

2012-13 MIAC Women's Golf Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced the 2012-13 MIAC Women's Golf Awards Monday, with conference champion St. Olaf College adding to its tremendous season by taking home three of the top four individual honors. The University of St. Thomas claimed the other individual award.

The Oles won their second-straight MIAC championship in October and, in similar fashion, repeated their success in the MIAC Golf Award announcements as well with a pair of repeat winners. For the second-straight season, Ole senior Molly Erickson was named the MIAC Women's Golf Player-of-the-Year and her coach, Luke Benoit, was voted the MIAC Women's Golf Coach-of-the-Year. Erickson added to her hardware haul by also receiving MIAC Women's Golf Senior-of-the-Year honors.



St. Thomas first-year player Erin Dingmann claimed the final conference honor for 2012-13, earning MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year honors. The MIAC Women's Golf Awards are nominated and voted on by the conference's head coaches. The All-Conference team was determined by performance at the 2012 MIAC Women's Golf Championships in October, and announced at that time.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the seventh 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 and Senior-of-the-Year - Molly Erickson, St. Olaf College

Erickson (Sr., Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) caps her outstanding career in the MIAC by not only taking home the Player-of-the-Year award for the second year in a row, but also the honor as the conference's top senior. The decorated Ole star joins an exclusive group to earn the MIAC's top women's golfing honor more than once. Erickson led her team to its second-straight (and overall) MIAC championship in the fall, earning individual medalist and All-Conference honors in the process.

An All-American a year ago, Erickson continued her dominance as a senior. Her 77.9 stroke average (per 18 holes) led the MIAC by more than a full shot, and she led the Oles to the top team scoring average in the league (326.2). This season, Erickson played in nine events, finishing in the top 10 all but once and in the top five six times. Amazingly, she finished first four times - including the MIAC Championships - and twice as the runner-up. She was responsible for St. Olaf's best four rounds, and seven of the top nine 18-hole scores. Erickson will attempt to earn All-American honors once again as she leads St. Olaf at this week's 2012-13 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships.

MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year - Erin Dingmann, St. Thomas

Dingmann (Fy., Kimball, Minn./Kimball-Eden Valley Watkins) had a breakout season during her first collegiate campaign for the Tommies in 2012-13, leading to her MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year honor. The UST first-year player finished in the top 10 in the MIAC with her 83.6 scoring average (per 18 holes). This season, she played in nine events, finishing in the top 20 seven times, with a pair of top-five finishes to her credit. Dingmann helped St. Thomas win two tournaments and finish third three times in nine appearances. Dingman's best round of her rookie year was a 76 at the Gustavus Fall Invitational, and she helped UST finish fourth at the 2012 MIAC Championships.

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

Benoit's seventh season as the Oles' head coach was again success, as his team successfully defended its MIAC Championship, and will compete this week at the 2012-13 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships in Destin, Fla. In 2012-13, the Oles competed in nine events, finishing first three times, second twice, third once, and in the top six in all nine tournaments. His team's 326.2 scoring average led the conference by more than three shots per round, and at the 2012 MIAC Golf Championships he coached three players to All-Conference accolades. In addition, Benoit coached Erickson to back-to-back MIAC Player-of-the-Year honors, and the Senior-of-the-Year award this season.

2012-13 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Courtney Barthel (Sr., St. Michael, Minn./St. Michael-Albertville)

Bethel - Danae Johnson (So., Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View)

Carleton - Mara Daly (Fy., Hopkins, Minn./St. Louis Park)

Concordia - Amy Mireault (So., Fosston, Minn.)

Gustavus - Kayleigh Dittes (Sr., Eden Prairie, Minn.)

Macalester - Suzanne Dufault (So., Fosston, Minn.)

Saint Benedict - Bridget Cummings (So., Chaska, Minn./Holy Family)

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

Saint Mary's - Jenna Mrozinski (Sr., North St. Paul, Minn.)

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

St. Thomas - Sophie Tuttle (Fy., Waseca, Minn.)