

# 2013 MIAC Baseball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- If the last two seasons are any indication, the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) is in for another great spring on the baseball diamond in 2013. Though a familiar team has reigned atop the standings for a decade, each of the last two seasons have also included remarkable Cinderella stories and a thrilling postseason tournament with enough upsets and drama to even make March Madness a little jealous.

Last season, St. Thomas continued a 10-year run with at least a share of the MIAC regular season championship. The Tommies rolled to the 2012 title by five games with a near-perfect 19-1 league record, and since 2003 St. Thomas has eight outright championships and two shared titles. St. Olaf's three-year run as champs from 2000-2002 marks the last time a team other than St. Thomas has hoisted the hardware, and UST Head Coach **Chris Olean** has led his squad to the title in each of his four seasons at the helm. St. Thomas topped it off with a trip to the NCAA Division III World Series, where it finished third.

As the Tommies pulled away for the title, several other significant storylines developed throughout the rest of the standings. **Jerry Haugen's** Saint John's team not only emerged as St. Thomas' top contender and the No. 2 Playoff seed with a 14-6 MIAC campaign, but the Johnnies played their best ball of the year in the postseason, winning the 2012 MIAC Baseball Playoff championship and joining the Tommies in the 2012 NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament.

Meanwhile, Bethel had a great season under first-year Head Coach Brian Raabe, and MIAC MVP **Matt Rowley** led the Royals to an 11-9 conference record and a trip to the conference Playoffs. **Nick Winecke's** Saint Mary's team provided the true Cinderella story of the 2012 season. The Cardinals were picked to finish dead last in the 2012 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll, but surprised everyone with a 10-10 conference record and earned a postseason bid thanks to tiebreaker criteria over 10-10 Augsburg. SMU then opened the MIAC Playoffs with a bang, upsetting top-seeded Saint Thomas and proving throughout the tournament that it belonged.

**Keith Bateman's** Auggie team just missed a trip to the postseason behind some great young arms, and finished tied with Saint Mary's for fourth in the standings. Concordia and Macalester were also in Playoff contention into the final weekend, finishing just a game behind SMU and Augsburg at 9-11 each. This came a year after the Scots' magical run to earn a share of the MIAC title for the first time in 50 years.

Hamline was just another game behind the Cobbers and Macalester at 8-12 overall, and Gustavus and Carleton both went 7-13 in league play, with St. Olaf finishing 6-14 to round out the standings. The depth and parity in the league was certainly reflected in the teams' records, as just five games separated the final nine spots in the standings.

With the first pitch of the 2013 season less than a week away, it will be interesting to see if recent history can repeat itself. Will St. Thomas make it 11 years on top, or can Saint John's or another challenger rise up to take the title? Will Saint Mary's continue its stunning surge? Is there another unlikely Cinderella candidate lurking at the bottom of the standings ready to make a move into the postseason? Thankfully for MIAC fans, all those questions will be answered on the diamond in the coming months.

## Tommies and Johnnies top title contenders

The St. Thomas-Saint John's rivalry has been well documented in other sports, and in 2013 the MIAC coaches predict the two adversaries will again be the chief competitors for the league's baseball title. St. Thomas was tabbed as the favorite to take home its 11th-straight championship in the 2013 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll, with the Johnnies close behind. UST received nine of 11 first-place votes and 99 points to headline the poll, while SJU received the other two first-place votes and 92 points to lay claim to top contender status.

After the top two, there's a bit of a divide, but Bethel was a solid choice among the coaches in third place. The Royals received 77 points to slot in at No. 3. Augsburg and Concordia were predicted to battle for the final spot in the four-team Playoff field, with the Auggies taking No. 4 with 68 points, and the Cobbers claiming No. 5 with 61 points.

The next four teams in the poll, all who could also contend for a postseason bid, were only separated by 10 total points. Last year's surprise team, Saint Mary's, finds itself five spots higher in this year's poll at No. 6 with 47 points. St. Olaf is just two points behind the Cardinal in seventh with 45, and Hamline received 40 points to finish eighth. Macalester joined that close grouping at No. 9 with a total of 37 points.

Gustavus claimed the No. 10 spot in the poll with 27 points and Carleton rounded out the rankings at No. 11 with 12 points. However, those teams only need to look at the 2011 Macalester team and the 2012 Saint Mary's squad for inspiration, as both teams were slotted near the bottom of the poll, only to make a Playoff push that season.

## What's new?

There's a lot of continuity in the MIAC again this year with only one head coaching change, and this time around, it involves a coach who was already entrenched with his current program. Last spring, Hamline Head Baseball Coach **Jason Verdugo** was named the Pipers' new athletic director. After a semester with his new role under his belt, Verdugo decided to focus his energy on running Hamline's athletic department, and recently he promoted longtime assistant **Jim Weyandt** as his successor on the diamond.

Weyandt is a 2003 Hamline grad who enjoyed a four-year career with the Pipers, and has served as an assistant under Verdugo in a number of capacities, including first-base coach, infield coach and director of baseball operations.

The MIAC coaching group is now a group featuring both long-term veterans and some talented young coaches still in the early part of their head coaching careers. Six of the 11 coaches have at least 10 years in their current position, including SJU's Haugen (36th season) and

Concordia's **Bucky Burgau** (35th season). Meanwhile Weyandt joins Raabe (second season), Olean and Winecke (both fourth season) in the league's new wave of coaching talent.

Also new in 2013 will be a new all-turf field in Collegeville. Construction began on a new baseball and soccer complex on the Saint John's campus following last season, and starting this season, the Johnnies will have a new home field on campus, right next to the site of their former stadium.

## Who's back?

Adding to the anticipation for the 2013 MIAC season is the return of the league's top three individual award winners from a year ago, as well as 19 of the 27 All-MIAC selections and six of the 10 All-MIAC Defensive Team honorees. That begins with a pair of versatile players in Bethel's Rowley, who was the Max Molock Most Valuable Player, and St. Thomas' **Dylan Thomas**, who was the Mike Augustin Pitcher-of-the-Year, although those awards could've been flipped, as both players excelled both on the mound and in the batter's box. Gustavus' **Grant Soderberg**, the MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year, is also back after a great debut season.

Reigning MIAC Coach-of-the-Year Olean has many reasons to be optimistic about his 2013 Tommies. Thomas was an All-American, and went 8-0 with a 0.98 ERA over his last 11 appearances, and he'll be joined by fellow All-MIAC and All-American pitcher **Steve Maher**, who was 13-2 with a 2.77 ERA. All-MIAC OF **Tim Kuzniar** (.340 BA) also returns, as does All-MIAC OF **Ben Podibinski** and 2011 Rookie-of-the-Year and 2012 All-Defensive Team catcher **J.D. Dorgan**.

Saint John's returns nearly as much star power. Haugen welcomes back versatile star **Connor Cline**, who was All-MIAC and All-Region and hit .331 while posting a 7-5 record with a 2.97 ERA. All-American **Joey Long** is also back at second base and closer after racking up 10 saves and a 2.22 ERA in 2012. Shortstop **Max Forster** is also back, along with his .322 batting average, along with All-MIAC selection **Dylan Graves**.

Bethel's hopes certainly start with the return of Rowley, who earned numerous postseason honors following his remarkable junior season. The Royals' star was the league's MVP, an All-Defensive Team selection, an All-American, and All-Region in the outfield and as a pitcher. Another pitcher/outfielder - **David Freed** - also returns after hitting .348 a year ago, as does outfielder **Jesse Nickols** (.304, 6 HR). Augsburg returns a ton of talented underclassmen, led by All-MIAC and All-Region shortstop **Adam Carl** (.361 BA, 30 RBI) and sophomore pitchers **Ryan Mestnik** and **Tanner Oakes**, who both had sub-3.00 ERAs in their rookie campaigns.

Concordia will look to a pair of returning All-MIAC selections to lead Burgau's bunch to the MIAC Playoffs. Junior outfielder **Michael Olson** and sophomore shortstop **Braden Rahman** were both All-Conference selections a year ago, and Olson was also an All-Defensive Team pick. Saint Mary's has a ton of talent back from its surprising MIAC Playoff run a year ago, particularly on the right side of the infield. **Kevin Gannon** and **Jon Schlemmer** were both All-MIAC picks splitting first base and DH duties, while 2B **Paul LaNasa** also earned an All-Conference nod in 2012.

St. Olaf should be strong defensively again this season, with All-Defensive Team selections **Nick Kulla** back at 2B, and **Chris Paradise** back in the OF. Catcher **Jack Schchinger** also returns for Matt McDonald's club after hitting .317 a year ago. First-year Coach Weyandt has a pair of All-MIAC players to lean on in his first season at Hamline - P/3B **Dan Ellefson** and DH-OF **Jordan Buck**, as well as SS **Jordan Rubbelke**. Both Buck and Rubbelke hit .333 a year ago. Macalester graduated a trio of stars, but 2011 All-MIAC SS **Jimmy Belfont** is back along with OF **Ross Brofenbrenner** (.319 BA) and Division I transfer **Nick Mar**, who hit .303 as a utility man a year ago.

Gustavus hopes Soderberg can build on his strong rookie season, in which he went 3-5 with a 2.73 ERA with five complete games. All-MIAC selection **Drew Block** is also back for the Gusties after hitting .352 and leading the team in seven offensive categories. Carleton will have a pair of talented juniors anchoring its lineup in catcher **Jeff Dsida** (.350 BA, 5 triples) and OF **Ray Young** (.330 BA), with **Anderson Cole** anchoring the pitching staff once again.

## Circle these dates

It might not look like baseball season outside in Minnesota, but thanks to indoor opportunities provided by the Metrodome, and trips to snow-less states, first pitch is less than a week away. Carleton starts the MIAC season with a dome doubleheader against Crown on Feb. 12, and most of the MIAC teams will open their 2013 campaigns before the calendar flips to March. Conference play kicks off on March 30, and between that date and May 5 all 11 teams will play 20 MIAC games to determine the league champ, and the four MIAC Playoff bids.

Throughout those five weeks, there will be a number of dates MIAC fans will want to mark on the calendar. The top two teams in the coaches poll will continue a spirited rivalry on April 9 when St. Thomas heads to Collegeville to face the Johnnies in a 2:30 p.m. doubleheader that will have huge conference implications. The league's other two 2012 Playoff teams - Bethel and Saint Mary's - will square off on the Royals' home field on March 30 at 1 p.m.

Augsburg will travel north to Moorhead on April 23 to face Concordia in a 2:30 p.m. MIAC doubleheader that showcases two teams hoping to re-join the postseason field in 2013. Two St. Paul rivals also hope to be in the Playoff chase when Hamline hosts Macalester at Midway Stadium on the same date - April 23 - at 2:30 p.m.

There will be a pair of exciting MIAC doubleheaders to watch in Northfield in early April. Carleton hosts Gustavus on April 6 in a 2:30 p.m. conference twin bill that features two teams both hoping to be the big surprise of the MIAC in 2013. And just a week later - on April 13 - the Knights host cross-town rival St. Olaf in a 1 p.m. MIAC doubleheader that not only showcases one of the league's top rivalries, but also a pair of teams looking for upward movement this season.

All that action will build towards the 2013 MIAC Baseball Playoffs, which returns to Minnetonka's Veterans Field for the third-straight season. Hamline will be the host school at the three-day tournament, which will run May 10-12. The four-team, double-elimination Playoff features two first-round games on Friday, May 10, with three games scheduled for Saturday, May 11, and either one or two championship

games, depending on how the double-elimination format plays out, on Sunday, May 12. The postseason champ will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Baseball Playoffs.

## A closer look

The rest of the 2013 MIAC Baseball Preview contains more details and information about each team to provide a closer look at each MIAC squad as the season draws near. Scroll down to see complete results from the 2013 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll, Playoff information, helpful links and team-by-team previews along with links to each team's baseball home page. This season, the team previews - provided by each school's sports information director - received a facelift to give fans a more user-friendly way to prepare for the upcoming season.

Continue to visit the MIAC Web site throughout the season for updated scores, standings, stats and more, and for additional updates and interaction connect to the MIAC on its social media pages, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#), as well as the new MIAC Media site.

## 2013 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll

Coaches voted for every team in the conference except their own team. Points were assigned for each vote (10 for first, nine 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.

2013 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (9)	99
2	Saint John's (2)	92
3	Bethel	77
4	Augsburg	68
5	Concordia	61
6	Saint Mary's	47
7	St. Olaf	45
8	Hamline	40
9	Macalester	37
10	Gustavus	27
11	Carleton	12

## 2013 MIAC Baseball Playoffs

The 2013 MIAC Playoffs will feature the top four teams in the conference standings playing in a single-site, double-elimination postseason tournament. This season's MIAC Playoffs will be played May 10-12 at Veterans Field in Minnetonka, Minn., for the third season in a row. Hamline University will be the tournament host. There will be two first-round games held Friday, May 10, with three games on Saturday's schedule and either one or two game Sunday depending on how the double-elimination tournament plays out. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2013 NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament.

## MIAC Baseball Links

| [Scoreboard & Stats](#) | [2013 Schedule](#) | [2012 Statistics](#) | [2012 Standings](#) | [Recordbook](#) | [Archives](#) |



**AUGSBURG** | [Auggies' baseball home page](#) |

### Head Coach

- Keith Bateman (10th season)

### A Year Ago

- 10-10 MIAC (T-4th place) | 24-15 Overall

### Top Returners

- Adam Carl (JR, INF | ABCA All-Midwest Region 2nd team SS and All-MIAC in 2012; Hit .361 with 26 runs, 43 hits, 10 2B, 3 HR, 30 RBI, .521 slugging pct., .414 on-base pct., 8-of-9 SB in 2012; career totals: .356 average, 26 runs scored, 47 hits, 10 2B, 3 HR, 32 RBI, .500 slugging pct., .401 on-base pct., 9-of-10 SB)
- Ryan Mestnik (SO, P/INF | D3baseball.com All-Midwest Region 3rd team P in 2012; 8-2 record and 2.30 ERA in 13 appearances (12 starts), 4 complete games, 3 shutouts, 24 strikeouts, 10 walks, .206 opponent batting average in 58.2 innings pitched in 2012; started 2012 season with 8-0 record in first 9 appearances with 0.73 ERA)
- Tanner Oakes (SO, P/INF | MIAC All-Defensive Team P in 2012; 5-3 record and 2.93 ERA in 17 appearances (6 starts), 3 complete games, 2 shutouts, 2 saves, 36 strikeouts, 9 walks, .258 opponent batting average in 58.1 innings pitched in 2012; threw 7-inning no-hitter against Mayville State on March 9 in 2nd collegiate appearance and 1st collegiate start)

### Key Losses

- Adam Seaman (DH/C | All-MIAC in 2011; Hit team-best .396 in 20 games, 8 2B, 12 RBI, .547 slugging pct., .529 on-base pct. in 2012; career numbers in 3 seasons at Augsburg: .349 average, .569 slugging pct., .438 on-base pct.; 89 hits, 54 runs, 21 2B, 1 3B, 11 HR, 60 RBI)
- Tom Petersen (INF/P | Hit career-best .371 with 22 runs scored, 46 hits, 13 2B, 1 3B, 2 HR, 21 RBI, .540 slugging pct., .409 on-base pct. in 2012; career totals: .324 average, 97 hits, 50 runs, 23 2B, 2 3B, 3 HR, 51 RBI, .445 slugging pct., .399 on-base pct., .976 fielding pct.)
- Tim Gerding (OF | Hit career-best .333 with 21 runs scored, 32 hits, 5 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 12 RBI, .438 slugging pct., .425 on-base pct. in 2012; career totals: .278 average, 75 runs scored, 94 hits, 16 2B, 4 3B, 3 HR, 55 RBI, .376 slugging pct., .377 on-base pct., 20-of-25 SB, .978 fielding pct.)

### By the Numbers

- 24: Wins for Augsburg in 2012, the most for the Auggies since a 24-18 mark in the 2005 season. It's the fourth time that Augsburg has won 20 or more games in Keith Bateman's Augsburg coaching tenure. Augsburg started the season 21-8 in its first 29 games, its best start since going 24-5 in the 1987 MIAC championship season.
- 0: Hits allowed by Augsburg pitcher Tanner Oakes in a seven-inning no-hitter in his second collegiate appearance and first collegiate start, a 2-0 win over Mayville State (N.D.) at the Metrodome on March 9. It's the first no-hitter in head coach Keith Bateman's tenure at Augsburg.
- 173.1: Innings pitched by Augsburg's starting trio of Ryan Mestnik, Tanner Oakes and Eren Cur. The trio pitched 64.6 percent of Augsburg's 268.1 pitching innings in 2012, starting 30 of the team's 39 games and earning 18 of the team's 24 wins. Mestnik went 8-2 with a 2.30 ERA in 58.2 innings of work, Oakes went 5-3 with a 2.93 ERA in 58.1 innings of work, and Cur went 5-1 with a 3.51 ERA in 56 innings of work. The trio combined to strike out 77 batters while walking only 31 in 2012.

### Did You Know?

- In addition to his ABCA All-Midwest Region and All-MIAC accolades at shortstop for the Augsburg baseball team, Adam Carl is also one of the top tight ends in the country in football. In 2012, Carl was named a D3football.com All-America first-team selection, in addition to earning D3football.com All-West Region first-team honors, Beyond Sports College Network All-America honorable-mention honors and All-MIAC first-team honors. He was an All-MIAC first-team and D3football.com All-West Region second team selection in 2011.

### Off the Field

- Three Augsburg baseball players earned Academic All-MIAC recognition in 2012 -- Trent Anderson, Adam Carl and Louie LaChapelle.



**BETHEL** | [Royals' baseball home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Brian Raabe (Second Season)

### A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (3rd place) | 20-20 Overall

### In the 2012 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoffs - Went to the MIAC Playoffs for the first time since 2000, but lost to Saint John's (3-7) and St. Thomas (0-7)

### Top Returners

- Matt Rowley (Sr, P/OF | 2012 MIAC MVP, ABCA/Rawlings All-American Third Team, d3baseball.com All-Region First Team (OF), d3baseball.com All-Region Third Team (P), ABCA/Rawlings All-Midwest Region First Team, 2012 MIAC All-Defensive Team, MIAC Pitcher of the Week)
- David Freed (Sr, P/OF | 2012 MIAC Player of the Week, finished 2012 with .348 batting average (20th), 39 runs scored (3rd), 21 walks (5th), .974 fielding percentage, 68.0 innings pitched—allowed just 13 walks)
- Jesse Nickols (Sr, OF | Finished 2012 with .304 batting average, .986 fielding percentage, six homeruns—tied for the MIAC lead, 38 hits, 30 RBI, nine doubles)

### Key Losses

- Jay Slick (C | Three-time All-MIAC, two-time ABCA/Rawlings All-Midwest Region Third Team, one-time ABCA/Rawlings All-Midwest Region Second Team, third highest batting average (.386), fourth highest slugging percentage (.597), highest on-base percentage (.498) in Bethel

history)

- Buddy Flaherty (P | 2012 All-MIAC, 2012 MIAC Pitcher of the Week, d3baseball.com All-Region Third Team, most game appearances (22), second-most saves in a season (6), lowest earned runs allowed in a season (5), and third most career saves (7) in Bethel history)
- Travis Piepho (OF | finished 2012 with .309 batting average, .986 fielding percentage, 42 hits, 18 RBI, 10 doubles, three triples, four home runs)

### By the Numbers

- .427: 2012 MIAC MVP Matt Rowley was exceptional in the field and at the plate a season ago, as he led the league in batting average with a mark of .427 and finished in the Top 5 in innings pitched (80.0) and strikeouts pitched (61). Rowley also finished second in slugging percentage (.636), second in on-base percentage (.494), and second in total hits (61).
- 10: Bethel University finished the 2012 conference schedule 11-9, however, the Royals had 10 league games decided by one run. In those 10 contests, BU finished 4-6. That record, along with the fact that Bethel led the MIAC in errors and double plays hit into gives the Royals significant optimism for 2013.
- 6: Graduated closer Buddy Flaherty had a dynamic season in 2012, as his six saves and 5-1 record in 37.1 innings pitched were among the best nationwide. In addition, Flaherty posted a 1.21 ERA, while striking out 16. In 2012 alone, the All-MIAC pitcher stamped his place in the Bethel record book with the most appearances in a single season (22), second-most saves in a season (6), and least earned runs in a season (5), while also posting the third most saves in a career (7).

### Did You Know?

- Former Bethel University catcher Jay Slick signed a professional contract with the River City Rascals in O'Fallon, Missouri for the 2013 season with a club option for 2014. The 2012 BU graduate and three-time All-Conference player finished his career for the Royals among the top of many hitting categories, including a .386 batting average (3rd), .498 on-base percentage (t-1st), 96 walks (1st), 182 hits (4th), 135 runs (4th), 125 RBI (4th), and 274 total bases (4th).

### Off the Field

- In late January, Bethel's Matt Rowley was announced as a semi-finalist for the Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup. Nearly 100 student-athletes are nominated each year and Rowley was one of five Division III contestants selected in the final 20. Others in the Top 20 included Matt Barkley (USC), Michael Clay (Oregon), and Brigetta Barrett (Arizona). The multi-sport, multi-division Cup is awarded each year to the athlete who exemplifies the highest standard of character on and off the field, and makes the greatest difference in the lives of others. Past winners include Tim Tebow, Zak Boggs, Quinton Carter, and Aleca Hughes.



**CARLETON** | [Knights' baseball home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Aaron Rushing (Eighth season)

### A Year Ago

- 7-13 MIAC (9th place) | 15-22 Overall

### Top Returners

- Jeff Dsida (Jr., C | .350 average; led team in hits and slugging (.488) and was second with 21 RBI; second in MIAC with 5 triples)
- Ray Yong (Jr., OF | .330 average; .462 OBP ranked fourth among MIAC players; was 2<sup>nd</sup> in MIAC with 26 walks)
- Anderson Cole (Jr., P | Led pitching staff by starting 12 of team's 37 games, second on team in wins and innings pitched)

### Key Losses

- Alex Wirta (C-INF | All-MIAC selection in 2009 and 2012; team-high .357 average, threw out 7-of-12 would-be basestealers)
- Paul Dimick (P | Led the staff in wins, innings pitched, and strikeouts, while posting a solid 4.43 ERA)

### By the Numbers

- .300: Carleton owned a .300 team batting average in conference play.
- 7: Seven of the Knights' losses last year were by a lone run, with five of setbacks coming in MIAC games.
- .964: The Knights owned the third-best fielding percentage in MIAC games.

### Did You Know?

- Catcher Jeff Dsida led all MIAC players with 4 triples during conference games.

### Off the Field

- Carleton had five baseball student-athletes earn Academic All-MIAC honors in 2012, the highest total in the conference.



## CONCORDIA | [Cobbers' baseball home page](#) |

### Head coach

Bucky Burgau (35th season)

### A Year Ago

9-11 MIAC (T-6th place) | 18-20 Overall

### Top Returners

- Brian Guler (Sr., 1B | (2012 ABCA Gold Glove winner; 2012 MIAC All-Defensive Team; didn't make an error in 172 chances in MIAC play and did not have an error in 324 overall chances)
- Michael Olson (Sr., OF | (2012 ABCA All-Region; 2012 MIAC All-Conference; 2012 MIAC All-Defensive Team; tied for second in the MIAC in doubles and fourth in overall hits, led the team in hitting with a .367 average, hit safely in 29 games and had a 16-game hitting streak in 2012 )
- Braden Rahman (Jr., IF | (2012 MIAC All-Conference; led the team in hitting in conference play (.409) and was fifth in the MIAC, was in the top 10 in the MIAC in eight different statistical categories.)

### Key Losses

- Zach Frappier (P | Led the team in ERA (2.32), wins (4), strikeouts (29), started 10 games and had seven complete games.)
- Chris Gilson (OF | Third on the team in average with a .341 average, had nine multiple-hit games.)
- Brad Olson (IF | (Hit .291 in 2012 and was second on the team in home runs (3).)

### By the Numbers

- 4: Concordia senior catcher Jan-Erik Lindberg has only allowed four passed balls in his three seasons as the Cobber catcher
- 24: Concordia returns 24 players from last year's team that went 9-11 in league play
- 392: Cobber head coach Bucky Burgau has won 392 conference games in his 34-year career and needs eight more MIAC wins to become the first coach to reach the 400-win milestone.

### Did You Know?

- The Concordia baseball program started in 1920 and the 2012 campaign will be the 82nd season in school history. During the first 81 seasons of play Concordia has fashioned 870 overall wins and 482 victories in conference play.



## GUSTAVUS | [Gusties' baseball home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Mike Carroll (17th season)

### A Year Ago

- 7-13 MIAC (T-9th place) | 16-19 Overall

### Top Returners

- Drew Block (Sr., Rochester, Minn.) - 2012 MIAC All-Conference... Led the team in triples (5), home runs (3), RBI (22), total bases (60), slugging percentage (.571), walks (19) and on-base percentage (.469) to go along with a .352 batting average.
- Grant Soderberg (So., Eden Prairie, Minn.) - 2012 MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year... Went 3-5 record with five complete games... Registered an earned run average of 2.73 in 51.1 innings pitched, holding opposing hitters to a batting average of .241.

### Key Losses

- Erik Sveen (Excelsior, Minn.) - Started all 35 games for the Gusties in 2012... Led the team in at-bats (120), runs scored (31), hits (43), and stolen bases (8) coupled with a .358 batting average, which ranked third on the team.

### By the Numbers

- 213.1: The number of innings pitched by returners to the staff in 2013. The majority of a young pitching staff from last season returns this spring for the Golden Gusties. Of the 239.2 innings pitched last season, 213.1 of them came from the arms of players who are back again this season, giving Gustavus valuable experience on the mound.
- 3: The number of offensive categories in which senior Drew Block ranked in the top five in the MIAC last season. Block ranked second in the league in triples (5), third in on-base percentage (.469), and fourth in slugging percentage (.571) a year ago.

### Did You Know?

- Grant Soderberg, who posted a record of 3-5 on the hill last season, became the third consecutive Gustavus freshman pitcher to win three



games in his debut season. Tim Miller (2009) and Kellan Euerle (2010) also won three games each in their first year donning the three crowns.



**HAMLIN** | [Pipers' baseball home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Jim Weyandt (First season)

#### A Year Ago

- 8-12 MIAC (8th place) | 18-22 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Dan Ellefson, RHP-3B (Sr., Burnsville, Minn.) All-MIAC, 4-5, 2.31 ERA; 6 BB, 42 K, 0 HR in 62 IP
- Jordan Buck, DH-OF (Sr., Apple Valley, Minn.) All-MIAC, .333 BA (.493 OBP), led MIAC in Walks with 29
- Jordan Rubbelke, SS (Sr., Minot, ND), .333 BA, led team in Stolen Bases with nine

#### Key Losses

- Andy King, OF, .328 BA, 11 2B, 7 3B, 6 HR, 37 RBI – All-MIAC choice and former national Player of Week
- Cory Miller, OF, four-year regular who was on District COSIDA Academic All-America team last year
- Brett Bugielski, P, 2-2 last year four year regular starter

#### By the Numbers

- 12: Seniors on 2013 roster
- 13, losses in 2013 by one or two runs
- 16, total of innings Hamline played against the Minnesota Gophers at the Metrodome on March 7, 2012

#### Did You Know?

- When Dan Kaczowski, a 2009 HU grad, had an at-bat in a 2012 spring training game for the Arizona Diamondbacks (He flied out.), it marked the first time a HU player had appeared in a MLB game of any sorts since Howie Schultz did so in the 1940s. Dan spent a brief period at Reno in AAA ball but spent most of the year at AA Mobile where he served as an utility player. Dan has a career .255 BA in 364 minor league games.

#### Off the Field

- The men's baseball team has a collective 3.20 team GPA. As they have done for several years, they will help out again at the annual Steps Of Home March (benefitting the Autism Society) on March 3.



**MACALESTER** | [Scots' baseball home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Matt Parrington (14th season)

#### A Year Ago

- 9-11MIAC (6th place) | 19-20 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Jimmy Belfont (Jr., SS |All-MIAC '11, .272 avg)
- Ross Bronfenbrenner (Jr., OF | .319 avg., 4 triples, 17-for-17 on steal attempts)
- Nick Mar (So., OF/IF |transferred in from Division I UC-Santa Barbara and hit .303)

#### Key Losses

- Mitch Glasser (2B / 1B | .325, Chicago White Sox draftee, two-time All-MIAC, career .357 hitter)
- Robert Williams (C / 1B | .405 avg. 30 RBI, all-region, all-conference, .374 career avg. with 132 RBI)
- Nick Meerson (P | 9-3, 3.53 ERA, All-MIAC)

#### By the Numbers

- 17: Speedy outfielder Ross Bronfenbrenner was 17-for-17 in stolen base tries last season with four triples.
- .720: Macalester's home record in four seasons at Nicholson Field is 36-14 for a winning percentage of .720.
- 12: Mac's roster is represented by players from 12 states (a year ago the Scots often had five Californians on the field at the same time).

### Did You Know?

- Infielder Mitch Glasser was drafted last spring by his hometown favorite team, the Chicago White Sox. He will be at the White Sox minor league camp in a couple weeks.

### Off the Field

- Last spring, Garrett Salzman '12 became the first CoSida Academic All-America pick in the program's history. A Phi Beta Kappa member, Salzman graduated with a 3.88 GPA as a Biology major.

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## SAINT JOHN'S | [Johnnies' baseball home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Jerry Haugen (36th season)

### A Year Ago

- 14-6 MIAC (2nd place) | 29-16 Overall

### In the 2012 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoff Champion - Defeated Bethel (7-3) in quarterfinals, Saint Mary's (4-2) in semifinals, St. Thomas (3-6, 10-5) in championship
- 2012 NCAA Division III Tournament - Lost to Concordia of Texas (3-6) and Coe of Iowa (2-7)

### Top Returners

- Connor Cline (Sr., RHP/1B | 2012 ABCA All-Midwest Region second team, 2012 D3baseball.com All-Midwest Region third team, 2012 All-MIAC first team, 16 App/12 GS, 2.97 ERA, .224 opp. batting avg., 72.2 IP, 67 K's, 7-5 record, led team with a .331 batting average in 36 games)
- Joey Long (Sr., 2B/CP | 2013 D3baseball.com Preseason All-America second team, 2012 ABCA All-Midwest Region first team, 2012 D3baseball.com All-America second team, 2012 D3.com All-Midwest Region first team, 2012 All-MIAC first team, 19 relief appearances, 2.22 ERA, .174 opp. batting avg., 24 strikeouts, 10 saves)
- Max Forster (Sr., SS | 2012 All-MIAC honorable mention, started all 45 games at shortstop, .322 avg., .538 slugging pct., 18 extra-base hits, 5 HR, 26 RBI)

### Key Losses

- Hayden Zimmerman (RHP | 2012 ABCA All-Midwest Region second team, 2012 D3baseball.com All-Midwest Region second team, 2012 All-MIAC first team, 14 App/12 GS, 2.33 ERA, 77.1 IP, 7 wins, 63 SO)

### By the Numbers

- 16: SJU clubbed 16 home runs, its highest total since 2007, last season. All five home-run hitters return, including junior outfielder Dylan Graves (6 home runs) and senior shortstop Max Forster (5 home runs), in 2013.
- .230: The Johnnies' pitching staff held its opponents to a .230 batting average in 45 games (333.1 IP) last spring.
- 29: SJU tied a school record with 29 wins last season en route to its first MIAC Playoff Championship and third NCAA Tournament appearance.

### Did You Know?

- The Johnnies will open a brand new, artificial grass, on-campus stadium and begin a home-and-home series with the University of Minnesota this spring.

### Off the Field

- Junior outfielder Dylan Graves is a two-time Academic All-MIAC honoree (min. 3.50 GPA) in football and was awarded the same honor in baseball last spring. Graves played in nine games, with six starts, at defensive back this past fall and is a biology major (pre-medicine emphasis).



## SAINT MARY'S | [Cardinals' baseball home page](#) |

### Head coach

- Nick Winecke (Fifth season)

### A Year Ago

- 10-10 MIAC (T-4th Place) | 22-20 Overall

### In The Post-Season

- MIAC Tournament: vs. St. Thomas (W, 4-2, 10 innings), vs. Saint John's (L, 4-2), vs. St. Thomas (L, 10-2)

### Top Returners

- Kevin Gannon (5-11, 195, Jr., 1B/DH | 41 GP, .368 BA, 144 AB, 26 R, 53 H, 16 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 32 RBIs, First-Team All-MIAC, Third-Team



ABCA All-Region)

- Jon Schlemmer (6-4, 225, Jr., 1B/DH | 36 GP, .349 BA, 109 AB, 19 R, 38 H, 8 2B, 5 3B, 4 HR, 31 RBIs, First-Team All-MIAC, First-Team D3baseball.com All-Region)
- Paul LaNasa (5-7, 170, Jr., 2B | 42 GP, .319 BA, 116 AB, 23 R, 37 H, 7 2B, 1 3B, 18 RBIs, .974 FLD % | First-Team All-MIAC, First-Team D3baseball.com All-Region)

#### Key Losses

- Curt Swanson (41 GP, .244 BA, 135 AB, 18 R, 33 H, 12 2B, 19 RBIs)
- Danny Geraghty (39 GP, .288 BA, 125 AB, 21 R, 36 H, 5 2B, 15 RBIs)

#### By The Numbers

- 6: Tyler Krysiak collected six saves during his freshman campaign in 2012, sharing the program's single-season record with Eric Van Brocklin.
- 17: Jon Schlemmer belted 17 extra-base hits among his 38 hits last season, including team-highs of five triples and four home runs. He also boasted a team-leading .624 slugging percentage.
- 22: Twenty-two of the Cardinals' 42 games in 2012 were decided by two runs or less, while 10 of SMU's 18 losses were by one run.

#### Did You Know?

- After opening conference play 0-6, SMU went 10-4 in its last 14 MIAC contests to lock up the No. 4 seed in the conference tournament.

#### Off The Field

- The Cardinals boasted three players on the MIAC All-Academic Team — Kevin Gannon (Roselle, Ill.), Paul LaNasa (Mahtomedi, Minn.) and Curt Swanson (Woodbury, Minn.).



**ST. OLAF** | [Oles' baseball home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Matt McDonald (19th Season)

#### A Year Ago

- 6-14 MIAC (11th), 14-25 Overall

#### Top Returners

- Jack Schechinger (Jr., C, Edina, Minn. | .317, eight doubles in 19 games in 2012)
- Nick Kulla (Jr., 2B, Lakeville, Minn./Lakeville North | .296, All-MIAC defensive team in 2012)
- Chris Paradise (Jr., OF, Kasson, Minn. | .307, team-high 20 runs in 2012)

#### Key Losses

- Dan Lee (C | .330, 7 doubles, 16 RBIs in 2012)

#### By the Numbers

- 8: Second baseman Nick Kulla has made only eight errors in 328 tries over the last two seasons. Kulla was a MIAC all-defensive team selection in 2012.
- 250: Head coach Matt McDonald owns a 250-110 record in MIAC play in his 19 seasons at the helm.



**ST. THOMAS** | [Tommies' baseball home page](#) |

#### Head coach

- Chris Olean (Fourth season)

#### A Year Ago

- 19-1 MIAC (1st place) | 41-10 Overall

#### In the 2012 Postseason

- 2012 MIAC Playoff Runner-up – Lost to St. Mary's (4-2), def. Bethel (7-0); def. St. Mary's (10-2), def. St. John's (6-3); lost to St. John's (10-5) • 2012 NCAA Division III Regionals, 1st – Def. St. Norbert (5-1); def. UW-Whitewater (5-3); def. St. Scholastica (22-2); def. UW-Whitewater (10-6)
- 2012 NCAA Division III College World Series, 3rd at nationals – Def. Christopher Newport (12-7); def. Marietta (3-1); lost to Wheaton

(Mass.) (13-9); def. SUNY-Cortland (7-6); lost to Marietta (5-0).

#### **Top Returners**

- Dylan Thomas, SR, DH-RHP, All-America, MIAC Pitcher of the Year (8-0, 0.98 ERA in last 11 appearances)
- Steve Maher, JR, RHP, All-America, Region Pitcher of the Year, 13-2, 2.77 ERA, 105 Ks, 22 BBs J.D. Dorgan, JR, C, Two-year starter, 91 games, 96 hits, 64 RBI, 56 runs, 23 2Bs, .319 BA
- Tim Kuzniar, JR, OF, Two-year starter; 90 games, 99 hits, 64 runs, 52 RBI, .340 BA

#### **Key Losses**

- Bryce Gapinski, LHP, Grad, All-America, 28-6 career record Charles Bruchu, 3B, 3X All-MIAC, 167 hits last three seasons

#### **By the Numbers**

- 2: Tommies' preseason Division III ranking for Tommies in both national polls
- 4: Number of nationally- ranked teams St. Thomas will play in March
- 17-1: Tommie won-loss record in 2012 in games decided by one or two runs

#### **Did You Know?**

- Tommie baseball has won or shared 10 consecutive MIAC regular-season championships and advanced to the NCAA playoffs in 17 of the last 18 seasons. The Toms have won 26 in a row on their home diamond.

#### **Off the Field**

- St. Thomas baseball alum Tony Fisher is President of Target's Canada operations. He interned at Target as a UST student and rose to a top executive position after his pro career ended. He still holds the Toms' single-season HR record with 15 as a junior in 1996.
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