

2014 MIAC Women's Soccer Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2014 MIAC Conference Preview

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- A year ago, just 10 points separated the top seven teams in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) women's soccer standings. With the 2014 season about to begin, that parity is expected to continue, and the result should be an incredibly entertaining season on soccer pitches around the MIAC.

Despite the equality throughout the standings, Saint Benedict was the class of the competitive conference a year ago, with Macalester right on the Blazers' heels. Saint Ben's captured both the regular-season and MIAC Playoff championships with a 16-3-1 overall record and a 9-2 MIAC mark. The Scots were the runners-up in both the conference's regular and post-season with a 13-5-1 overall record, and they were just a game behind the Blazers in the conference standings at 8-3.

After those two, things really got interesting in the battle for the final two MIAC Playoff spots. Perennial contender Concordia (11-7-1 overall) and a strong St. Olaf squad tied for the third and joined Saint Benedict and Macalester in the MIAC Playoffs with identical 7-3-1 conference records. That left an extremely talented and high-scoring Augsburg (10-3-5, 6-3-2 MIAC) on the outside looking in.

The other postseason contenders were also right there until the final weekend, as just two points separated sixth through eighth in the standings. Hamline (9-6-3, 6-4-1 MIAC) was sixth with 19 points, Carleton (8-9-1, 6-5 MIAC) was a point back of the Pipers in seventh, and St. Thomas came in eighth with 17 points and a 9-7-2 overall record (5-4-2 MIAC). Bethel (7-10-1, 3-7-1 MIAC) edged Gustavus (8-9, 3-8) by a single point, 10-9, for ninth place. St. Catherine finished 7-11 overall (2-9 MIAC) and Saint Mary's (0-18, 0-11) rounded out the final standings.

Remarkably, 11 of the MIAC's 12 teams won at least seven games overall in 2013. More than half (7 of 12) finished above .500 overall and the top eight all finished above .500 in conference play. That kind of talent and parity made for an unforgettable 2013 campaign, and all the returning talent from those teams fuels the optimism that 2014 could somehow be even better. Both Saint Benedict and Macalester graduated their top stars which may open the door for the next wave of contenders to all jump into the title picture and, throughout the league, expectations are at an all-time high at seemingly each campus.

While the parity is expected to remain the same, there is one big change to MIAC soccer in 2014. This year, the MIAC Playoff field has expanded from four to six teams, so if things are just as tight at the top this season, more teams will have the opportunity to win their way into the NCAA Tournament. The tournament will still be a high-seed host, single-elimination format, with the top two seeds receiving a bye to the semifinals. Seeds 3-6 will square off in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, Nov. 4, with the winners advancing to semifinal matches the following day, Wednesday, Nov. 5. The two semifinal winners will meet on Saturday, Nov. 8 with the postseason title - and an automatic bid to the national tournament - on the line.

PARITY REFLECTED IN PRESEASON POLL

Any discussion of parity in the league in 2014 can be supported by the evidence provided by the 2014 MIAC Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll. Remarkably, six teams all received at least 82 points in the poll, and five different teams received first-place votes. Three of those five received more than one first-place vote so, if the coaches' predictions are any indication, the race for the MIAC championship will be an enthralling multiple-team affair.

However, despite the competition, the coaches call for a repeat as Saint Benedict received six of the 12 first-place votes and 115 total points to emerge as the favorite to capture the MIAC title. Macalester received two first-place votes and 103 points to finish second. St. Olaf and Concordia each received one first-place vote with the Oles (93 points) edging the Cobbers (90) for third place. Augsburg garnered two first-place votes, and is tied for fifth in the poll with St. Thomas, as both accumulated 82 points in the poll.

Hamline received 65 points to finish seventh, with Carleton in eighth place with 51 points. St. Catherine received 42 points to finish ninth, Gustavus (30) edged Bethel (27) for the final spot in the top 10, and Saint Mary's (12) rounded out the final spot in the coaches' preseason predictions.

CONFERENCE COACHING STABILITY

In recent years, the MIAC coaching carousel had been rather busy, with seven of the 12 teams making a coaching change within the last three seasons. However, the spinning stopped during the offseason, and each team will bring back a veteran coach in 2014. Augsburg's Mike Navarre is the dean of MIAC women's soccer coaches as he begins his 16th season leading the Auggies.

St. Olaf's Jeremy Driver is closing in on a decade in Northfield as he opens his ninth season. Hamline's Ted Zingmann and St. Thomas' Shelia McGill are both beginning their eighth campaign and Steve Kimble starts his sixth season at Saint Benedict.



Saint Mary's Neil Cassidy and St. Catherine's Chris Citowicki are both starting year No. 4, Macalester's Michele Cornish, Gustavus' Laura Burnett-Kurie, Carleton's Jocelyn Keller and Bethel's Amanda Maxwell are each opening their third season at their current post, and Concordia's Kevin Roos was the only new coach a year ago as he opens his second season in Moorhead.

WHO TO WATCH FOR

The defending champions waved goodbye to star forward Colleen Bouchard - a first-team All-American in 2013 - but Kimble's Saint Benedict squad is still loaded at seemingly every position. A trio of juniors will lead the Blazers' MIAC title defense as defender Megan Lenz and Midfielder Peggy Reiner were both Third-Team All-Region picks a year ago, and forward Grace Vaughan was an All-MIAC selection.

Macalester also loses its top player - scoring whiz and 2013 MIAC Player-of-the-Year Georgia Cloepfil - but the Scots also have players ready to step up and increase their scoring numbers in her absence. All-Conference midfielder Bonnie Gale and forward Lydia Chodosh give Cornish's team a valuable tandem of senior leadership, and hopes for title contention once again.

St. Olaf will have some work to do on defense, as Driver graduated All-MIAC goalkeeper Nora Forbes and some valuable defenders, but All-MIAC forward Kajsa Brindley and her scoring touch are back to lead the Ole offense. Clutch midfielder Madison Van Wylen is also back after scoring a pair of game-winning goals in 2013.

In his second season guiding Concordia, Roos has a wealth of talent returning to Moorhead. Seniors Libby Fransdal (defender) and Laura Prosinski (midfielder) have earned All-MIAC in each of the last two seasons, and fellow senior Elizabeth Robinson (forward) joined them on the All-Conference team in 2013 to give the Cobbers a stellar returning nucleus.

Augsburg's offense will be loaded again in 2014, as Navarre welcomes back senior forward Olivia Muyres, whose 19 goals and 47 points in 2013 were new Auggie single-season records. All-MIAC Honorable Mention picks Marie Fitzgerald and Abi Rodstein will also be back for the Augsburg attack. St. Thomas was hit hard by graduation, losing All-Conference stars Jaclyn Glaser, Jenna Savino and Katy Scherer, but are excited about a pair of seniors stepping into expanded roles. Defender Morgan McConachie was an All-MIAC Honorable Mention pick a year ago, and forward Taylor Sabrowski will step in to lead the Tommie offense.

Hamline should be solid on defense with All-MIAC goalkeeper Erin Urbanowicz and Honorable Mention defender Mackenzie Zink both back, and forward Aileen Scheibner will be counted on to lead the Pipers' scoring attack in 2014. Carleton has All-MIAC midfielder Bailey Ulbricht back in the lineup, along with All-MIAC Honorable Mention goalkeeper Mikayla Coulombe and forward Ellie Wilson as the Knights aim to get back to the postseason.

St. Catherine hopes for its upward trajectory to continue in 2014 behind a pair of All-MIAC Honorable Mention returnees - forward Elly Leyva and Sarah Anderson. Leyva was especially clutch, with game-winners in both of SCU's overtime games, and forward Nina Bukowski will also be counted on for additional scoring. Gustavus could be another team on the rise in Burnett-Kurie's third season with nearly all key players back in St. Peter. Maddison Ackiss is back after notching 19 points in her rookie campaign, and junior forward Brittany Chase also returns to help keep the future looking bright for the Gusties.

Bethel is another team that brings back its nucleus intact, starting with talented senior midfielder Jessica Huseby, who has received All-Conference honors during her career. All-MIAC Honorable Mention picks Olivia Haggerty (defender) and Micale Jensen (goalkeeper) also return for the Royals. Saint Mary's hopes for greener pastures in 2014 behind junior midfielder Caroline Blackwood - a two-time All-MIAC Honorable Mention pick - along with senior goalkeeper Miranda Halling and junior midfielder Kelli Harstad.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

The 2014 MIAC women's soccer season is set to start on Friday, Aug. 29, with all 12 teams in nonconference action. Carleton, Concordia, St. Thomas, Gustavus, St. Catherine, Saint Benedict and Bethel will all open Friday on the road, while St. Olaf, Hamline, Saint Mary's, Augsburg and Macalester will all make their 2014 debuts at home.

The 2014 conference season begins with a full six-game slate on Tuesday, Sept. 16, and the regular season will conclude on Saturday, Nov. 1, with all 12 teams also in action on the season's final day. The new-look, six-team MIAC Playoffs will follow with quarterfinals on Nov. 4, semifinals on Nov. 5 and the championship on Nov. 8.

There will be plenty of thrilling matchups that could decide championship and postseason hopes, as well as spots throughout the standings. Last season's top two teams will meet in a rematch of the MIAC Playoff championship on Oct. 1 when Saint Benedict travels to Macalester for a 7:30 p.m. prime-time showdown. The other two returning Playoff teams - St. Olaf and Concordia - will meet on Sept. 27 when the Oles head to Moorhead to face the Cobbers at 1 p.m.

On the season's final day, Augsburg and St. Thomas will square off in a Twin Cities showdown that could have major postseason implications on the Auggies home field Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. Hamline and Carleton also hope to be in the postseason hunt, and their Oct. 18 matchup in Northfield at 1 p.m. could be a huge game for both teams' Playoff hopes.

Bethel and Saint Mary's also meet Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. in Arden Hills in a key game for teams looking for upward mobility in 2014. St. Catherine and Gustavus will meet in St. Peter on Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. in a game between two more teams looking to continue their development and take that next step in 2014.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2014 MIAC Women's Soccer Preview contains complete results from the 2014 Preseason Coaches' Poll, a video from MIAC Media, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC women's soccer news, schedules, scores, stats and more throughout the 2014 season.

Visit the [MIAC scoreboard](#) on game days to follow all the action, and download the [MIAC mobile app](#) to have all the information with you anywhere you travel. Also, connect to the conference on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2014 MIAC Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (11 for first, 10 for second, etc.) Teams are ranked in order of highest point total to lowest with vote totals listed and first-place votes shown in parentheses.

2014 MIAC Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1.	Saint Benedict (6)	115
2.	Macalester (2)	103
3.	St. Olaf (1)	93
4.	Concordia (1)	90
T5.	Augsburg (2)	82
T5.	St. Thomas	82
7.	Hamline	65
8.	Carleton	51
9.	St. Catherine	42
10.	Gustavus	30
11.	Bethel	27
12.	Saint Mary's	12

2014 MIAC Women's Soccer Playoffs

The 2014 MIAC Playoffs will have a new look, as the field has expanded from four to six teams. It will still be a single-elimination, high-seed host format, with two more teams included beginning this fall. The top two seeds will receive byes to the semifinals, while teams seeded No. 3-6 will square off in the quarterfinals. The two quarterfinal games will take place Tuesday, Nov. 4, the two semifinal games will be follow on Wednesday, Nov. 5, and the championship is set for Saturday, Nov. 8. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2014 NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament.

| [MIAC Women's Soccer Playoffs Web Sites](#) | [2013](#) | [2014](#) |

MIAC Women's Soccer Links

| [2014 MIAC Schedule](#) | [2013 MIAC Statistics](#) | [MIAC Recordbook](#) | [MIAC Archives](#) |

MIAC Media Podcast Preview

On the most recent episode of MIAC Media's podcast, [MIAC Weekly](#), Host Mike Gallagher took an in-depth look at MIAC men's and women's soccer with the season about to begin. Give it a listen to hear about the teams and players to watch for in 2014.

MIAC Team-by-Team Previews

| [AUG](#) | [BU](#) | [CAR](#) | [CON](#) | [GAC](#) | [HU](#) | [MAC](#) | [CSB](#) | [SCU](#) | [SMU](#) | [STO](#) | [UST](#) |

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

Head Coach

- Mike Navarre (16th season)



A Year Ago

- 6-3-2 MIAC (Fifth place) | 10-3-5 Overall

Top Returners

- Olivia Muyres (F, SR | All-MIAC and NSCAA All-North Region second team in 2013; Set Augsburg single-season records with 19 goals and 47 points in 2013, adding 9 assists and 6 game-winning goals; Tied for MIAC lead in goals in overall stats, while second in total points and third in assists; 31 goals and 17 assists for 79 career points in career)
- Marie Fitzgerald (F, JR | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2013; 7 goals and 9 assists for 23 points in 2013; Tied for

third among MIAC players in assists and tied for sixth in points; 11 goals and 22 assists for 34 points in career)

- Abi Rodstein (MF, SR | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2013; 1 goal and 3 assists for 5 points in 2013; 2 goals and 6 assists for 10 points in career)

Key Losses

- Alekzandra Miller (D | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2012, All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team in 2013; Led team with 1,616 minutes played in 2013; 4 assists in 71 career games; Played 5,842 minutes in career; Capital One Academic All-District in 2013 and NSCAA Scholar All-Region honorable mention in 2013 and 2012.)
- Katie Gajewski (GK | 10-3-5 with 0.84 GAA and 4 shutouts in 2013; 29-18-9 record with 1.08 GAA and 19 shutouts in 58-game career)
- Rachel Nelson (F | 1 goal and 1 assist for 3 points in 2013; 8 goals and 5 assists for 21 points in 61-game career)

By the Numbers

- 4: Consecutive weeks that Augsburg players earned MIAC Player of the Week honors in the opening weeks of 2013, with forward Olivia Muyres earning the honors three times and goalkeeper Katie Gajewski earning it once. Muyres scored 12 goals and added 6 assists for 30 points in the Auggies' first nine games, as Augsburg went 6-0-3.
- 31: Career goals for Olivia Muyres, currently tied for second in school history in the category. Muyres' 79 points are third in school history. Augsburg's school records for goals (38) and points (93) are both held by Millie Suk (2002-05). Muyres also is tied for seventh all-time in career assists with 17; the school record of 26 was set by Kara Seibel (1991-95)
- 128: Career victories for Augsburg head coach Mike Navarre (128-103-40), entering his 16th season at Augsburg in 2014. His 128 wins are more than the combined records of the five coaches that preceeded Navarre in the first 14 seasons of the program's existence (76-138-13).

Did You Know?

- Augsburg traveled to Nicaragua in early January on an eight-day, three-game trip, partnering with the college's Center for Global Education for education, cultural immersion and community service projects. The Auggies played three games against the Nicaraguan women's national team, with a tie and two losses.

Off the Field

- Augsburg earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Team Academic Award for the fifth straight season in 2013, with a team GPA of 3.44. Defender Alekzandra Miller earned NSCAA Scholar All-Region honorable-mention and Capital One Academic All-District honors in 2013.



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

Head coach

- Amanda Maxwell (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 3-7-1 MIAC (Ninth place) | 7-10-1 Overall

Top Returners

- Jessica Huseby (M, Sr. | 8 G, 17 Pts., 2013 Honorable Mention All-Conference, 2012 All-Conference)
- Olivia Haggerty (D, Sr. | 2013 Honorable Mention All-Conference)
- Micale Jensen (GK, So. | 1.43 GaAVG, .816 Save%, 5 Shutouts, 2013 Honorable Mention All-Conference)

Key Losses

- Suzette Anderson (F | 4 G, 5 A, 13 Pts.)

By the Numbers

- 5: Goalkeeper Micale Jensen posted five shutouts in 2013, including a Bethel record four shutouts in MIAC play
- 22: Jensen set another school record in 2013, making 22 saves on October 26th in the Royals 0-0 tie with Hamline
- 44: Senior Jessica Huseby currently sits eighth on Bethel's all-time points leaders list with 44 career points on 14 goals and 16 assists

Did You Know?

- New assistant coach Kelsey Petterson (Flaherty) is Bethel's only four-time All-Conference selection as she made the MIAC honor roll each year of her career playing midfield/defense from 2009-12.

Off the Field

- New assistant coach Lisa Berg coached the Ugandan women's U20 national team to a victory over South Sudan in 2013 and coached the

team against DR Congo and Egypt in 2011 and 2012. Since 2011 Coach Berg has also been a technical adviser and assistant coach for the Uganda women's national soccer team.



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

Head coach

- Jocelyn Keller (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 6-5 MIAC (Seventh place) | 8-9-1 Overall

Top Returners

- Bailey Ulbricht (Midfielder, Sr. | All-MIAC First Team in 2013... paced Knights with 13 points; led squad and ranked 8th in MIAC with 5 assists; all 4 goals either tied the game or gave Carleton the lead)
- Ellie Wilson (Forward, Sr. | tied for team lead with 4 goals, second on squad with 3 assists)
- Mikayla Coulombe (Goalkeeper, Jr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2012 & 2013... registered a career-best 87 saves in 2013)

Key Losses

- Layne Teska (Defender | All-MIAC First Team in 2012 & 2013, NSCAA All-Region in 2011)
- Arielle Koshkin (Midfielder | Made 14 starts last year and finished third on team in goals [3] and points [8])
- Nina Shapiro (Midfielder | Started 10 of 16 games played, tallying 1 goal with 2 assists)

By the Numbers

- 10: 10 of Carleton's games last season were decided by one goal or less (ties)... the Knights went 6-3-1 in those contests.
- 13: This year's roster includes players from 12 states and Canada
- 16: Injuries forced the Knights to use 16 different starting lineups in the 18 games during the 2013 season.

Did You Know?

- Mikayla Coulombe was one of only two MIAC goalkeepers to start all 18 regular-season games in 2013.

Off the Field

- In addition to a 13th straight NSCAA Team Academic award (easily tops in the MIAC), the Knights saw three players—Baily Ulbricht, Willie Wilson, and Alexandra Guy—named to the NSCAA's Scholar All-Region squad.
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CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' women's soccer home page](#) |

Head coach

- Kevin Roos (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 7-3-1 MIAC (T-3rd place) | 11-7-1 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Lost to St. Ben's 2-1 in the MIAC semifinals

Top Returners

- Libby Fransdal (D, Sr. | Two-time NSCAA All-Region, two-time All-MIAC)
- Laura Prosinski (M, Sr. | 2013 NSCAA All-Region, two-time All-MIAC, second leading score on the team in 2012)
- Elizabeth Robinson (F, Sr. | 2013 NSCAA All-Region, 2013 All-MIAC, leading scorer on the team in 2013 with 13 goals and two assists for 28 points)

Key Losses

- Jamie St. Germain (M | 2013 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention)
- Gina Weiss (F | Fourth on the team in scoring in 2013)

By the Numbers

- 9: Concordia returns eight starters from last year's team which tied for third place in the league standings
- 11: The Cobbers have been to the MIAC playoffs for 11 consecutive seasons. It is the longest streak of any school in the conference.
- 65: Concordia senior All-Region defender Libby Fransdal has started 65 consecutive games in her three-year career.

Did You Know?

- Concordia senior twin sisters Laura and Marta Prosinski are both nursing majors and both volunteered at the Billings Animal Rescue and Kare clinic in the summer.

Off the Field

- The Cobbers traveled to Costa Rica prior to the start of preseason training as part of a goodwill mission donated soccer gear, and also gave soccer clinics, to the local communities.
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GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' women's soccer home page](#) |

Head coach

- Laura Burnett-Kurie (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 3-8-0 MIAC (10th place) | 8-9-0 Overall

Top Returners

- Maddison Ackiss (Forward, So.) | Played in all 17 matches last year...Top returning scorer from last season's team with 19 points off eight goals (team-high) and three assists...Led team and ranked fourth in MIAC in game-winning goals with four.
- Brittany Chase (Forward, Jr.) | Started in all 17 matches as a sophomore...Third on team in points with two goals and one assist.

Key Losses

- Amanda Cartony (Forward) | Three time All-Conference Honorable Mention performer...Led team in scoring last season with 19 points (7G, 5A)...Amassed 26 goals and 10 assists for a total of 62 points over her four-year career.

By the Numbers

- 8: The number of returners that started in six games or more last season.
- 32: The total points tallied by last season's first-year players, good for 46-percent of the team's total points.
- .127: Gustavus's third-ranked shot-percentage within MIAC play last season.

Did You Know?

- Last season's eight wins are the best season total since 2007 when the Gusties went 8-10-0 overall.

Off the Field

- The Gusties tallied a 3.48 team GPA last season and earned recognition from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for its performance in the classroom.



HAMLIN | [Pipers' women's soccer home page](#) |

Head coach

- Ted Zingman (Eighth season)

A Year Ago

- 6-4-1 MIAC (Sixth place) | 9-6-3 Overall

Top Returners

- Erin Urbanowicz (Sr., GK, All-MIAC last year, led conference with 0.70 GAA and allowed just eight goals; .860 Save percentage.)
- Aileen Scheibner (Sr., F, two goals and seven assists last year while playing with hip issues; Led team with nine goals in 2012.)
- Mackenzie Zink (So., D, Honorable Mention last year, started all 18 games)

Key Losses

- Eden Behrens (All-MIAC, F, led HU with eight goals and four assists)
- Hannah Plagman (D, Started all but one game in 4-year career at HU)
- Tessa Howard (F, played in 17 games last year)

By the Numbers

- 3: Consecutive winning seasons. (School has never had one before this run.)
- 17: players back from last season's team
- 31: number of HU wins recorded last three seasons.

Did You Know?

- Erin Urbanowicz is an unusual two-sport player. In the winter and spring, she is one of the top throwers in the conference (second in weight throw at MIAC Indoor meet.)

Off the Field

- Perennially ranked among the top student-athletes in the school, HU had five members on last fall's MIAC Academic All-Conference team. All are back in school this fall.

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



Head coach

- Michele Cornish (Third season)

A Year Ago

- 8-3 MIAC (Second place) | 13-5-1 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (Fell to the College of St. Benedict 3-2 in MIAC playoff finals)

Top Returners

- Bonnie Gale (Midfielder, Senior | 2013 MIAC All-Conference; 11 goals, one assist and 33 shots on goal in 2013)
- Lydia Chodosh (Forward/MF, Senior | four goals, three assists, 16 shots on goal in 2013)

Key Losses

- Georgia Cloepfil (Forward | 2013 MIAC Player of the Year, All-Conference, All North Region, and 2013 NSCAA All-American; 19 goals, 12 assists, 74 shots on goal in 2013)
- Bonnie Bentson (Midfielder/Defender | 2013 MIAC All-Conference)
- Maggie Molter (Midfielder/Forward | 2013 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention; 4 goals and 3 assists in 2013)

By the Numbers

- 8: Macalester has claimed eight MIAC championships, the last time coming in 2005.
- 9: The number of Macalester women's soccer players who landed on the 2013 Fall Academic All-Conference list.

Did You Know?

- Macalester's top loss, Georgia Cloepfil was the 17th player in Macalester women's soccer history to earn All-America status. She was a third team selection in 2013.

Off the Field

- Senior midfielder, Ellen Brady studied abroad in Niteroi, Brazil during the Spring 2014 semester. Brady joined two women's soccer teams while there and shared her experiences of female soccer players facing stigma and sexism on WBEZ's Worldview.

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



Head coach

- Steven Kimble (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 9-2 MIAC (Champions) | 16-3-1 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC Playoff Champions
- Lost in first round of NCAA Tournament

Top Returners

- Megan Lenz (Defender, Junior | 3rd team All-Region)
- Peggy Reiner (Midfielder, Junior | 3rd team All-Region)
- Grace Vaughan (Forward, Junior | All-MIAC team)

Key Losses

- Colleen Bouchard (Forward | 1st Team All-American, 1st Team All-Region, All-MIAC)
- Kristina Burk (Forward)

By the Numbers

- 25: The number of consecutive winning seasons.
- 35: The number of assists that record-setting Colleen Bouchard totaled in 2013.
- 1: The Blazers' Finished No. 1 in the MIAC in 2013.

Did You Know?

- Coach Steve Kimble has won the MIAC Women's Coach of the Year award twice in the past three years.

Off the Field

- The Blazers earned the NSCAA Team Academic Award at the end of last season.

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



Head coach

- Chris Citowicki (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- 2-9 MIAC (11th place) | 7-11 Overall

Top Returners

- Sarah Anderson (D, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2013; Third on team in goals (3))
- Nina Bukowski (F, Sr. | Led team in goals (7), second in points (16))

- Elly Leyva (F, Jr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2012; Third on team in goals (3) and points (9))

Key Losses

- Lensa Gurmesssa (MF | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2013; Led team in goals (7) and points (18))
- Kristi Thorwick (D | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2011)

By the Numbers

- 2: The Wildcats played overtime games just twice last season and came up with two victories thanks to heroics from Elly Leyva who netted both tiebreaking goals.
- 30: The Wildcats will have their largest roster ever under Coach Citowicki with 30 players – enough for a second team schedule in 2014.

Off the Field

- The Wildcat soccer team helped lead the second-annual Relay for Life event at St. Kate's that raised over \$17,000 for the American Cancer Society. They also partnered with the Wildcat volleyball team for Feed My Starving children to open this preseason.



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

Head coach

- Neil Cassidy (Fourth season)

A Year Ago

- 0-11-0 MIAC (12th place) | 0-18-0 Overall

Top Returners

- Caroline Blackwood (5-5, Jr., Midfield | 18 GP, 2 G, 1 A, 5 Pts. ...Two-time Honorable-mention All-MIAC)
- Miranda Halling (5-5, Sr., Goalkeeper | 10 GP, 3.06 GAA, 89 saves, .742 Save %)
- Kelli Harstad (5-3, Jr., Midfield | 18 GP, 2 G, 1 A, 5 Pts.)

Key Losses

- Tessa Scanlon (15 GP, 3 G (team high), 1 A, 7 Pts. (team high)
- Bethany Schmidt (15 GP, 3 G, 1 A, 7 Pts.)
- Heidi Martin (18 GP, 1 G, 0 A, 2 Pts.)

By The Numbers

- 2: Bethany Schmidt (Sparta, Wis.) closed out the 2013 season as the team's offensive leader for the second year in a row, scoring three goals and adding an assist for seven points. After not scoring in her first two seasons, Schmidt scored five goals in her final two years as a Cardinal.
- 7: Saint Mary's seven assists a year ago came from seven different players — Caroline Blackwood (Norwalk, Ohio), Bethany Schmidt (Sparta, Wis.), Kelli Harstad (Hampton, Minn.), Katie Holmes (Edina, Minn.), Emma Schaefer (Falcon Heights, Minn.), Megan Nitzsche (St. Francis, Wis.) and Katie Nicoson (Fairmont, Minn.).
- 15: Goalkeeper Miranda Halling (Rochester, Minn.) recorded a season-high 15 saves in SMU's season-finale against Macalester on Nov. 2. Halling's 15-save effort — the 11th time in her three-year collegiate career that she has recorded 10 or more saves in a game — was just one shy of her career-best 16-save showing against Concordia on Sept. 29, 2012.

Did You Know?

- Caroline Blackwood (Norwalk, Ohio) was one of four Cardinals to play all 18 games a year ago — and the only one to start every contest.

Off The Field

The Cardinals boasted three players — Caroline Blackwood (Norwalk, Va.), Heidi Martin (Ankeny, Iowa) and Bethany Schmidt (Sparta, Wis.) — on the 2013 MIAC All-Academic Team.



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

Head coach

- Jeremy Driver (Ninth season)

A Year Ago

- 7-2-1 MIAC (T-3rd place) | 9-7-1 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Lost in MIAC semifinals 5-0 to Macalester on Nov. 5

Top Returners

- Kajsa Brindley (F, Jr. | All-MIAC, third team All-North Region... Nine goals, six assists in 2013)
- Madison Van Wylen (M, Jr. | Three goals, including two game-winners in 2013.)

Key Losses

- Nora Forbes (GK | All-MIAC, third team All-North Region... Was 8-6-2 with a 1.18 GAA in 2013)
- Amanda Leone (D | All-MIAC honorable mention, two goals, assist in 2013)

- Emma Crumley (D | All-MIAC honorable mention)

By the Numbers

- 6-2-1: The Oles were 6-2-1 at home last season and are 18-5-5 over the last three seasons at Rolf Mellby Field.



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

Head coach

- Sheila McGill (Eighth Season)

A Year Ago

- 5-4-2 MIAC (Eighth place) | 9-7-2 Overall

Top Returners

- Morgan McConachie (Sr, D | 2013 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention... Started all 18 games in 2013... Scored one goal and added two assists for four points... Integral role in a Tommie defense that posted a league-best 0.80 goals against average and allowed an MIAC-low 15 goals all season)
- Taylor Sabrowski (Sr, F | Played in 16 games, starting 12... Registered five points on two goals and one assist... Has played in 51 career games, making 32 starts... 14 career points on five goals and four assists)

Key Losses

- Jaclyn Glaser (MF | Two-time MIAC All-Conference (2012, 2013)... Two-time MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention (2010, 2011)... Scored three goals to go along with four assists for a total of 10 points... Led team in all three categories... Nine goals and nine assists for 27 points on career)
- Jenna Savino (D | Two-time MIAC All-Conference (2012, 2013)... 2010 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention... Anchored a St. Thomas defense that held its opponents to just 15 goals all season (1st/MIAC) and posted a goals against average of 0.80 (1st/MIAC)... Finished career with 15 goals and 12 assists for 42 points)
- Katy Scherer (F | Two-time MIAC All-Conference (2010, 2011)... Ranked second on the team with seven points in 2013 stemming from three goals and one assist... Finished career with 21 goals and 11 assists for a total of 53 points)

By the Numbers

- 8: The number of consecutive seasons the Tommies have finished .500 or better in conference play. The last time St. Thomas did so was in 2005 when it posted a league record of 4-6-1.
- 0.62: Goalkeeper Jenny Grahek's goals against average when facing MIAC opponents, which ranked first among league keepers.
- 9: The number of times St. Thomas held its opponent scoreless in 2013, the most of any MIAC school. In those nine games, the Tommies tied just twice, winning seven of the games.

Did You Know?

- The Tommies played a total of eight overtime periods last season. During those eight extra periods, only three goals were scored.

Off the Field

- Seven women's soccer players were honored with MIAC Academic All-Conference recognition last fall, the most of any women's fall sport at St. Thomas.

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