

CSB's Pierce headlines MIAC Women's Cross Country Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – **Morgan Pierce** made history last Saturday, becoming just the second Saint Benedict runner ever to win the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) women's cross country individual championship. On Thursday, she added her name to the MIAC record book once again, this time as the 2018 MIAC Women's Cross Country Athlete of the Year, headlining the Conference's annual cross country awards.

Pierce (Sr. | Mandan, N.D. | Saint Mary's Central) has been a force to be reckoned with all season, earning a trio of MIAC Athlete of the Week honors before recording a 10-second victory at the 2018 MIAC Championships. The Mandan, N.D. native finished the race in 22:30.0, eight seconds shy of her personal best time of 22:12.0 in 6K competition. Pierce now joins Leah Wurm (2004) as the only two CSB runners to earn the MIAC's top individual award for cross country. Saturday's result marked Pierce's fifth top-five finish this season.

Carleton placed six runners among the top-12 and seven in the top-25 finishers at the MIAC Women's Cross Country Championships to secure the program's 10th Conference title and fifth in the last six seasons. The victory assured Carleton head coach **Donna Ricks** of another well-deserved MIAC Coach of the Year accolade. The only double-digit recipient of the award in recorded MIAC women's cross country history, Ricks has been honored by her peers with selection in seven of the last ten seasons.

In addition to the top individual honors, the MIAC Women's Cross Country All-Conference and All-Conference Honorable Mention squads were also recognized. The top 15 finishers in Saturday's MIAC Championship race received All-Conference honors, while finishers 16-25 received Honorable Mention. Carleton led the pack with six All-Conference finishers. The 15 All-MIAC runners were made up of five seniors, four juniors, four sophomores, and two first-year runners.

As part of a Conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 13th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for Women's Cross Country. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches and teammates as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.



Morgan Pierce finished in the top-five five times in 2018, including her victory at the 2018 MIAC Championships. (Photo: Nathan Lodermeier)

2018 MIAC Women's Cross Country Awards

Athlete of the Year: Morgan Pierce, Saint Benedict (Sr. | Mandan, N.D. | Saint Mary's Central)

Coach of the Year: Donna Ricks, Carleton (26th season)

2018 MIAC Women's Cross Country All-Conference Team

Place	Time	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
1.	22:30.0	Morgan Pierce	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Mandan, N.D. Saint Mary's Central
2.	22:40.1	Emma Greenlee	Carleton	So.	Aurora, Minn. Mesabi East
3.	22:42.8	Amanda Mosborg	Carleton	So.	Edina, Minn.
4.	22:49.0	Lisa Fisher	St. Olaf	Jr.	St. Paul, Minn. Henry Sibley
5.	22:49.0	Madeline Dopp	Hamline	Sr.	Oglivie, Minn. Mora
6.	22:51.5	Bryony Hawgood	St. Olaf	Jr.	Harare, Zimbabwe Arundel
7.	22:53.8	Samantha Schnirring	Carleton	Sr.	Eden Prairie, Minn.
8.	23:03.7	Helen Dolan	Hamline	So.	Holliston, Mass.
9.	23:04.5	Marietta Geist	Carleton	Jr.	Crookston, Minn.

10.	23:06.5	Abby Goff	Saint Benedict	Fy.	Spokane, Wash. Lewis & Clark
11.	23:07.8	Helen Schuda	Carleton	Jr.	Seattle, Wash. Roosevelt
12.	23:09.5	Sarah Nazarino	Carleton	Sr.	Seattle, Wash. Garfield
13.	23:17.2	Olivia Moll	St. Thomas	Fy.	Hammond, Wis. St. Croix Central
14.	23:18.8	Becca Wilkin	St. Thomas	Sr.	Eagan, Minn. Trinity
15.	23:19.3	Riley McMahon	St. Catherine	So.	Union Grove, Minn.

2018 MIAC Women's Cross Country Honorable Mention

Place	Time	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
16.	23:20.3	Martha Hubbell	St. Thomas	Jr.	Mendota Heights, Minn. Visitation
17.	23:21.3	Katie Breuckman	St. Thomas	Jr.	Andover, Minn.
18.	23:26.4	Malakai Holloway	Bethel	Fy.	Carver, Minn. Eden Prairie
19.	23:26.4	Jenny Launder	St. Thomas	Sr.	Verona, Wis. Middleton
20.	23:31.0	Bernadette Hayden	Hamline	Jr.	Onalaska, Wash.
21.	23:31.9	Tierney Winter	Gustavus	Jr.	Waterville, Minn. W-E-M
22.	23:32.4	Alia Benedict	Macalester	Sr.	Manchester, Mich.
23.	23:37.4	Amber Matzoll	St. Thomas	Sr.	St. Anthony, Minn. Totino-Grace
24.	23:40.1	Molly Clarke	St. Thomas	Jr.	Eden Prairie, Minn. Edina
25.	23:43.9	Fiona Casey	Carleton	So.	Chicago, Ill. Northside Prep

2018 MIAC Women's Cross Country Sportsmanship Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Allison Mangan	Augsburg	So.	Roberts, Wis. Wisconsin Virtual Academy
Noelle Diekman	Bethel	So.	Otsego, Minn. Spectrum
Cristy Carretero	Carleton	Jr.	Minnetonka, Minn. Hopkins
Tarja Nelsen	Concordia	Sr.	Andover, Mass. North Andover
Sarah Anderson	Gustavus	Jr.	Roseville, Minn. Irondale
Bernadette Hayden	Hamline	Jr.	Onalaska, Wash.
Katrin O'Grady	Macalester	Sr.	Sherborn, Mass. Montrose
Allison McGraw	Saint Benedict	Sr.	Litchfield, Minn.
Julia Clark	St. Catherine	So.	Woodbury, Minn. Math and Science Academy
Danielle Franke	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Mounds View, Minn. Irondale
Katie Murney	St. Olaf	Sr.	Edina, Minn.
Bridget Schmitt	St. Thomas	Sr.	Eau Claire, Wis. North