

Maxine Carlson, St. Olaf

Alexandria, Minn. / Alexandria

Week of: 2012-05-01



St. Olaf has had a banner year in women's golf in 2011-12, and the Oles added one final highlight to their outstanding regular season Sunday with a first-place finish at the Carleton Invitational. Leading the way was freshman **Maxine Carlson** (Alexandria, Minn.), who turned in one of the finest performances of her rookie season to earn medalist honors and set a new 18-hole tournament record. For her first-place finish, Carlson has been named the final MIAC Women's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week of the 2011-12 season.

The invite was shortened to a one-day, 18-hole event after inclement weather canceled Saturday's round, but Carlson was unaffected by the altered schedule, carding a 2-over-par 74 to claim her first-place finish and the new tournament scoring record. Carlson beat teammate Molly Erickson by one shot for the victory, and bested the previous record by two shots (76). Carlson's record-setting score helped lead St. Olaf to a team victory as well, as the Oles shot a collective 320 to finish first by nine shots. Carlson adds her MIAC weekly award to the All-Conference honor she claimed at the MIAC Championship in the fall, where she finished in fourth place.

Carlson and her St. Olaf teammates have one big event left on the 2011-12 schedule - the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships, which will be held May 8-11 at Zollner Golf Course in Angola, Ind. The Oles received the MIAC's automatic bid to the tournament by winning the conference title at the MIAC Championships in early October, and they will be one of 19 teams competing for the national title.

Taylor Drenttel, Gustavus

Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Eagan

Week of: 2012-04-24



The Gustavus women's golf team had an encouraging weekend against a small but very talented field at the Wartburg Invitational. Senior **Taylor Drenttel** (Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Eagan) led the way, winning medalist honors against top-notch competition and leading the Gusties to a second-place finish behind only a team ranked in the top five. Drenttel's two-shot victory came courtesy of her consistent play, as she was one of just two golfers to shoot below 80 on both days. For her performance, Drenttel has been named the MIAC Women's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Drenttel's big weekend began with one of her best rounds of the 2011-12 season. She fired a 4-over-par 76 at Centennial Oaks Golf Club in Waverly, Iowa, to take a two-shot lead into the second and final round. She followed with a 7-over-par 79 and a 36-hole total of 155 (11 over par) to beat Carleton's Kelsey Moede - the only other golfer to break 80 both days - by two shots. Drenttel's scores helped Gustavus shoot 318 over the first 18 holes and 329 over the second to finish with a total of 647, which was second only to fourth-ranked UW-Eau Claire. Though there were only six teams in the field, five were ranked in the top 25 in the nation.

The second-place team finish and medalist performance by Drenttel has the Gusties riding high into the final regular-season event on their 2011-12 schedule. This weekend, the team will wrap up its season in Northfield, Minn., at the Carleton Invitational. The two-day event will begin with 18 holes on Saturday, and conclude with Sunday's 18-hole final round.

Sam Falk, Gustavus

Glenwood, Minn. / Minnewaska
Week of: 2012-04-17



The Gustavus women's golf team had a great showing over the weekend against some great competition with a second-place finish at the Augustana Spring Invitational in Sioux Falls, S.D. It was also a terrific two days for Gustie freshman **Sam Falk** (Glenwood, Minn./Minnewaska), who set a new school 18-hole scoring record on the first day and earned a top-five finish in the field of 69 players while leading her team against Division II and good NAIA competition. For her performance, Falk has been named the MIAC Women's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Falk's tournament got off to great start as she shot a 2-under par 70 over the first 18 holes to break the old Gustavus 18-hole record of 72. She followed that up with an 80 on the second day, and finished in a tie for fourth place individually with a two-day total of 150 (6-over-par). Behind Falk's great showing, the Gusties shot a 310 in each round to finish with a total of 620, behind only the host school, Augustana, and ahead of nine schools in a very competitive field. Falk adds her MIAC weekly award to the All-Conference honor she won in the fall by finishing third (232) at the three-day MIAC Championships.

Falk and the Gusties will try to keep their tremendous season rolling with another tournament against great competition on the horizon. This weekend, Gustavus will travel to Waverly, Iowa, for the Wartburg College Spring Invitational. The two-day, 36-hole tournament begins Saturday, and will conclude on Sunday.

Vanessa Kleckner, St. Olaf

New Brighton, Minn. / Irondale
Week of: 2011-10-04



The St. Olaf women's golf team had hopes of playing well at the 2011 MIAC Women's Golf Championships and ending Gustavus' streak of three-straight titles, but even the Oles couldn't have predicted the level of success they'd have. Led by senior **Vanessa Kleckner** (New Brighton, Minn./Irondale), St. Olaf not only won the MIAC championship, but it set new tournament records for 18, 36 and 54 hole team score along the way. Kleckner was at the front of the record-setting charge, winning individual medalist honors and highlighting the All-MIAC team. As a result, Kleckner has also been named the MIAC Women's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Kleckner opened the three-day event with rounds of 77 (5-over-par) and 78 (6-over-par) to put herself within striking distance of the individual title. Then, she made her move during Monday's final round with her best performance of the weekend. Kleckner fired a 2-over-par 74 to surge to the top of the leader board and claim a two-shot victory with her 54-hole total of 229 (13-over-par). Her scores helped the Oles set new MIAC Championship records with a 309 for 18 holes, 329 for 36 holes and 939 for 54 holes. St. Olaf won by 22 shots and Kleckner led a group of four Oles who all finished in the individual Top 10 and earned All-MIAC honors.

The MIAC individual and team championships, along with the tournament records, All-MIAC selection and conference weekly honor perfectly punctuated an outstanding fall season for both Kleckner and her St. Olaf teammates. Kleckner's scoring average of 81.1 after 11 rounds this fall is tied for the seventh-best mark in the MIAC. The Oles wrapped up their fall season at the MIAC tournament and will take a hiatus until the spring season starts, when they'll prepare for their trip to the Division III Championships.

Molly Erickson, St. Olaf

Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson

Week of: 2011-09-27



Molly Erickson (Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) showed off both her ability and her consistency en route to both individual and team victories over the weekend. Erickson shot identical scores each day at the 36-hole ACM Invitational to earn medalist honors and lead St. Olaf to the team title in a field that included numerous talented teams. She set school scoring records in the process and, as a result, has been named the MIAC Women's Golf Co-Athlete-of-the-Week with Saint Benedict's Kathryn Hauff.

Erickson's outstanding, consistent play led to a 77 each day at the two-day tournament, which was held at the Northfield G.C. and Bellwood Oaks. Her 36-hole total of 154 (9-over-par) not only gave her a two-shot win for the individual title, but it also broke the Oles' 36-hole school scoring record. Her two 77s also joined a tie for the third-best 18-hole rounds in St. Olaf history. Erickson's score helped St. Olaf score a 17-shot victory with a two-day total of 645 (327-318). Erickson's scoring average of 79.0 strokes per 18 holes is the second-best average in the MIAC this season.

The Oles and their record-breaking star hope to continue their success of late into this weekend at the 2011 MIAC Golf Championships, which will be held Oct. 1-3 at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, Minn. A year ago, St. Olaf finished second and Erickson was sixth at the MIAC meet, and this year both enter the event hoping to challenge for the title.

Kathryn Hauff, Saint Benedict

Fargo, N.D. / Shanley

Week of: 2011-09-27



Saint Benedict senior **Kathryn Hauff** and her teammates certainly enjoyed their home-course advantage over the weekend at the CSB Fall Classic, which was held at the Wapicada Golf Club in Sauk Rapids, Minn. Hauff was brilliant over the final 27 holes after struggling out of the gate to earn individual medalist honors, and she led the Blazers to the team title in the process. For her outstanding performance, Hauff has been named the MIAC Women's Golf Co-Athlete-of-the-Week along with St. Olaf's Molly Erickson.

Hauff found herself 8-over-par after the first nine holes, however, she was magnificent the rest of the way to not only win the tournament, but win it convincingly. She was just 1-over-par for the remaining 27 holes, and finished with a 36-hole total of 9-over-par, 155 (80-75). Her team was just as dominant, recording a 686 (355-331) over the two days to pull away from the field for a 58-shot victory. Hauff's first place finish led a charge that saw five Blazers finish in the Top 7. This season, Hauff is just one of four MIAC women's golfers to average less than 80 shots per round with her 79.5 scoring average.

The Blazers and Hauff hope their tremendous performances last weekend are the perfect springboard into the 2011 MIAC Golf Championships, which will be held this weekend, Oct. 1-3, at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, Minn. Hauff and Saint Benedict both finished third a year ago, and both are hoping for similar outstanding results this weekend.

Taylor Drenttel, Gustavus

Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Eagan

Week of: 2011-09-20



The Gustavus women's golf team has been building quite a tradition in recent years, and early in the 2011-12 season the Gusties appear to be contenders once again following a great performance at the Division 3 Classic. Senior **Taylor Drenttel** (Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Eagan) was instrumental to the Gusties' success over the weekend, winning individual medalist honors and leading the Gusties to a first-place finish against the talented field. For her performance, Drenttel has been named the MIAC Women's golf Athlete-of-the-Week.

Drenttel started her big weekend with a great round to open the two-day tournament, hosted by Carleton at The Jewel Golf Club in Lake City, Minn. She shot a 1-over-par 73 over the first 18 holes to seize a five-shot lead over the rest of the field. She wrapped up her first-place finish with an 80 over the final 18 holes to card a 9-over-par 153 over 36 holes and record a two-shot win. She led a group of five Gustavus golfers that all finished in the Top 20 to help the Gusties shoot a 635 (321-314) for a four-shot win over the rest of the field. This season, Drenttel's 79.5 scoring average per 18 holes is the second-best in the MIAC, less than a shot off the leader.

The Gusties and Drenttel will try for another win this weekend when they travel to Marshall, Minn., for the Southwest Minnesota State Invite, which is another 36-hole event spread out over Saturday and Sunday. That will be the Gusties' final event before they attempt to defend their conference title at the 2011 MIAC Golf Championships, which will be held Oct. 1-3 at Bunker Hills G.C. in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Gina Kabasakalis, Carleton

Alameda, Calif. / The College Preparatory School
Week of: 2011-09-13



The youth movement in Northfield continues. For the second-straight week, the Carleton women's golf team has had a first-year player put her name in the record books, which is remarkable in its own right, but even more remarkable when it came in the first two weeks of their young careers. This week, it was **Gina Kabasakalis** (Alameda, Calif./ The College Preparatory School) who tied for second place individually at the Wartburg Invite, while tying the Knights' team scoring record for 18 holes and breaking the 36-hole mark in the process. In addition, Kabasakalis also becomes the second-straight Carleton frosh to received MIAC Women's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week honors.

Just a week earlier, teammate Taylor Wells set new Knights' records for 18 (74) and 36 (157) holes. However, those record didn't last long as Kabasakalis tied the 18-hole mark with her 74 at Wartburg's first round, and she added an 80 over the final 18 holes to finish with a 36-hole score of 154, the best in Carleton history by three shots. In addition, she led the Knights to a third-place team finish thanks to the lowest teams scores in school history (318-319-637). Carleton was the top MIAC finisher in a field that included No. 20 St. Olaf, defending IIAC champ and host Wartburg and St. Thomas, Saint Mary's and most of the IIAC.

The Knights will have their talented freshmen back on the course to attempt another record-book rewrite this weekend at the Division III Midwest Classic. The two-day event will be held Saturday and Sunday at The Jewel Golf Club in Lake City, Minn. Carleton has two events on its schedule to prepare for the 2011 MIAC Golf Championships, which will be held Oct. 1-3 at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Taylor Wells, Carleton

Rochester, Minn. / Century
Week of: 2011-09-06



It certainly didn't take Carleton freshman **Taylor Wells** (Rochester, Minn./Century) long to make an impact at the collegiate level. Playing in her very first event for the Knights, Wells already etched her name into her school's record books, and loudly announced her presence to the rest of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). Saturday, she opened play at the Georgianni Memorial Invitational in Eau Claire, Wis., with a new school scoring record for 18 holes. Her success continued Sunday as she also took down Carleton's 36-hole record while locking up a second-place individual finish in a talented 122-player field. For her performance, Wells has been named the first MIAC Women's Golf Athlete-of-the-Week of the 2011-12 season.

Ironically, the two Knights' school records that Wells broke over the Holiday weekend formerly belonged to her sister, Kassie Martin-Wells, a 2007 Carleton grad. However, Wells' opening-round 74 and two-day total of 157 (74-83) became the new low marks in the Knights' record books in just her first collegiate performance. Wells finished ahead of four previous Division III All-Americans in a field that included six nationally ranked teams. Wells' outstanding scores helped Carleton finish in a fourth-place tie in the 21-team field with a team score of 681 (326-355). The unranked Knights tied No. 4 Illinois Wesleyan for a spot in the top five, and finished ahead of two other ranked teams.

Wells and Carleton will try to duplicate their early-season success this weekend as they travel out-of-state again for another two-day tournament. The Knights will compete in the Wartburg College Fall Invitational, which will be held at Centennial Oaks Golf Club in Waverly, Iowa, Saturday and Sunday. Play will begin each day at 8 a.m. Carleton has three events on its schedule to prepare for the 2011 MIAC Golf Championships, which will be held at Bunker Hills Golf Club in Coon Rapids, Minn., Oct. 1-3.