

2011 MIAC Football Awards

11/22/2011

 Waldvogel, Fritz

St. Thomas' Fritz Waldvogel, the 2011 Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) announced its 2011 Football Awards Tuesday, Nov. 22, with conference-champion St. Thomas sweeping the top individual awards. The nominating and voting process for the awards was conducted by the league's nine head coaches following the conclusion of the regular season.

The Tommies - which finished 10-0 overall and 8-0 in MIAC play to win their second-straight league title - placed a total of 16 players on the MIAC All-Conference teams and claimed the conference's three individual awards. Senior **Fritz Waldvogel** was named the Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP for the second time in his career, senior **Dan Chapman** received the Mike Stam Award as the conference's top lineman, and **Glenn Caruso** was named the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year for the second season in a row.

In addition, the league announced its All-MIAC First and Second Teams, with 35 first-team honorees and 36 on the second team. The First Team featured 19 seniors, seven juniors, eight sophomores and one freshman, while the Second Team included 15 seniors, 18 juniors and three sophomores. Out of the 71 total selections, 55 originally hail from Minnesota.

The conference-champion Tommies had 13 First Team selections and three Second Team selections among their 16 honorees. St. Olaf and Bethel, which tied for second place in the league standings, had 14 and 13 total selections, respectively. Concordia had nine players honored, Augsburg had seven, Saint John's had six, Gustavus had three selections, Hamline had two and Carleton had one to round out the honor squad's makeup.

Waldvogel (Mendota Heights, Minn./St. Thomas Academy) - a senior wide receiver/returner for the Tommies - received the second MIAC MVP award of his career after also winning the honor in 2009. He received the fifth All-MIAC honor of his career, earning First Team honors at receiver for the third season in a row. He was also a First Team utility selection in 2010 and a Second Team wideout as a freshman in 2008.

The St. Thomas star wideout has amassed 42 career touchdowns and ranks second in MIAC history in all-purpose yards (6,818) and punt return yards (1,415) and third in receptions (280), receiving yards (3,991) and kick return yards (1,384). His nine career kick/punt return touchdowns are the most in conference history, and he is just the second player in MIAC history and the 10th in Division III history with more than 1,000 kick return yards and 1,000 punt return yards.

Waldvogel's amazing career numbers were bolstered by an incredible senior season when he was again one of the most dangerous playmakers in the conference, and the country. The senior - who was recently named one of the 10 finalists for the Gagliardi Trophy - had 53 catches for 862 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns. He finished with 1,328 total all-purpose yards and 12 total touchdowns, and he led the MIAC in punt return average (11.6) and receiving yards per game (86.2) while finishing in the top five in several other categories.

However, Waldvogel wasn't the only star in the Tommies' high-powered offense. Chapman (Urbandale, Iowa) emerged as a star on the St. Thomas offensive line this season, earning All-MIAC First Team honors after receiving a Second-Team selection in 2010. Chapman was voted the conference's top interior lineman because of his impact on the Tommie offense, which led the MIAC with 40.6 points per game and 438.4 total yards per game in conference play.

Chapman helped anchor a line that generated the conference's No. 2 rushing attack in conference play with 229.5 yards per game. His unit also surrendered the least sacks - nine - in conference play, and UST also led the league in time of possession (32:28) and red zone offense (80.5 percent) in MIAC play. In addition to their dominance in their eight conference wins, the Tommie offense also led the conference in scoring and total offense in overall games, as well, thanks largely to the work of Chapman and his fellow linemen.

In just his fourth year as the St. Thomas head coach, honors are already becoming commonplace for Caruso, who led his team to the first back-to-back 10-0 regular seasons in the MIAC's storied history. He was named the MIAC Coach-of-the-Year for the second season in a row, after also earning NCAA Division III/Liberty Mutual National Coach-of-the-Year and AFCA Region Coach-of-the-Year honors last season.

Caruso and the Tommies captured their second-straight MIAC title with a perfect 8-0 league record in 2011, and they spent most of the season ranked No. 3 in Division III by both major polls. This marked the third-straight Division III Playoff berth for Caruso's crew, and they have already advanced to the second round thanks to last weekend's 48-2 win over St. Scholastica in the first round. The St. Thomas coach has a 41-6 overall record and a 28-4 conference mark in his three-plus seasons at the helm, with only one loss coming to a foe outside the MIAC, and two of the six losses coming in the national quarterfinals.

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

2011 MIAC Football Awards

Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP - Fritz Waldvogel, Wide Receiver, St. Thomas (Sr., Mendota Heights, Minn./St. Thomas Academy)

Mike Stam Award - Dan Chapman, Offensive Line, St. Thomas (Sr., Urbandale, Iowa)

MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year - Glenn Caruso, St. Thomas (fourth season)

2011 MIAC First Team All-Conference - Offense

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/High School
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Josh Aakre	Bethel	Sr.	QB	Dawson, Minn./Dawson-Boyd
Dakota Tracy	St. Thomas	Sr.	QB	Geneva, Minn./NRHEG
Leon Clark	St. Olaf	Sr.	RB	Rochester, Minn./Century
Tyler Maxwell	Augsburg	Fr.	RB	Prior Lake, Minn.
Colin Tobin	St. Thomas	Sr.	RB	Itasca, Ill./Fenwick
Stephen Asp	St. Olaf	So.	WR	Edina, Minn.
Bronson Shepherd	Concordia	Sr.	WR	Brainerd, Minn.
Fritz Waldvogel	St. Thomas	Sr.	WR	Mendota Heights, Minn./St. Thomas Academy
Adam Carl	Augsburg	Sr.	TE	Eagan, Minn.
Kyle Boersma	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Hospers, Iowa/MOC-Floyd Valley
Dan Chapman	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Urbandale, Iowa/Johnston
Garrett Dick	St. Olaf	Sr.	OL	Yukon, Okla.
Mitch Elliott	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Brooklyn Park, Minn./Minnehaha Academy
Curtis James	St. Thomas	Jr.	OL	Edina, Minn.
Tom Knowlton	Concordia	Jr.	OL	Fargo, N.D./South
Josh Wolfe	Bethel	Jr.	OL	Emmettsburg, Iowa
Jordan Soteris	Carleton	So.	Utility	Scottsdale, Ariz./Pinnacle
Tim Albright	St. Thomas	Jr.	K	Urbandale, Iowa

2011 MIAC First Team All-Conference - Defense

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/High School
Brian Albrecht	St. Olaf	Sr.	DL	Hutchinson, Minn.
Riley Dombek	St. Thomas	So.	DL	Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Jason Hofmeyer	Bethel	Sr.	DL	Hospers, Iowa/MOC-Floyd Valley
Danny Kane	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Minnetonka, Minn./Hopkins
Mark Wychor	Concordia	So.	DL	Glyndon, Minn./Moorhead
Tony Danna	St. Thomas	Sr.	ILB	Lake Elmo, Minn./Hill-Murray
Seth Mathis	Bethel	So.	ILB	Anoka, Minn.
Billy Morgan	Bethel	Sr.	ILB	Rosemount, Minn.
Willy Baregi	St. Thomas	Sr.	OLB	Richfield, Minn./Holy Angels
Harry Pitera	St. Thomas	So.	OLB	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Erik Smith	Bethel	Jr.	OLB	Henning, Minn.
Nick Branjord	St. Olaf	Sr.	DB	Stillwater, Minn.
Bobby Fischer	Saint John's	Jr.	DB	Plymouth, Minn./Osseo
Bryce Hentges	Concordia	So.	DB	Sauk Center, Minn.
Chinni Oji	St. Thomas	Jr.	DB	New Brighton, Minn./Irondale
David Vavra	Bethel	Sr.	DB	Braham, Minn.
Garrett Maloney	St. Thomas	So.	P	Elm Grove, Wis./Marquette

2011 MIAC Second Team All-Conference - Offense

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/High School
Marcus Brumm	Augsburg	Sr.	QB	Lakeville, Minn./South
Dan Dobson	St. Olaf	Jr.	QB	Mankato, Minn./West
Michael Duhnam	Concordia	Sr.	QB	Willmar, Minn.
Brett Baune	Concordia	Jr.	RB	Fargo, N.D./South
Stephen Johnson	Saint John's	Jr.	RB	Mahtomedi, Minn.
Jesse Phenow	Bethel	So.	RB	Richfield, Minn.
Brent Graboski	Saint John's	Sr.	WR	Woodbury, Minn.
Jacob Schmiesing	St. Olaf	So.	WR	Stillwater, Minn.
Logan Marks	St. Thomas	Jr.	TE	Mendota Heights, Minn./St. Thomas Academy
Alex Wright	Bethel	Sr.	TE	Hopkins, Minn./Minnetonka
Andrew Ghostley	Saint John's	Sr.	OL	Champlin, Minn./Champlin Park
Brian Grundmeyer	Gustavus	Jr.	OL	Inver Grove Heights, Minn./Simley
Daine Jensch	St. Olaf	Sr.	OL	West Concord, Minn./Triton
Jared Penz	Bethel	Jr.	OL	Rochester, Minn./Mayo
Tom Quist	Concordia	Jr.	OL	Alexandria, Minn./Jefferson
Morgan Scheper	Hamline	Sr.	OL	Carlton, Ore./Newberg

Chad Thompson	Augsburg	So.	OL	Maple Grove, Minn.
Chad Vandergriff	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Eagan, Minn.
Jimmie Mattson	Saint John's	Jr.	K	Eau Claire, Wis./Memorial

2011 MIAC Second Team All-Conference - Defense

Name	Team	Year	Position	Hometown/High School
Evan Cobb	Saint John's	Sr.	DL	Becker, Minn.
Tom Einberger	Gustavus	Sr.	DL	West St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall
Dustin Heiser	St. Olaf	Jr.	DL	Orlando, Fla./Olympia
Ed Smith	Augsburg	Sr.	DL	Minneapolis, Minn./North
Paul Streich	Concordia	Jr.	DL	Kalispell, Mont./Flathead
Wes Lynch	St. Olaf	Sr.	ILB	Apple Valley, Minn.
Matt Moenkedick	Concordia	Jr.	ILB	Verndale, Minn.
Bryce Vee	Augsburg	Jr.	ILB	Coon Rapids, Minn./Blaine
Drew Eid	St. Olaf	Sr.	OLB	Big Lake, Minn.
Micah Johnson	St. Olaf	Sr.	OLB	Maple Grove, Minn.
Brett Skoog	Bethel	Jr.	OLB	Long Lake, Minn./Orono
Josh Carey	St. Thomas	Jr.	DB	Rogers, Minn.
Ben Dobson	St. Olaf	Jr.	DB	Mankato, Minn./West
Brad Kruckeberg	Gustavus	Jr.	DB	Ellenndale, Minn./NRHEG
Tyler Phillips	Augsburg	Sr.	DB	Lino Lake, Minn./Centennial
John Michael Vandenberg	Hamline	Jr.	DB	Bothwell, Wash./Bishop Blanchet
Jason Obarski	St. Olaf	Jr.	P	Apple Valley, Minn.

2011 All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Bryce Vee (Jr., Coon Rapids, Minn./Blaine)

Bethel - Mike Sedjo (Sr., West Chicago, Ill.)

Carleton - Tanner Martin (Tempe, Ariz./Brophy)

Concordia - Todd Bergeson (Sr., Montevideo, Minn.)

Gustavus - Brad Kruckeberg (Sr., Ellendale, Minn. NRHEG)

Hamline - Josh Bain (Sr., Grand Meadow, Minn.)

Saint John's - Jimmy Stodolka (Sr., Mendota Heights, Minn./St. Thomas Academy)

St. Olaf - Shea Corrigan (Sr., Hutchinson, Minn.)

St. Thomas - Tyler Erstad (Jr., Lakville, Minn./North)