit at least one home run in seven out of nine games.
- 11: After starting the 2013 conference season 0-4, the Royals won 11 straight contests against MIAC opponents—the longest win streak in program history. In fact, including the playoffs, Bethel went 16-1 before falling in the MIAC Championship.
- 27: The Royals overall record of 27-15 and MIAC tally of 14-6 were both program bests. In addition, Bethel finished as conference runner-ups in both the regular and post season, which was the highest finish for a BU softball squad.

Did You Know?

- Junior shortstop Angie Jackson was the first player in Bethel history to be honored with the MIAC Player of the Year award. In addition, Jackson received the program's first NFCA All-American honors. Jackson's 2013 stat line led the league in total runs (59), doubles (16), hits (40), and her in-season average (.571), slugging percentage (.789), and on base percentage (.595) was No. 1 as well. Moreover, Jackson recorded at least one hit in 15 consecutive contests and her 1.48 runs per game ranked third nationwide.

Off the Field

- Freshman Shelbi Swenson and her mom have created a business that equips women from Haiti to run and maintain a local jewelry business. This business provides an income for the women producing the jewelry, as the Swenson's find wholesale supplies and get them to the women in Haiti so they can produce and sell the product. Shelbi and her mom have been to Haiti three times since December 2012 and have seen their products—both quantity and quality—increase.

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

Head coach

- Amy Erickson (16th season)



A Year Ago

- 8-10 MIAC (Seventh place) | 14-19 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Lost in Pool Play (Lost to Saint Mary's 11-2 [5 inn.] and lost to Gustavus [7-6])

Top Returners

- Jenny Ramey (SS, Sr. | Three-time All-MIAC, .436 average, 32 SB)

- Keelin Davis (P, So. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention Regular Season and All-MIAC Tournament Team,)
- Kaitlyn Bagley (IF, Sr. | .324 average, team-best 21 RBI)

Key Losses

- Kelsey Parsons (IF | Two-time All-MIAC Honorable Mention)

By the Numbers

- 1: The Knights finished last season with a 5-1 record at home. The Knights had lost at least 5 games at home every year since 2003.
- 7: Keelin Davis went 7-9 during her rookie campaign, the most wins by a Carleton rookie over at least 15 seasons.
- 32: Jenny Ramey stole 32 bases last year, the most in the MIAC. Jenny had 8 more than the second-place finisher.

Did You Know?

- Head coach Amy Erickson is the school's all-time winningest coach and enters the 2014 season with 180 wins, more than double the next closest total in program history.

Off the Field

- Three Knights—all returners were named to the Academic All-Conference Team: Kaitlyn Bagley, Micaela LaRose, and Claire Willeck.



CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Mike Reese (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 3-7 MIAC (10th place) | 7-19 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Lost to St. Olaf 10-2 and Hamline 11-3 in pool play

Top Returners

- Paige Beseman (SS, Jr. | 2013 MIAC All-Conference; team leader in hitting .403)
- Hilary Rotunda (P, Jr. | 2013 team leader in lowest opponent batting average)
- Heather Jonasson (OF, Sr. | 3-year starter)

Key Losses

- Kaia Sele (1B | 3-time All-MIAC; school record holder in home runs and hits)
- Becca Conant (P | 2013 team leader in ERA and wins)

By the Numbers

- 8: The Cobbers have eight freshman on the 2014 roster – the most since the 2010 season
- 10: Concordia will play 10 games in Florida on their annual spring break training trip
- 9: Concordia junior infielder Paige Beseman has a nine-game hitting streak entering 2014

Did You Know?

- Cobber senior Jessica Speicher was bit by a penguin on the team's goodwill trip to South Africa in 2012.

Off the Field

- The Cobber fastpitch team volunteered as part of the "It's a Slam Dunk-Don't Drive Drunk" campaign on behalf of Drake Philip Bigler, the five-month old son of Southwest Minnesota State University head men's basketball coach Brad Bigler that was tragically killed by a drunk driver on the night of July 28, 2012.



GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- Jeff Annis (Ninth season)

A Year Ago

- 9-9 MIAC (T-5th place) | 15-19 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason – 3rd place (Def. Saint Mary's 8-4, def. Carleton 7-6, lost to St. Thomas 0-8, def. St. Olaf 11-2, lost to Bethel 2-5)

Top Returners

- Brittany Brenke (Sr., OF | 2013 MIAC All-Conference... Hit .368 on the season – .463 in conference play – with a .421 on-base percentage... Scored 16 runs (1st/team) and racked up 32 hits (1st/team))
- Carly Klass (Jr., 2B | 2013 MIAC All-Conference... Hit .337 (.375 in conference play)... Finished second on the team in runs batted in (RBI) with 15... Tallied 66 assists (2nd/team) with a fielding percentage of .904)
- Sarah Rozell (Jr., P | Two-time MIAC All-Conference (2012, 2013)... Started 16 games at pitcher (8-8 record)... Logged a team-high 102.1 innings with an earned run average (ERA) of 3.01)

Key Losses

- Kate Rentschler (P | 2013 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention... Two-time MIAC All-Conference (2011, 2012)... Batted .366 last season with a team-high 17 RBI... Accumulated 30 hits (2nd/team) and held a team-best .512 slugging percentage... Also logged 79 innings in the circle with an ERA of 4.61 and a 5-9 record)

By the Numbers

- 4: The number of players returning who hit .300 or better from the plate last season. Four of Gustavus's top five hitters return this season, including Paige Breneman (.417), Breanne Rentschler (.385), Brittany Brenke (.368), and Carly Klass (.337).
- .725: The winning percentage of Gustavus under Head Coach Jeff Annis. In Annis's eight years at the helm, the Gusties have a record of 241-91-1 with a mark of 145-28-1 against MIAC opponents.
- 7: The number of home losses the Gusties suffered last season. With a record of 7-7 at home a year ago, Gustavus lost the most games on its home field in the last 10 years. In the previous nine seasons, the Gusties had not lost more than four games in a season at the Gustie Softball Field, compiling a record of 101-16 (.863) over that nine-year span.

Did You Know?

- Gustavus has participated in every MIAC Playoff since its inaugural year in 2003. The Gusties are one of two teams in the league to compete in all 10 postseasons, the other being St. Thomas.

Off the Field

- Last season, senior Kate Rentschler was selected to the Capital One Academic All-District Softball First Team as a designated player. Rentschler was one of eight players from the MIAC to be awarded with the honor.



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

Head coach

- Jim Rubbelke (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- 12-8 MIAC (Third place) | 18-16 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Split two games at the MIAC tournament

Top Returners

- Brianna Vela (P, Sr., 12-4, 4.07 ERA, 3rd in MIAC in wins, All-MIAC)
- Lauren Turitto (Sr., C-IF, .242 BA, 1 HR, 16 RBI)
- Lauren Clouston (Sr., P-IF, .286 BA, 2 HR, 12 RBI, 6-8, 1 save, 4.95 ERA, 11 CG)

Key Losses

- Bethany Hine (SS-CF, .368, 42 hits, 7 2B, 11 SB, All-MIAC three straight years)
- Laura Randall, (OF, .354, 5 HR, 28 RBI, All-MIAC in 2013 after being Hon. Mention previous two years)

By the Numbers

- 3: two-sport players on 2014 roster (Sarah DeMars volleyball, Chelsea Koehn hockey, Jamie Rubbelke volleyball)
- 6: first year players on 2014 roster
- 7: pitchers on 2014 roster

Did You Know?

- Four current Pipers (Elaina Hamman, Jenna Dushaw, Sarah DeMars, Mary-Clare Couillard) earned trips to the MSHSL state tournament by winning section final games played on Meredith Field, the Pipers' home field.

Off the Field

- At the behest of former Piper Courtney Bailey, the team spent time last fall re-organizing the warehouse of Hearts and Hammers, a nonprofit that goes in and does repairs to homes in need.

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

Head coach

- Jody Gabriel (Third season)

**A Year Ago**

- 5-15 MIAC (T-11th place) | 13-27 Overall

Top Returners

- Miranda Stokes (OF/P, Jr. | All-MIAC, all-region, .392 BA, .683 SLG, 25 RBI, 8 HR)
- Saraswati Wilson (SS, Jr. | .406 BA, 29 R, 15 2B)
- Cleo Nagy (OF, Jr. | All-MIAC '12, .301 BA, 4 HR)

Key Losses

- Courtney Nussbaumer (OF | .256 BA)

By the Numbers

- 3: The Scots roster boasted three Academic All-MIAC selections last year: Tara Cayton '15, Courtney Nussbaumer '13 and Saraswati Wilson '15
- 67: Miranda Stokes struck out 67 batters in 72 innings pitched last year. She also hit .392 with 25 RBI.
- 17: Cleo Nagy has collected a school-record 17 home runs in her Macalester career

Did You Know?

- Macalester is co-hosting this year's MIAC Playoffs at Rice Park in Mounds View.

Off the Field

- Macalester earned the team award with a 3.37 combined GPA during 2012-13 and had five players gain NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete status: Anna Munson, Courtney Nussbaumer, Iris Micklavzina, Saraswati Wilson, and Tara Cayton.

SAINT BENEDICT | [Blazers' softball home page](#) |**Head coach**

- Rachael Click (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 8-12 MIAC (Eighth place) | 20-18 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- W, 8-5 v Augsburg / L, 7-5 v. Bethel

Top Returners

- Lexi Alm (OF, Sr. | Second Team All-Region, All-MIAC, .374 Avg., 43 H, 36 R, 7 HR)
- Kim Lidstone (IF, So. | Second Team All-Region, All-MIAC, MIAC Rookie of the Year, .428 Avg., 62 Hits, 39 R, 21 SB)
- Rachel Nelson (P, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 11-8, 3.28 ERA, 101 K)

Key Losses

- Team graduated no seniors

By the Numbers

- 20: Wins for head coach Rachael Click in her first season, CSB's first 20-win season since 2005.
- 21: Career home runs for Lexi Alm entering the season. She hit a CSB record eight in 2012, and followed it up with seven more last year.
- 31: Game hitting streak for Kim Lidstone, the fourth longest in DIII Softball History.

Did You Know?

- In her first time back at her alma mater, head coach Rachael Click scored the Blazers' first win over Gustavus since before she was a player. The Blazer closed the regular season with a 6-0 win over the Gusties.

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

- Colleen Powers (First season)

A Year Ago

- 7-11 MIAC (Ninth place) | 16-17 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Went 1-1 in the MIAC tournament – Had 13-12 win over Macalester and 6-2 loss to St. Thomas

Top Returners

- Alyssa Luedtke (OF, Sr. | Three-time All-MIAC; Two-time Academic All-MIAC; .388 avg., 28 runs, 45 hits, 16 RBI, .457 slg pct.)
- Alyssa McKee (3B, Sr. | Two-time Academic All-MIAC; .360 avg., 18 runs, 36 hits, 30 RBI, 4 HR, .580 slg pct.)
- Lindsey Klein (P, So. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention; 8 wins, 10 cg, 2.96 ERA, 3 saves, 66 so; MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Week)

Key Losses

- Ashley Matthys (OF | 1.000 fld pct., .329 avg., 4 HR, 12 hits, 13 RBI, .529 slg pct.)
- Shae Elliott (1B | Three-time Academic All-MIAC; 201 PO, .230 avg., 100 AB, 23 hits, 13 RBI)
- Regan Kriechbaum (C | Two-time Academic All-MIAC; 108 PO, .265 avg., 18 hits, 13 RBI, .412 slg pct.)

By the Numbers

- 2: Lindsey Klein pitched back-to-back shutouts (2-0, 7-0) to help the Wildcats earn the program's first-ever sweep of Gustavus and first win over the Gusties since 2002. Her two shutouts were part of a week where the first-year pitcher had six complete games to earn MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Week.
- 3: Alyssa Luedtke has earned three-straight All-MIAC honors as the team's leader in multiple categories. The senior has been the team's leader in batting average for the last three seasons and her .467 average from 2012 is the best in program history for a single-season.
- 30: Alyssa McKee's team-leading 30 RBI were 12th most in the MIAC last season.

Did You Know?

- First-year Head Coach Colleen Powers was a standout captain for the Minnesota Gophers and helped lead the softball program to a 2008 Big Ten Tournament berth. She also finished her career with 122 appearances and a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage.

Off the Field

- The Wildcats were the top MIAC softball team in the NFCA All-Academic team rankings for the second-straight year with a 3.471 cumulative GPA. There were 11 individual players who earned NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete distinctions, while seven Wildcats earned Academic All-MIAC honors – the second most by any MIAC team.



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

Head coach

- Jen Miller (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (Fourth place) | 18-15 Overall

In The Post-Season

- MIAC Tournament: vs. Carleton (L, 11-2), vs. Gustavus (L, 8-4)

Top Returners

- Alex Raske (5-9, Jr., C | 33 GP, .393 BA, 107 AB, 28 R, 42 H, 6 2B, 1 3B, 6 HR, 36 RBIs, 68 TB, .636 SLG %, .442 OB % | 2012, 2013 First-Team All-MIAC, 2013 Second Team NFCA All-Region)
- Kristen Thelen (5-8, Sr., 2B/3B | 33 GP, .319 BA, 119 AB, 23 R, 38 H, 4 2B, 2 3B, 1 HR, 11 RBIs, 49 TB, .412 SLG %
- Mariah Harper (5-2, So., IF | 27 GP, .276 BA, 58 AB, 13 R, 16 H, 2 2B, 3 RBIs, 18 TB, .310 SLG %)

Key Losses

- Nat Boissiere (32 GP, .455 BA, 101 AB, 22 R, 46 H, 6 2B, 3 HR, 35 RBIs, 61 TB, .604 SLG %, .482 OB % | 2013 First-Team All-MIAC, 2013 Third-Team NFCA All-Region)
- Anna Ramboldt (31 GP, .398 BA, 93 AB, 12 R, 37 H, 11 2B, 1 HR, 23 RBIs, 51 TB, .548 SLG %, 9 BB, .467 OB % | 2013 Honorable-mention All-MIAC)
- Hailey Ohl (33 GP, .371 BA, 116 AB, 25 R, 43 H, 2 2B, 2 HR, 21 RBIs, 51 TB, .440 SLG %, 10 SB | 2012, 2013 Honorable-mention All-MIAC)
- Paige Carter (33 GP, .391 BA, 110 AB, 33 R, 43 H, 8 2B, 1 HR, 17 RBs, 54 TB, .491 SLG % | 4.18 ERA, 6-4, 58.2 IP, 2 SV, 24 Ks | 2013 Honorable-mention All-MIAC)

By The Numbers

- 8: Eight of the Cardinals' 15 home runs a year ago came from players hitting their first collegiate home runs this season. Hailey Ohl (Bloomington, Minn.), Anna Ramboldt (Goodhue, Minn.), Kristen Thelen (Rochester, Minn.), Nat Boissiere (Plymouth, Minn.) and Julie Bartosz (Mokena, Ill.) all launched collegiate HR No. 1 last season. Bartosz delivered her first collegiate home run — on Senior Day — in Game 1 against Macalester on April 28, Bartosz, a two-sport standout, also scored a goal for the SMU women's hockey team on its Senior Day in mid-February.
- 10: The Cardinals scored 10 or more runs six times last season. SMU's 13-run efforts in 13-3 and 13-9 wins vs. Augsburg on March 28 were not only a season high, but also the most runs scored since the Cardinals plated 14 in a 14-1 win over Carleton on May 3, 2011.
- 17: Anna Ramboldt (Goodhue, Minn.) closed out the 2013 season riding a team-best 17-game hitting streak — not to mention having reached base safely in 26 straight games.

Did You Know?

- SMU's sweep of Bethel on April 2 pushed its conference record to 4-0, marking the first time since 1999 that the Cardinals opened MIAC play with four straight wins. SMU won its first 16 conference games in 1999. The 10-0, 10-6 sweep of the Royals also marked the first time the Cardinals swept Bethel since the 2007 season.

Off The Field

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



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

Head coach

- Ruthie Neuger (10th Season)

A Year Ago

- 8-8 MIAC (5th) 15-17 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results - Def. Concordia 10-3, Def. Hamline 10-9, Lost to Bethel 10-2, Lost to Gustavus 11-2

Top Returners

- Becca Walz (3B, Soph. | Was All-MIAC... Hit .306 with five doubles, four homers as a first year)
- Haley Schreier (1B, Jr. | Hit team-best six homers... Led team in RBIs (24))

Key Losses

- Julie Fergus (OF | hit .364 with four doubles, eight RBIs)
- Mackenzie Wolter (IF | Was All-MIAC... Hit .300 with a homer, team-best 14 walks)
- Jess Wilson (OF | Hit .340 with seven doubles, two homers)

By the Numbers

- 10: St. Olaf has 10 home games in a 14-day stretch in April... Last year's weather limited St. Olaf to six home contests.



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' softball home page](#) |

Head coach

- John Tschida (20th season)

A Year Ago

- 20-0 MIAC (First place) | 41-7 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (5-0, 1st place in playoffs, topped Bethel 8-1 in finals)
- NCAA postseason results (3-2, 2nd place, lost 2-1 to Central in finals)

Top Returners

- Emily Gregory (Catcher, SR | 3X All-Region; Career: .392 BA, 30 HRs, 152 hits, 143 RBI in 131 games)
- Jenna Hoffman (SS, SR | 2X All-Region: Career: .359 BA, 155 hits, 124 runs, 16 HR, 35 2Bs, 119 games)
- Kendra Bowe (RHP, JR | 2X All-Region: Career: 42-7 W-L, 1.40 ERA, 265 Ks, 87 walks in 295 innings)

Key Losses

- Kimmy Hassel (Grad) (2B | 2X All-America, Acad, All-America; Career: .400 BA, 187 hits in 170 games)
- Alyssa Dunrud (Grad) (OF | 2013: All-Region, .353 BA, 41 hits, 22 runs, 23 steals.
- Fantashia Gates-Colbert (Grad) (Util) | Last two seasons .333 BA, 21 hits, 17 RBI, 9 walks)

By the Numbers

- 11/25: Number of seniors and all returning players, respectively, on 2014 Tommie roster
- 26/43: Consecutive wins against MIAC foes and consecutive home-field wins for UST softball
- 38: Multi-hit games last two seasons for leadoff hitter Jenna Hoffman

Did You Know?

- Out of 1,000 NCAA institutions, only St. Thomas and Florida State have reached both the national baseball and softball playoffs in each of the last 10 seasons.

Off the Field

- Tommie softball has received 13 CoSIDA Academic All-America honors in the last 11 seasons

[MIAC Softball Home Page](#)