

Bethel's Peterson, Johnson, Concordia's Adams lead 2013 MIAC Football Awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- The 2013 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) football season concluded earlier this month, and Tuesday the top performers from another outstanding season were recognized with the announcement of the 2013 MIAC Football Awards. MIAC champion Bethel claimed two of the top three individual honors.

The Royals ran the table to emerge from a crowded field of contenders in 2013, and were justly honored by the league's coaches. Bethel quarterback Erik Peterson (Orono, Minn.) was named the 2013 MIAC Jim Christopherson MVP for his role in the Royals' conference championship, and his head coach, Steve Johnson, was voted the John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year. The final individual award - the Mike Stam Award which honors the conference's outstanding lineman - was presented to Concordia defensive end Nate Adams (Litchfield, Minn.).



The Bethel junior QB was the No. 1 offensive catalyst for the conference-champion Royals in 2013. Peterson was a perfect blend of electric and efficient while guiding the balanced Bethel offense through a perfect regular season. Overall, Peterson led the MIAC in passing yards (2,795), completions (206) and completion percentage (70.3) while ranking second in touchdown passes (23) and yards per game (254.1). His 9.5 yards per attempt ranked sixth in the league, and he was sacked just seven times with seven interceptions in 300 drop-backs.

Peterson was just as good in conference play, ranking second in touchdown passes (16) and completion percentage (66.5) while guiding Bethel to an 8-0 MIAC record. The Royal QB also ranked third in yards (1,898) and yards per game (237.2), fifth in completions (137) and attempts (206) and sixth in yards per attempt (9.2). Peterson was sacked just three times in conference play, and he also proved his versatility with 194 rushing yards and six touchdowns on the ground.



Erik Peterson



Steve Johnson

Bethel - which will host Wartburg Saturday in the second round of the NCAA Division III Football Playoffs - had a historic regular season in 2013, led by Johnson. As a result, he's the first MIAC coach to win the newly-name honor in recognition of legendary former Saint John's Head Coach John Gagliardi, who retired a year ago with the most coaching wins in college football history.

Johnson guided the Royals to a perfect 10-0 (8-0) MIAC regular season with a national best six victories against teams to finish .500 or better. Bethel has been ranked as high as No. 5 in the nation, and emerged unscathed from a conference that had five teams ranked in the top 30 at one point, and collectively went 16-2 against out-of-league foes. It's the Royals fifth MIAC title and first since 2007 and Bethel's first undefeated regular season since 2000. This is Johnson's sixth MIAC Coach-of-the-Year honor.

The Royals had the MIAC's top scoring offense at 43.6 points per game, and its 465.4 yards per game are also a league-best. Defensively, Bethel led the league in takeaways (34) and interceptions (20). It had the No. 2-ranked defense in terms of scoring (14.5 points per game) and total yards (294.7 per game) and it was first against the pass (169.6 per game). In conference play, the Royals were first in points per game (41.6), total offense (451.2 yards per game), rushing yards (1,609), scoring defense (14.4), passing defense (164.8 yards per game), takeaways (23), interceptions (13) and fumble recoveries (10).

Adams' honor made it two years in a row that a Concordia player has been named the Mike Stam Award winner, following 2012 winner Tom Knowlton. However, Adams earned his honor on the other side of the ball, as the junior DE was a terror behind the line of scrimmage while leading the Cobbers to an 8-2 record and a tie for second place in the MIAC standings (6-2).

In 2013, Adams didn't just lead the league in sacks and tackles-for-a-loss, he led both categories by a significant margin. His nine sacks were three better than anyone else in the MIAC, and his 17.5 TFLs were five better than the runner-up. His three fumble recoveries also led the league, and he ranked sixth in solo tackles (46) and 11th in total tackles (69). His 6.5 sacks and 14 TFL were also tops in conference games only. His two fumble recoveries shared the league lead, and his 38 solo tackles ranked seventh.

The MIAC All-Conference teams were made up of 37 selections on both the First and Second Teams, 17 each on offense and defense and three on special teams. The First Team was a senior-laden honor squad, with 24 of the 37 selections holding senior status. The team also featured nine juniors and four sophomores.

The conference-champion Royals led the way with eight First Team selections. Concordia and Augsburg tied for the second-most with seven First Teamers each, and St. Thomas and Gustavus each had six players selected. Saint John's had a pair of First Team honorees and Hamline had one selection.

The 2013 All-Conference First Team featured a trio of three-time selections as Bethel ILB Seth Mathis, St. Thomas DL Riley Dombek and Tommie OLB Harry Pitera capped their outstanding careers with their third-straight First Team honor. Augsburg QB Ayrton Scott and TE Adam Carl, Bethel WR Mitch Hallstrom, Gustavus RB Jeffrey Dubose, Saint John's OL Kevin Battis and St. Thomas OLB Tremayne Williams all received their second-straight First Team selection. St. Thomas P Garrett Maloney also received his second First Team honor after also earning the same distinction in 2011.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the eighth 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.



Nate Adams

2013 MIAC Football Awards

Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP - Erik Peterson, QB, Bethel (Jr., Orono, Minn.)

Mike Stam Award - Nate Adams, DE, Concordia (Jr., Litchfield, Minn.)

John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year - Steve Johnson, Bethel (25th season)

2013 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Offense

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Griffin Neal	Concordia	Jr.	QB	Fargo, N.D. / South
Erik Peterson	Bethel	Jr.	QB	Orono, Minn.
Ayrton Scott	Augsburg	So.	QB	Minneapolis, Minn. / Southwest
Mitch Hallstrom	Bethel	Sr.	WR	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Joey Sonnenfeld	Augsburg	So.	WR	Maple Grove, Minn. / Osseo
Brandon Zylstra	Concordia	Jr.	WR	Spicer, Minn. / New London-Spicer
Adam Carl	Augsburg	Sr.	TE	Eagan, Minn.
Jeffrey Dubose	Gustavus	Sr.	RB	St. Paul, Minn. / St. Croix Lutheran
Austin Duncan	Hamline	So.	RB	New Orleans, La. / Jesuit
Brandon Marquardt	Bethel	Jr.	RB	Champlin, Minn. / Champlin Park
Kevin Battis	Saint John's	Sr.	OL	Blaine, Minn. / Centennial
Jason Flesher	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Plymouth, Minn. / Wayzata
Bubba Friedlund	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Farmington, Minn.
David Gschneidner	Gustavus	Sr.	OL	Edina, Minn.
Lyle Opdahl	Gustavus	Sr.	OL	Norwood Young America, Minn. / Central
Jeff Schmidt	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Fergus Falls, Minn. / Hillcrest Academy
Ben Tamm	Concordia	Sr.	OL	Avon, Minn. / Albany

2013 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Defense

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Nate Adams	Concordia	Jr.	DL	Litchfield, Minn.
Luke Battenhoff	Bethel	Sr.	DL	Watertown, Minn. / Mayer Lutheran
Chris DeVet	Augsburg	Jr.	DL	Shoreview, Minn. / Mounds View
Riley Dombek	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Donte Green	Gustavus	Sr.	DL	Minneapolis, Minn. / North
Joe Haas	Gustavus	Sr.	ILB	Mission, Kan. / Shawnee Mission North
Michael Juberian	Augsburg	Jr.	ILB	Richfield, Minn. / Benilde-St. Margaret's
Seth Mathis	Bethel	Sr.	ILB	Anoka, Minn.
Andrew Rose	Saint John's	Jr.	ILB	Stillwater, Minn.
Tyler Berling	Concordia	Sr.	OLB	Melrose, Minn. / Sauk Centre
Harry Pitera	St. Thomas	Sr.	OLB	St. Paul, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Tremayne Williams	St. Thomas	Sr.	OLB	Appleton, Wis. / North

Hakeem Bourne-McFarlane	Augsburg	Sr.	DB	Bloomington, Minn. / Kennedy
Josh Carey	St. Thomas	Sr.	DB	Rogers, Minn.
Zach Dilger	Gustavus	Jr.	DB	South St. Paul, Minn.
Matt Mehlhorn	Bethel	So.	DB	Lakeville, Minn. / South
Kenyon O'Brien	Concordia	Sr.	DB	Lake Park, Minn. / Lake Park-Audubon

2013 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Special Teams

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Ben Wagner	Concordia	Sr.	K	St. Aubin de Medoc, France / Siuslaw (Ore.)
Garrett Maloney	St. Thomas	Sr.	P	Elm Grove, Wis. / Milwaukee Marquette
Hakeem Bourne-McFarlane	Augsburg	Sr.	Ret.	Bloomington, Minn. / Kennedy

2013 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Offense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Nate Penz	St. Olaf	So.	QB	Rochester, Minn. / Mayo
Stephen Asp	St. Olaf	Sr.	WR	Edina, Minn.
Josh Bungum	Saint John's	So.	WR	Paynesville, Minn.
Anthony Kemper	Carleton	Sr.	WR	Prior Lake, Minn.
Jake Schmeising	St. Olaf	Sr.	WR	Stillwater, Minn.
Jerise Washington	Augsburg	Jr.	WR	Roseville, Minn. / Mounds View
Brian Frett	Carleton	Sr.	TE	Wilmette, Ill. / New Trier
Jack Kaiser	St. Thomas	So.	RB	Prior Lake, Minn.
Marshall Klitzke	Bethel	So.	RB	Annandale, Minn. / Providence
Phil Putratz	Augsburg	Jr.	RB	Mazeppa, Minn. / Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Ross Carlson	Saint John's	Jr.	OL	Farwell, Minn. / Alexandria
Alec Grimm	Hamline	Jr.	OL	Bainbridge Island, Wash. / Bainbridge
Alex Hsu	St. Olaf	Sr.	OL	Woodbury, Minn.
Alex Jarosz	Saint John's	Jr.	OL	White Bear Lake, Minn. / Totino-Grace
Ulice Payne III	St. Thomas	Jr.	OL	Greenfield, Wis. / Pius XI
Joshua Perkins	Bethel	Jr.	OL	Iowa Falls, Iowa / Iowa Falls-Alden
Chad Thompson	Augsburg	Sr.	OL	Maple Grove, Minn.

2013 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Defense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Kyle Asmus	Bethel	Sr.	DL	Isanti, Minn. / Cambridge-Isanti
Josh Corbin	St. Thomas	Jr.	DL	Northfield, Minn.
Paul Plombon	Saint John's	Sr.	DL	Rice, Minn. / Sartell-St. Stephen
Matt Workman	Saint John's	Jr.	DL	Minneapolis, Minn. / Holy Angels
Mark Wychor	Concordia	Sr.	DL	Glyndon, Minn. / Moorhead
Levi Hintermeister	Concordia	So.	ILB	Garfield, Minn. / Brandon
Landon Mathis	Bethel	So.	ILB	Anoka, Minn.
Anthony Boyce	Gustavus	Jr.	OLB	Excelsior, Minn. / Minnetonka
Kevin Flaherty	Bethel	Jr.	OLB	Hugo, Minn. / Mounds View
Ben Wahlquist	Bethel	Jr.	OLB	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Torey Asao	Gustavus	Sr.	DB	Chaska, Minn.
Felix Coleman	Augsburg	Jr.	DB	Alexandria, Minn. / Jefferson
J.D. Mehlhorn	Bethel	Sr.	DB	Lakeville, Minn. / South
Luke Peterson	Concordia	Sr.	DB	Spicer, Minn. / New London-Spicer
Cameron Smith	St. Olaf	Sr.	DB	Orlando, Fla. / Timber Creek
Josh Treimer	Bethel	Sr.	DB	Burnsville, Minn.
Darryl Williams	Saint John's	Sr.	DB	Hawthorne, Calif. / Verbum Dei

2013 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Special Teams

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Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Paul Graupner	St. Thomas	So.	K	Minnetonka, Minn. / Benilde-St. Margaret's
Brett Harmelink	Concordia	Sr.	P	Moorhead, Minn. / Park Christian
Bryce Hentges	Concordia	Sr.	Ret.	Sauk Centre, Minn.

2013 Football All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

- Augsburg** - Adam Carl (Sr., Eagan, Minn.)
Bethel - Tom Keefe (Sr., Wausau, Wis. / East)
Carleton - Chase Gottschalk (Sr., Independence, Minn. / Orono)
Concordia - Mark Whiting (Sr, Alexandria, Minn. / Jefferson)
Gustavus - Joe Haas (Sr., Mission, Kan. / Shawnee Mission North)
Hamline - Patrick Chilton (Sr., Hesperia, Calif. / Apple Valley)
Saint John's - Blake Belland (Sr., Chaska, Minn.)
St. Olaf - Connor McCormick (So., Caledonia, Minn.)
St. Thomas - Walter Franklin (Sr., Eagan, Minn. / DeLaSalle)