

2014 MIAC Women's Golf Championship Preview

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COON RAPIDS, Minn. -- In terms of drama, it can't get much better - or closer - than last year. In 2013, St. Thomas won the MIAC Women's Golf Championships by a single stroke, coming back from a stroke down after two rounds to defeat Carleton in the closest possible competition. Though it's unlikely that fantastic finish will be repeated, the overall level of play in MIAC women's golf continues to rise, and the 2014 MIAC Women's Golf Championships could be one of the best yet.

Heading into the championship, seven of the MIAC's 11 teams are ranked among the top 50 in the nation according to Golfstat's NCAA Division III statistical rankings. Carleton - which has had an unbelievable fall thus far - checks in at No. 2 in the rankings, with defending MIAC champ St. Thomas also near the top at No. 13. Saint Benedict is ranked 25th, Gustavus is 32nd, St. Catherine is 33rd, Bethel is 43rd and St. Olaf is 49th, proving that the MIAC is one of the most talented - and deepest - women's golf leagues in Division III.

MIAC golf fans are preparing to reap the benefits of such a talented field in just a few short days, as the 2014 MIAC Championships will be held Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Again in 2014, it appears Carleton and the Tommies will be the top two contenders for the MIAC title. This fall, Carleton leads the conference by nearly nine full shots with a 311.6 stroke average, and the Knights won all four of their tournament appearances. The defending champs aren't far off, as UST ranks second in the league with a team scoring average of 320.2, and the Tommies earned runner-up finishes three times this fall.

Things could get extremely interesting after that, with a host of contenders hoping to join the top three, and also challenge for the conference crown. Gustavus and Saint Benedict were third and fourth a year ago, and heading into the 2014 championships the Blazers rank third in the MIAC with a 324.0 scoring average, with Gustavus right behind in fourth at 329.9. Bethel joined that group in the top five a year ago, and enters the conference tournament with the league's fifth-best scoring average at 331.8.

In just its fourth season of existence, the St. Catherine team could make a big jump. The Wildcats were ninth a year ago, but have climbed the leader board this fall with the sixth-best scoring average (333.1) entering the championships. St. Olaf was seventh a year ago, and also ranks No. 7 in the MIAC this fall with a scoring average of 335.6.

Concordia was sixth last year and has plenty of talent back as the Cobbers hope to ascend into the top five. Macalester, finished eighth last year and also hopes for continued improvement, and Augsburg and Saint Mary's rounded out last season's standings and both hope to shave off some strokes and show some improvement in 2014.

If any more evidence is needed to prove the league's strength this fall, one can look at last year's championship results and All-Conference team and notice all the names back in their team's lineup in 2014. Only two of the top 12 golfers aren't back from a year ago, and there will be 15 players in the 2014 field that earned All-MIAC honors a year ago, starting with Carleton's loaded roster.

Shannon Holden finished first as a rookie in 2014, and the Knights' star added All-MIAC and Rookie-of-the-Year honors. Fellow All-Conference Carleton teammates Kelsey Moede (sixth in 2013), Grace Gilmore (seventh) and Geraldine Tellbuescher (10th) all return. Last fall, Carleton's Taylor Wells missed the MIAC championships while she was studying abroad, but she returned to earn All-Conference honors with her spring performance.

Wells actually carries the league's top scoring average of 78.1 into the 2014 championships. Tellbuescher (78.3), Holden (78.3), Gilmore (79.0) and Moede (79.4) all join Wells on the MIAC leader board this fall, as Carleton's five players all rank in the top seven in the MIAC in scoring average.

The defending-champion Tommies graduated MIAC Player-of-the-Year Doyle O'Brien from their championship roster, but the cupboard certainly isn't bare. Erin Dingmann is tied for the league's second-best scoring average in 2014 (78.3), and she was the runner-up to Holden at last year's conference tournament. Rachel Morris also returns after a fifth-place finish last season, and her average of 79.9 this fall ranks ninth in the league. Another Tommie, Emily Thul, is 11th in the MIAC in 2014 with a scoring average of 80.3.

Gustavus also has a trio of All-MIAC golfers back. Sam Falk was eighth at the championships a year ago and Mae Meierhenry was tied for 10th, and Jordan Drenttel also received All-MIAC honors and leads the team with a scoring average of 81.1 this season. Saint Benedict also has extremely high hopes with Bridget Cummings back, who finished third a year ago, and All-MIAC teammate Grace Todora. Lauren Wise has been the Blazers' top golfer this fall with the MIAC's eight-best scoring average of 79.7, with Cummings (10th, 80.2) and Todora (12th, 80.6) right behind.



Bethel hopes to soar to new heights in 2014 behind Christine Piwnica and her scoring average of 79.1, which ranks sixth in the MIAC this fall, and All-Conference returners Abby Perrenoud and Erika Schwalbe. St. Catherine will look to make a leap this season behind a talented trio of Madie Roe (82.6), All-MIAC returner Abby Conzemius (83.3) and Ellen Rager (83.4), who all rank in the MIAC's top 20 this fall.

St. Olaf has a talented experienced trio leading the way this season with Maxine Carlson (81.6), Nadia Baka (83.6) and Grace Luker (83.9) at the top of its lineup. Macalester has high hopes for Suzanne Dufalt (84.0) at the MIAC meet, and Concordia will be led by Molly Zavadil (84.8). Rachel Kristofferson (86.4) has been Augsburg's top golfer this fall, and Saint Mary's hopes for another strong performance from Kaitlin King (91.5), who has two top-five finishes in 2014.

The three-day, 54-hole MIAC Golf Championships will tee off Saturday at 11:28 a.m. at Bunker Hills. Sunday's second round will also tee off at 11:28 a.m., and Monday's final round will tee off at 9 a.m. Spectators are welcome to attend and there is no admission fee, and spectators are encouraged to read and follow the tournament's spectator rules.

There will be a short awards ceremony following Monday's final round to honor the top teams and individuals. The championship team will receive the MIAC championship plaque, as well as the conference's automatic bid to the 2015 NCAA Division III Golf Championships. The top 10 individual finishers will be named to the All-Championship team, and will be automatically eligible for All-Conference honors in the spring.

Fans who can't make the trip to Coon Rapids can follow all the action on the MIAC Golf Championships web site, which will include unofficial hole-by-hole live scoring updates, results, pairings, tee times, recaps, photos and more. Fans can interact on social media throughout the tournament on the MIAC's Facebook page, or on Twitter using the hashtag #MIACgolf. The MIAC's YouTube channel also includes a promotional video for the event.

FOLLOW THE ACTION

There are numerous ways fans that aren't traveling to Coon Rapids can follow all the action throughout the tournament. The MIAC is enhancing its (unofficial) live scoring, and now will offer hole-by-hole updates through Golfstat's live scoring system. Fans will easily be able to track team and individual progress throughout all three rounds.

The MIAC has a championship home page for the event, that will serve as the online home of the tournament. The championship page will include tee times, pairings and results as they become available, as well as recaps, photos and more.

| [Championship Home Page](#) | [Women's Live Scoring](#) |

MIAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

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

Head Coach

- Eric Rolland (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 10th place | 1,090 (+226)

Golfers to Watch

- Rachel Kristofferson (SR | 86.4 season stroke average599 winning percentage (148-99) ... Placed 17th at 2012 MIAC Championships ... 86.8 Augsburg career stroke average, .670 career winning percentage.)
- Katie Kristofferson (JR | 89.3 season stroke average429 winning percentage (106-141) ... 46th at 2013 MIAC Championships ... 91.5 career stroke average, .438 career winning percentage.)
- Chelsea Crego (SO | 91.7 season stroke average328 winning percentage ... Tied for 30th at 2013 MIAC Championships ... 92.3 career stroke average, .339 career winning percentage.)
- Chelsea Green (JR | Transfer from Bethany Lutheran ... 93.2 season stroke average ... At BLC, tied for 16th at 2013 NACC Championships and t-15th in 2012 NACC Championships ... 96.1 career stroke average.)
- Carlee Nasifoglu (JR | 101.4 season stroke average ... 47th at 2013 MIAC Championships ... 102.2 career stroke average.)

By the Numbers

- 362.0: Augsburg's team stroke average entering the 2014 MIAC Championships, currently the best single-season stroke average for an Augsburg women's golf squad in program history. It's a 5.3-stroke improvement over last season's 367.3 average, and a 2.9-stroke improvement over the best stroke average in school history, 364.9 in 2004-05.
- 86.78: Augsburg career stroke average for Rachel Kristofferson, currently the second-best stroke average for an Auggie women's golfer in program history. Marisa Navarro (2003-07) holds the school record with an 86.53 average. Including her first season at Bemidji State (2011-12), she has an 87.7 overall collegiate stroke average (29 rounds).
- 91.52: Career stroke average for Katie Kristofferson, currently ninth-best in school history.

Did You Know?

- Eric Rolland, a 1997 Augsburg alumnus who was named Augsburg's men's and women's golf coach in January 2014, earned All-American honors as an Auggie golfer in 1995, when he placed 17th at the Division III national championships, the first of three straight national tournaments for the Auggies.



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

Head coach

- Trent Anderson (Fifth season)

A Year Ago

- Fifth place | 1,003 (+139)

Golfers to Watch

- Christine Piwnica (Fr. | 79.1 average per round; Three top 10 finishes in four events)
- Leah Swanson (So. | 82.0 average per round; Low round of 72 this season)
- Abby Perrenoud (So. | 83.8 average per round; 2013-14 MIAC All-Conference)
- Erika Schwalbe (Jr. | 86.9 average per round; 2013-14 MIAC All-Conference)
- Danae Johnson (Sr. | Played in every Bethel match throughout her career)

By the Numbers

- 5: Bethel's fifth place finish at the 2013 MIAC Women's Golf Championships last fall was the best in program history. The Royals captured a Top 5 result with a 328 Saturday, 337 Sunday, and a 338 Monday.
- 2: Never before did the Royals earn All-MIAC recognition, but in 2013-14 Bethel received two MIAC All-Conference awards. Both Abby Perrenoud and Erika Schwable were honored in the spring announcement.
- 3: Newcomer Christine Piwnica has led the Royals this season with the lowest average per round and the most Top 10 finishes after four events. The freshman from Victoria, Minn., has finished among the Top 10 golfers three times this fall.

Did You Know?

- Bethel's team average per round has dropped every year for the last six years. This year is no different, as the Royals' 334.0 average after four rounds played is the lowest mark in program history. Leading the way for the Royals is a freshman and two sophomores, which gives great optimism for this trend to continue.

Off the Course

- Bethel's Erika Schwalbe was not only an MIAC All-Conference golfer, but was also honored to the Academic All-Conference list in the 2013-14 season for posting a GPA above 3.50 and participating in the 2013 MIAC Championships.



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

Head coach

- Eric Sieger (14th season)

A Year Ago

- Second place | 952 (+88)

Golfers to Watch

- Taylor Wells (Sr. | All-Region in 2012 and 2013; three-time All-MIAC selection; leads MIAC in stroke average this fall at 78.1... 1 win and 3 top-10 finishes in 4 tournaments this fall)
- Shannon Holden (So. | WGCA All-America honorable mention in 2014; All-Region in 2014; MIAC individual champion in 2013; MIAC

Rookie of the Year in 2013-14; led MIAC in stroke average [79.00, a new Carleton record] during 2013-14 season; 78.3 stroke average this fall is tied for third in MIAC... 3 top-5 finishes in four fall tournaments)

- Geraldine Tellbuescher (So. | All-MIAC as a rookie; finished 10th at MIAC Championships; tied for third in MIAC with 78.3 stroke average this fall... three top-10 finishes in four fall tournaments)
- Grace Gilmore (Jr. | All-Region and All-MIAC in 2014; in 2013-14, registered six top-10 finishes including seventh place at 2013 MIAC Championships; 79.0 stroke average this fall ranks fifth in MIAC... 1 win and 3 top-10 finishes in 4 tournaments this fall)
- Kelsey Moede (Sr. | All-Region and All-MIAC in both 2013 and 2014; five top-10 finishes last year including sixth place at 2013 MIAC Championships; 79.4 stroke average ranks seventh in MIAC... 4 top-20 finishes in 4 tournaments this fall)

By the Numbers

- 4: The Knights won all four tournaments they entered this fall and have won six straight tourneys dating back to last spring.
- 19: Carleton's top five players (Wells, Holden, Tellbuescher, Gilmore, and Moede) were each named to the All-MIAC squad in 2013-14. This fall, the quintet has combined for 19 (out of a possible 20) top-20 finishes at Carleton's four tournaments.
- 311:6: Carleton is averaging 311.6 strokes per round this season. That is a marked improvement over last year when the Knights established a school record and posted the lowest stroke average (323.9) in the MIAC during the 2013-14 season.

Did You Know?

- According to GolfStat, Carleton enters the MIAC Championships ranked second among all Division III teams in average score (78.62)

Off the Course

- Taylor Wells was selected to the 2014 CoSIDA Academic All-District At-Large Team. She missed the fall portion of the 2013-14 season to participate in a study-abroad experience in Namibia.



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

Head coach

- Duane Siverson (31st season)

A Year Ago

- Sixth place | 1,005 (+141)

Golfers to Watch

- Molly Zavadil (Sr. | Leads the team in scoring average in 2014 at 84.8)
- Amy Mireault (Sr. | Second on the team in scoring average in 2014 at 85.2, tied for medalist honors at the Minn.-Morris Invite)
- Tiffany Swanson (Jr. | Tied for medalist honors at the Minn.-Morris Invite, has played in seven rounds and has bettered her score in all but two of the rounds)
- Katie Nelson (Sr. | Tied for medalist honors at the Minn.-Morris Invite, third on the team in scoring average at 88.3)

By the Numbers

- 2: All but two golfers on the Cobber roster are from Minnesota
- 4: Concordia has won the Minn.-Morris Invitational for four straight years.

Did You Know?

- Concordia won 11 of the first 12 MIAC women's golf championships and still owns the most conference titles of any school in the league.



GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Scott Moe (12th season)

A Year Ago

- Third place | 972 (+108)

Golfers to Watch

- Jordan Drenttel (Sr., Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) | Leads team with a stroke average of 81 after eight rounds and 648 strokes... Has recorded two top five finishes this season, which came at the Geogianni Memorial Invitational where she tied for fourth place and at the College City Challenge where she tied for third place... Finished 16th at the MIAC Championships last season with a score of 248 (+32)
- Mae Meierhenry (So., Sioux Falls, S.D.) | Ranks second on team with a stroke average of 81.1 after eight rounds and 649 strokes... Has recorded two top ten finishes this season, which came at the Geogianni Memorial Invitational where she tied for fourth place and the Augustana Fall Invitational where she placed sixth... Finished in a tie for 10th at the MIAC Championships last season with a score of 244 (+28).

By the Numbers

- 72: The team's low score on the season, shot by Meierhenry on August 31 on the second day of the Geogianni Memorial Invitational.

Did You Know?

- Gustavus's new state-of-the-art Drenttel Golf Facility is nearing the final stages of completion. Located on the northwest corner of campus and designed by Minnesota-based architectural firm TKDA, the 2,650-square foot Drenttel Golf Facility will feature three heated hitting bays that open to an outdoor driving range, a putting green, space designated for a golf simulator and new video analysis equipment, a team

lounge and full restrooms.

Off the Course

• The 2013-14 Gustavus Adolphus women's golf team had three golfers that were named Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholars. Anderson, Meierhenry and Hannah Erickson (Jr., St. Cloud, Minn.) were among the list of 664 women's collegiate golfers (at the Division I, II and III levels) to receive the award. The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the toughest in all of college athletics, with the minimum cumulative GPA being a 3.5.

MACALESTER | [Scots' women's golf home page](#) |



Head coach

- Tomas Adalsteinsson (Third season)

A Year Ago

- Eighth place | 1,022 (+158)

Golfers to Watch

- Jessica Yost (Fy. | 84.3 Avg.)
- Jessica Stone (Jr., | tie 43rd at 2013 MIAC Championships, 86.0 Avg.)
- Cydni McMillian (So. | 37th at 2013 MIAC Championships, 90.6 Avg.)
- Suzanne Dufault (Sr. | tie 35th at 2013 MIAC Championships, 90.7 Avg.)
- Kyla Martin (94.6 Avg.)

By the Numbers

- 77: Low round this season shot by a Macalester golfer, Jessica Stone, Sept. 6, 2014, first round of the Concordia Invitational at Wildflower Golf Course in Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- 5: The number of healthy golfers the Scots have had this season.
- 2: The number of golfers – Cydni McMillian and Suzanne Dufault – who have played in every round this fall for Macalester.

Did You Know?

- Half of the Macalester team did research projects at different colleges this summer.

Off the Course

- Jessica Yost graduated from high school a semester early to spend the spring in South Africa, volunteering for Open Arms, serving the needs of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, and owns her own non-profit, 15:30 Project, assisting children who are orphaned victims of AIDS.

SAINT BENEDICT | [Blazers women's golf home page](#) |



Head coach

- Daryl Schomer (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- Fourth place | 995 (+131)

Golfers to Watch

- Lauren Wise (Jr. | MIAC Athlete of the Week for 9/24, won the Blazer Invite, tied for second at the D3 Classic, averaging 79.7)
- Grace Todora (Sr. | Won Concordia Invite, tied for fifth at Cobber Open and Blazer Invite, averaging 80.6)
- Bridget Cummings (Sr. | Tied for second at D3 Classic, finished fourth at Blazer Invite, averaging 80.2)

By the Numbers

- 2: Number of team wins this season (Concordia Invite and Blazer Invite)
- 4: Number of top 10 team finishes (won Concordia and Blazer invite, third at Cobber Open and D3 Classic)

Did You Know?

- Head Coach Daryl Schomer was part of the winning team at the Midwest Cup

Off the Course

- Senior Bridget Cummings, a political science and history major, interned at the Department of Justice in the legislative affairs division in Washington, D.C., this summer.

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

Head coach

- Michele Edlin (First season)

A Year Ago



- Ninth place | 1,033 (+169)

Golfers to Watch

- Madi Roe (So. | 82.6 avg.; season low – 78; program record for two-round score – 160 (+16))
- Abby Conzemius (So. | 2013-14 All-MIAC; 83.25 avg., season low – 79)
- Ellen Rager (Sr. | 83.38 avg.; season low – 79)
- Kaitlyn Alvarez (Fy. | 85.63 avg.; season low – 77)

By the Numbers

- 8: The Wildcats turned in eight individual performances that rank in the program top-10 for a single round and eight that rank in the top-10 for two-round scores.
- 322: The Wildcats' day one score of 322 (+34) is the second lowest single day score in program history.
- 650: The Wildcats' two-day score of 650 (+74) from the Blazer Open is the lowest two-round team score in program history – 12 strokes better than the previous best from the same tournament a year ago.

Did You Know?

- Head Coach Michele Edlin was a standout for the University of Minnesota women's golf team and played under the direction of previous Wildcat golf coach Kris Wessinger.

Off the Course

- The Wildcat golf team volunteered at Feed My Starving Children as part of their preseason activities.



SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' women's golf home page](#) |

Head coach

- Matt Johnson (First season)

A Year Ago

- 11th place | 1,176 (+312)

Golfers to Watch

- Kaitlin Kling (5-5, Fr. | Owns team's two lowest rounds of season. ... Leads team with 91.0 scoring average)
- Madison Gately (5-3, So. | Second on team with 93.5 scoring average)
- Jennie Marx (Third on team with 96.0 scoring average)

By The Numbers

- 85: Kaitlin Kling carded the Cardinals' low round of the season, shooting a career-best 85 during the second round of the D3 Classic on Sept. 14.
- 88: Madison Gately recorded her best round as a Cardinal during the first round of the D3 Classic, shooting an 88.
- 389: Saint Mary's recorded a season-best 364—25 shots better than the Cardinals' low team score in 2013—during the second round of the Wartburg Invitational on Sept. 6.

Did You Know?

- Madison Gately is the only Cardinal to have competed in all six rounds for Saint Mary's this season.



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

Head coach

- Katie Connelly (Second season)

A Year Ago

- Seventh place | 1,008 (+144)

Golfers to Watch

- Maxine Carlson (Sr. | 81.6 scoring average this fall... Was 17th at the 2013 MIAC's... Finished 10th at DIII Midwest Classic.)
- Nadia Baka (Sr. | 83.6 scoring average... Low round of 75... Was 16th at College City Challenge.)
- Grace Luker (Jr. | 83.9 scoring average... Had low round of 77 at Wartburg Fall Invitational.)

By the Numbers

- 4th: The Oles' Maxine Carlson was 4th at the MIAC's in 2011-12 and 2012-13 as St. Olaf won back-to-back MIAC titles.

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

Head coach

- Sara Evens (11th season)

A Year Ago



- MIAC Champions | 951 (+87)

In the 2014 NCAA Championships

- NCAA postseason results –12th place

Golfers to Watch

- Erin Dingmann (JR | 2nd MIAC, All-Region in 2013-14; 78.3 stroke average this fall)
- Rachel Morris (SO | 5th MIAC in 2013; 79.9 stroke average this fall)
- Emily Thul (FR | 80.3 stroke average this fall)

- Morgan McCorkle (FR | 84.8 stroke average this fall)
- Sophie Tuttle (SR | 23rd MAIC in 2013; 85.2 stroke average this fall)

By the Numbers

- 2: Number of sub-75 scores this fall for Erin Dingmann, an MIAC best
- 3: Number of Tommies (Dingmann, Morris, Thul) averaging under 81.0 per 18-hole round this fall
- 3.81: Grade-point average for UST's three upper-class players (Dingmann, Morris, Tuttle)

Did You Know?

- The Tommies placed second behind winner Carleton in all three September tournaments, by 11, 10 and 11 shot margins for 36 holes

Off the Course

- Junior Erin Dingmann, who hails from Kimball, Minn., population 762, has a 3.94 grade-point average and is candidate for Academic All-America.

[MIAC Women's Golf Home Page](#)