

Top-ranked Knights headline 2018-19 Women's Golf Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – With the 2019 NCAA Division III Women's Golf National Championships in Houston on the horizon next week, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) honored its top golfers from the 2018-19 season on Friday with the announcement of the conference's annual award recipients.

The nation's top-ranked team faired expectedly well in the balloting, as Carleton College picked up each of the four individual awards, as well as six of the 15 All-Conference honors, five of which were earned during the MIAC Championships last fall. Carleton senior **Ziyi Wang** was selected as the MIAC Player and Senior of the Year, while first-year teammate **Kristin Miyagi** was named Rookie of the Year and first-year Knights coach **Molly Erickson** received Coach of the Year. In addition to individual awards, the MIAC also announced its All-Conference and All-Sportsmanship squads.

Wang (Sr. | Beijing City, China | Lighthouse Christian Academy) became just the fourth woman in MIAC history - and the first since her coach **Molly Erickson** in 2013 - to repeat as MIAC Player of the Year. A four-time All-Conference honoree and two-time MIAC medalist, Wang set a new 54-hole conference tournament record when she shot a 221 last fall to take home top honors at the 2018 MIAC Championships. Wang remained consistent all season, leading the conference with an average of 75.5 shots per 18 holes. She is the third different Knight to receive MIAC Player of the Year honors and fourth to be named Senior of the Year.



Ziyi Wang was named MIAC Player and Senior of the Year on Friday.

Miyagi (Fy. | Honolulu, Hawaii | 'Iolani School) was selected Rookie of the Year after averaging a first-year best 79.5 shots per round in her debut season. Miyagi saved her best performance for last, taking fourth overall with a six-over-par 78 at the Carleton Spring Invitational to close the month of April. She is the fifth Carleton player in history to win Rookie of the Year honors. Four of the last five MIAC Rookies of the Year have gone on to win MIAC Player of the Year at some point in their careers, including Miyagi's Carleton teammates **Alyssa Akiyama** and **Ziyi Wang**.

Erickson was honored by her peers with Coach of the Year recognition in her first season at the helm. Under Erickson's tutelage, Carleton placed all five of its entered competitors among the top-five finishers at the 2018 MIAC Championships, shattering the conference's 54-hole tournament record with 904 shots - 20 fewer than the previous best mark. Erickson's Knights have been ranked No. 1 in the nation since October, having placed first in all nine of the team's tournaments this season. Carleton has won 21 of their last 23 events dating back to April 2017, with their only non-first-place finishes coming at the NCAA Championships, where the team placed seventh in 2017 and sixth in 2018.

The MIAC Women's Golf All-Conference team was 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 15-member squad based on their body of work throughout the season. The conference also recognized honorable mention selections for the first time this year, bestowing the accolade upon any individual who did not place among the top-five vote-getters, but still received consideration on multiple ballots.

Four golfers - Carleton's Wang and **Ayumi Sakamoto**, along with Saint Benedict's **Natalie Amundson** and St. Catherine's **Sydney Busker** - joined elite company by earning All-Conference honors all four years of MIAC competition. Carleton's **Alyssa Akiyama** picked up All-MIAC honors for the third time in her career, while teammates **Alexis Chan** and **Abby Euyang**, along with Bethel's **Nicole Miller**, were repeat honorees.

The 2018-19 All-Conference Team includes five seniors, three juniors, five sophomores, and two first-years. Carleton leads the way with six honorees. Saint Benedict has three honorees, followed by Gustavus and St. Catherine with two apiece. Bethel and St. Olaf each landed one on the All-Conference Team, while Saint Ben's added an honorable mention selection.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 13th 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.

Player of the Year – Ziyi Wang | Carleton College (Sr. | Beijing City, China | Lighthouse Christian Academy)

Senior of the Year – Ziyi Wang | Carleton College (Sr. | Beijing City, China | Lighthouse Christian Academy)

Rookie of the Year – Kristin Miyagi | Carleton College (Fy. | Honolulu, Hawaii | 'Iolani School)

Coach of the Year – Molly Erickson | Carleton College (1st Season)

2018-19 MIAC Women's Golf All-Conference Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Alyssa Akiyama	Carleton	Jr.	Terrace Park, Ohio Seven Hills School
Natalie Amundson	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Alexandria, Minn.
Ellie Brandt	Gustavus	Sr.	Wayzata, Minn.
Sydney Busker	St. Catherine	Sr.	Detroit Lakes, Minn.
Alexis Chan	Carleton	So.	Castle Rock, Colo. Rock Canyon
Solveig Christenson	St. Olaf	Jr.	Red Wing, Minn.
Abby Euyang	Carleton	So.	Seattle, Wash. Lakeside
Nikki Fredrickson	Saint Benedict	Jr.	Duluth, Minn. East
Emily Kratz	Gustavus	Fy.	Edina, Minn.
Olivia Matzke	St. Catherine	So.	Lake City, Minn. Lincoln
Nicole Miller	Bethel	So.	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Kristin Miyagi	Carleton	Fy.	Honolulu, Hawaii 'Iolani School
Emily Olson	Saint Benedict	So.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman
Ayumi Sakamoto	Carleton	Sr.	Honolulu, Hawaii 'Iolani School
Ziyi Wang	Carleton	Sr.	Beijing City, China Lighthouse Christian Academy
Madeline Pagel (HM)	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Rochester, Minn. Lourdes

2018-19 MIAC Women's Golf All-Sportsmanship Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Emma Kraft	Augsburg	Fy.	Hutchinson, Minn.
Ana Schwarz	Bethel	Fy.	Marshall, Minn.
Ayumi Sakamoto	Carleton	Sr.	Honolulu, Hawaii 'Iolani School
Katie Krueger	Concordia	Jr.	River Falls, Wis.
Ellie Brandt	Gustavus	Sr.	Wayzata, Minn.
Ji Sue Song	Macalester	Sr.	Surrey, B.C. Southridge School
Madeline Pagel	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Rochester, Minn. Lourdes
Jordan Amelon	St. Catherine	So.	Iowa City, Iowa West
Jessica Massimo	Saint Mary's	So.	Kenosha, Wis. Tremper
Jane Schlendorf	St. Olaf	Jr.	Lake Oswego, Ore. Oregon Episcopal
Kate Balison	St. Thomas	Sr.	Green Bay, Wis.