

2014 MIAC Baseball Preview and Preseason Coaches' Poll

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2014 MIAC Baseball Season Preview

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) baseball teams begin the 2014 season hoping to carry over some of the positives of 2013, while leaving some of the negatives far, far behind. Last season was among the most competitive seasons - top to bottom - in conference history, but it also was one of the worst in terms of weather and playing conditions.

In fact, the weather created such havoc for the league that the entire conference schedule was re-drawn in mid-April in an attempt to still salvage as many conference contests as possible, as the first three weeks of the regular season were marred by rain, snow, sleet and winter temperatures. In addition, the conference amended its postseason tournament for one year only, from a four-team double-elimination tournament to a six-team, single elimination event.

Despite the awful spring weather, the MIAC came incredibly close to finishing the entire schedule, which is a borderline miracle considering snow was still falling into early May. Only one conference doubleheader couldn't get completed, as nearly all 11 teams completed a full slate of games. The result was all-time high parity throughout the majority of the standings. Places No. 2 through No. 9 were separated by a whopping two games, with five teams in a .500 log jam in the middle of the pack.

St. Thomas was the exception, as the Tommies cruised to the title with a near-perfect 19-1 record (34-7 overall), winning the conference's regular-season crown by eight full games over the two runners-up, Augsburg (24-15 overall) and Concordia (19-15 overall), who tied for second with identical 11-9 records and joined UST in the MIAC Playoff field. St. Thomas added the MIAC Playoff title, defeating Concordia in the title game to cap an exciting do-or-die weekend of baseball at Minnetonka's Veterans Field.

Below the Auggies and Cobbers was a mash-up of five teams all tied for fourth with .500 records. Bethel (24-15 overall), Saint Mary's (19-17 overall) and Gustavus (13-22 overall) were all 10-10, and Saint John's (18-16 overall) and St. Olaf (20-15) were both 9-9. When the tiebreaker dust settled, Bethel, Saint Mary's and Saint John's joined the top three in the six-team, single-elimination MIAC Playoffs.

Hamline finished 9-11 in MIAC play and 24-14 overall and was in ninth place despite being just two games out of second. Carleton came in 10th with a 6-14 MIAC record and a 16-20 overall mark, and Macalester rounded out the 2013 standings with a 4-16 conference mark and an 11-28 overall record.

Due to 2013's weather issues, the first questions surrounding the upcoming 2014 season isn't baseball related ... it pertains to the forecast. Will 2014 be as cruel to the MIAC and upper Midwest as 2013 was? Will the teams complete all 20 conference games as well as their nonconference slates? Will the fields be ready for outdoor action in late March? The entire league is crossing its collective fingers that Mother Nature is much more merciful after one of the harshest springs in memory.

Beyond that, all eyes again drift towards St. Thomas atop the standings. Will Head Coach Chris Olean and his club extend its run of dominance? The Tommies have won or shared the MIAC title each season dating back to 2003. UST returns much of its nucleus from last season's title team, so it will enter as the favorite to win its 12th league title in a row, and 34th overall.

However, there will be an incredibly deep field of challengers. The eight teams that finished between 11-9 and 9-11 in conference play a year ago all enter 2014 with high hopes to emerge from that pack and become legitimate threats to the Tommies in the title race, and Carleton and Macalester also hope for improvement as well to give the MIAC another incredibly deep pool of teams. As soon as the snow gets out of the way, expect the MIAC baseball action to quickly heat up.

TOMMIES TABBED FAVORITES FOR TITLE NO. 12

With all the returning talent back on the St. Thomas roster, it's no surprise the MIAC coaches collectively predict they'll be at the top of the standings again for the 12th season in a row. Olean's club was the unanimous No. 1 pick in the 2014 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll, receiving 100 points and 10 first-place votes. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team.

The coaches also expect the parity below UST to continue. Augsburg received the other first-place vote and 79 points to finish second in the poll, and Concordia was just three points behind the Auggies in third with a total of 76. However, the MIAC coaches couldn't settle on who the fourth and final MIAC Playoff team would be in 2014, as Bethel and Saint John's tied for fourth in the coaches' poll with identical totals of 65 points.

Saint Mary's - fresh off two-straight MIAC Playoff appearances - finished just five points behind the Royals and Johnnies with 60 points in sixth place. St. Olaf had 53 points in seventh, Hamline came in eighth with 41 and Gustavus' 32 points were good for eighth place. Carleton rounded out the top 10 with 20 points in the poll, and Macalester was tabbed 11th with 14 points.



END OF AN ERA

There has already been one major baseball news story in the MIAC this season: the announcement that it will be the final season for long-time Concordia Head Coach Bucky Burgau. The Cobbers' leader is entering his 36th and final season as the team's head coach, and a year ago he became the first MIAC coach to reach 400 victories.

Burgau won't completely vanish from Concordia baseball or the MIAC, however. He plans to continue as an assistant coach in 2015, and will turn the program's reins over to current assistant and former star Chris Coste. The Cobbers' next head coach was a three-time MIAC MVP and All-American, and he won a World Series as a member of the 2008 Philadelphia Phillies.

Burgau's announcement is the only major coaching news in the conference, with no other programs making a coaching change in the offseason. Saint John's Jerry Haugen is the dean of MIAC coaches by one year over Burgau, as he enters his 37th season in Collegeville. St. Olaf's Matt McDonald hits a coaching milestone this season, in his 20th season as the Oles' head coach.

WHO'S BACK?

St. Thomas graduated two-time MIAC Pitcher-of-the-Year Dylan Thomas, but Olean's club is still the prohibitive favorite thanks to all the talent coming back. MIAC MVP Tim Kuzniar returns to the Tommie outfield, and All-Region catcher J.D. Dorgan is also back behind the plate. The pitching rotation is again loaded even with the loss of Thomas, as All-American starter Steve Maher returns, and Colin Wendinger enters 2014 with an active streak of 30 consecutive scoreless innings.

The 2014 Auggies could be one of Head Coach Keith Bateman's best teams after a run to the MIAC Playoff semifinals a year ago. Two-time All-MIAC shortstop Adam Carl and standout centerfielder Gary Mariscal are both back for Augsburg, and junior hurler Ryan Mestnik and his 10-4 career record will again be at the front of the Auggies' rotation.

Burgau's final team should be a good one, after reaching the MIAC Playoff title game a year ago in dramatic fashion. Junior outfielder Devin Johnson returns after a breakout All-MIAC season in 2013, and lefty Jackson Meland will be back on the mound after also earning All-Conference honors a year ago.

Bethel has to replace graduated star pitcher/hitter Matt Rowley but Head Coach Brian Raabe's team is eyeing another trip to the MIAC Playoffs. Cousins Mike and Luke Schultz both hit over .300 in 2013 and combined for 51 RBI, and Joe Zorn returns on the mound. Saint John's also hopes to return to the postseason, despite the graduation of Connor Cline, Joey Long and Ryan Spengler. Outfielders Dylan Graves and Aaron Pfaff return for Haugen's squad, and Luke Larson and his .330 batting average are back at the hot corner.

Saint Mary's has some pitching talent to replace, but Head Coach Nick Winecke has a tremendous lineup back in Winona. Infielders Kevin Gannon and David Barry and outfielder Willie Doll all are back, and all three hit over .300 last season. St. Olaf just missed a trip to the postseason in 2013, and hopes are high in Northfield for McDonald's 20th season on the bench. The Oles will again be led by Jack Schechinger, Nick Kulla and Chris Paradise.

Hamline loses All-MIAC performers Jordan Buck and Mark Radmacher, but Head Coach Jim Weyandt will have a solid rotation in his second season. Pitchers Matt Eickman and Rannon Arch lead the Piper returners, along with outfielder Dan Moro and his .323 batting average. Gustavus is another team that should be rich in pitching, as Head Coach Mike Middleton welcomes back All-Conference hurlers Grant Soderberg and Christopher Kelly in 2014 as the Gusties aim for postseason contention.

Carleton returns most of its squad, and hopes are high for Head Coach Aaron Rushing's lineup in 2014. Division III and MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year Hayden Tsutsui is back after hitting .462 as a freshman, and seniors David Stillerman and Jeff Dsida both hit over .340 last year. Macalester returns All-MIAC third baseman Colin Carpenter, and Head Coach Matt Parrington will also have a talented outfield in 2014 with Ross Bronfenbrenner and Nick Sia both back in the lineup as the Scots eye upward movement in the standings.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

Augsburg got the 2014 season started on Feb. 14-15 with three nonconference games in Arkansas, and Carleton and Concordia will throw their first pitches this weekend. The full conference will be in action by early March. Conference play begins on Saturday, March 29, and each team will play 20 MIAC games - a doubleheader against each of the 10 teams - with the regular season concluding on Sunday, May 4. The 2014 MIAC Baseball Playoffs will be a four-team, double-elimination tournament May 9-11 at Minnetonka's Veterans Field.

The top three teams in the coaches' poll will all square off in the final weeks of the regular season which should add to the season's drama and intrigue. Augsburg travels up to Moorhead for a doubleheader at Concordia on April 16. The Cobbers head to St. Paul three days later to face St. Thomas on April 19, and the regular season will conclude when the Tommies travel across town to face the Auggies on May 4.

There are plenty of other intriguing matchups spread out throughout the season, starting when Playoff hopefuls Gustavus and Hamline square off on opening day - March 29 - on the Pipers' home field. Carleton and Macalester match up in a series of teams hoping for upward mobility on the Scots' home field on April 5. April 8 will feature a showdown of 2014 Playoff teams when Bethel travels to Saint John's and Saint Mary's will head to St. Olaf on April 30 for a late-season doubleheader that could carry huge postseason implications.

A CLOSER LOOK

The rest of the 2014 MIAC Baseball Preview contains complete results from the 2014 Preseason Coaches' Poll, MIAC Playoff details, helpful links and a preview for each team submitted by their sports information director. The new MIAC web site - www.miacathletics.com - will be an outstanding source for MIAC baseball 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 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.

2014 MIAC Baseball Preseason Coaches' Poll		
Rank	Institution	Total
1	St. Thomas (10)	100
2	Augsburg (1)	79
3	Concordia	76
T4	Bethel	65
T4	Saint John's	65
6	Saint Mary's	60
7	St. Olaf	53
8	Hamline	41
9	Gustavus	32
10	Carleton	20
11	Macalester	14

2014 MIAC Baseball Playoffs

The 2014 MIAC Baseball Playoffs will return to its four-team, double-elimination format after the awful weather in 2013 required an adjustment to a six-team, single-elimination tournament. The Playoffs will return to Minnetonka's Veterans Field for the fourth-straight season with three days of action on May 9-11. There will be two games Friday, May 9, three games Saturday, May 10, and one or two games to decide the champion on Sunday, May 11. The winner will receive the MIAC's automatic bid to the 2014 NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament.

| [MIAC Baseball Playoffs Websites](#) | [2013](#) | [2014](#) |

MIAC Baseball Links

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

Team-by-Team Previews

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



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

Head coach

- Keith Bateman (11th season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-2nd place) | 24-15 overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason - 1-1: Augsburg 5, Saint Mary's 4 (11 inn.); Concordia 7, Augsburg 5.

Top Returners

- Adam Carl (SS, SR | All-MIAC in 2012 and 2013 ... ABCA All-Midwest Team 2nd team in 2012 ... Hit .323 with 21 runs, 7 doubles, 23 RBI, .444 slugging pct. and .374 on-base pct. in 2013 ... Career .340 batting average with 47 runs, 17 doubles, 55 RBI, .473 slugging pct. and .388 on-base pct. ... Also 2-time All-America TE on Augsburg football team)
- Gary Mariscal (CF, SR | D3baseball.com All-Midwest Region 3rd team in 2013 ... Hit team-leading .370 with .457 slugging percentage and .496 on-base percentage in 2013 with 17 RBI)
- Ryan Mestnik (P, JR | All-MIAC Defensive Team in 2013 ... 2-2 pitching record and 5.55 ERA in 9 appearances/7 starts with 9 strikeouts and .306 opponent batting average ... 10-4 career record with 3.53 ERA, 5 complete games, 3 shutouts, 33 strikeouts against 20 walks and .246 opponent batting average)

Key Losses

- Louie LaChapelle (2B | All-MIAC and ABCA/Rawlings All-Midwest Region 3rd team in 2013 ... Hit .364 with 23 runs, 10 doubles & 18 RBI in 2013 ... Career .302 average with 65 runs, 13 doubles & 39 RBI)
- Ryan Sward (1B | All-MIAC in 2013 ... Hit .363 in 2013 with team-best 53 hits, 28 runs, 12 doubles, 4 triples, 36 RBI991 fielding percentage, 3 errors in 329 chances ... Career .325 average with 42 runs scored, 17 doubles, 55 RBI)
- Eren Cur (P | 6-1 record in 13 appearances (10 starts) with 3 complete games, 1 shutout and 1 save ... 3.30 ERA with 33 strikeouts against 19 walks in 2013 ... 11-4 career record in 38 appearances (25 starts) with 4.89 ERA, 63 strikes against 43 walks)

By the Numbers

- 4: Number of seasons with 20 wins or more in a five-year span for Augsburg's baseball program under head coach Keith Bateman, entering his 11th season as head coach in 2014.
- 10: Pitchers among the 12 who saw varsity playing time in 2013 returning to the Augsburg lineup in 2014. Augsburg had a 4.64 team earned-run average and .289 opponent batting average in 2013.
- 2/14/14: The date of Augsburg's season-opening doubleheader at the University of the Ozarks (Ark.), believed to be the earliest starting date for a baseball season in Augsburg history. It's only the seventh time since 1996 that the Auggies have opened a baseball season in February.

Did You Know?

- Augsburg baseball alumni Donald Blunt '11 and Adam Seaman '12 both played for the St. Paul Saints, an independent squad in the American Association, in the 2013 season. Blunt hit .253 with three home runs and 14 RBI in 30 games, while Seaman hit .125 in five games.

Off the Field

- In September, new dugouts were officially dedicated at Augsburg's baseball home, Parade Stadium. Several donors raised money for Augsburg to install the dugouts as part of a long-term plan for the college's use of Parade Stadium, a Minneapolis city park, as its baseball home.



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

Head coach

- Brian Raabe (Third season)

A Year Ago

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

In the 2013 Postseason

- 4-2 win over Saint John's (first-ever playoff victory), 3-10 loss to St. Thomas

Top Returners

- Mike Schultz (C, Jr. | .315 AVG / .567 SLG / .374 OBP, 40 H, 16 2B, 5 3B, 2 HR, 29 RBI)
- Luke Schultz (OF, Sr. | .302 AVG / .406 SLG / .412 OBP, 29 H, 7 2B, 1 HR, 22 RBI)
- Joe Zorn (P, Jr. | 3.12 ERA, 2-4, 52.0 IP, 4 CG, .260 B/AVG, 7 BB, 32 K)

Key Losses

- Matt Rowley (P/OF | 2013 All-MIAC, 2012 MIAC MVP, 2012 ABCA All-American)
- David Freed (P/OF/1B | 2013 stats: .348 AVG, 47 H, 14 2B, 19 RBI, 35 R // Career .336 AVG)
- Jesse Nickols (OF | Led the MIAC and Bethel in HR in 2012 (6), 16 H and 5 2B in 2013)

By the Numbers

- 33: Bethel's 3.86 earned run average last year broke a 33-year spell that kept the Royals above a 4.00 team ERA. The last time BU was below the 4.00-mark was in 1980, when, under the direction of Chub Reynolds, Bethel finished the season with a 3.71 team ERA.
- 5: The magic number in 2013 was five, for when Bethel scored five or more runs in a contest they were unbeaten (21-0). The Royals record when scoring four runs or less was 3-15, including a 1-4 mark with four runs.
- 3.01: Last year the Royals' pitching staff led the league in both strikeout-to-walk ratio (3.01) and fewest walks allowed per nine innings (2.21). Perhaps even more impressive, BU finished No. 6 and No. 7 nationwide in those categories, respectively.

Did You Know?

- Bethel's ability to closeout games during the 2013 season was incredible. The Royals were an unbeaten 20-0 when leading after the fifth inning. This trend will be tested with additional nine-inning matchups in 2014.

Off the Field

- Bethel's baseball program has become a family affair, as the Royals roster in and among itself has three sets of brothers (Anderson's, Hangartner's, Sealock's). Moreover, two players have brothers on the football team (Marquardt, Nueville) and two players on the team are cousins (Schultz). Freshman Lars Anderson is the fourth Anderson son to don a Bethel uniform on the baseball diamond, as he'll be alongside brother Nik and cousin Mitch Frederickson in 2014.

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

Head coach

- Aaron Rushing (Eighth season)

**A Year Ago**

- 6-14 MIAC (10th place) | 16-20 Overall

Top Returners

- Hayden Tsutsui (C/OF, Sophomore | D3baseball.com National Rookie-of-the-Year, ABCA All-Midwest Region, MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year, only first-year named to All-MIAC team, .462 overall average – sixth among all NCAA players)
- David Stillerman (SS, Senior | .385 average)
- Jeff Dsida (C/1B, Senior | .341 average)

Key Losses

- Henry Rownd (LHP | 3.95 ERA, 7 GS, 4-4)

By the Numbers

- 262: The Knights scored 262 runs last season, which set the school record.
- 66: Hayden Tsutsui's impressive debut included 66 hits, good for the most in a single season in school history
- 1.35: In 46.2 innings pitches, Kevin Johnson posted a 1.35 BB/9. This mark is the best in school history.

Did You Know?

- On separate occasions, three Knights were named to the National Team-of-the-Week last season.

Off the Field

- David Stillerman was named to the Academic All-District Baseball First Team. Stillerman is an Economics/Mathematics/Statistics major with a 3.82 GPA and ranked among the MIAC leaders with a .385 batting average and a .487 on-base percentage.

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

- Bucky Burgau (36th season)

A Year Ago

- 11-9 MIAC (T-2nd place) | 19-15 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- Beat Augsburg 7-5 in MIAC semifinals; lost to St. Thomas 11-2 in MIAC championship

Top Returners

- Devin Johnson (OF, Jr. | 2013 ABCA All-Region & All-MIAC; led team in hitting in 2013 with .390 average)
- Michael Olson (OF, Sr. | Two-time MIAC All-Conference; finished in the top 10 of the MIAC in at-bats, runs scored, triples, home runs, RBI, total bases and slugging percentage in league games in 2013)
- Jackson Meland (P, Sr. | 2013 MIAC All-Conference; led the MIAC in complete games and was second in innings pitched in league games in 2013)

Key Losses

- Brian Guler (1B | 2013 MIAC All-Defensive Team)

By the Numbers

- 8: Concordia returns 8 of the 9 starters from last year's team that finished tied for second in the MIAC.
- 36: Bucky Burgau is starting his 36th season as head coach of the Cobbers. It will be his final season at the helm as he is retiring after the end of the season.
- 403: Cobber head coach Bucky Burgau has 403 career conference wins – the most of any coach in the history of the league.

Did You Know?

- Cobber sophomore catcher Tim Carlson has broken seven bones in his lifetime.

Off the Field

- Concordia senior pitcher started "No Food For Thought," a hunger awareness campaign which helps educate, motivate and donate money to charities.

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

- Mike Carroll (18th season)

A Year Ago

- 10-10 MIAC (T-4th place) | 13-22 Overall

Top Returners

- Grant Soderberg (Pitcher, Jr., Eden Prairie, Minn.) | 2012 MIAC Rookie-of-the-Year...2013 All-Conference...Went 4-4 overall with a 2.89 ERA in 53 innings, ranking seventh in the MIAC...Recorded 45 strikeouts (4th/MIAC), surrendered just 12 walks, and finished with an

opponent batting average of .253.

- Christopher Kelly (Pitcher, Jr., Prior Lake, Minn.) | 2013 All-Conference...Made 10 appearances and eight starts, tallying 47 and two-thirds innings...Finished fifth in the conference with an ERA of 2.64...Posted 38 strikeouts, 14 walks, and held opponents to a batting average of .212.

Key Losses

- Tim Miller (Center Field) | Led the Gusties with a .330 batting average with a team-best 18 runs and 36 assists...Drove in 12 runs, drew 10 walks, and struck out just seven times.

By the Numbers

- 43: The league-leading number of extra base hits registered by Gustavus last season. The Gusties also tallied a league-high 25 extra base hits within league play.
- 10: The number of league wins Gustavus had in 2013. The team's 10 MIAC victories matched the club's highest total in the last five seasons.
- .368: The team-leading batting average of senior Scott Benjamin within conference play last season. Benjamin had a team-high 21 hits and five doubles against league foes a year ago.

Did You Know?

- Junior Grant Soderberg was signed by the Lakeshore Chinooks of the Northwoods League towards the end of the regular season last summer. Soderberg appeared in three games, pitched 4.2 innings and finished with an ERA of 3.42 with the club.



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

Head coach

- Jim Weyandt (Second season)

A Year Ago

- 9-11 MIAC (Ninth place) | 24-14 Overall

Top Returners

- Matt Eickman, RHP, Sr, 6-3, 2.91 ERA, 3 CG)
- Dan Moro, OF, So., .323 BA, 18 BB, 9 SB)
- Rannon Arch, RHP, Sr., 3-1, 3 saves)

Key Losses

- Jordan Buck, DH-OF, .396 BA, .521 OBP, 8 2B, 21 BB, All-MIAC
- Mark Radmacher, C, .392 BA, .708 Slugging – led team, 2nd MIAC, 44 RBI – led team, 2nd MIAC, All-MIAC
- Dan Ellefson, 3B-P, .357 BA, 23 RBI, 4-3, 4 CG, 59 IP, All-MIAC, All-Defensive team

By the Numbers

- 1: native Canadians on the HU team (Dan Moro)
- 10: number of games the 2013 team won in a row – a school record
- 50: players on the HU roster for the first day of practice

Did You Know?

- Head coach Jim Weyandt is one of five Hamline grads who are head coaches of a sport at the school.

Off the Field

- The baseball team serves as the main set up and tear down facilitator for home gymnastics meets. Most of those meets are in Walker Field House, which is also where the team will be practicing until they can get outside.

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



Head coach

- Matt Parrington (15th season)

A Year Ago

- 4-16 MIAC (11th place) | 11-28 Overall

Top Returners

- Colin Carpenter (3B, Sr. | All-MIAC, .318 BA, 23 RBI)
- Ross Bronfenbrenner (OF, Sr. | .317 BA, 28 R, 13-14 SB)
- Nick Sia (OF, So. | .327 BA, 19 RBI, 23 R)

Key Losses

- Jimmy Belfont (SS | Team MVP, 398 BA, .561 SLG, 29 RBI, 29 R)
- David Melms (INF | .318 BA, 6-6 SB)

By the Numbers

- 4: Macalester had four academic All-MIAC selections last year.
- 30: Outfielder Ross Bronfenbrenner has converted 30 steals on 31 stolen base attempts in his Macalester career.
- 1.78: Macalester pitcher Justin Kleschen owned a 1.78 ERA in conference play last season, which ranked fourth in the MIAC.

Did You Know?

- During the summer of 2012, Macalester head coach Matt Parrington was inducted into the Class A Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame for his on field play with the Minnetonka Millers.

Off the Field

- The Scots roster includes four Academic All-MIAC winners: Ross Bronfenbrenner, Colin Carpenter, Scott Foltz, and Justin Sims.

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



Head coach

- Jerry Haugen (37th season)

A Year Ago

- 9-9 MIAC (T-4th place) | 18-16 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC Tournament – lost to Bethel (2-4)

Top Returners

- Dylan Graves (OF, Sr. | Started all 34 games in centerfield in 2013, batted .281, hit four home runs, led team in RBI with 27 and tied for the team-lead in extra-base hits (12) and triples (2)
- Luke Larson (3B, Sr. | Started all 34 games at third base, batted .330 and tied for the team-lead in triples with two, finished second in hits with 37 and fourth in RBI with 17)
- Aaron Pfaff (OF, Jr. | Pfaff started 33 of the 34 games played, batted .347 in a team-leading 121 at-bats, also led SJU in runs scored (30), doubles (11), hits (42) and stolen bases (10)

Key Losses

- Connor Cline (P/1B | Led the Johnnies in batting (.358) and slugging percentage (.495), finished second in runs scored (25), hits (34), and RBI (22), posted a 2-5 record on the mound, but led the pitching staff with 48 strikeouts in 51.1 innings pitched, two-time All-MIAC and All-Midwest Region honoree, ended his career second in school history in strikeouts (164), tied for fifth in wins (16) and seventh in innings pitched (186)
- Joey Long (2B/CP | 2013 D3baseball.com Preseason All-American, Long ended the 2013 season second on the team in doubles (18), third with 20 RBI and fourth in runs scored (18), graduated as the program's all-time leader in saves (18) and fourth in ERA (2.03)
- Ryan Spengler (P | Two-time All-MIAC and All-Midwest Region honoree, went 4-0 with three complete games, a 2.91 ERA, and a .215 opponent batting average in 34 MIAC innings, posted a 6-0 record with a 2.76 ERA, and a .221 opponent batting average in 49 innings overall, ended his career with a 12-4 record, as well as a 3.04 ERA and a .220 opponent batting average in 115.1 career innings pitched)

By the Numbers

- 11: Graves begins his senior season 10th in school history with 11 home runs, three away from the program's top five.
- 16: SJU's new baseball stadium, and its dimensions (330' down lines/373' to gaps/393' to center), served as a launch pad for power as 16 home runs were hit in 14 games last spring, including 11 by the Johnnies. In fact, SJU hit at least one home run in each of its last five home games for a total of eight.
- 60: Aside from the necessity of replacing the likes of Cline, Long, Spengler and Scott Schroeder, the Johnnies' pitching staff will have to step up in 2014. The returning pitchers combined for 60 innings last spring.

Did You Know?

- The Johnnies are scheduled to play a nine-inning game against Division I Minnesota on March 26 at the new Siebert Field in Minneapolis. The two programs were set to take the diamond last spring, but conference postponements and rescheduled games eventually canceled the contest. The Gophers won the last meeting, 8-5, on April 7, 1998, in Minneapolis.

Off the Field

- Graves and junior outfielder Brett Becker (North Oaks, Minn./Mounds View) earned Academic All-MIAC status last spring. The honor was the first for Becker and the second for Graves, though he is also a three-time honoree in football.

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



Head coach

- Nick Winecke (Sixth season)

A Year Ago

- 10-10 MIAC (T-4th place) | 19-17 Overall

In The Post-Season

- MIAC Tournament: vs. Augsburg (L, 5-4, 11 innings)

Top Returners

- Kevin Gannon (5-11, 195, Sr., 1B | 36 GP, .303 BA, 122 AB, 19 R, 37 H, 10 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 23 RBIs, 11 SB, 1.000 FLD % - 300 chances | 2013 Capital One Academic All-District; 2012 First-Team All-MIAC, 2012 Third-Team ABCA All-Region)
- Willie Doll (5-9, 170, So., OF | 36 GP, .303 BA, 122 AB, 26 R, 37 H, 8 2B, 4 HR, 16 RBIs, 57 TB, .467 SLG %, 14 SB | 2013 MIAC All-Rookie Team)
- David Barry (6-0, 160, Jr., SS/2B | 26 GP, .388 BA, 67 AB, 11 R, 26 H, 5 2B, 14 RBIs, .986 FLD %)

Key Losses

- Kyle Servais (34 GP, .297 BA, 101 AB, 12 R, 30 H, 7 2B, 1 HR, 19 RBIs, 40 TB, .396 SLG %)
- Teddy VanRanst (1-4, 4.54 ERA, 9 APP, 37.2 IP, 19 Ks)
- Tyler Krysiak (2-2, 3.10 ERA, 17 APP, 20.1 IP, school-record 7 saves, 12 Ks | 2013 First-Team All-MIAC)

By The Numbers

- 7: Tyler Krysiak set the school record for saves in a season and saves in a career during the 2013 campaign, The right-handed collected a single-season record seven saves during his sophomore campaign, giving him a school-best 13 for his career.
- 9: The Cardinals hit nine home runs last season. Along with Wille Doll's team-high four, Zach Wolfe (Wabasha, Minn.) hit three, and Kevin Gannon (Roselle, Ill.), Kyle Servais (Westby, Wis.) and Jon Schlemmer (DePere, Wis.) accounted for the Cardinals' other three.
- 33: Kevin Gannon (Roselle, Ill.) — who reached base safely in each of the Cardinals' first 20 games last season — finished the year reaching base in 33 of the team's 36 games. Gannon also had at least one hit in 28 of the team's 36 contests.

Did You Know?

- SMU's 5-4, 11-inning loss to Augsburg in the MIAC Tournament was its seventh extra-inning game of the season. The loss also snapped the Cardinals' 12-game extra-inning winning streak, dating back to a 4-3 loss to Cornell on March 19, 2011.

Off The Field

- The Cardinals boasted one player, Kevin Gannon, on the Capital One Academic All-District Team, while Paul LaNasa (Mahtomedi, Minn.), on the MIAC All-Academic Team.



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

Head coach

- Matt McDonald (20th Season)

A Year Ago

- 9-9 MIAC (T-4th place) | 20-15 Overall

Top Returners

- Nick Kulla (IF, Sr. | D3baseball.com 3rd team All-Region... Hit .326 with 26 R, 22 RBIs... 1 E in 144 chances)
- Jack Schechinger (C, Sr. | All-Region 3rd team... All-MIAC... Led St. Olaf in most offensive categories, including average (.396), hits (42), homers (3), RBIs (29), slugging percentage (.575) and on-base percentage (.484)... Had 13 multi-hit games)
- Alex Lampert (Jr., P | Went 5-4 with team-best 3.93 ERA... Led team with 52.2 innings)

Key Losses

- Jake Schmiesing (OF | Started all 35 games... hit .336 with 38 hits in 110 ABs)
- Adam Johnson (1B | Hit .309 with team-highs 11 2Bs, 29 RBIs)

By the Numbers

- 18: St. Olaf has 18 20-win or better seasons in 19 under head coach Matt McDonald, who sports a 483-265 record at St. Olaf.
- .396: St. Olaf catcher Jack Schechinger hit a team-high .396 in 2013 with three homers and 29 RBIs... He also drew 13 walks while striking out only 12 times.
- 6: St. Olaf played only six games at home in a weather-shortened 2013, all in a three-day stretch to close the season May 7-9.



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

Head coach

- Chris Olean (Fifth season)

A Year Ago

- 19-1 MIAC (First place) | 34-7 Overall

In the 2013 Postseason

- MIAC postseason results (1st, 2-0: def. Bethel 10-3; def. Concordia 11-2)
- NCAA postseason results (1-2 at regional: lost 1-0 to St. Scholastica; def. Benedictine 10-1; lost 7-3 to Case Western)

Top Returners

- Steve Maher (RHP, SR | 2012 All-America; UST Career: 17-4, 2.69 ERA, 134 Ks in 144 IP)
- J.D. Dorgan (C, SR | All-Region: 2013: .365 BA, 50 hits, 40 RBI, started all 41 games)
- Tim Kuzniar (OF, SR | All-Region: 2013: .387 BA, 55 hits, 44 RBI in 41 games)

Key Losses

- Dylan Thomas (RHP-DH | All-America, 2X MIAC Pitcher of the Year, 2X Region Player or Pitcher of the Year)
- Jon Kinsel (SS | All-Region; 2013: .398 with 53 hits, 39 runs, 30 RBI, 18 walks)

By the Numbers

- 102/39/42: Hits, walks and steals in 85 games over two seasons for leadoff hitter Ben Podobinski
- 30: Consecutive scoreless innings in last five starts in 2013 for RHP Colin Wendinger
- 11/27: Consecutive MIAC titles and consecutive top-25 polls Toms have been ranked by D3baseball.com (current rank No. 9)

Did You Know?

- The first two members of Chris Olean's first recruiting class in summer 2010, Tim Kuzniar and J.D. Dorgan, are looking to join a select list of MIAC players with 200 career hits. In 131 career games, Kuzniar has 154 hits. Dorgan has 146 hits in 132 games, including 16 home runs, and has started 69 consecutive games.

Off the Field

- Seven current Tommie have experience in the summer wood-bat Northwoods League. Pitchers Colin Wendinger and Matt Behounek have already committed to return in 2014.

[MIAC Baseball Home Page](#)