

2015 MIAC Women's Golf Championship Preview

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COON RAPIDS, Minn. -- At the 2014 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Women's Golf Championships, the Carleton College women's golf team didn't just win their first-ever conference title ... they turned in a performance for the ages. Now, as the 2015 conference meet gets set to tee off Saturday at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, Minn., the main question is whether the Knights can duplicate their dominance, or if another team will burst into the winner's circle in similarly impressive fashion.

The Carleton women's ascension to the top of the MIAC was dramatic, as they dominated the 2014-15 season en route to their first MIAC title a year ago, and a sixth-place tie at the NCAA Championships. Carleton's record-setting MIAC Championships performance en route to its first-ever championship included conference meet records for overall score (935), 36-hole score (610) and 18-hole score (299).

Bethel was second in 2014 with 956, St. Thomas shot a 964 to take third and Gustavus (982) edged Saint Benedict (984) and St. Catherine (985) in a close race for fourth. St. Olaf (1,007) took seventh, Concordia (1,022) was eighth, Macalester (1,044) finished ninth and Augsburg (1,094) and Saint Mary's (1,099) rounded out the rest of the standings a year ago.

This season, the Knights and the 2013 champion Tommies both appear to be at the front of the class, as Carleton leads the MIAC with a 313.9 stroke average, with UST close behind at 314.6. St. Catherine has continued its rapid growth as a young program with the MIAC's third-best average of 320.6, and Gustavus (327.8) and Bethel (329.8) both round out the top five on the team leader board.

Saint Benedict has the sixth-best scoring average of 333.8, St. Olaf (350.8) is seventh and Augsburg (359.9) checks in at No. 8. Macalester (367.8) and Saint Mary's (368.9) round out the final two spots heading into the 2015 MIAC Championships.

Though Carleton has 2014-15 MIAC Player-of-the-Year Shannon Holden studying abroad this semester, the Knights still have high hopes for another title, led by last year's MIAC Championships medalist Grace Gilmore, who is a two-time All-MIAC and All-Region golfer with a MIAC-leading 76.5 scoring average in 2015. Carleton will count on a pair of rookies - Ziyi Wang (78.1) and Ayumi Sakamoto (79.3) - making their MIAC debuts, with All-MIAC junior Geraldine Tellbuescher (80.0) also back in the lineup.

The Tommies have had a fantastic fall, which has them thinking about adding another title to their 2013 crown. UST enters the MIAC Championships with two of the three top individual scoring averages in the conference, with Rachel Morris (76.9) ranking second and Emily Thul (77.4) in third. Erin Dingmann has an 80.6 scoring average and gives St. Thomas another talented veteran atop the lineup.

St. Catherine has made dramatic improvement in the young history of its program, and the Wildcats are hoping to continue their ascension in 2015. Standout rookie Sydney Busker leads St. Kate's and is the top five in the MIAC with a 78.9 scoring average, and junior Abby Conzemius isn't far behind at 79.6. Gustavus has its sights set on another top-four MIAC finish with a pair of talented golfers leading the way in 2015. Junior Mae Meierhenry and sophomore McKenzie Swenson have near-identical averages of 80.6 and 80.8, respectively, and they hope to lead the Gusties to a strong showing at the MIAC meet.

Bethel turned in the best MIAC Championships finish - second place - in team history a year ago, and the Royals are hoping to contend again in 2015 with a pair of All-MIAC players back. Christine Piwnica was the individual runner-up and MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year in 2014-15, and junior Leah Swanson joined her on the All-MIAC team. Saint Benedict returns talented senior Lauren Wise, who was an All-MIAC pick last year and has three top-10 finishes this fall, and rookie Natalie Amundson leads the Blazers with a stroke average of 80.6 this season.

St. Olaf is hoping to return to the top half of the MIAC standings after finishing seventh last season, with the Oles counting on the Carney duo to lead the way. Sophomore Meaghan Carney leads the way with an 85.5 stroke average, while senior Shannon Carney is one of the team's upperclass leaders. Concordia has senior Haley Johnson back atop the lineup in 2015 as the Cobbers also hope to improve on their eighth-place finish from a year ago. Sophomore Erin Pennington is right behind Johnson in scoring average and hopes to help lead Concordia this weekend.

Augsburg has junior Chelsea Crego back atop its lineup after finishing in the top 45 at each of the last two MIAC Championships, as the Auggies look for improvement in 2015. Macalester has several of its key players back as it looks for upward mobility, led by Jessica Yost and her top 25 individual finish at last year's MIAC meet. Saint Mary's is in its first season under head coach Greg Moore, and sophomore Kaitlin Kling looks to build on her team-leading average of 86.6 shots per round.

The three-day, 54-hole MIAC Golf Championships will tee off Saturday at 11:20 a.m. at Bunker Hills. Sunday's second round will also tee off at 11:20 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 2016 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, [Instagram](#) 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 has enhanced its (unofficial) live scoring, and now offers 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

MIAC WOMEN'S GOLF LINKS

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TEAM-BY-TEAM PREVIEWS

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

Head Coach

- Eric Rolland (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 10th place | 1,094 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Chelsea Crego (JR | Team-best 87.9 stroke average and .527 W-L percentage (154-138); 91.5 career stroke average and .377 career W-L percentage (386-638); Claimed first collegiate medalist honor with 81 to win Augsburg Border Battle Triangular on 9/24; 7 of 9 rounds this fall scored in the 80s and has 5 of team's 10 best scores; 45th at 2014 MIAC Championships (272) and 30th at 2013 MIAC Championships (257); All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team in 2014-15.)
- Taylor Salewske (SO | Transferred to Augsburg last spring from Division I Stetson (Fla.); 90.6 stroke average and .455 W-L percentage (133-159) this fall; 89.4 career stroke average and .464 career W-L percentage (157-181); shot season-best 82 in second round of Saint Benedict Invitational on Sept. 6.)
- Isabel Karbo (FY | 90.0 stroke average and .452 W-L percentage (132-160) this fall; Placed 2nd at Augsburg Border Battle Triangular on 9/24 with 84 score; has 3 of top-10 rounds shot by Auggies this fall.)
- Chelsea Green (SR | Competed first 2 years at Bethany Lutheran before transferring to Augsburg; 93.8 stroke average; 94.5 Augsburg career stroke average; 53rd at 2014 MIAC Championships (289).)
- Wendy Anderson (JR | 101.6 stroke average; 105.4 career stroke average; Shot career-best 93 in second round of Saint Benedict Invitational on 9/6.)

By the Numbers

- 361.9: Augsburg's team stroke average so far this season, which currently stands as the best team average in program history, bettering last season's 362.8 stroke average.
- 341: Augsburg's team score in the second round of the Saint Benedict Invitational on Sept. 6, the third-best single-round team score in program history. Augsburg's 715 team total was its best 36-hole score since the 2013-14 campaign.
- 15: Rounds shot in the 80s among the 52 shot by Augsburg women's golfers so far this fall, including seven by leading scorer Chelsea Crego.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg claimed a team victory in the single-round Border Battle Triangular with Wisconsin-River Falls and Wisconsin-Stout on Sept. 24, Augsburg's first win in a multi-team event or dual meet since 2009. Augsburg's 349 team score marked the ninth-best single-round score in program history.

Off the Course

- Augsburg Head Coach Eric Rolland, who also serves as director of player development and assistant professional at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, Minn., advanced to sectional qualifying for the 2015 U.S. Open with a second-place finish at a local qualifier in May. He won the National Car Rental Minnesota PGA Assistant Championship on Monday at the Golden Valley Golf and Country Club, winning the meet with a 7-under-par 139 (68-71), 7 strokes ahead of the second-place finisher.



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

Head coach

- Trent Anderson (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 2nd place | 956 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Christine Piwnica (So. | 2014 All-MIAC)
- Leah Swanson (Jr. | 2014 All-MIAC)
- Abby Perrenoud (Jr. | 2013 All-MIAC)
- Erika Schwalbe (Sr. | 85.9 average)
- Kalyn Root (Jr. | 89.3 average)

By the Numbers

- 313: Bethel shot a 313 on the final day of the 2014 MIAC Championships, which marked the best individual team round in program history.
- 25: The Royal's three-day total of +25 helped Bethel finish second overall, which was the best team finish in program history.
- 2: Christine Piwnica finished runner-up in last year's MIAC Championship, just one stroke behind tournament medalist, Grace Gilmore (Carleton). That was the highest finish from a Bethel women's golfer.

Did You Know?

- The Royals shot 956 during last year's tournament, beating 2013's mark—which was a program record at the time—by 52 strokes.

Off the Course

- The Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) recognized six Royals as All-American Scholars last spring. The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent in all of college athletics. The minimum cumulative GPA is 3.50. Those honored were Danae Johnson, Shayla Noorgard, Abby Perrenoud, Christine Piwnica, Kalyn Root, and Leah Swanson.

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

Head coach

- Eric Sieger (15th season)



A Year Ago

- 1st place | 935 (+71)

In the 2015 NCAA Championships

- Tied for 6th at the NCAA Championships | 72-hole total of 1313 (+161)

Golfers to Watch

- Grace Gilmore (Sr. | two-time WGCA All-Region and All-MIAC performer; 2014 MIAC Individual Champion; led

conference players with a 79.0 stroke average in 2014-15 and is pacing the MIAC once again this fall at 76.5; tallied eight top-5 finishes in 15 tournaments dating back to start of 2014-15 season)

- Ziyi Wang (Fy. | fourth among conference players with 78.1 stroke average this season; has posted top-10 finishes at all four tournaments this fall)

- Ayumi Sakamoto (Fy. | seventh in the MIAC with a 79.3 stroke average; she has one top-5, two top-10 and four top-20 results this season)

- Geraldine Tellbuescher (Jr. | Two-time WGCA All-Region and All-MIAC; notched five top-5 finishes in 2014-15; ninth in MIAC with 80.0 stroke average this year; finished 7th at the 2014 MIAC Championships)

- Mara Daly (Sr. | owns 90.5 stroke average; posted two of the top-three scores of her career during the fall 2015 season)

By the Numbers

- 6th: The Knights competed in the 2015 NCAA Championships and tied for sixth, which is the highest NCAA finish for any Carleton team in 10 years.
- 79.0: Grace Gilmore matched the school single-season record with her conference-best 79.0 stroke average in 2014-15.
- 299: The Carleton women carded a team score of 299 for the final round of the 2014 MIAC Championships, believed to be the first time that any MIAC women's team broke the 300 barrier.

Did You Know?

- Junior Shannon Holden—the 2014-15 MIAC Player-of-the-Year and a two-time WGCA All-Region performer—is not in the Knights' lineup because she is taking part in off-campus study program this fall in Madrid, Spain. The 2013 MIAC Individual Champion and 2014 runner-up will return to participate during the spring 2016 portion of the season.

Off the Course

- Grace Gilmore '16 and Taylor Wells '15 earned All-America Scholar honors from the Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA).



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

Head coach

- Duane Siverson (32nd season)

A Year Ago

- 8th place | 1022 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Haley Johnson (Sr. | Leads Concordia in scoring average in 2015 with an 86.8 average; finished fourth at the MIAC Showcase)
- Erin Pennington (So. | Second on the team in scoring in 2015 at 87.4; finished 12th at the MIAC Showcase)
- Emily Grace Olson (Jr. | Fired the first hole-in-one in program history when she aced the 11th hole at the St. Benedict Fall Invite)

By the Numbers

- 6: All six of the Concordia athletes on this year's roster are from Minnesota
- 81: Cobber senior Hayley Johnson's lowest round in each of the past two seasons is an 81

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

- 4th place | 982 strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Mae Meierhenry (Jr., Sioux Falls, S.D.) | Meierhenry leads the Gusties with an 80.6-stroke per round average after eight rounds this season. Meierhenry took second place at the Doug Georgianni Memorial Invite hosted by UW-Eau Claire on Sept. 13-14 with a score of 157. Meierhenry also took second place at last weekend's College City Classic with a score of 158 (+12).

- McKenzie Swenson (So., Buffalo, Minn.) | Swenson took medalists honors at the Doug Georgianni Memorial Invite hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire on Sept. 13-14. Swenson shot season-low scores of 79 and 77 for a total of 156 (+12). Swenson is second on the team with an 80.8-stroke per round average.

By the Numbers

- 76: Gustavus' individual low round this season, shot by Mae Meierhenry at the Georgianni Memorial on Sept. 13.
- 318: Gustavus' team low round this season, which happened twice - first at the CSB Invite and again at UW-Eau Claire.

Did You Know?

- Gustavus's new state-of-the-art Drenttel Golf Facility is in its first year of use. Located on the northwest corner of campus and designed by Minnesota-based architectural firm TKDA, the 2,650-square foot Drenttel Golf Facility features 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

- Mae Meierhenry - along with graduated Jordy Drenttel - last year were named as WGCA All-American Scholars. A total of 758 women's collegiate golfers nationwide were recognized with the honor that goes to individuals with a GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

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



Head coach

- Tomas Adalsteinsson (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 9th place | 1,044 total strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Jessica Yost (SO | Won the Mac/Mary Dual; team-low 84.9 average; placed 25th at the MIAC Championships in 2014)
- Jessica Stone (SR | 88.6 average; was 42nd at the 2014 MIAC Championships)

By the Numbers

- 81: The lowest single-round score by a Scot golfer, shot by Jessica Yost to win the Mac/Mary Dual.
- 3: The number of golfers who have played in every round this season.

Did You Know?

- Former Macalester All-American Kristy Schaaf Horner '03 was inducted into the M Club Hall of Fame on Saturday.

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



Head coach

- Daryl Schomer (5th season)

A Year Ago

- 5th place | 984 points

Golfers to Watch

- Lauren Wise (Sr | All-MIAC in 2014-15, three top-10 finishes in 2015 so far, tied for 17th at 2014 MIAC Championship)
- Natalie Amundson (FY | Leads the team with an 80.6 stroke average, three top-10 finishes)
- Madeline Pagel (FY | Fourth on team with 85.8 average, two top-25 finishes)

By the Numbers

- 1: Lauren Wise is the only golfer on the 2015-16 Blazer roster who has golfed in the MIAC Championships before
- 75: Low individual round for CSB this season, shot by Natalie Amundson (9/6) and Lauren Wise (9/27)
- 324: CSB's low round for the season so far, shot at the CSB Invite (9/6) and MIAC Showcase (9/13)

Did You Know?

- CSB's 11-woman roster features eight underclassmen (three sophomores, five first years).

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



Head coach

- Michele Rutt (2nd season)

A Year Ago

- 6th place | 985 (+121)

Golfers to Watch

- Sydney Busker (Fy. | 78.9 avg., top 5 in MIAC; tied for 1st at Division III Classic; two top-10 finishes; tied 36-hole school record, 152 (+8); MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week, Sept. 23)

- Abby Conzemius (Jr. | 79.6 avg., top 10 in MIAC; two top-5 finishes in 2015; set 36-hole school record, 152 (+8); 2013 and 2014 All-MIAC; 9th at 2014 MIAC Championships)
- Kaitlyn Alvarez (So. | 81.0 avg., top 15 in MIAC; one top-10 finish; 2014 All-MIAC; 8th at 2014 MIAC Championships, school record)
- Taylor Krouse (So. | 82.3 avg., top-20 in MIAC; 13th at College City Challenge)
- Madi Roe (Jr. | 85.7 avg., top-30 in MIAC; 13th at Wartburg Fall Invite)

By the Numbers

- 3: The Wildcats were just three strokes behind Carleton at the College City Challenge with a season-best second-place finish.
- 73: Conzemius carded a 73 (+1) to set an 18-hole program record on the opening day of the Wartburg Fall Invite.
- 622: The Wildcats shattered program records with a 36-hole team score of 622 (+46) to finish fourth at the Wartburg Fall Invite. The team's day one 18-hole score of 306 (+18) is also a Wildcat record.

Did You Know?

- The Wildcats' round of 306 (+18) on the opening day of the Wartburg Fall Invite is the third-lowest round by a MIAC team this season.

Off the Course

- Junior Nicole Traxler traveled abroad last spring to Barcelona, Spain to study business and Spanish.

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



Head coach

- Greg Moore (1st season)

A Year Ago

- 11th place | 1,099 strokes

Golfers to watch

- Kaitlin Kling (5-6, So. | Led the Cardinals with a 86.63 scoring average—including a collegiate best 83 at the Wartburg Invitational)
- Madison Gately (5-3, Jr. | Trimmed three strokes off her sophomore scoring average, finishing second on the team with a 90.00 average in 2015)
- Haley Jung (5-5, Sr. | Third on the team with a 90.11 scoring average. ... Shot back-to-back career-best rounds with 83-81 at Luther Invitational)

By The Numbers

- 5: Six of the seven Cardinals who competed in 2015 recorded at least one career-best score.
- 81: Haley Jung (Monticello, Minn.) recorded a team- and career-best 81 during the second round of the Luther Invitational on Sept. 26. It was the Cardinals' lowest 18-hole score since the 2009 season.
- 353/348: Saint Mary's recorded its top two team scores at the Luther Invitational on Sept. 25-26, shooting an opening-round 353, before following that up with a season-best 348. The 348 is the Cardinals' lowest round since shooting a 346 during the 2006 season.

Did You Know?

- Kaitlin Kling (LeRoy, Minn.) enters the MIAC Championships owning five of the Cardinals' seven low rounds this season—including a career-best 83 during the opening round of the Wartburg Invitational on Sept. 10.



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

Head coach

- Katie Connelly (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 7th place | 1007 total strokes

Golfers to Watch

- Shannon Carney (2016 | 90.1 stroke avg. in 2015)
- Meaghan Carney (2018 | Was fourth at MIAC Showcase... 85.5 stroke avg. in 2015)
- Grace Luker (2016 | 87.5 stroke avg. in 2015)
- Hayley Sawatzke (2019 | 92.0 stroke avg. in 2015)
- Ali Schultz (2019 | 90.8 stroke avg. in 2015)

By the Numbers

- 5: The MIAC Championships will be the Oles' fifth event in as many weekends.
- 774: The number of competitive holes played in the 2015 season thus far

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

Head coach

- Sara Evens (11th season)

**A Year Ago**

- 3rd place | 964

Golfers to Watch

- Rachel Morris, Junior | 4th and 5th in last two MIAC meets; 2015: 76.9 avg, in 8 rounds (2nd in MIAC)
- Emily Thul, Sophomore | tie 9th in 2014 MIAC meet; 2015: 77.4 avg in 8 rounds, 3rd in MIAC
- Erin Dingmann, Senior | 2nd in 2013 MIAC meet; 2015: 80.6 avg. in 8 rounds
- Morgan McCorkle, Sophomore | 81.0 avg in 8 rounds

- Marja Sorensen, Freshman | 82.8 avg. in 8 rounds

By the Numbers

- 4: Top-3 team places (two firsts) in four fall tournaments to date
- 4: Returners from last season's Tommie lineup
- 4: MIAC Championships won by UST in the last decade (2005, 2006, 2007, 2013)

Did You Know?

- Three of the Tommies' top five players grew up in towns of 5,000 or less residents. Head coach Sara Evens is from Grafton, N.D., population 5,105.

Off the Course

- The four UST upperclassmen competing this weekend have a combined gpa of 3.67 led by Erin Dingmann's 3.89.

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