

2015 MIAC Women's Soccer Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2015 MIAC Conference Preview

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The 2014 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) women's soccer season was one to remember, with an entertaining four-team fight for the regular-season title and an extremely entertaining debut of the new six-team MIAC Playoff format. Now the only question is what the 2015 season will bring for an encore?

In 2014, Augsburg (17-5) made history with its first MIAC title, as it finished 9-2 in league play and edged Concordia (13-5-3 overall, 8-1-2 MIAC) by a single point for the championship, 27-26. Carleton (11-4-4, 7-1-3, 24) and Saint Benedict (14-4-1, 8-3, 24) tied for third, just three points behind the Auggies in a battle for the championship that came down to the season's final day.

That quartet was joined by St. Thomas (8-8-4, 6-4-1, 19) and Bethel (7-9-3, 6-5, 18) in the new six-team Playoff bracket, which saw UST upset the Blazers and Carleton beat the Royals in the quarterfinals. The top two seeds won the semifinal games in dramatic fashion to set up a fitting finale between Augsburg and Concordia, with the Auggies won to add their first MIAC Playoff title and NCAA bid to their historic season. The Cobbers also received a bid to the NCAA tournament to cap a successful season for MAIC women's soccer.

Macalester just missed joining the Playoff fun, as the Scots (9-8-1) finished 5-5-1 with 16 points in league play. St. Olaf (5-11-2, 4-6-1, 13) and St. Catherine (7-9-1, 4-7, 12) also stayed in the Playoff hunt until deep int he season, and Hamline (8-8-2, 2-8-1, 7), Gustavus (2-13-3, 1-8-2, 5) and Saint Mary's 5-12-1, 0-10-1, 1) rounded out the final three spots in the standings.

This season, Augsburg and Concordia both graduated a lot of key players, but both still figure to be in the mix for continued success. Saint Benedict and Carleton return a ton of talent and are eager for another shot at the MIAC title, and St. Thomas and Bethel are ready to put their postseason lessons to the test. The rest of the MIAC also returns with optimism and is hoping the expanded Playoff field will give them all a chance to experience the thrill of postseason competition.

In a league with so many evenly-matched teams, the drama will be rich on a week-to-week basis throughout the 2015 campaign. A big goal here or a huge save there could mean all the difference throughout the standings of the closely-contested MIAC. Following an unforgettable 2015 Women's World Cup, the women of the MIAC are ready to build on the excitement surrounding their sport all season long.

THE POLLS ARE IN

The battle for the MIAC title should be fierce yet again - according to the league's coaches - as five teams received at least 92 points each in the 2015 MIAC Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll. The coaches' largely believe that the 2015 champion will be Saint Benedict, as the Blazers received 116 points and nine of the 12 first-place votes to sit atop the rankings.

The next four teams in the poll were separated by just eight points, as Carleton emerged as the poll's runner-up with an even 100 points and two first-place votes. Concordia received 98 points to finish third and defending champion Augsburg and St. Thomas each received 92 points to finish tied for fourth. The Tommies received the other first-place vote.

St. Olaf (68 points) edged Macalester (66 points) for the No. 6 spot, and the final Playoff bid in the coaches' predictions. St. Catherine (46 points) held a slim lead over Bethel (44 points) for eighth place and Hamline (37 points), Gustavus (19 points) and Saint Mary's (14 points) rounded out the final three spots in the coaches' poll.

The first national polls won't be available for a few weeks, as the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) won't release its first poll until Sept. 15, and D3soccer.com typically does its first national poll during the second week of the season. MIAC fans will wait to see how the first two weeks play out and speculate where the conference's elite teams will appear in the national polls.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

The coaches tabbed Saint Benedict as the 2015 favorite based on the team's 14-4-1 record a year ago and nearly all its key pieces back. Head Coach Steve Kimble brings back standout keeper Heather Kaluzniak to keep opponents out of the net, and his to two offensive options as well in Alyssa Hoffman and Gracie Vaughan, who are both two-time All-MIAC selections.

Carleton also hopes to contend for the title in 2015, and will offset the loss of a few standouts with the return of its star players at critical positions. Ava Lewis after netting 10 goals and 24 points en route to All-Region honors, and three-year starter Mikayla Coulombe is back in the net for her senior year after earning All-MIAC accolades in 2014. Madelaine Horn returns to anchor the defense.



Concordia reached the MIAC Playoff title game and the NCAA tournament a year ago and lost a lot of scoring and leadership from that squad, but the Cobbers bring back standout keeper Elizabeth Bitzan and junior forward Emily Wendorff, who led the team in total points, game-winning goals and assists. Saide Hayes is also back on defense for her third year as a starter.

The Auggies claimed their first-ever MIAC regular season & Playoff titles a year ago, along with their NCAA tournament debut, and they have high hopes again in 2015. Though offensive stars Olivia Muyres and Molly Allen graduated, senior forward Marie Fitzgerald returns up front, Marta Anderson is back in the midfield, and sophomore keeper Marissa Guillou could be poised for a breakout season after a great rookie campaign.

St. Thomas had a thrilling postseason run to the MIAC semifinals in 2014 and has hopes for continued success behind the return of sophomore forward Brielle Bierman, senior midfielder Hayley Engel and junior goalkeeper Tarynn Theilig, who was an All-Conference selection in goal. St. Olaf has a strong senior-laden nucleus back as the Oles hope to contend for the MIAC title, with two-time All-MIAC forward Kajsa Brindley, All-MIAC teammate Madison Van Wylen and fellow forward Eimly Sierakowski fueling the optimism in Northfield.

Macalester got a breakout performance from rookie goalkeeper Emma Tommer en route to All-MIAC Honorable Mention honors a year ago, and the Scots will look to build around their talented young keeper along with defender Lily Jilk and midfielder Rae Hohle. St. Catherine's hopes for continued improvement start with the return of All-MIAC midfielder Hannah Brown, and are also helped by a pair of All-Conference Honorable Mention returners in junior forward Hannah Okerstrom and senior defender Ellen Kokes.

Bethel has the tall task of replacing two-time All-MIAC forward Jessica Huseby, but the Royals are optimistic about the return of forwards Savannah Swanson and Blythe Whealy, as well as junior midfielder Mikala Smith, an Honorable Mention pick a year ago. Hamline also lost several standouts to graduation, but has a trio of juniors back and ready for expanded roles with a particular strength on defense. Midfielder Malya Hirshkowitz, defender Mackenzie Zink and keeper Amy Ramras all return for the Pipers in 2015.

Gustavus brings back most of its key pieces in 2015, and has its sights set on advancing up the MIAC standings. All-MIAC Honorable Mention forward Brittany Chase returns, as does Maddison Ackiss and her 10 goals and sophomore midfielder Sophie Leininger. Saint Mary's also has its nucleus back in Winona as the Cardinals aim for improvement, with two-time All-MIAC Honorable Mention picks Caroline Blackwood and Emma Schaefer back, along with sophomore forward Emily Loof who had a standout rookie campaign.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

MIAC women's soccer fans have less than a week to wait, as the season officially starts on Sept. 1 with a strong slate of nonconference games over the season's first week. Tuesday, Sept. 15, marks the start of conference play, which will continue for a month-and-a-half, building to a Halloween conclusion on Oct. 31. The MIAC Playoffs will follow with the quarterfinals on Tuesday, Nov. 3, the semifinals a day later (Nov. 4) and the championship set for Saturday, Nov. 7. The new six-team Playoff format was a hit in 2014, and continues for its second season in 2015.

The top two teams in the 2015 coaches' poll will square off in a key early-season matchup when Saint Benedict visits Carleton on Sept. 26 at 3:30 p.m. Concordia heads to Augsburg on Oct. 13 for a huge game and a rematch of the 2014 MIAC Playoff championship tilt. That same day (Oct. 13), St. Thomas will head to St. Olaf for a key meeting between a pair of teams with Playoff and championship aspirations in 2015.

St. Catherine heads across town to face Macalester in a big St. Paul rivalry showdown on Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Also on Sept. 30, Gustavus visits Saint Mary's in a key matchup for two teams hoping for major improvement in 2015. Another key Twin Cities battle is scheduled for Oct. 28, as Bethel heads to Hamline for a 7:30 p.m. start in a game of teams hoping to work their way into the postseason conversation.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2015 MIAC Women's Soccer Preview contains complete results from the 2015 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 2015 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](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages for updates and interaction all season long.

2015 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.

2015 MIAC Women's Soccer Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1.	Saint Benedict (9)	116
2.	Carleton (2)	100
3.	Concordia	98

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1.	Saint Benedict (9)	116
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T4.	Augsburg	92
T4.	St. Thomas (1)	92
6.	St. Olaf	68
7.	Macalester	66
8.	St. Catherine	46
9.	Bethel	44
10.	Hamline	37
11.	Gustavus	19
12.	Saint Mary's	14

2015 MIAC Women's Soccer Playoffs

The 2015 MIAC Playoffs will enjoy a second season of a new six-team format that debuted in 2014. The tournament is a single-elimination, high-seed host format. The top two seeds 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. 3, the two semifinal games will be follow on Wednesday, Nov. 4, and the championship is set for Saturday, Nov. 7. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2015 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Tournament.

| [MIAC Women's Soccer Playoffs Web Sites](#) | [2014](#) | [2015](#) |

MIAC Women's Soccer Links

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

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 (17th season)

A Year Ago

- 9-2-0 MIAC (Champions) | 17-5-0 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason champions: 1-0 over St. Thomas in semifinals, 1-0 over Concordia in finals.
- NCAA postseason second round: 1-0 (OT) over UW-Oshkosh in 1st round, 3-0 loss to Chicago (Ill.) in 2nd round.

Top Returners

- Marie Fitzgerald (F, SR | All-MIAC in 2014, All-MIAC honorable mention in 2013; Capital One Academic All-District and NSCAA Scholar All-North/Central Region honorable mention in 2014; 13 goals and 3 assists for 29 points in 2014, ranking 2nd in both goals and points among MIAC players; 24 goals and 15 assists for 63 points in 59 career games, standing 6th in school history in goals and points.)
- Marta Anderson (MF, JR | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2014; 4 goals and 6 assists for 14 points in 1,766 minutes played in 2014; 5 goals and 11 assists for 21 points in 21 career games.)
- Marissa Guillou (GK, SO | 0.87 goals-against-average and 78 saves (.839 save pct.) in 20 games (14 starts) in 2014 with 7 shutouts and 13-4-0 record; ranked 5th in GAA and 4th in save percentage among MIAC goalies, while her 13 wins tied for most and 7 shutouts tied for 3rd-most.)

Key Losses

- Molly Allen (MF | NSCAA All-America 3rd team in 2014; NSCAA All-North Region in 2012 and 2014; All-MIAC in 2012 and 2014; NSCAA Scholar All-North/Central Region 1st team and Scholar All-America 2nd team in 2014; set single-season school record with 15 assists in 2014, along with 3 goals for 21 points; led MIAC in assists while tying for 9th nationally in assists per-game; set Augsburg record with 38 career assists, while scoring 4 goals for 46 points, in 78 career games.)
- Olivia Muyres (F | 2014 MIAC Player of the Year; NSCAA All-North Region in 2013 and 2014; All-MIAC in 2013 and 2014; MIAC goal-scoring and point champion in overall play, finishing with 15 goals and 10 assists (2nd among MIAC players) for 40 points; scored goal or assist in 13 of 21 games, including 4 multiple-goal games and 4 multiple-assist games; In 77 career games, set Augsburg school records with 46 goals and 119 points, along with 18 game-winning goals; also ranks 2nd in school history with 27 career assists.)
- Abi Rodstein (MF | All-MIAC honorable mention in 2013 and 2014; 1 goal and 3 assists for 5 points as defensive midfielder in 2014, appearing in all 22 games with 1,762 minutes played (3rd-most among all players); 3 goals and 9 assists for 15 points, with 3 game-winning goals, in 66 career games.)

By the Numbers

- 145: Career victories for Augsburg Head Coach Mike Navarre (145-108-40), the 2014 MIAC Coach of the Year who is entering his 17th season at Augsburg. Navarre's 145 wins are nearly double the combined records of the five coaches that preceded Navarre in the first 14 seasons of the program's existence (76-138-13).
- 17: School-record number of wins (17-5-0) for Augsburg in 2014, as it claimed several program firsts: the first MIAC regular-season and playoff titles for the Auggies, along with the team's first-ever berth in the NCAA Division III national tournament.
- 63: Goals scored by Augsburg in 2014, leading the MIAC (the second-place team scored just 29 goals). Augsburg scored 3 or more goals in seven of its 17 wins, including eight or more goals in three games -- an 8-0 win over UW-Superior on Aug. 29, a 10-0 win over Northwestern-St. Paul on Aug. 30, and a school-record 15-0 win over Finlandia (Mich.) on Oct. 20, tied for the second-most goals scored in a game by any NCAA Division III women's soccer team in 2014.

Did You Know?

- Molly Allen became the first Augsburg women's soccer player to ever earn National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division III All-America honors, as she was named to the third team in 2014. She was also the Auggies' first-ever women's soccer NSCAA Scholar All-American, as she was named to the second team in 2014. She is serving as an assistant coach for the Auggies as a graduate fellow this season.

Off the Field

- Augsburg earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Team Academic Award for the sixth straight season in 2013, with a team GPA of 3.35.



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

Head coach

- Amanda Maxwell (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 5-3-2 MIAC (6th place) | 7-9-3 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Lost 3-1 at Carleton on November 4th, 2014

Top Returners

- Savannah Swanson (F, So. | 5 G, 4 A, 14 Pts.)
- Blythe Whealy (F, Sr. | 3 G, 6 Pts.)
- Mikala Smith (M, Jr. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention)

Key Losses

- Jessica Huseby (F | 7 G, 5 A, 19 Pts., Two-time MIAC All-Conference)
- Olivia Haggerty (D | Three-time MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention)

By the Numbers

- 1: BU's 7-2 record in their final nine games of the 2014 campaign, including a 6-1 mark against conference foes, helped the Royals reach their first postseason in program history. Six league wins sets a new standard for the women's soccer team.
- 10: Bethel's defense allowed one goal or less in ten of the team's 19 total games last year. Among those ten were six shutouts, which ties a program record for team shutouts in a single season. Four shutouts in conference play also ties a program record.
- 91: Bethel earned 91 corner kicks last season and three times the Royals directly capitalized by putting the kick straight into the goal, untouched.

Did You Know?

- Since Coach Maxwell began in 2012, Bethel has finished its final 10 games in each of the past three seasons with a total record of 18-10-2. BU's second half success was most notable in 2014 when they finished 7-3-0.

Off the Field

- Assistant coach Lisa Berg presented about her Growing the Game for Girls in Uganda Program at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup Girl Power in Play Symposium in Ottawa, Canada. The G3 Program is aimed at developing change for girls and women in Uganda through soccer with the vision to create and connect these females to opportunities through sport. This year's conference focused on the power of girls' involvement in sport, ways to get girls playing, how sport can be used to better their lives.



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

Head coach

- Jocelyn Keller (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 7-1-3 MIAC (3rd place) | 11-4-4 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Defeated Bethel, 3-1, in the MIAC Playoffs quarterfinal then tied at Concordia 0-0 (2 OT) in the semifinals. The Cobbers advanced via a

shootout.

Top Returners

- Ava Lewis (NSCAA All-Region in 2014 after leading Knights and finishing second in the MIAC in goals [10] and points [24]; missed rookie year due to injury)
- Mikayla Coulombe (Goalkeeper, Senior | All-MIAC in 2014; all-conference honorable mention in 2012 and 2013; has started every game in her three years on the Knights; paced MIAC with 9 shutouts in 2014 and ended the season with impressive 0.36 goals against average and .897 save percentage in conference matches, with both figures tops in the MIAC.)
- Madelaine Horn (Defender | tied for third on 2014 squad with three goals, including 2 game winners)

Key Losses

- Bailey Ulbricht (Midfielder | All-MIAC in 2013 and all-conference honorable mention in 2014; last season, tied for the team lead with four assists and ranked third on the roster with three goals and 10 points scored)
- Ellie Wilson (Forward | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2014; accumulated 7 goals and 4 assists)
- Courtney Jones (Defender | All-MIAC Honorable Mention in 2014; played a major role in the Knights' defense that posted the lowest goals against average [0.51] among MIAC squads)

By the Numbers

- 11: Carleton paced all MIAC squads with 11 shutouts last season, including 7 in the 11 conference matches
- 9: Over the last nine years, Carleton has posted eight winning seasons, including six trips to the postseason, the second-highest figure among MIAC squads.
- .869: Among D-III goalkeepers with as many minutes played, Mikayla Coulombe ranked ninth with her overall .869 save percentage and 10th with cumulative goals against average of 0.58.

Did You Know?

- Last season, the Knights outscored their opponents 16-5 after halftime, the best ratio (3.2:1) in the MIAC by a wide margin.

Off the Field

- For the 14th consecutive year, the Carleton women earned the NSCAA Team Academic Award. The Knights posted a team cumulative GPA of 3.58 to rank fifth across the 431 Division III women's programs and tied for 27th across all NCAA divisions (1,021 total women's teams). The Carleton men own the longest streak among all MIAC programs—male and female—of earning this award at 15 years. The Knight women are next with their 14-year stretch. The next closest streak among conference squads of either gender is nine years.



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

Head coach

- Kevin Roos (3rd season)

A Year Ago

- 8-1-2 MIAC (2nd place) | 13-5-3 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- Win 2-1 in overtime over St. Benedict in the MIAC quarterfinals
- Win 0-0 in the penalty kick shootout over Carleton in the MIAC semifinals
- Lose 0-1 against Augsburg in the MIAC championship
- Lose 1-2 in overtime against Aurora in the first round of the NCAA Tournament

Top Returners

- Elizabeth Bitzan (GK, Sr. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention; second in the MIAC in shutouts & third in goals against average in 2014)
- Emily Wendorff (F, Jr. | Led the team in total points, game-winning goals and assists in 2014)
- Sadie Hayes (D, Sr. | 2-year starter; helped the Cobbers finish tied for second in goals allowed in the MIAC in 2014)

Key Losses

- Libby Fransdal (D | 2014 All-American; 3-time NSCAA All-Region; 3-time All-MIAC)
- Laura Prosinski (M | 2-time NSCAA All-Region; 3-time All-MIAC; 4-year starter)
- Marta Prosinski (M | 2-time All-MIAC; 4-year starter)

By the Numbers

- 6: Concordia only allowed six goals in the first half of play in 2014.
- 12: Concordia has made the MIAC playoffs for 12 straight years – the longest streak in the MIAC.
- 18: Cobber goalie Elizabeth Bitzan has recorded 18 shutouts in the past two years .

Did You Know?

- Concordia senior defender Sadie Hayes ran a marathon with her Mom.

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

Head coach

- Laura Burnett-Kurie (4th season)



A Year Ago

- 1-8-2 MIAC (11th place) | 2-13-3 Overall

Top Returners

- Maddison Ackiss (F, Jr. | Scored 10 of the Gusties' 17 goals last season, also had two assists for 22 points)
- Brittany Chase (F, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, started in 17 games last year and scored one goal)
- Sophie Leininger (MF, So. | One of two players to start all 18 games last year, scored one goal and had two assists for four points)

Key Losses

- Karlye Smith (D | Started in 15 games and a key member of the defense)

By the Numbers

- 10: Number of goals Maddison Ackiss scored last year, the most in a season by a Gustie since Renee Beaudry scored 12 in 2002.

Did You Know?

- The Gustavus Adolphus women's soccer team was recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America for its outstanding sportsmanship and demonstration of strong ethics this past season. For the third consecutive season, the Gusties were awarded the Silver Award, which requires a team to have no red cards and no more than five yellow cards accumulated during the season.

Off the Field

- The Gusties hosted their third annual Co-Ed Youth Soccer Camp on June 21-24 and High School Girls Camp on June 6-9. The camps were headed by IN2, a program that provides cost-effective, quality, age and skill appropriate, individually centered soccer instruction.



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

Head coach

- Ted Zingman (9th season)

A Year Ago

- 2-8-1 MIAC (10th place) | 8-8-2 Overall

Top Returners

- Malya Hirshkowitz (Jr., MF, All-MIAC pick in 2014, led HU with 10 points)
- Mackenzie Zink (Jr., D, Honorable Mention in 2013, started 28 games past two seasons)
- Amy Ramras (Jr., GK, 0.73 GAA with five shutouts last year)

Key Losses

- Erin Urbanowicz (GK, All-MIAC in 2013, had 0.92 GAA last year)
- Aileen Scheibner (F, Three goals and two assists in 2014 despite battling hip issues. Second all-time in HU history in Goals, Assists and Points)
- Corinne Henning (MF, Honorable Mention All-MIAC last year – three year regular in the midfield.)

By the Numbers

- 4: Consecutive seasons of .500 or better overall record – longest such run in school history.
- 7: numbers of wins (5) and ties (2) in nine home games last year
- 552:52: Numbers of minutes and seconds HU started the 2014 season without allowing a goal. First goal allowed was in the sixth game of the year, a 1-0 loss to St. Benedict.

Did You Know?

- The Pipers have players from 10 different states on their 2015 roster.

Off the Field

- The Pipers had a school record 10 members on last year's MIAC Academic All-Conference team. Five of those players are on the 2015 team.

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



Head coach

- Michele Cornish (4th season)

A Year Ago

- 5-5-1 MIAC (7th place) | 9-8-1 Overall

Top Returners

- Emma Toomer (GK, So. | All-MIAC hon. mention, 1.14 GAA, .775 Save pct., four shutouts)
- Lily Jilk (D, Sr. | Two goals, two assists in 2014)
- Rae Hohle (M, Jr. | Three goals in 2014)

Key Losses

- Ingrid Greene (F | All-MIAC, started all 18 games in 2014)
- Bonnie Gale (M | Led Scots with four goals, nine points in 2014)
- Margaret Nemetz (D | All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team, five assists in 2014)

By the Numbers

- 11: Games opponents scored one or fewer goals on the Scots in 2014
- 6: Game-winning goals scored after the 60th minute

Did You Know?

- 12 different players accounted for all 21 of Macalester's goals last season.

Off the Field

- Each spring, the team has organized a 3-on-3 barefoot soccer tournament on campus, called 'Lose the Shoes,' to benefit Grassroots Soccer, an international organization that raises funds to provide HIV/Aids education to youth in Zambia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

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



Head coach

- Steve Kimble (7th season)

A Year Ago

- 8-3-0 MIAC (4th place) | 14-4-1 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- CSB and St. Thomas were tied after two overtimes in a 2014 MIAC quarterfinal game, but the Tommies won the shootout 2-0 to advance to the tournament semifinals.

Top Returners

- Alyssa Hoffman (F, Sr | Two-time All-MIAC, All-Region Second Team, Blazer Soccer MVP, sixth in the MIAC with 7 goals, fifth in the league with six assists)
- Gracie Vaughan (F, Sr | Two-time All-MIAC, All-Region in 2013, six assists and six goals in 2014)
- Heather Kaluzniak (GK, Jr | 14th in DIII with .585 goals against; led MIAC with .890 save percentage, recorded seven shutouts)

Key Losses

- Megan Favorite (GK | .933 save percentage)

By the Numbers

- 7: Seven seniors return for CSB in 2015.
- 13: The Blazers recorded 13 shutouts in 2014.
- 5: Under head coach Steve Kimble, CSB has finished in the top 5 in the MIAC in each of his first six seasons with three top-three finishes and two conference titles.

Did You Know?

- This year's senior class has nine All-MIAC honors and five All-Region accolades between the seven athletes

Off the Field

- The Blazer soccer team earned its sixth straight NSCAA Team Academic Award in 2014.

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



Head coach

- Chris Citowicki (5th season)

A Year Ago

- 4-7 MIAC (9th place) | 7-9-1 Overall

Top Returners

- Hannah Brown (MF, Sr. | All-MIAC, 2014; Fourth on team in points (6))
- Hannah Okerstrom (F, Jr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2014; Ranked top-20 in MIAC in goals (5) and points (11))
- Ellen Kokes (D, Sr. | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2014; MIAC Athlete-of-the-Week, 2014; Second on team in goals (3) and points (8))

Key Losses

- Nina Bukowski (F | Ranks 12th all-time at St. Kate's for career points (24))
- Sarah Anderson (D | All-MIAC Honorable Mention, 2013)

By the Numbers

- 12: Danielle Mendez set a new school record for career shutouts with 12 total heading into her final season as the Wildcats' goalkeeper.

Her five shutouts in 2014 tied her career-best for a single season and ranked fifth-best in the MIAC.

- 4: Julia Zyla recorded four assists during her sophomore campaign which ranked 13th in the MIAC. Her eight assists compiled in just two seasons already ranks No. 10 all-time at St. Kate's.
- 4: The Wildcats played in four overtime games in 2014 which is the most in a season since Citowicki took over the program. Just one game ended in a tie – a 0-0 tie to open the season against Buena Vista.

Did You Know?

- Hannah Brown is the first Wildcat soccer player to earn All-MIAC honors under Citowicki's tenure. The last Wildcats earned the honor in 2009.

Off the Field

- The Wildcats took a program-first international tour over the St. Catherine Spring Break in March. The team traveled to Barbados and defeated the country's national team twice and the University of West Indies.



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

Head coach

- Neil Cassidy (5th season)

A Year Ago

- 0-10-1 MIAC (12th place) | 5-12-1 Overall

Top Returners

- Caroline Blackwood (5-5, Sr., Midfield | 18 GP, 2 G, 5 A, 9 Pts. ...Two-time Honorable-mention All-MIAC)
- Emma Schaefer (5-5, Jr., Midfield | 18 GP, 6 G, 3 A, 15 Pts. ... Two-time Honorable-mention All-MIAC ... 2014-15 First-Team All-MIAC in basketball)
- Emily Loof (5-7, So., Forward | 18 GP, 12 G, 2 A, 26 Pts. ... Led team in goals and point as a freshman. ... 2014 Honorable-mention All-MIAC.

Key Losses

- Miranda Halling (13 GP, 24 GA, 2.13 GAA, 54 saves, .692 save %, 2 shutouts)

By The Numbers

- 3: Emily Loof (Colorado Springs, Colo.) and Emma Schaefer (Falcon Heights, Minn.) each notched their first collegiate hat tricks last season. The three-goal efforts were the most in a game since Amy Sibik netted four goals against Ripon on Sept. 4, 2010. They also marked the first time Saint Mary's had two games where an individual scored three or more goals since Sibik scored four goals against UW-Superior and three goals against Simpson during the 2009 season.
- 7: Saint Mary's erupted for a season-high seven goals twice last season—beating Bethany Lutheran 7-0 on Sept. 23 and UW-Superior 7-0 on Sept. 6. The Cardinals' seven goals against Bethany Lutheran and UW-Superior were the most since Saint Mary's posted back-to-back 7-0 victories over Ripon and Lakeland on Sept. 4-5, 2010.
- 26: Emily Loof (Colorado Springs, Colo.)—who recorded four multiple-goal games—led the team with 12 goals and 26 points. Her 26 points are the most since Amy Sibik finished with 29 (12 goals, 5 assists) during the 2010 season.

Did You Know?

- Emily Loof and Emma Schaefer (Falcon Heights, Minn.) combined to score 18 of the team's 28 goals last season.

Off The Field

- The Cardinals boasted a pair of players - Caroline Blackwood and Emma Schaefer - on the 2014 MIAC All-Academic Team



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Head coach

- Jeremy Driver (10th season)

A Year Ago

- 3-6-1 MIAC (8th place) | 4-11-2 Overall

Top Returners

- Kajsa Brindley (F, Sr. | 2x All-MIAC... Team-best five goals and five assists in 2014.)
- Madison Van Wylen (F, Sr. | All-MIAC in 2014... Four goals and an assist.)
- Emily Sierakowski (F, Sr. | Had career-best six points on two goals and two assists in 2014.)

By the Numbers

- 4: St. Olaf plays four of its last five MIAC games at home in 2015.
- 17: St. Olaf senior Kajsa Brindley has 17 career goals, which ranks 11th in school history.



Head coach

- Sheila McGill (9th season)

A Year Ago

- 6-4-1 MIAC (5th place) | 8-8-4 Overall

In the 2014 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results – tied Saint Benedict 1-1 in the quarterfinals and advanced on penalty kicks before falling to Augsburg 1-0 in the semifinals.

Top Returners

- Brielle Bierman (F, So. | Scored five goals (2nd/team) and added an assist to tally 11 points (2nd/team) in her rookie campaign... Also started all 18 games in which she made an appearance last season)
- Hayley Engel (M, Sr. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention... Started 18 of 20 games played in her first season wearing a Tommie uniform... Recorded four goals (t-3rd/team) and two assists for 10 points (3rd/team) on the year)
- Tarynn Theilig (GK, Jr. | 2014 MIAC All-Conference... Started all 20 games in 2014, racking up 1,879:36 in net (2nd/MIAC)... Led all MIAC goalkeepers with 91 saves, finishing with a 0.96 GAA and a record of 8-8-4 including five shutouts)

Key Losses

- Morgan McConachie (F | 2014 MIAC All-Conference... 2013 MIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention...Led team in all scoring categories in 2014 with six goals (t-11th/MIAC) and four assists (t-14th/MIAC) for 16 points (t-11th/MIAC)...Finished her career with 54 starts in 66 games played, eight goals, six assists, and 22 points)
- Taylor Sabrowski (F | Started 18 of 18 games played in 2014... Finished the year with one goal and three assists (t-2nd/team) for a total of five points... Finished her career with 50 starts in 69 games played, six goals, seven assists, and 19 points)
- Kelsie Sargent (D | Started all 20 games on the back line for the Tommies in 2014... Had one goal and an assist for three points on the year... Finished her UST career with 67 games played, starting 64 of them with two goals and four assists for eight points)

By the Numbers

- 6: The Tommies return six of their top nine scorers from a year ago. Combined, the six individuals racked up 41 points, which makes up 61 percent of last year's scoring total.
- 4: St. Thomas won each of the four games when senior forward Hayley Engel scored a goal last season.
- 2: When scoring two or more goals last season, the Tommie women were a perfect 6-0-0, while managing a record of just 2-8-4 when scoring a goal or less.

Did You Know?

- Since laying the new turf on South Field in the fall of 2013, the Tommies are 10-2-5, including an unbeaten 4-0-3 last season.

Off the Field

- St. Thomas landed six individuals on the 2014 MIAC Academic All-Conference Team, marking the ninth straight year that the Tommies have had five or more recipients of the award.