

Megan Favorite, Saint Benedict

Maple Grove, Minn. / Maple Grove

Week of: 2011-11-08



Saint Benedict goalkeeper **Megan Favorite** (Maple Grove, Minn.) played like a seasoned veteran last week despite being just a freshman as the Blazers won a pair of tight games to capture the 2011 MIAC Women's Soccer Playoff championship. Favorite was the difference in both games, recording two shutouts in goal and making 15 saves - including three in a semifinal shootout win - to help CSB capture the postseason title. Thanks to her outstanding Playoff performance, Favorite received the final MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week award for the 2011 season.

Tuesday, Favorite made seven saves to keep No. 4 Macalester off the scoreboard for all of regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods to send the game into a shootout. There, she didn't allow the Scots to score either with three big saves as the Blazers converted two of their penalty kicks to win and advance. The freshman keeper came up big in Saturday's championship game against No. 3 Concordia, making eight saves to earn another shutout victory as CSB scored just before the buzzer at the end of the first overtime period to win the game and the title. Overall, she played 209:58 plus a shootout in the net without allowing a goal. This season, Favorite's 0.47 goals against average and .911 save percentage ranked first in the MIAC. She tied for third in the league with nine shutouts in 15 games and the star freshman ranked sixth in saves (72) and saves per game (4.80).

Thanks to their two MIAC Playoff victories, Favorite and the Blazers improved to 12-6-2 this season and added the postseason title to their regular season co-championship. CSB also received the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2011 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Tournament, which begins this weekend. The Blazers will travel to a four-team regional in Dubuque, Iowa, where it will meet Carroll College (Wis.) in the opening round. The winner will face the winner of the Loras/Hanover game on Sunday for the right to advance to the Sweet 16.

Kelsey Swagger, Concordia

Burnsville, Minn. / Apple Valley

Week of: 2011-11-01



Concordia senior midfielder **Kelsey Swagger** (Burnsville, Minn./Apple Valley) recorded assists on both Cobber goals in the team's 2-1 win over MIAC regular-season co-champions St. Ben's on Saturday. Swagger's two assists helped Concordia secure the No.3 seed in the MIAC Tournament and, as a result, she has been named the MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

Swagger's first assist came in the sixth minute of play against the Blazers. She won the ball in the middle of the park and then started the Concordia offensive attack by playing a well-timed outlet pass. Swagger then picked up the only assist on the game-winning goal in the second half. She served a perfect ball into the penalty area where a Cobber attacker was able to run onto the ball and knock home the game winner. Not only did Swagger make a big impact on the offensive end but she has provided a huge defensive influence for Concordia. A three-year starter on the back line for the Cobbers, Swagger moved to midfield and her ability to plug up the middle of the field is one of the big reasons Concordia finished the regular season by only losing once in their final 10 games.

Swagger and the Cobbers finished the regular season with an 11-2-5 overall record and a 7-1-3 conference mark. Concordia's 24 points earned them third place in the conference standings - just one point behind co-champs Saint Benedict and Carleton - and they opened the 2011 MIAC Playoffs Tuesday afternoon at No. 2 Carleton as the defending postseason champs.

Meghan McMillan, Gustavus

Minneapolis, Minn. / Holy Angels

Week of: 2011-10-25



Gustavus senior **Meghan McMillan** scored the only goal in the Gusties' 1-0 upset win over St. Thomas last week. McMillan weaved through the middle of Tommie defense and found the lower-left corner of the net at the 49:35 mark, notching her first goal of the season, and giving her team a signature win for the 2011 season. For her clutch performance, McMillan has been named the MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

McMillan's goal was made even more special due to the fact that it was Senior Day at Gustavus and she is the only senior on the Gustie roster. The goal wound up being the game-winner and helped Gustavus end a four-game losing streak against St. Thomas and record its first win against the Tommies in St. Peter since 1997. This season, McMillan leads the Gustavus offense with eight shots on goal, and her 24 shots are the second-most on the squad.

Gustavus used the win to improve to 4-11 overall and 2-7 in the MIAC last week, and it climbed above both Saint Mary's and St. Catherine in the standings. The Gusties' 2011 campaign will come to an end next week with two conference match-ups on the road in St. Paul. Gustavus will travel to St. Catherine University on Wednesday for a 3:30 p.m. game and the season finale will be against Macalester next Saturday at 1 p.m.

Bri Clark, Augsburg

Mound, Minn. / Mound-Westonka

Week of: 2011-10-18



The Augsburg women's soccer team won two huge MIAC contests last week and pulled itself back into the playoff race behind a big offensive week from junior **Bri Clark** (Mound, Minn./Mound-Westonka). The forward scored one goal apiece in the Auggies' wins over St. Olaf and Gustavus, including the game-winner against the Gusties. For her performance, Clark has been named the MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

In Augsburg's 2-1 win over the Oles last Tuesday, Clark gave her team the early momentum by cashing in off a corner kick just 2:28 into the game. The goal proved to be huge as the Auggies handed St. Olaf its only loss in MIAC play thus far. For an encore, Clark scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win over Gustavus 24 minutes into the match to give Augsburg its second big win of the week. This season, Clark has nine goals, three assists and 21 points. She is tied for third in the MIAC in goals, fourth in points and fifth in shots per game (3.23), and her three game-winning goals are tied for the second-most in the league in 2011.

With the two wins, Clark and the Auggies improved to 7-6-1 overall and 4-2-1 in conference play, and they're currently tied for sixth - just two points out of the fourth and final playoff spot. Augsburg has four games left on its regular season schedule, starting with Wednesday's home tilt vs. St. Catherine at 7:30 p.m. it will travel across the metro to face Hamline Saturday at 11 a.m. and it wraps up the regular season next week with MIAC matches against Concordia and Saint Mary's.

Aileen Scheibner, Hamline

Woodbury, Minn. / East Ridge

Week of: 2011-10-11



The Hamline women's soccer team continues to enjoy the most successful season in program history, and a lot of that success has been keyed by freshman star **Aileen Scheibner** (Woodbury, Minn./East Ridge). Scheibner's heroics last week helped Hamline go 1-0-1, as her two goals helped secure a tie against regionally-ranked UW-Stout and, for an encore, she scored the game-winner in double overtime to power the Pipers past Saint Mary's. As a result of her big week, Scheibner has been named the MIAC Women's soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

Scheibner's two-goal outburst in just an 11-minute span just after halftime turned a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 Hamline lead as she scored at 46:55 off a feed that set her up with a close-range shot, and she struck again at 58:08 when her shot from 20 feet out found the left corner of the net. She showed off her long-range shot again a few days later as her shot from 25 yards out hit the bottom of the crossbar and deflected into the net to give the Pipers the double-overtime win over Saint Mary's. Scheibner's big week moved her totals to 20 points and eight goals this season, and she's tied for first and tied for second on the MIAC leader board in those categories, respectively.

Currently 7-2-3 overall and 2-2-2 in MIAC play, Hamline is just one win or three points away from moving into a tie for the fourth and final spot in the conference playoff field. This week, the Pipers can really help their playoff positioning with a pair of huge home games in conference play. Wednesday, they'll host Gustavus at 4 p.m. and Saturday defending MIAC Champion Carleton comes to St. Paul for a 1p.m. match.

Heather Beshears, Saint Benedict

Maple Grove, Minn. / Maple Grove

Week of: 2011-10-04



Saint Benedict senior forward **Heather Beshears** (Maple Grove, Minn.) scored two goals and added two assists as the Blazers went 2-0-1 last week. Her six-point week helped St. Ben's move to 3-1-1 in conference play and jump into a three-way tie for second place. Beshears also had five shots on the week and all five were on goal. For her contributions to CSB's success, Beshears has been named the MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

Beshears started her week by recording a goal and an assist in the Blazer's 2-0 win over Augsburg on Wednesday. She also had a pair of shots on goal as CSB handed the Auggies their first conference loss of the season. On Saturday, Beshears helped the Blazers tie regionally-ranked St. Olaf 2-2. The double overtime tie was the first blemish of the year for the Oles in conference play. Beshears finished off her week by scoring her team-leading third goal of the year in the team's dominating 5-0 win at Nebraska Wesleyan. Beshears had three shots in the game and all three shots were on frame.

Saint Benedict and Beshears will look to continue their winning ways when they play at St. Catherine on Saturday at 1 p.m. The following week, the Blazers will continue working their way through the MIAC as they hit the road twice for matches at Bethel (Oct. 11) and St. Thomas (Oct. 15).

Lindsay Howard, St. Olaf

Minnetonka, Minn. / Minnetonka

Week of: 2011-09-27



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Courtney McMoore, Hamline

Minneapolis, Minn. / Washburn
Week of: 2011-09-20



The Hamline women's soccer team is off to its best start in school history, still unbeaten at 5-0-1, and it largely has its defense to thank with just two goals allowed in six games. One of the reasons for the Piper defensive dominance has been the play of senior defender **Courtney McMoore** (Minneapolis, Minn./Washburn). Last week, her outstanding play in the back half helped Hamline shut out the potent offense of No. 11 Concordia in a 0-0, double-overtime tie, and she added more great defense and the game-tying goal in a 2-1 win over Bethel. For her performance, McMoore has been named the MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

McMoore's defense and senior leadership was a big factor in Wednesday's 2OT tie with the Cobbers. Concordia managed just 10 shots and seven shots on goal in the tie, which was down from its average of nearly 19 shots per game. She impacted Saturday's game with Bethel on both ends of the field, holding the Royals to a single goal, and delivering a game-changing goal in crunch time. In the 82nd minute, she scored to tie the game at 1-1 and give Hamline a spark to come back and win in the final minutes. McMoore played each of the possible 200 minutes last week. This season, McMoore and the Pipers are in the top two in the MIAC in goals allowed (two), goals against average (0.32) and shutouts (four).

The still-unbeaten Pipers will look to continue the best start in school history this week with a pair of games on their schedule. Hamline will hit the road twice, once on Tuesday for a nonconference game at Crown at 4 p.m., and once on Friday for a crucial MIAC showdown in St. Paul. The Pipers will travel across town Friday to face Macalester in a big game that begins at 7:30 p.m. on the Scots' home field.

Kelsey Flaherty, Bethel

Shoreview, Minn. / Mounds View
Week of: 2011-09-13



The Bethel women's soccer team is off to a hot start in 2011, unbeaten in five games with a 4-0-1 record under new head coach Jeremy Iwaszkowicz. The Royals went 2-0-1 last week with junior midfielder **Kelsey Flaherty** (Shoreview, Minn./Mounds View) providing much of the scoring punch. Flaherty scored a goal in each game, including perhaps the team's two biggest goals of the week that led to a win and a tie. For her performance, Flaherty has been named the MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week.

Flaherty started her scoring surge when she headed in a corner kick during a 6-0 rout of Crown College to get the Royals' big week off to a good start. She scored again just 6:28 into Bethel's game Friday against Simpson College, and that ended up being the Royals' lone goal and the difference between a loss and a tie in a game that finished 1-1. The very next day, Flaherty delivered the game-winner, scoring an unassisted goal in the 42nd minute to put her team up 1-0 in an eventual 2-0 win over Whitman. This season, Flaherty's four goals are tied for the most in the MIAC, and she's tied for second with eight points and third with 19 shots.

At this point in the season, Bethel is one of four MIAC teams to remain unbeaten, along with Hamline (4-0), St. Olaf (4-0) and Concordia (3-0-1). The Royals will try to continue their hot start this week with the start of conference play. They'll make their MIAC debut Tuesday at Augsburg under the lights in a game that starts at 7:30 p.m. Bethel will host also-unbeaten Hamline Saturday at 11 a.m. in its MIAC home opener.

Lily VanderStaay, Carleton



The Carleton women's soccer team appears to have picked up right where it left off in 2010, when it won the MIAC regular-season title and advanced to the playoff championship game as well. The Knights began the 2011 season with a pair of wins over the weekend at the Advantage Emblem Cup, with senior midfielder **Lily VanderStaay** leading Carleton's offensive charge. Vanderstaay was directly involved in three of the Knights' four goals to earn Tournament MVP honors. She added another honor to her big week Tuesday when she was named the first MIAC Women's Soccer Athlete-of-the-Week of 2011.

VanderStaay started her high-scoring weekend in Sunday's season-opening win over Dubuque. She notched an unassisted goal in the 65th minute to add some insurance and help Carleton cruise to a 2-0 win. She followed that up by assisting on both of the Knights' goals as they rallied from behind in Monday's 2-1 win over St. Scholastica. VanderStaay's first assist led to the equalizer in the 45th minute, and her second assist in the 63rd minute cemented Carleton's 2-0 start and VanderStaay's MVP award.

The Knights hope VanderStaay can keep successfully directing their offense with another big weekend of nonconference action on the horizon. Saturday, Carleton will host Wartburg for the Knights' 2011 home opener at 2 p.m. Sunday, they'll travel east across the border to take on UW-Stevens Point in Stevens Point, Wis., at 2 p.m.