

St. Thomas, Carleton share top 2013-14 MIAC Women's Golf Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The University of St. Thomas and Carleton College women's golf teams engaged in a duel for the ages at last fall's Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Championships - the Tommies edged the Knights by a single stroke for the MIAC title - so it was only fitting that the two schools shared the top honors when the 2013-14 MIAC Women's Golf Awards were announced Monday.

St. Thomas and Carleton combined to share the conference's top four individual honors, as the Tommies' Doyle O'Brien won both the Player- and Senior-of-the-Year awards, the Knights' Shannon Holden was voted the Rookie-of-the-Year, and the two teams' coaches - St. Thomas' Sara Evens and Carleton's Eric Sieger - were voted Co-Coaches-of-the-Year. In addition to the individual honors, a new-look All-Conference team and the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team were also announced.



O'Brien, a native of Madison, Wis., was honored as both the MIAC's Player- and Senior-of-the-Year after her tremendous final season. She finished with a 79.1 stroke average, which ranked second in the MIAC by just 0.1. In her nine tournament appearances, O'Brien finished in the top 20 in all nine.

She was in the top 10 eight times with six top-five finishes, and earned medalist honors twice in a brilliant and consistent senior campaign. At the MIAC Championships, O'Brien led her team to the one-shot victory with a fourth-place individual finish. She carded a score of 233 after three consistent rounds (79-77-77) and was just four shots off the lead.

Holden wasn't just the best first-year player in the MIAC in 2013-14, she also joined the ranks of the conference's elite with an individual victory at the MIAC Championships, and a conference-leading stroke average of 79.0 shots per round. She won medalist honors at the conference meet with a three-day total of 229 (77-77-75) by a margin of two strokes.

During her rookie campaign, Holden played in 10 tournaments and finished in the top 10 individually in all 10. She had eight top-10 finishes, six top-five showings, and she took first twice, including her MIAC victory.

Evens and Sieger sharing the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year award is fitting based on how close their teams were in 2013-14. St. Thomas came from a shot back on the final day of the MIAC Championships to edge the Knights in a classic showdown by a single shot, 951 to 952. Sieger's squad had a better season scoring average, 323.9 to 326.3 for the Tommies, as the duo was two-and-a-half shots better than the rest of the league. This is the second MIAC Coach-of-the-Year honor for each, as Evens previously won the award in 2006, and Sieger claimed the award in 2008.

This season, Evens took St. Thomas to nine tournaments and found incredible success. The Tommies won six tournament titles - including all five last fall - and finished third in the other three appearances. Sieger's Carleton team had similar success, with an especially strong finish. The Knights appeared in 10 tournaments and finished in the top five in all 10, with victories in each of their last three appearances of the spring.

The MIAC All-Conference team has a different look this season, as the top 10 finishers from the MIAC Championships automatically received a spot on the squad, and the coaches were able to elect up to five additional selections based on their play throughout the full season.

Carleton led the conference with five All-MIAC selections, while St. Thomas and Gustavus were next with three honorees apiece. Bethel and Saint Benedict each had two players honored, with St. Catherine and Macalester each placing one player on the team. The All-Conference team represented a strong youth movement with seven first-year players, three sophomores and six juniors on the team, with O'Brien the lone senior representative.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the eighth 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.

2013-14 MIAC WOMEN'S GOLF AWARDS

Player- and Senior-of-the-Year - Doyle O'Brien, St. Thomas (Sr., Madison, Wis./Edgewood)

Rookie-of-the-Year - Shannon Holden, Carleton (Fy., Simi Valley, Calif./Royal)

Co-Coach-of-the-Year - Sara Evens, St. Thomas (Ninth season)

Co-Coach-of-the-Year - Eric Sieger, Carleton (13th season)

2013-14 MIAC WOMEN'S GOLF ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Name	School	Year	Hometown / Previous School
Elena Baker	Macalester	Fy.	Quito, Ecuador / Colegio Menor San Francisco
Abby Conzemius	St. Catherine	Fy.	Chanhassen, Minn. / Minnetonka
Bridget Cummings	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Chaska, Minn. / Holy Family
Erin Dingmann	St. Thomas	So.	Kimball, Minn. / Eden Valley-Watkins/Kimball
Jordan Drenttel	Gustavus	Jr.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Eagan
Sam Falk	Gustavus	Jr.	Glenwood, Minn. / Minnewaska
Grace Gilmore	Carleton	So.	Edina, Minn.
Shannon Holden	Carleton	Fy.	Simi Valley, Calif. / Royal
Mae Meierhenry	Gustavus	Fy.	Sioux Falls, S.D. / Lincoln
Kelsey Moede	Carleton	Jr.	Lake Oswego, Ore.
Rachel Morris	St. Thomas	Fy.	Mequon, Wis. / Homestead
Doyle O'Brien	St. Thomas	Sr.	Madison, Wis. / Edgewood
Abby Perrenoud	Bethel	Fy.	Sioux Falls, S.D. / Christian
Erika Schwalbe	Bethel	So.	Breezy Point, Minn./Pequot Lakes
Geraldine Tellbuescher	Carleton	Fy.	Ashiya, Japan / Canadian Academy
Grace Todora	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Woodbury, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Taylor Wells	Carleton	Jr.	Rochester, Minn. / Century

2013-14 WOMEN'S GOLF ALL-MIAC SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM

Augsburg - Hannah Shafer (Sr., Brooklyn Park, Minn. / Park Center)
 Bethel - Erika Schwalbe (So., Breezy Point, Minn. / Pequot Lakes)
 Carleton - Mara Daly (So., Hopkins, Minn. / St. Louis Park)
 Concordia - Katie Nelson (Jr., Bismarck, N.D. / Century)
 Gustavus - Jordan Drenttel (Jr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Eagan)
 Macalester - Jessica Stone (So., Granada Hills, Calif. / Notre Dame)
 Saint Benedict - Bridget Cummings (Jr., Chaska, Minn. / Holy Family)
 St. Catherine - Ellen Rager (Jr., Lakeville, Minn. / South)
 Saint Mary's - Jennie Marx (So., Austin, Minn. / Pacelli)
 St. Olaf - Grace Luker (So., Springfield, Ill. / Sacred Heart-Griffin)
 St. Thomas - Annelise Keune (Sr., Decora, Iowa)

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