

Carleton trio leads 2014-15 MIAC Women's Golf Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The Carleton College women's golf team reigned supreme over the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) in 2014-15, and that continued with Monday's announcement of the 2014-15 MIAC Women's Golf awards, with the Knights claiming three of the top four individual honors.

Carleton sophomore Shannon Holden (Simi Valley, Calif. / Royal) was named MIAC Player-of-the-Year, teammate Kelsey Moede (Lake Oswego, Ore.) was named MIAC Senior-of-the-Year and Head Coach Eric Sieger (14th season) received his second-straight MIAC Coach-of-the-Year honor. MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year honors went to Bethel's Christine Piwnica (Victoria, Minn. / Southwest Christian) and All-Conference and All-Sportsmanship teams were also announced.



The near-sweep of the MIAC individual awards is evidence of Carleton's incredible 2014-15 campaign, in which the Knights won six of its eight tournaments, including its first-ever MIAC championship with a record-setting performance. The Knights won by 21 shots and set MIAC tournament records for 18-holes (299), 36 holes (610) and 54 holes (935).

Holden's Player-of-the-Year honor caps a season in which she led the MIAC with a 78.3 scoring average. She earned her second-straight All-MIAC honor after finishing in a tie for second at the MIAC Championships - just one shot behind medalist and teammate Grace Gilmore. Holden appeared in nine events with five top-five finishes. She finished in the top 10 six times and had seven top-20 showings.

Moede's Senior-of-the-Year award is a fitting finish to her tremendous career, which now includes three-straight All-Conference selections. Moede tied for the ninth-best scoring average in the MIAC at 80.8 shots per round. She appeared in nine events this season with one top-five finish, two top-10 showings and she was in the top 20 in six of her nine appearances.

This marked the second consecutive MIAC Coach-of-the-Year honor for Sieger, who shared the award with St. Thomas' Sara Evens a year ago. This season, he coached five players to All-MIAC honors, and his players held the top three individual scoring averages in the MIAC, and four of the top five. His team's 314.3 stroke average led the MIAC by more than eight shots per round, and they'll represent the MIAC this week at the NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships.

Piwnica received her Rookie-of-the-Year award following a breakout season in which she finished fourth in the MIAC with a 79.3 stroke average and tied for second at the MIAC Championships, just one shot behind the medalist. She had the top scoring average on her team by three full shots, and finished in the top 20 in all but one of her 10 appearances. She was in the top 10 six times and top five three times, and she helped the Royals finish second as a team at the MIAC Championships in October.

This marked the second season the MIAC Golf All-Conference teams were selected using a combination of MIAC championship results and end-of-season voting. The top 10 finishers (including ties) at the MIAC championships in October automatically earned All-MIAC honors, and the coaches nominated and voted to add five additional players to the 16-member squad based on their body of work throughout the season.

Carleton's Taylor Wells capped her tremendous career with a fourth-straight All-MIAC honor, while teammate Moede received her third-straight award. St. Olaf's Maxine Carleton received her third career honor after also earning All-Conference accolades at the 2011 and 2012 MIAC Championships, and Saint Benedict's Grace Todora is also a three-time honoree (2015, 2014, 2011 championships). Carleton's Holden, Grace Gilmore and Geraldine Tellbuescher, Gustavus' Jordan Drenttel, St. Thomas' Rachel Morris and St. Catherine's Abby Conzemius are all repeat All-Conference selections.

The 16-member All-Conference team included five seniors, two juniors, five sophomores and four first-year student-athletes. MIAC champ Carleton led the way with five honorees. St. Thomas, Saint Benedict, Bethel, Gustavus and St. Catherine each had two All-MIAC selections, and St. Olaf had one.

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

2014-15 MIAC WOMEN'S GOLF AWARDS

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

Senior-of-the-Year - Kelsey Moede, Carleton (Sr., Lake Oswego, Ore.)

Rookie-of-the-Year - Christine Piwnica, Bethel (Fr., Victoria, Minn. / Southwest Christian)

Coach-of-the-Year - Eric Sieger, Carleton (14th season)

2014-15 MIAC WOMEN'S GOLF ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Kaitlyn Alvarez	St. Catherine	Fy.	Eau Claire, Wis. / North
Maxine Carlson	St. Olaf	Sr.	Alexandria, Minn.
Abby Conzemius	St. Catherine	So.	Chanhassen, Minn. / Minnetonka
Jordan Drenttel	Gustavus	Sr.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Eagan
Grace Gilmore	Carleton	Jr.	Edina, Minn.
Shannon Holden	Carleton	So.	Simi Valley, Calif. / Royal
Kelsey Moede	Carleton	Sr.	Lake Oswego, Ore.
Rachel Morris	St. Thomas	So.	Mequon, Wis. / Homestead
Christine Piwnica	Bethel	Fy.	Victoria, Minn. / Southwest Christian
Leah Swanson	Bethel	So.	Blaine, Minn.
McKenzie Swenson	Gustavus	Fy.	St. Louis Park, Minn. / Benilde-St. Margaret's
Geraldine Tellbuescher	Carleton	So.	Ashiya, Japan / Canadian Academy
Emily Thul	St. Thomas	Fy.	Alexandria, Minn. / Jefferson
Grace Todora	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Woodbury, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Taylor Wells	Carleton	Sr.	Rochester, Minn. / Century
Lauren Wise	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Prior Lake, Minn. / New Prague

2014-15 WOMEN'S GOLF ALL-MIAC SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM

Augsburg - Chelsea Crego (So., Lakeville, Minn. / North)
Bethel - Leah Swanson (So., Blaine, Minn. / Blaine)
Carleton - Mara Daly (Jr., Hopkins, Minn. / St. Louis Park)
Concordia - Katie Nelson (Sr., Bismarck, N.D. / Century)
Gustavus - Jordan Drenttel (Sr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Eagan)
Macalester - Cydni McMillian (So., Milwaukee, Wis. / University School)
Saint Benedict - Annalise Wallerich (Sr., Lake City, Minn. / Lincoln)
St. Catherine - Madi Roe (So., Apple Valley, Minn. / Eastview)
Saint Mary's - Kaitlin Kling (Fy., LeRoy, Minn. / LeRoy-Ostrander)
St. Olaf - Shannon Carney (Jr., Denmark, Wis.)
St. Thomas - Sophie Tuttle (Sr., Waseca, Minn.)

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