

2011-12 MIAC Women's Golf Awards

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St. Olaf's Molly Erickson

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced the 2011-12 MIAC Women's Golf Awards Monday, with conference champion St. Olaf College sweeping the top individual and coaching honors. Saint Benedict, Gustavus and Carleton shared the other individual conference awards.

The Oles won their first-ever MIAC championship in October, and were appropriately honored by the MIAC Monday as junior Molly Erickson was named the 2011-12 MIAC Player-of-the-Year, and Head Coach Luke Benoit was honored as the 2011-12 MIAC Coach-of-the-Year.

Saint Benedict's Kathryn Hauff capped her brilliant Blazers' career with a tremendous senior season, leading her selection as the 2011-12 MIAC Senior-of-the-Year. First-year phenoms Sam Falk (Gustavus) and Gina Kabasakalis (Carleton) shared the 2011-12 MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year award for their performances in their collegiate debut season.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the sixth annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for women's golf. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.

MIAC Player-of-the-Year - Molly Erickson, St. Olaf College

Ole junior Molly Erickson (Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) led the Oles to an amazing season, with a MIAC title and top-seven national finish to show for their efforts. Erickson - the runner-up at last weekend's Division III National Championship by a single stroke - earned her second-straight All-Conference honor this season for finishing seventh at the conference meet. She led the MIAC with a 79.1 stroke average and finished in the top 20 in eight of her nine appearances in 2011-12. She was in the top 10 seven times and top five six times, with one medalist finish and a pair of runner-up efforts.

MIAC Senior-of-the-Year - Kathryn Hauff, College of Saint Benedict

CSB's Kathryn Hauff (Fargo, N.D./Shanley) closed the books on a triumphant career that featured three consecutive top-three individual finishes at the MIAC Championships. Hauff earned All-Conference honors for the third-straight season in 2011-12 thanks to her runner-up finish, just two shots off the individual conference championship. Hauff's 80.1 scoring average this season ranked third in the MIAC and tops among league seniors. In nine appearances in her final season, Hauff finished in the top 10 six times, including five top-five finishes and one medalist honor.

MIAC Co-Rookies-of-the-Year - Sam Falk, Gustavus Adolphus College; Gina Kabasakalis, Carleton College

The 2011-12 season was a banner year for first-year talent, so it was no surprise that two of the top newcomers shared the MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year honor. Gustavus' Sam Falk (Glenwood, Minn./Minnewaska) had a tremendous rookie year, earning All-Conference honors thanks to her top-three finish at October's MIAC Championship. Falk was fourth in the MIAC in scoring average at 80.3 and she finished in the top 20 in eight of nine appearances, with six top-10 efforts and three finishes in the top five.

Gina Kabasakalis (Alameda, Calif./The College Preparatory School) led a youth movement at Carleton that helped the Knights enjoy one of their finest seasons. Kabasakalis was also an All-Conference honoree by way of her fifth-place finish at the MIAC meet. She had the league's second-best stroke average at 79.8 shots per round, and was in the top 20 in six of her seven event appearances, with four of those finishes reaching the top five, including one medalist performance and a pair of runner-up finishes.

MIAC Coach-of-the-Year - Luke Benoit, St. Olaf College

In his sixth season as the Oles' head coach, Luke Benoit led his St. Olaf program to new heights with its first MIAC Championship and NCAA Division III Championship appearance, where it finished tied for seventh last weekend. The Oles' blistering performance at the MIAC meet in October not only resulted in a title, but also every meet team scoring record. St. Olaf set new marks for 18 holes (309), 36 holes (629) and 54 holes (939) en route to the championship. In nine tournaments, St. Olaf finished fourth or better in every tournament except the National Championship, with four victories and two runner-up finishes. Benoit coached the MIAC Player-of-the-Year and four All-Conference players in 2011-12.

2011-12 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg- Jill Ferguson (Jr., Batavia, Ill.)

Bethel - Erika Anderson (Jr., Hutchinson, Minn.)

Carleton - Traci Johnson (Sr., Lakeville, Minn./North)

Concordia - Amy Mireault (Fr., Foston, Minn.)

Gustavus - Taylor Drenttel (Sr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Eagan)

Macalester - Maddie Arbisi (So., Stillwater, Minn.)

Saint Benedict - Jill Sampair (So., White Bear Lake, Minn./Hill-Murray)

St. Catherine - Ellen Rager (Fr., Lakeville, Minn./South)

Saint Mary's - Gia Puch (Sr., Des Plaines, Ill./Loyola Academy)

St. Olaf - Molly Knutson (Jr., Edina, Minn.)

St. Thomas- Annelise Keune (So., Decorah, Iowa)