

2015 MIAC Softball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2015 MIAC Softball Conference Preview

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The 2015 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) softball season just began, and while all 12 teams are certainly hoping for successful campaigns, the first goal is to accomplish something much simpler that hasn't happened since 2012. The MIAC is hopeful 2015 will finally be the spring when each and every team completes its 22-game conference schedule.

Fortunately, last season (2014) was much better than the 2013 campaign, that saw nearly every team fall short of its full schedule thanks to Mother Nature's prolonged winter. The 2014 schedule was again less than ideal, but this time nine of the MIAC's 12 teams played all 22 games while only three conference doubleheaders weren't completed.

In those 22 games, the University of St. Thomas was nearly unbeatable as Head Coach John Tschida and his club used a 21-1 MIAC record (44-9 overall) to capture a fifth-straight conference championship. The title also was UST's milestone 20th overall MIAC softball crown. The Tommies doubled up in early May as they claimed the MIAC Playoff championship as well, and in the 11-year history of the event no team other than St. Thomas has won the MIAC's postseason title. The team went on to reach the NCAA Division III Softball World Series, where it finished third in the nation.

Gustavus (24-15) overall was again the No. 1 challenger to the Tommies with a second-place finish and a 17-5 record. Saint Benedict (28-11 overall, 15-7 MIAC) edged Bethel (25-18 overall, 14-8 MIAC) for third place by a single game, and both completed the four-team MIAC Playoff field. The Royals reached the postseason championship game for the second-straight season.

Hamline (18-17-1 overall, 12-8 MIAC) finished fifth and Saint Mary's (14-18 overall) and Carleton (12-25 overall) tied for sixth place with identical 10-12 conference records. Macalester (20-20 overall, 8-14 MIAC) was .500 overall and alone in eighth with Augsburg (10-30 overall, 7-15 MIAC) tied for ninth with St. Olaf (7-25 overall, 7-15 MIAC). St. Catherine (8-25 overall, 5-15 MIAC) and Concordia (7-28 overall, 2-16 MIAC) rounded out the final spots in the 2014 standings.

This season, St. Thomas certainly has some stars back but will need to replace a few longtime contributors in order to claim a sixth-straight MIAC championship. Gustavus, Bethel and Saint Benedict all bring back strong team and have the Tommies in their sights, and the rest of the MIAC also feels good about their improvements and postseason outlook as the season begins. As long as Mother Nature continues to be a little more cooperative, MIAC softball fans should be in for a heck of a season in 2015.

COACHES' POLL HAS TOMMIES BACK ON TOP

In the eyes of the coaches, St. Thomas remains a heavy favorite to capture the MIAC championship in 2015 as the Tommies were the unanimous No. 1 team in the 2015 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll. Tschida's club received 11 first-place votes and 121 points in the poll, which didn't allow coaches to vote for their own team. Gustavus is again tabbed as St. Thomas' top contender, as the Gusties received the other first-place vote, and ranked second with 109 total points.

The coaches also predict the four-team Playoff bracket to feature the same participants, but in a little different order. Bethel also hit triple digits with an even 100 points to rank third in the poll, and Saint Benedict was fourth with a total of 88. Hamline (78) edged Saint Mary's (72) for fifth, and both should also be in Playoff contention this season. Carleton claimed seventh place over St. Catherine by a single point, 54-53, with Macalester close behind in ninth with 47 points. St. Olaf (30), Augsburg (29) and Concordia (11) rounded out the final three spots in the preseason predictions.

WHAT'S NEW?

There are a couple significant changes in MIAC softball this season, starting with a few tweaks to the MIAC Playoffs. The tournament moves from a two-day event to a three-day schedule, with games to be played on Friday, May 1, Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3. The tournament will also be a high-seed host event, with the conference regular-season champion also earning the right to host the entire MIAC Playoff tournament. If the No. 1 cannot host, No. 2 will be offered the chance to host and so on. The MIAC will also use three umpires for all seven (or six) Playoff games in 2015.

The coaches also put a new rescheduling policy in place in an attempt to combat Mother Nature's cruel recent history, so there is a more structured plan for the inevitable make-up games. Each postponement must be rescheduled within 14 days of the original date, and if continued inclement weather pushes it beyond the 14-day window, the doubleheader will be played on the next available date.

The other change in the conference comes at Bethel, where Penny Foore replaces Rod Radcliffe as the Royals' head coach. Foore was most recently an assistant at Division I Appalachian State, and has strong coaching ties to the area as former high school head coach in the Twin Cities. Radcliffe departed Bethel for an assistant coaching position at Division I Toledo.



Tschida is the longest-tenured MIAC coach as he begins his 21st season, followed by Carleton's Amy Erickson (18th season), St. Olaf's Ruthie Nueger (11th season) and Gustavus' Jeff Annis (10th season). Augsburg's Tim Gormely and Saint Mary's Jen Miller both begin season No. 9 and Hamline's Jim Rubbelke is in his seventh season with the Pipers. Macalester's Jody Gabriel is starting season No. 4 with the Scots, Saint Benedict's Rachael Click and Concordia's Mike Reese each begin their third season, and it's the second season for St. Catherine's Colleen Powers.

WHO TO WATCH FOR

Most teams would struggle to contend after graduating a pair of All-Americans and other All-Conference players, but St. Thomas softball always seems to reload. Lineup mainstays Emily Gregory and Jenna Hoffman headline the Tommie losses to graduation, but they're still in great shape thanks largely to the return of Kendra Bowe, who has been named the MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Year in each of her first three seasons. All-MIAC outfielder Bianca Peterson is also among the returning talent back for Tschida's team.

Gustavus brings back nearly all its lineup intact, starting with All-MIAC and All-Region infielder Shelby Nosan, who hit .460 a year ago, and pitcher Hannah Heacox who tossed a no-hitter in the MIAC Playoffs and was named the conference's Rookie-of-the-Year. Senior infielder Carly Klass also returns with a pair of All-MIAC honors already to her credit.

Foore's debut season leading the Royals features a lot of returning talent in her lineup. 2013 MIAC Player-of-the-Year and two-time All-American Angie Jackson is back at shortstop, and she's joined by two other All-MIAC honorees - 1B/P Kelsey Anderson and catcher Caroline Kivisto - in the heart of the Bethel lineup.

Saint Benedict will have to replace 2014 MIAC Player-of-the-Year Lexi Alm in the outfield, but the Blazers are excited about the returning talent in the infield. All-Region and All-MIAC shortstop Kim Lidstone has been one of the MIAC's top hitters over her first two seasons, and senior Mackenzie Wenner is also back in the infield after hitting .313 and earning Honorable Mention honors in 2014.

Hamline will be led by All-MIAC shortstop Jamie Rubbelke, the head coach's daughter, who hit .418 a year ago, and sophomore 2B Mary-Claire Couillard and catcher Katie Koren also return for the Pipers. Saint Mary's has two-time All-MIAC selection Alex Raske back in the infield, and Kathi Opsahl and Ashley Betzold are also back after earning All-MIAC Honorable Mention status last season.

Carleton lost four-time All-MIAC honoree Jenny Ramey to graduation, but bring back All-Conference pitcher Keelin Davis at the top of the rotation, and Honorable Mention 1B/P Micaela LaRose, who hit a team-best .327 last season. St. Catherine graduated one of the most decorated players in team history in four-time All-MIAC outfielder Alyssa Luedtke, but has high hopes for the return of All-MIAC HM infielder Jessi Tyminski (.326 last season) and junior pitcher Rachael Thompson.

Macalester is excited about the return of All-MIAC star shortstop Sasa Wilson, who had 61 hits and hit .421 a year ago, and All-MIAC P/OF Miranda Stokes and catcher Nikki Caicedo also return. St. Olaf's hopes hinge on the return of two juniors - 3B Becca Walz (.347) and IF Alex Lebens (6 HR, 18 RBI) and sophomore OF Brooke Paradise.

Augsburg has a ton of talent back in the outfield, led by seniors Lindsay Helbach and Bekka Kelly and sophomore Lauren Torborg, who was an All-MIAC Honorable Mention pick as a rookie. Concordia brings back its entire team nearly intact, with seniors Ashley Tibbetts (IF) and Hillary Rotunda (P) and sophomore Madison Little (OF) hoping to lead the Cobbers upward in the standings in 2015.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

The 2015 MIAC softball season is already under way, as teams could begin playing on Feb. 1. Thus far, there are only a handful of games in the books, but things will really ramp up this weekend and into March. Conference play is scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 25, with the regular season running through Tuesday, April 28. The new-look MIAC Playoffs will take place May 1-3, with the NCAA Tournament to follow.

The full MIAC schedule will feature a number of crucial doubleheaders throughout the season. One of the most anticipated could very well decide the MIAC title as the top two teams in the Coaches' Poll square off on April 14 at 3:30 p.m. when Gustavus visits St. Thomas. The other two returning Playoff teams, Bethel and Saint Benedict, will meet on the Royals' home field in a key series on April 8 at 3:30 p.m.

Hamline and Saint Mary's both hope to return to the postseason in 2015, and their head-to-head doubleheader will be huge for both teams. They'll meet April 18 at 1 p.m. Carleton and St. Olaf will square off in their key rivalry doubleheader the same day, as the Knights host the cross-town rival Oles.

Macalester and St. Catherine will meet in a big St. Paul rivalry series that will be huge for a pair of teams that hope to be on the rise. The Wildcats will host the Scots on April 25 at 1 p.m. to close the regular season. And Augsburg and Concordia will meet in the season opener, April 2 at 3:30 p.m., as both teams will be looking to get off to a good start and ascend towards postseason contention in 2015.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2015 MIAC Softball Preview contains complete results from the 2015 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The 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](#), which is a free download for Apple and Android devices, to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

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.

2015 MIAC Softball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Rank	Institution	Total
1.	St. Thomas (11)	121
2.	Gustavus (1)	109
3.	Bethel	100
4.	Saint Benedict	88
5.	Hamline	78
6.	Saint Mary's	72
7.	Carleton	54
8.	St. Catherine	53
9.	Macalester	47
10.	St. Olaf	30
11.	Augsburg	29
12.	Concordia	11

2015 MIAC Softball Playoffs

The 2015 MIAC Softball Playoffs received a face lift in the offseason, and the tournament will have a few new details this season. Instead of a neutral site, the four-team, double-elimination MIAC Playoffs will be hosted by the top seed. If the No. 1 seed is unable to host, the right to host will be offered to No. 2, No. 3 and then No. 4. Also, the tournament has expanded from two to three days. This year's tournament will be held May 1-3. There will be two games on Friday, May 1, three on Saturday, May 2, and up to two title games on Sunday, May 3. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2014 NCAA Division III Softball Tournament.

| [MIAC Softball Playoffs Web Sites](#) | [2014](#) | [2015](#) |

MIAC Softball Links

| [Website](#) | [Standings](#) | [Schedule](#) | [Statistics](#) | [News](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [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 (9th season)

A Year Ago

- 7-15 MIAC (t-ninth place) | 10-30 Overall

Top Returners

- Lindsay Helbach (OF, SR | Hit .259 (29-for-112) with 11 2B, 2 HR, 16 RBI, 12 runs scored, .411 slugging pct., .298 on-base pct. in 2014; .292 career hitter with 21 doubles, 9 HR, 53 RBI)
- Bekka Kelly (OF/INF, SR | Hit .396 with a team-high 37 hits (37-for-125), 3 2B, 1 3B, 17 RBI, 15 runs scored, 8-of-13 SB, .336 slugging pct., .348 on-base pct. in 2014; .268 career average with 11 doubles, 5 triples, 3 home runs, 45 RBI, 26 stolen bases)
- Lauren Torborg (OF, SO | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2014; hit a team-best .299 (.305 MIAC) going 26-for-87 with 9 2B, 1 3B, team-best 3 HR, 10 RBI, 13 runs scored, 3-of-4 SB, .330 on-base percentage, .529 slugging percentage was also a team-best.)

Key Losses

- Amanda Eaton (P/INF | Appeared in 17 games and started 15. Pitched 88.0 innings and led the team recording 57 strikeouts while surrendering 34 walks. Opponents hit .313 in 541 at bats; 232 career strikeouts.)
- Olivia Boerschinger (P | All-MIAC sportsmanship team in 2013; Pitched in a team-high 134.1 innings with a 3.54 ERA in her 28 appearances (22 starts), including 13 complete games. Struck out 25 and allowed a .307 opponent batting average.)
- Emily Smith (P/INF | Appeared in 38 games, starting 38. Hit .271 (29-for-107) with .280 slugging percentage and .310 on-base percentage. Scored 9 runs and had 8 RBI. Stole 4 bases in 6 attempts. Fielding percentage of .951; .281 career batting average with 25 RBI.)

By the Numbers

- 4/2: The team recorded over 10 hits in four games and 10 or more runs twice in 2014.
- 12: Augsburg had 12 different players record multiple hit games in 2014.
- 16: Senior Bekka Kelly recorded a 16-game hitting streak during the 2014 season.

Did You Know?

- The Auggies will be traveling to California over spring break from March 14-19, but will not be participating in a tournament. They will be playing five different teams in doubleheaders.

Off the Field

- Five Augsburg softball players earned Academic All-MIAC honors in 2014 -- Christa Blaquiery, Olivia Boerschinger, Sarah Buckner, Lindsay Helbach and Jenna Orth.



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

Head coach

- Penny Foore (1st season)

A Year Ago

- 14-8 MIAC (4th place) | 25-18 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC Playoff runner-up (0-11 loss vs. St. Thomas, 10-6 win vs. Saint Benedict, 7-5 win vs. Gustavus Adolphus, 2-7 loss vs. St. Thomas)

Top Returners

- Angie Jackson (Shortstop, Sr. | Two-time NFCA All-American, two-time All-MIAC, 2013 MIAC Player of the Year, .450 AVG, .814 SLG, .530 OBP, .960 FLD, 60 R, 63 H, 17 2B, 10 HR, 114 TB, 123 ASST)
- Kelsey Anderson (1B/P, Sr. | All-MIAC, .426 AVG, .618 SLG, .488 OBP, .979 FLD, 48 RBI)
- Caroline Kivisto (C, Sr. | All-MIAC, .392 AVG, .750 SLG, .503 OBP, .972 FLD, 90 TB, 26 BB's, 37 RBI, 11 HR)

Key Losses

- Cristina Masten (Catcher/DH | All-MIAC, .408 AVG, .462 SLG, .425 OBP, .970 FLD, 53 H, 130 AB)
- Tara Schinke (Centerfield | 42 GP, 41 GS, 112 AB, 22 R, 22 H, 29 TB, .291 OBP, 10 SB, 10 SH, 59 PO)
- Courtney Saurer (Pitcher | 3.83 ERA, 20 APP, 13 GS, 6 CG, 82.1 IP, 25 SO, 17 BB, .348 B/AVG)

By the Numbers

- 3: On April 8, 2014, Caroline Kivisto blasted three home runs in one game against St. Catherine University. Only four other student-athletes in NCAA Division III history have ever hit more home runs in a single game. Kivisto finished the contest 4-of-4 with 14 total bases and eight RBI.
- 23: The third inning was a critical frame for the Royals last season, as Bethel was an outstanding 23-1 when leading after three. When BU was trailing or tied after the third inning, however, they were 2-17.
- 33: Bethel's production at the plate one year ago resulted in 33 total home runs. Their 0.77 blasts per game finished No. 2 among all MIAC squads and No. 32 nationwide. Caroline Kivisto, Angie Jackson, Kelsey Anderson, and Micayla Moore collectively hit 30 of the team's home runs.

Did You Know?

- Two-time NFCA All-American Angie Jackson had another record year at the plate, but what most don't know is that she had a banner year on defense as well. Her 123 total assists at the shortstop position were a new conference record and ranks No. 16 all-time in NCAA Division III softball history.

Off the Field

- Caroline Kivisto capped a tremendous MIAC Playoff performance with the first-ever MIAC Softball Elite 22 Award, after Bethel reached the title game for the second-straight season. A sophomore Nursing major with a near-perfect 3.98 GPA, Kivisto earned All-Conference and All-MIAC Tournament Team honors in 2014 after hitting .392 with 11 home runs, 37 RBI and 35 runs scored.



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

Head coach

- Amy Erickson (18th season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (7th place) | 12-25 Overall

Top Returners

- Keelin Davis (RHP, Jr. | All MIAC, 9-16 with a 2.75 ERA... led MIAC in appearances (30), starts (26), saves (2) innings pitched (155.1), and strikeouts (133))
- Micaela LaRose (1B-LHP, Sr. | All MIAC Honorable Mention... team-best .327 batting average and .439 slugging percentage)

Key Losses

- Jenny Ramey (IF | four-time All MIAC honoree... team record holder for runs (194), stolen bases (92), home runs (13), on-base percentage (.454), and total bases (258))

By the Numbers

- 133: Keelin Davis led the MIAC with 133 strikeouts.
- 2.75: Keelin Davis had a 2.75 ERA, the best mark for a Carleton starting pitcher since 2002.

Did You Know?

- Keelin Davis not only led the MIAC in several pitching categories, she also paced the Knights in Runs Batted In with 15.

Off the Field

- Five Knights received Academic-All Conference honors last season.



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

Head coach

- Mike Reese (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 2-16 MIAC (12th place) | 7-28 Overall

Top Returners

- Ashley Tibbetts (IF, Sr. | Led the team in on-base percentage (.443) and was second in batting average (.284) in 2014)
- Madison Little (OF, So. | Led the team in at-bats in 2014; third on the team in hitting; started all 35 games in 2014)
- Hillary Rotunda (P, Sr. | Led the team in ERA, innings pitched and opposing batting average in 2014)

Key Losses

- Paige Beseman (SS | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention; led the team in batting average, slugging percentage, RBI and home runs in 2014)

By the Numbers

- 7: The Cobbers return seven starters from last year's team.
- 7: Cobber senior Ashley Tibbetts enters the 2015 season having reached base in seven consecutive games.
- 18: Concordia has 18 players on this year's roster which is the most since 2010.

Did You Know?

- Concordia will open its season on Feb. 25 when they play at Embry-Riddle as part of their annual spring break trip to Florida. It is the earliest they have opened the season since 2011.

Off the Field

- The Cobber softball team hosted its annual winter softball camp for local youth players. Concordia had over 30 athletes attend the one-day clinic on Jan. 17.



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

Head coach

- Jeff Annis (10th season)

A Year Ago

- 17-5 MIAC (2nd place) | 24-15 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- The 2014 Gustavus softball team defeated Saint Benedict 2-0 in the opening round of the MIAC Playoffs last season. The Gusties then saw their season come to an end with a 4-1 loss to St. Thomas and a 7-5 loss to Bethel.

Top Returners

- Shelby Nosan (IF, Sr., Baudette, Minn.) | 2014 All-Conference and All-Region honoree...Led team with a .460 batting average, slugging percentage .726, and on-base percentage last season...Scored a team-best 41 runs, and paced the Gusties in doubles (16), home runs (5), and RBI (27) last season...Currently hitting .357 with four runs, two doubles, one home run, and seven RBI.
- Hannah Heacox (P, So., Stillwater, Minn.) | 2014 All-Conference and MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year...Appeared in 24 games last season and went 12-1 (9-1 MIAC)...Finished first season with 12 complete games, an ERA of 2.53, and an opponent batting average .208...Struck out 126 hitters and walked 39 for a strikeout to walk ratio of 3.23:1.
- Carly Klass (IF, Sr., Richfield, Minn.) | Two-time All-Conference performer...Hit .350 last year with a slugging percentage of .540 and an on-base percentage of .400...Klass had six doubles, two triples, and three home runs with 20 RBI...Currently hitting .500 with a double, two home runs, and six RBI to go along with a 1.083 slugging percentage.

By the Numbers

- 8: The number of seasons the Gustavus softball team has reached 20 wins during the previous nine years under head coach Jeff Annis. The 2014 Gusties finished runner-up in the conference last season for the seventh time under Annis.
- 2: The number of Gustavus players who earned a place on the NFCA Midwest All-Region Team last season. Shortstop Shelby Nosan and sophomore third baseman Kaitlyn Bicek each earned a spot on the Midwest All-Region Third Team as at-large selections.
- 1.06: The current ERA of Jena Willis (So., Glacier, Mont.). Willis went 3-1 in six appearances over 17 innings of work during Gustavus's season-opening trip to Hawaii. She carries an opponent batting average of .121 with nine strikeouts.

Did You Know?

- Junior Kaitlyn Bicek and Sophomore Ali Hoffman are two of a select few student-athletes who serve as members of the Gustavus Student-Athlete Volunteer Educators (SAVE). SAVE is a group of Gusties who are devoted to educating their fellow athletes on healthy lifestyle choices. SAVE members help other athletes make healthy choices by providing them with information, serving as a resource when they face pressures, and by leading by example.

Off the Field

- The Gustavus softball hosted its annual Alumnae Game earlier this fall and celebrated the event with a five-year anniversary tribute to the 2009 Gustavus softball team that won both MIAC Championship and Midwest Regional Championship, and later went on to finish third at the NCAA Division III College World Series. Considered to be the best Gustavus softball team ever assembled, the 2009 Gusties finished the season a program-best 42-9 overall and 21-1 in the MIAC.



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

Head coach

- Jim Rubbelke (7th season)

A Year Ago

- 12-8 MIAC (5th place) | 18-17-1 Overall

Top Returners

- Jamie Rubbelke, SS, Jr - Led team (10th in MIAC) with .418 average; All-MIAC selection
- Mary-Claire Couillard, 2B, So.- Batted .388 and led team with 9 stolen bases; Honorable Mention All-MIAC
- Katie Koren, C, Sr.- Batted .387 in 36 games, threw out 14 runners trying to steal last year

Key Losses

- Lauren Turitto, IF, Hit .350, led team with eight doubles and was second in RBI with 24
- Lauren Clouston, IF, Batted .287 in 33 games
- Bri Vela, P, four-year regular, pitched in 14 games

By the Numbers

- 0: games missed by double play combo of SS Jamie Rubbelke and 2B Mary-Claire Couillard
- 2: returnees who had 20+ RBI last year (Chelsea Koehn 25, Jamie Rubbelke 24)
- 9: returning regulars from 2014 team

Did You Know?

- Assistant coach Lisa Borowitz was inducted into the NSIC Hall of Fame last fall for her three-sport credentials at Concordia-St. Paul. She is also in CSP's Hall of Fame.

Off the Field

- Sammi Mau, a senior infielder who played for HU in 2012-13, is returning to the team after missing last season. She spent the year in Germany, studying German, one of her majors. (The other is education.)

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



Head coach

- Jody Gabriel (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 8-14 MIAC (8th place) | 20-20 Overall

Top Returners

- Sasa Wilson (SS, Sr. | 1st Team All-MIAC, led conference players in regular season with 61 hits and 145 at bats, .421 BA, 3 HR, 27 RBI)
- Miranda Stokes (P/OF | 1st Team All-MIAC, NFCA 3rd Team All-Region, .421 BA, 7 HR, 46 RBI, 6-9 W-L, 4.27 ERA)
- Nikki Caicedo (C, So. | .342 BA, .425 OBP as a first year)

Key Losses

- Cleo Nagy (CF | HM All-MIAC, .306 BA, 6 HR, 33 RBI)
- Alisha Barritt (P/UT | .281 BA, 5-3 W-L)

By the Numbers

- 10: Macalester returns 10 of its 14 players from last year, including its top four hitters and top two pitchers.
- .332: Those 10 returning players combined for a .332 batting average.
- 20: In her three seasons at Macalester, head coach Jody Gabriel has twice won 20 games.

Did You Know?

- Not only is Anna Munson a success on the field, she has been successful off the field as well. A Dean's List member, she has earned Academic All-MIAC and NFCA All-American Scholar-Athlete honors and serves as the president of Macalester's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

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



Head coach

- Rachael Click (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 15-7 MIAC (3rd place) | 28-11 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Went 0-2 at the MIAC postseason tournament

Top Returners

- Kim Lidstone (SS, Jr. | All-MIAC First Team, Second Team All-Region, batted .421, tied for team high with 56 hits)
- Mackenzie Wenner (IF, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, batted .313, tied for second on team with 7 home runs)

Key Losses

- Lexi Alm (OF | MIAC Player of the Year, NFCA Second Team All-American, First Team All-Region, All-MIAC First Team)
- Stacy Svihel (IF | All-MIAC First Team, First Team All-Region)
- Emily Engelmeir (P | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, Third Team All-Region, led team with 2.68 ERA, 16 wins)

By the Numbers

- 12: Number of first years on the 2015 roster
- 8: The number of years without an appearance in the MIAC tournament prior to 2014
- 0: Number of pitchers returning from the Blazers' 2014 roster.

Did You Know?

- Blazer head coach Rachael Click picked up the 50th win of her head coaching career Saturday, Feb. 14, when CSB swept UW-Stout. Her win comes just two games into her third season as head coach. She has won 20 or more games in each of her first two seasons. She is currently 50-29 in two-plus seasons.

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



Head coach

- Colleen Powers (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 5-15 MIAC (11th place) | 8-25 Overall

Top Returners

- Jessi Tyminski (IF, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2014; Led Wildcats hitting .326 with 31 hits; second on team in RBI (14))
- Rachael Thompson (P, Jr. | 23 appearances and 14 complete games; led team with 4.96 ERA)

Key Losses

- Alyssa Luedtke (OF | All-MIAC, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014; school record holder in avg., hits, at bats, triples and runs scored)
- Alyssa McKee (IF | Third on team in RBI (13), second in on base percentage; No. 5 at St. Kate's in career RBI)

By the Numbers

- 2: The Wildcats had two MIAC series sweeps against Carleton and Augsburg last season.
- 14: The Wildcats add 14 new faces to the lineup this year with 12 first-year players and two transfers.

Did You Know?

- Due to inclement weather, the Wildcats have not played Concordia College in each of the last two MIAC seasons.

Off the Field

- Five Wildcats earned Academic All-MIAC honors last season. With a 3.495 cumulative team GPA, the Wildcats were 13th in the NFCA All-Academic standings this year – again the top among all MIAC schools.

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



Head coach

- Jen Miller (9th season)

A Year Ago

- 10-12 MIAC (6th place) | 14-18 Overall

Top Returners

- Alex Raske (5-9, Sr., SS/C, Chicago, Ill. | 33 GP, .381 BA, 97 AB, 24 R, 37 H, 9 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 20 RBIs, 51 TB, .526 SLG %, .469 OB % | 2012, 2013 First-Team All-MIAC, 2013 Second Team NFCA All-Region, 2014 MIAC honorable-

mention | Started all 33 games for SMU in 2014)

- Kathi Opsahl (5-11, So., OF, Elk River, Minn. | 32 GP, .350 BA, 103 AB, 10 R, 36 H, 8 2B, 1 HR, 24 RBIs, 47 TB, .456 SLG % | 2014 honorable-mention All-MIAC)
- Ashley Betzold (5-4, So., P/OF, Farmington, Minn. | .316 BA, 79 AB, 8 R, 25 H, 14 RBIs, 25 TB, .316 SLG %; 2.57 ERA, 9-8, 14 CG, 133 1/3 IP, 91 SO, 2 Saves | 2014 honorable-mention All-MIAC

Key Losses

- Kristen Thelen (2014 First-Team All-MIAC | 30 GP, .359 BA, 103 AB, 24 R, 37 H, 5 2B, 1 3B, 5 RBIs, 44 TB, .427 SLG %)

By The Numbers

- 5: Kathi Opsahl (Elk River, Minn.) drove in a career-high five RBIs in the Cardinals' 10-2 Game 2 win over Augsburg on April 9. Opsahl's five RBIs vs. Augsburg marked the second time Saint Mary's boasted a player with five RBIs in a game— Alex Raske (Chicago, Ill.) drove in a career-high five runs in the Cardinals' Game 2 win over St. Olaf on March 30.
- 10: Ashley Betzold (Farmington, Minn.) struck out a career-high 10 batters three times last season—vs. Augsburg on April 9, and against Concordia and Macalester on April 26-27.
- 11: Saint Mary's played 11 MIAC twinbills this season—with all 11 resulting in sweeps. The Cardinals swept St. Olaf, Augsburg, St. Catherine, Concordia and Macalester, and were swept by Gustavus, Carleton, Saint Benedict, Bethel and Hamline.

Did You Know?

- Crazy spring weather meant that the Cardinals played just two conference doubleheaders—at Augsburg and at Concordia—on the original date they were scheduled.

Off The Field

- The Cardinals boasted a pair of players—Kristen Thelen (Rochester, Minn.) and Sam Borawski (Stickney, Ill.)—on the 2014 MIAC Spring All-Academic Team.



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

Head coach

- Ruthie Neuger (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 7-15 MIAC (9th place) | 7-25 Overall

Top Returners

- Becca Walz (3B, Jr. | Hit team-best .347 with six doubles, two homers)
- Brooke Paradise (OF, So. | Hit .325 with seven doubles, 14 RBI)
- Alex Lebens (IF, Jr. | Hit team-highs in homers – 6, and RBI – 18))

By the Numbers

- 3: St. Olaf will have three seniors on the roster this season after having none on the 2014 roster.
- 6: The Oles will play six of their 10 home games in a five-day stretch from April 8-12.



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

Head coach

- John Tschida (21st Season)

A Year Ago

- 21-1 MIAC (First place) | 44-9 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason champions (3-0, defeated Bethel 11-0, Gustavus 4-1, and Bethel again 7-2)
- NCAA postseason third place (5-2 at regional, 1st; 2-2 at College World Series, 3rd)

Top Returners

- Kendra Bowe (P, Sr. | 3X MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Year... 3X MIAC All-Conference... 3X NFCA All-Region... 2014: 21-6, 1.17 ERA, 113 strikeouts

in 143 innings of work)

- Bianca Peterson (OF, Sr. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention... 2014: .383 BA (41-107), 17 RBI, 29 runs scored)

Key Losses

- Emily Gregory (C | 2014 NFCA Second Team All-American... 4X NFCA All-Region... 3X MIAC All-Conference... 2011 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention... 2014: .445 BA (61-137), 14 HR, 55 RBI, 36 runs scored)
- Jenna Hoffman (SS | 2014 NFCA Second Team All-American... 3X NFCA All-Region... 3X MIAC All-Conference... 2014: .463 BA (75-162), 24 RBI, 47 runs scored)
- Kirstin Bigelbach (P/OF | 2014 MIAC All-Conference... 2014 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team... 2014: .505 BA (46-91), 17 RBI, 26 runs scored)

By the Numbers

- 40: The Tommies are looking for their third consecutive 40-win season and 11th in the last 12 years.
- 3: The number of statistical categories the Tommies ranked in the top 10 nationally last season. UST ranked fourth in batting average (.373), fifth in on base percentage (.438), and eighth in slugging percentage (.547).
- 3: The number of combined NFCA All-Region selections that return this year: Kendra Bowe and McKenzie Wergin.

Off the Field

- St. Thomas is home to 15 CoSIDA Academic All-America honors over the past 12 seasons, including a pair of recipients last year.

[MIAC Softball Home Page](#)