

2013 MIAC Baseball Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The 2013 baseball season was both challenging and successful in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC). Though the season was marred with weather issues and re-scheduling efforts, the conference season was still completed (save for one doubleheader) and a six-team Playoff field engaged in an exciting postseason tournament last weekend. And, Wednesday, the top performers for a season that will be unforgettable for a number of reasons were honored with the announcement of the 2013 MIAC Baseball Awards.

St. Thomas claimed three of the top four individual awards to add an exclamation point to its tremendous season, which included both the regular-season and Playoff championship. Tommie outfielder Tim Kuzniar was voted the 2013 MIAC Max Molock Most Valuable Player, while teammate Dylan Thomas and Head Coach Chris Olean were both honored for the second season in a row. Thomas repeated as the MIAC Mike Augustin Pitcher-of-the-Year and Olean was again voted the MIAC Jim Dimick Coach-of-the-Year.

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The only non-Tommie to claim one of the top individual awards was Carleton outfielder Hayden Tsutsui. The Knights' freshman star enjoyed a breakout season that resulted in the 2013 MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year award.

Kuzniar's MVP award was the result of a stellar season anchoring the explosive Tommie lineup. The junior spent most of his season in both left field and UST's cleanup spot, and his numbers and impact were certainly MVP-worthy as he ranked in the top three in the league in the triple crown categories. In overall games, he led the MIAC in runs batted in (RBI) with 44, as well as total bases (91). He ranked second in doubles (15) and slugging percentage (.700), third in batting average (.400) and home runs (six) and fourth in hits (52).

He was even better in conference play, leading UST to the championship. Kuzniar led the MIAC in RBI (30), home runs (five), total bases (57), doubles (10) and slugging percentage (.891). His .469 batting average ranked second in the league, as did his 30 hits, and he ranked fifth in on-base percentage (.514) and seventh in runs scored (18). In addition, he recorded a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in conference play on 21 chances (.965 in overall games). Kuzniar headlined the MIAC's All-Conference team.

His teammate, Thomas, was honored as the MIAC's top pitcher for the second season in a row. The versatile All-American excelled on the mound yet again, pitching UST to MIAC regular-season and postseason titles. Overall, Thomas was 7-1 with a 2.15 earned run average (ERA) with two saves and four complete games. He struck out 59 in 54.1 innings, allowing just 13 earned runs, nine walks and 51 hits. He led the league in wins, strikeouts and strikeouts per game and finished second in ERA, as well as second in shutouts (two) and third in complete games.

Thomas was nearly unhittable in conference play in 2013, going 3-1 in four starts with a miniscule 0.72 ERA. He struck out 32 hitters in just 25 innings, and surrendered just two earned runs on five walks and 21 hits to MIAC opponents. The Tommie star led the league in strikeouts and strikeouts per game and was second in ERA. MIAC hitters batted just .226 against the UST starter.

Olean received the league's top coaching honor for the second year in a row as well, to give him the award in half of his four seasons as the Tommies' head coach. His 2013 team dominated the MIAC, going 19-1 en route to the conference regular season championship. Then, the top-seeded St. Thomas team outscored its two opponents 21-5 en route to its first MIAC Playoff title since 2010. Olean guided his team to a 33-5 overall record and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Division III Baseball Playoffs.

The Tommies led the MIAC with a remarkable team batting average of .348 in overall games. UST also ranked first in runs (302), hits (401), doubles (74), home runs (30), RBI (277), walks (150), stolen bases (65), on-base percentage (.432) and slugging percentage (.523). St. Thomas also ranked first in ERA (2.84), strikeouts (267) and fielding percentage (.976). UST was somehow even better in conference play, hitting .368 as a team with a 1.94 ERA and a .983 fielding percentage. Olean coached the MIAC MVP, Pitcher-of-the-Year, eight All-Conference selections and three All-Defensive Team picks.

In his freshman season, Tsutsui played well beyond his years, winning the MIAC's overall batting title by more than 50 points. He hit .462 in 36 overall games and his 66 hits and 91 total bases also led the league. He finished third with a .494 on-base percentage and fifth with a .636 slugging percentage. His 39 RBI ranked fourth in the MIAC the Knights' rookie added 41 runs (third), 12 doubles (sixth), three home runs and 10 stolen bases (seventh) to rank among the league leaders in most offensive categories.

He also reached the famed .400 mark in conference games, batting an even .400 against MIAC foes in 2013 to rank in the top 10 in the league. Tsutsui had 28 hits (sixth), 14 runs and 13 RBI, and was the only freshman named to the All-Conference team, in addition to his MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year award.

The 27-member All-Conference team was heavy on Tommies and upperclassmen. UST led the way with eight selections, while Hamline had the second-most with four. Augsburg and Concordia had three selections each, Gustavus and Saint John's both had a pair of players honored, and Bethel, Carleton, Macalester, Saint Mary's and St. Olaf had one selection each. There were 11 seniors and nine juniors on the



All-MIAC team, in addition to six sophomores and one first-year player.

For the fourth-straight season, the MIAC coaches selected an All-Defensive team to reward one player's great work with the glove at each position, including two pitchers. Honorees were chosen for their arm strength and range, as well as defensive statistics from the conference season. St. Thomas led the way again with three selections, while Augsburg had two and Concordia, Hamline, Bethel, Saint Mary's and Carleton had one choice apiece.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the seventh-annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for baseball. 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.

2013 MIAC Baseball Awards

Max Molock Most Valuable Player - Tim Kuzniar, St. Thomas (Jr., Lakeville, Minn./North)

Mike Augustin Pitcher-of-the-Year - Dylan Thomas, St. Thomas (Sr., Lakeville, Minn./North)

Rookie-of-the-Year - Hayden Tsutsui, Carleton (Fr., Northridge, Calif./Chatsworth)

Jim Dimick Coach-of-the-Year - Chris Olean, St. Thomas (4th season)

2013 MIAC All-Conference Team

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown/High School
Jordan Buck	Hamline	Sr.	DH/OF	Apple Valley, Minn./DMACC
Adam Carl	Augsburg	Jr.	INF	Eagan, Minn.
Colin Carpenter	Macalester	Jr.	INF	Harvard, Ill.
Connor Cline	Saint John's	Sr.	UTIL	Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson
J.D. Dorgan	St. Thomas	Jr.	C	Eagan, Minn.
Matt Eickman	Hamline	Jr.	RHP	Brooklyn Park, Minn./Marantha
Dan Ellefson	Hamline	Sr.	3B/RHP	Burnsville, Minn.
Devin Johnson	Concordia	So.	OF	Willmar, Minn.
Christopher Kelly	Gustavus	So.	P/INF	Savage, Minn./Prior Lake
Jon Kinsel	St. Thomas	Sr.	SS	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Tyler Krysiak	Saint Mary's	So.	P	Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson
Tim Kuzniar	St. Thomas	Jr.	OF	Lakeville, Minn./North
Louie LaChapelle	Augsburg	Sr.	INF	Eagan, Minn.
Steve Maher	St. Thomas	Jr.	RHP	Burnsville, Minn./Holy Angels
Jackson Meland	Concordia	Jr.	LHP	Northfield, Minn.
Michael Olson	Concordia	Sr.	OF	Monticello, Minn.
Tyler Peterson	St. Thomas	Jr.	1B	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Ben Podobinski	St. Thomas	So.	OF	Roseville, Minn.
Mark Radmacher	Hamline	Sr.	1B/C	Rosemount, Minn./DMACC
Matt Rowley	Bethel	Sr.	OF/P	Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins
Jack Schechinger	St. Olaf	Jr.	C	Edina, Minn.
Grant Soderberg	Gustavus	So.	P/DH	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Ryan Spengler	Saint John's	Sr.	P	St. Cloud, Minn./Tech
Ryan Sward	Augsburg	Sr.	INF	Eagan, Minn.
Dylan Thomas	St. Thomas	Sr.	RHP/DH	Lakeville, Minn./North
Hayden Tsutsui	Carleton	Fr.	OF	Northridge, Calif./Chatsworth
Colin Wendinger	St. Thomas	So.	RHP	New Ulm, Minn./Cathedral

2013 MIAC All-DefensiveTeam

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown/High School
Brian Guler	Concordia	Sr.	1B	New Rockford, N.D.
Louie LaChapelle	Augsburg	Sr.	2B	Eagan, Minn.
Dan Ellefson	Hamline	Sr.	3B	Burnsville, Minn.
Jon Kinsel	St. Thomas	Sr.	SS	Burnsville, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall

Ben Podobinski	St. Thomas	So.	OF	Roseville, Minn.
Matt Rowley	Bethel	Sr.	OF	Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins
Willie Doll	Saint Mary's	Fr.	OF	Amherst, Wis.
J.D. Dorgan	St. Thomas	Jr.	C	Eagan, Minn.
Kevin Johnson	Carleton	Jr.	P	St. Anthony, Minn./De La Salle
Ryan Mestnik	Augsburg	So.	P	Prior Lake, Minn.

2013 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

- Augsburg - Zach Pavlisick (Sr., Phoenix, Ariz./Central)
 - Bethel - Matt Rowley (Sr., Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins)
 - Carleton - Adam Zweber (Sr., Corvallis, Ore.)
 - Concordia - Erik Simmons (Sr., Waseca, Minn.)
 - Gustavus - Tim Miller (Sr., Eden Prairie, Minn.)
 - Hamline - Casey Benford (Sr., Mesa, Ariz./Dobson)
 - Macalester - David Melms (Sr., Wauwatosa, Wis./Wisconsin Lutheran)
 - Saint John's - Scott Schroeder (Sr., Richmond, Minn./Rocori)
 - Saint Mary's - Matt Tessmer (Sr., West St. Paul, Minn./Henry Sibley)
 - St. Olaf - Adam Johnson (St. Cloud, Minn./St. Cloud State)
 - St. Thomas - Harry Welsh (Jr., Shiloh, Minn.)
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