

2012 MIAC Women's Golf Championship Preview

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COON RAPIDS, Minn. -- The 2012 MIAC Women's Golf Championships should be an action-packed three days of intrigue, with four teams all peaking at the right time to bolster their title hopes and numerous individual stars expected to battle for medalist and All-Conference honors.

A year ago, St. Olaf took the conference tournament by storm, capturing its first-ever league title and laying waste to every team scoring mark in the MIAC record book. The Oles cruised to a 22-shot win, with their total of 939 serving as the new all-time best mark for 54 holes at the MIAC tournament, while adding 18-hole (309) and 36-hole (629) records en route to the title.

Gustavus was alone in second with a total of 961, with Saint Benedict (984) claiming third place. Carleton (1,002) and Concordia (1,002) tied for fourth place and St. Thomas came in sixth (1,019). Macalester (1,051), Bethel (1,073), St. Catherine (1,107), Saint Mary's (1,111) and Augsburg (1,166) rounded out the rest of the field.

This year, the Oles will again be in the mix, but throughout the fall it's been nearly impossible to separate the defending champs from Gustavus, Carleton and St. Thomas. The Gusties lead the MIAC with a 327.7 scoring average, but all of the top four teams are within 2.1 shots of one another. Carleton ranks second with a 328.5 average, and St. Olaf and the Tommies enter tied for third at 329.8.

Concordia and Saint Benedict also appear evenly matched as those two will battle to join the top five and also get in contention for the title. The Cobbers average 345 strokes per 18 holes, while the Blazers are close behind at 346.7. Augsburg (364), Macalester (368), Bethel (371) and St. Catherine (376) all make up the next group, with Saint Mary's (402) rounding out the championship field.

The race for the individual title should be just as good. Though the top two finishers from a year ago have graduated, seven of the top 10 individuals return, and several new faces should also impact the race for medalist honors, which will no doubt have a major effect on the team scores as well.

The Oles' title defense starts with returning MIAC Player-of-the-Year **Molly Erickson**, who finished second individually at the 2012 NCAA Division III Championships. Erickson - who finished seventh at the 2011 MIAC meet - leads the conference this fall with 77.1 scoring average. The Oles have two other All-Conference players back in the lineup in **Molly Knutson** (84.0) and **Maxine Carlson** (88.0), who both were top-eight finishers at last year's conference championship meet.

Carleton brings back two All-MIAC honorees, and three of the league's top six scorers this season. **Kelsey Moede** has the league's third-best average at 78.9 this fall, while teammates **Gina Kabasakalis** (81.0) and **Taylor Wells** (80.9) both had top-six finishes at last fall's conference meet, and join Moede on the scoring average leaderboard thus far in 2012.

Gustavus saw its string of MIAC titles come to an end a year ago, but returns one of the league's top players in **Sam Falk** - who finished third at the 2011 MIAC meet - along with two others ranked in the top 10 in scoring average this fall. Falk is ranked eighth at 82.2, while teammate **Kayleigh Dittes** is fourth (79.6) and **Liz Strom** is ninth (82.6).

St. Thomas didn't have an All-MIAC finisher last year, but that all could change in 2012. **Doyle O'Brien** has claimed each of the past two MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week awards with her No. 2-ranked scoring average of 78.8. Meanwhile, **Erin Dingmann** (82.9) and **Emma Wilson** (83.6) are ranked 10th and 11th, respectively, in scoring in 2012.

The final All-Conference returner is Saint Benedict's **Grace Todora**, who finished in a tie for eighth at last year's meet. This season, Todora's scoring average of 81.1 leads the Blazers, and ranks seventh in the MIAC. Concordia will be led by sophomores **Amy Mireault** and **Kristi Opatz**, who both finished in the Top 15 at the conference meet a year ago.

Augsburg is led by sophomore **Rachel Kristofferson**, a transfer from Bemidji State with an 86.3 stroke average, and junior **Hannah Shafer** and her 90.0 average. Macalester's **Grace Caird** will look for another strong MIAC showing after earning All-MIAC honors in 2010 and finishing 11th last season. Bethel's top returner is junior **Emily Gerry**. St. Catherine will again be led by sophomore **Ellen Rager** - who has an 85.5 stroke average this fall - as the Wildcats head into their second MIAC Championship appearance. Saint Mary's senior **Jenna Mrozinski** leads the Cardinals into the conference meet with a team-best 92.4 average in 2012.U

As usual, each team will play one 18-hole round each day, with the champion and individual places decided by the cumulative scores after all 54 holes are complete. Saturday and Sunday will both begin with tee times starting at 11:20 a.m., and Monday's final round will start at 9 a.m. with a brief awards ceremony to conclude the tournament. The top individual will receive medalist honors, while the top 10 individuals - including ties - will be honored as All-Conference performers.

The MIAC women will play the North and East courses at Bunker Hills each day, with the men playing the East and West courses. Pairings and tee times for Saturday's opening round are determined by last year's finish at the MIAC Championships, and Sunday and Monday's pairings and tee times will be dictated by the previous day's scores. As always, the winning team will receive the MIAC Men's Golf



Championship trophy and the conference's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championships.

The MIAC Web site will offer live scoring updates throughout the tournament, along with complete results and recaps following each day of action with photos and videos to highlight the event as well. Stay tuned to the 2011 MIAC Golf Championship Home Page, as well as the MIAC's social media networks on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) throughout the weekend to stay connected to all the action at Bunker Hills.

2012 MIAC Golf Championships Preview Video

2012 MIAC Women's Golf Championship Coverage

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 **AUGSBURG** | [Auggies' women's golf home page](#) |

Head Coach

- Ted Vickerman (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 11th place (1,166)

Top Returners

- Hannah Shafer (JR, 90.0 stroke average in fall 2012, 90.4 career stroke average; 2 top-10 finishes in fall 2012).
- Jill Ferguson (SR, 98.6 stroke average in fall 2012, 98.1 career stroke average, 43rd at 2011 MIAC Championships).
- Courtney Barthel (SO, 96.8 stroke average in fall 2012, 98.4 career stroke average, 48th at 2011 MIAC Championships).

Key Losses

- None

By the Numbers

- 367.1: Augsburg's team stroke average in the fall half of the 2012-13 season, a 26.7 stroke improvement from 2012-11 (393.8).
- 86.3: Team-leading stroke average for sophomore Rachel Kristofferson, a transfer from Division II Bemidji State. Augsburg's single-season scoring average record is 85.68, set by Marisa Navarro in the 2004-05 season.
- .720: Rachel Kristofferson's season win-loss percentage (172-67), including three top-10 finishes and a medalist honor at the Augsburg-Bethel dual meet on Sept. 1.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg's 698 total at the Gustavus Fall Invitational on Sept. 29-30 was one of its best 36-hole performances in school history. Augsburg's second-round 344 was the third-best team round in school history, while its first-round 354 was the ninth-best team round in school history.

Off the Course

- Stefani Zappa '11 is serving as an assistant coach for the Auggies this season through Augsburg's graduate fellowship program. She was the first Augsburg women's golfer to ever earn multiple All-MIAC honors, finishing eighth in the conference meet in 2009 and seventh in 2010, and finished third on Augsburg's career record list with an 88.90 career stroke average. She was the MIAC's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year award in 2011.



BETHEL | [Royals' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Trent Anderson (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 8th place | (1073 – 366, 357, 350)

Top Returners

- Emily Gerry (Jr., Eau Claire, Wis. | 42nd [97-93-89] in 2011 MIAC Championships)

Key Losses

- Paige Lemieux (26th [87-87-85] in 2011 MIAC Championships)
- Amber Hovland (Sr., Fergus Falls, Minn. | 33rd [85-86-95] in 2011 MIAC Championships)

By the Numbers

- 87.0: Erika Schwalbe has made quite a name for herself already as a freshman on the Bethel University women's golf team. The Breezy Point, Minn. native has led the Royals in each of the four meets played, averaging 87.0 strokes thus far in the 2012 season. Schwalbe has been in the Top 10 in three of the four meets played prior to the MIAC Championships.
- 360: Coming into the 2012 MIAC Championships, Bethel's lowest four-player team score has been 360 shots at the Division III Classic held at The Jewel Golf Club in Lake City, Minn. 360 shots also happens to be the lowest total score when combining the top four players best 18-hole score amongst the four meets.
- 6: Bethel's women's golf team is composed of seven female athletes, yet mixed within the group of women are six golfers that are younger than the junior class. With that said, the Royals enter the weekend tournament with three underclassmen in the five-person squad.

Did You Know?

- Since its first season in 2008, Bethel University's women's golf team has yet to have player finish as an All-MIAC player. Freshman Erika Schwalbe looks capture the Royals first All-MIAC award in 2012, as Schwalbe is among the conference leaders in average strokes per round heading into the MIAC Championships.

Off the Course

- The BU women are involved in a variety of other things off the golf course. Danae Johnson leads a Young Life group for Moundsview high school students investing in growing them spiritually, Erika Schwalbe is a gifted musician and involved in band, Courtney Stoesz is a leader of Welcome Week, and other student led activities at Bethel, Emily Gerry is working to be a marine biologist, Erika Anderson is a teacher's assistant and tutors metro high school students that are less fortunate and need the support and Laura Nicholson is a gifted musician that is writing her own music.



CARLETON | [Knights' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Eric Sieger (12th season)

A Year Ago

- T-4th place | (334-332-336—1,002)

Top Returners

- Gina Kabasakalis (So | 2011 All-MIAC and 2011-12 NGCA all-region selection)
- Taylor Wells (So | 2011 All-MIAC and 2011-12 NGCA all-region selection)
- Kelsey Moede (So | Leads Knights and 2nd in MIAC with 78.9 stroke average this fall)

Key Losses

- Traci Johnson (Four-year starter and four-time NGCA Scholar All-American)

By the Numbers

- 6: Carleton's number of rounds of 330 or less, out of 8; the Knights posted only five such rounds out of 16 a year ago.
- 5: Rounds out of eight in the 70s this fall by sophomore Kelsey Moede. Eight of her last 11 rounds, dating back to last spring, have been below 80. She has a trio of top-five finishes in four events.
- 0: Numbers of seniors and juniors in Carleton's starting line-up.

Did You Know?

- The Knights are gunning for the first golf conference title, men's or women's, in 38 years. The men's team won the last of its 12 Midwest Conference championships in 1974; ironically enough, the same year current Carleton head women's coach Eric Sieger was born.

Off the Course

- Sophomore Taylor Wells, a 2011-12 NGCA Scholar All-American, was also named to Carleton's Dean's List for the 2011-12 school year, an honor accorded to students who post a grade point average that ranks in the top 10% of the entire College.



CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Duane Siverson (29th season)

A Year Ago

- T-4th place

Top Returners

- Amy Mireault (So., Fosston, Minn.) | Leads team in scoring average in 2012 with an 84.8 mark, has posted four top 20 finishes in 2012, tied for 16th as a freshman at the MIAC Meet in 2011
- Kristi Opatz (So., Eagan, Minn.) | Second on the team in average in 2012 (86.3), highest Cobber finisher at the 2011 MIAC Championship Meet (15th), led Concordia in scoring in 2011-12
- Molly Zavadil (So., Crofton, Neb.) | 2012 UM-Morris individual champion, has led the Cobbers in two tournaments in 2012, finished 21st as a as a freshman at the MIAC Meet in 2011

Key Losses

- Holly Karkela (Perham, Minn.) | Second on the team in scoring in 2011-12, finished 19th at the MIAC Championship Meet in 2011

By the Numbers

- 5: Concordia had five freshmen compete at last year's MIAC Championship Meet.
- 12: The Cobbers have posted 12 top 20 individual finishes during the season. Of those 12 top 20 finishes, five have been in the top 10.
- 331: Concordia's best team score in 2012 is 331 which came in the second round of the Southwest MN State Invite at the Marshall GC. That is the same score the Cobbers posted in the second round at last year's conference tournament to jump into a tie for fourth place. That is also the lowest team score since the 2007 season.

Did You Know?

- Cobber head coach Duane Siverson will be inducted into the Concordia Hall of Fame this year. Siverson has been the head coach of five different teams during his 33 years at Concordia.
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GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Scott Moe (10th Season)

A Year Ago

- Second | (961 +97)

In the 2012 NCAA Championships

- At the 2012 NCAA Women's Golf Championships, the Gustavus Adolphus women's golf team finished in 11th place after shooting a four-day total 1,286 (+134).

Top Returners

- Sam Falk (So., Glenwood, Minn.) - Finished third at 2011 MIAC Championships...NGCA All-Region...MIAC Co-Rookie of the Year.

Key Losses

- Taylor Drenttel - Led team in stroke average in 2011 with an 80.6...Place first at both Division 3 Classic and Wartburg Spring Invite...CoSIDA Academic All-District...NGCA All-Region.
- Ann Jackson - Ranked second on the team in stroke average at 80.7 in 2011...All-Conference with eight place finish at 2011 MIAC Championships...Led Gustavus at NCAA Championships with a 24th place finish...NGCA All-Region.

By the Numbers

- 79.9 - Gustavus senior Kayleigh Dittes's team-leading stroke average this season. She currently ranks fourth in the MIAC and has recorded three finishes inside the top-10 this year. Dittes is the only player on the Gustavus team averaging under 80 strokes per round.
- 329.2 - The Gustavus women's golf team's stroke average this season. The Gusties are currently ranked second in the MIAC behind Carleton.
- 3 - The number of top-three finishes Gustavus has recorded this season. The Gusties placed second at the Georgianni Memorial, and third at both the Wartburg Fall Invite and College City Challenge.

Did You Know?

- As a rookie, Sam Falk set Gustavus' school record for the lowest 18-hole round with a 70 at the Augustana Spring Invitational last year. Falk also recorded the highest finish by a first year at the 2011 MIAC Championships.

Off the Course

- Last year senior captain Taylor Drenttel made her first appearance on the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team. The three-time All-MIAC performer finished with a GPA of 3.92 and a career stroke average of 81.5.
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MACALESTER | [Scots' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

Tomas Adalsteinsson (Firstseason)

A Year Ago

7th place | (1051)

Top Returners

- Grace Caird (Sr., 11th place MIAC finish last year; All-MIAC as soph.)
- Maddie Arbisi (Jr., 92.6 avg. this fall)

By the Numbers

- 85: The low round posted by a Scots this fall is 85, turned in by Kylie Martin.
- 90.8: Grace Caird leads Macalester this fall with a 90.8 scoring average.

Did You Know?

- Adalsteinsson is a former golfer for Iceland's national team and in 2000 placed 25th at the European team championship. In 2001 he was

Icelandic Junior champion and Icelandic Junior Tour champion.

Off the Course

- The Scots volunteered in August at the Special Olympics Golf Tournament at Oak Marsh Golf Course in Oakdale.
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SAINT BENEDICT | [Blazers women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Daryl Schomer (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 3rd place | (984, +120)

Top Returners

- Grace Todora (So. | MIAC Championship record 71 on the second round in 2011, 80.6 avg. in 2012 | • Bridget Cummings (So. | 89.0 avg. in 2012, two top-10s, one top-5, low of 74 in 2012)

Key Losses

- Kathryn Hauff (2011 MIAC runner-up, 2011 MIAC Women's Senior Golfer of the Year, NGCA All-Region)

By the Numbers

- 3: Consecutive wins at the Blazer Invite after their victory on Sept. 23
- 5: Top-finishes for the Grace Todora this season in the Blazers' six tournaments.

Did You Know?

- Grace Todora's and Bridget Cumming's 74 this fall are tied for the third lowest round in the MIAC all season.
-



ST. CATHERINE | [Wildcats' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Kris Wessinger (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 9th place | (1107)

Top Returners

- Ellen Rager (So. | Averaged 89.3 per round, career low-round of 83, tied 30th at MIAC Championships)
- Whitney Nash (So. | Averaged 96.0 per round, tied 44th at MIAC Championships)
- Chelsey Craft (So. | Averaged 99.3 per round, tied 49th at MIAC Championships)

By the Numbers

- 3: Ellen Rager has had three top-20 finishes in the four tournaments the Wildcats have played this season, including a top-10 finish at the Division III Midwest Classic and third-place finish at the Blazer Invite.
- 5: All five returners for the Wildcats have improved their average round from last season by at least two strokes a piece.
- 356: The Wildcats shot a team low round of 356 on the second day of the Concordia Invite, Sept. 9. The team dropped 43 strokes from its day one score to finish eighth overall at the tournament. The round was also the lowest team score in the young program's history.

Did You Know?

- Ellen Rager has turned in the team's lowest round at every tournament it has played this season. She shot two-straight rounds of 81 and finished the Wildcats' competitive fall schedule with three-straight rounds of 85.

Off the Field

- Wildcat golfers teamed up with cross country to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children during preseason this year.
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SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Kevin Landrum (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 10th place

Top Returner

- Jenna Mrozinski (5-3, Sr. | Team-best 92.4 stroke average)

Key Losses

- Gia Puch (89.8 scoring average)
- Rachel Lamberty (92.6 scoring average)
- Lauren Ulbirsch (94.1 scoring average)

By The Numbers

- 4: Jenna Mrozinski has recorded the team's low four scores this season — including a season-best 90 in the first round of the Viterbo Invitational on Sept. 15.
- 85: Third-round, career-best score by Jenna Mrozinski at the season-ending MIAC Championships a year ago.
- 349: Low women's team round of the 2011 season, recorded during the second round of the Wartburg Fall Invitational on Sept. 11.

Did You Know?

- The SMU women's 349 team score in the second round of the Wartburg Fall Invitational on Sept. 11, 2011 was the third-lowest team score in program history. Two of SMU's three lowest team scores have come at the Wartburg Fall Invitational — the Cardinals carded a school-record 346 at that tournament in 2006.

Off The Course

- The Cardinals' Gia Puch and Lauren Ulbrich represented the SMU women's golf team on the Academic All-MIAC Team a year ago.
-

ST. OLAF



ST. OLAF | [Oles' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Luke Benoit (Seventh season)

A Year Ago

- 1st place | (309-320-310--- 939 +75)

In the 2012 NCAA Championships

- 2012 NCAA Women's Golf Championships - 10th place - Team score: 1,277

Top Returners

- Molly Erickson (Sr.) | Was 2011-12 MIAC Player of the Year... Leads MIAC in scoring average (77.1).
- Maxine Carlson (Soph.) | Was All-MIAC in 2011, finished 4th
- Molly Knutson (Sr.) | Was All-MIAC in 2011, finished 8th

Key Losses

- Vanessa Kleckner | Won MIAC Individual Title in 2011.

By the Numbers

- 5: Senior Molly Erickson has averaged a 5-over par 77.1 scoring average in eight fall rounds.
 - 2: Erickson has won each of her last two tournament starts.
-



ST. THOMAS | [Tommies' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Sara Evens (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- Sixth place | 334-343-342/1,019

In the 2012 NCAA Championships

- Tommie junior transfer student Doyle O'Brien placed seventh at the May national meet while competing for St. Mary's (Ind.)

Top Returners

- Emma Wilson JR (9th and 18th in last two MIAC Championships; 83.6 stroke average in 2011-12 • • • • Cassy Norton, SR (8th in 2010 MIAC Championships, four-year starter)

Key Losses

- None

By the Numbers

- 30: Consecutive tournaments without a team title for UST before it placed first in back-to-back September multi-team events
- 3: Current Tommies -- Emma Wilson, Cassy Norton, Doyle O'Brien -- who have a top-10 conference tourney individual finishes on their college careers
- 77.5: O'Brien's average score in her last six September rounds.

Did You Know?

- Tommie freshman Erin Dingmann of Eden Valley-Watkins brings a special family karma to the UST program. Dingmann's 83.9 average this fall ranks 10th among conference players. Her uncle knows a thing or two about Purple and Grey athletics success. UST athletics director Steve Fritz was a legendary player and head coach in basketball and guided the 2010-11 Tommies to the Division III national championships

Off the Course

- The Tommies' four returning players have a combined cumulative grade-point average of 3.51, led by Annelise Keune's 3.73.
-