

MIAC-champion Johnnies headline 2014 MIAC Football awards

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ST. PAUL, Minn. -- Saint John's University emerged from an intense battle atop the standings to claim the 2014 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) football championship and, Tuesday, the Johnnies received further reason to celebrate as they headlined the 2014 MIAC Football Awards.

Saint John's star running back Sam Sura (Jr., South St. Paul, Minn.) took home the conference's top honor, as he was named the Jim Christopherson MIAC Most Valuable Player, and Johnnie Head Coach Gary Fasching fittingly received the award named for his predecessor as he was voted the John Gagliardi MIAC Coach-of-the-Year. Augsburg defensive lineman Chris DeVet (Sr., Shoreview, Minn. / Mounds View) claimed the league's other top individual honor - the Mike Stam Award - as the league's top interior lineman.



In addition to the top individual honors, the MIAC also announced the All-Conference First Team, Second Team and, for the first time, Honorable Mention selections. The league also recognized one student-athlete from each team on the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Sura not only led the MIAC in rushing in 2014, but the junior star also finished the regular season as the nation's leader in rushing yards. Heading into the second week of the NCAA Division III Playoffs, Sura has amassed the most single-season rushing yards in Saint John's storied history with a total of 1,752 yards to go along with 19 touchdowns on 298 carries (5.9 average). He has broken seven total SJU school rushing records this season, and will break an eighth if he adds six more carries in Saturday's second-round Playoff game.

Overall, Sura leads the MIAC in yards, carries, rushing TDs, rushing yards per game (159.3), all-purpose yards (1,881), all-purpose yards per game (171.0), points, (120), points per game (10.9) and total touchdowns (20). In eight conference games, Sura was the only back to break the 1,000-yard barrier, as he led the MIAC with 1,156 yards, 144.5 yards per game, 210 carries and shared the league lead with 11 rushing TDs. He was also the MIAC leader in all-purpose yards in conference play (1,234 yards, 154.2 per game) and finished third in scoring (12 touchdowns, 72 points). Nationally, Sura currently ranks second in rushing yards, third in rushing yards per game and fifth in rushing touchdowns.

Sura's latest major individual honor comes just a day after he was named one of the 10 semifinalists for the 2014 Gagliardi Trophy, which is awarded to the most outstanding football player in NCAA Division III by Jostens and the J-Club of Saint John's University. In addition to his MIAC MVP award, Sura also headlined the All-MIAC First Team Offense.

Like Sura, Fasching was also honored by the MIAC coaches' for his role in the Johnnies' championship season. Fasching replaced Gagliardi - the all-time NCAA leader in football coaching victories - prior to the 2013 season, after playing for Gagliardi from 1977-81 and coaching under him for 17 years. So his selection as the Gagliardi Coach-of-the-Year is certainly fitting after guiding SJU to a dramatic two-year rise to the top of the MIAC.

Fasching took over a team that had gone 5-5 in 2012 and led the Johnnies to a 7-3 mark (5-3 MIAC) in his first season (2013) before ascending to the MIAC championship with a 7-1 MIAC record this season, and SJU will enter Saturday's second-round NCAA Playoff game at Wartburg with a 10-1 overall record. The MIAC championship was SJU's first since 2009 and 32nd overall, which is the most in MIAC history. This year, Saint John's led the MIAC in scoring defense (13.5) and takeaways (24) while riding a stout defense and a powerful running game to the conference title. This season, Fasching coached the MIAC MVP, eight All-Conference First Team selections, five Second Team picks and four Honorable Mention selections.

Augsburg's DeVet made life difficult on MIAC offenses all season en route to his selection as the Mike Stam Award winner and he caps his career with his third All-Conference honor. DeVet was named a First Team selection for the second-straight season after earning Second Team honors in 2012.

DeVet dominated along the defensive line in 2014 en route to a MIAC-leading 5.5 sacks and he ranked second with 11 tackles-for-a-loss in conference play. In eight MIAC games he also racked up 45 tackles (17 solo, 28 assists), one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries. Overall, DeVet finished with 54 tackles (30 solo, 24 assist) and he finished second in both sacks (5.5) and tackles-for-a-loss (12) and he had two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and a pass breakup.

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. New in 2014, each team was able to select up to four additional players to receive Honorable Mention honors. The All-MIAC First Team was heavy on upperclassmen, as it included 20 seniors, 13 juniors and four sophomores.

MIAC champion Saint John's led the way with eight First-Team selections, and St. Thomas and Bethel were close behind with seven First Team selections apiece. Gustavus placed five players on the First Team, Concordia had four, Hamline and two and St. Olaf had one.

Sura wasn't the only junior offensive star of note on the First Team Offense. Augsburg quarterback Ayrton Scott earned a spot on the First Team for the third-straight season, and he'll have a chance to be a rare four-time selection next fall. Concordia QB Griffin Neal, Augsburg WR Joey Sonnenfeld, Hamline RB Austin Duncan, Bethel OL Bubba Friedlund were all repeat First Team selections on the offensive side of the ball, while DeVet and Concordia DL Nate Adams earned their second-straight First Team nods on defense.

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

2014 MIAC Football Awards

Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP - Sam Sura, RB, Saint John's (Jr., South St. Paul, Minn.)

Mike Stam Award - Chris DeVet, DL, Augsburg (Sr., Shoreview, Minn. / Mounds View)

John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year - Gary Fasching, Saint John's (Second season)

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Offense

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Mitch Hendricks	Gustavus	Jr.	QB	Bemidji, Minn.
Griffin Neal	Concordia	Sr.	QB	Fargo, N.D. / South
Ayrton Scott	Augsburg	Jr.	QB	Minneapolis, Minn. / Southwest
Gabriel Boyce	Gustavus	Jr.	WR	Excelsior, Minn. / Minnetonka
Matt Boyce	Gustavus	Jr.	WR	Excelsior, Minn. / Minnetonka
Joey Sonnenfeld	Augsburg	Jr.	WR	Maple Grove, Minn. / Osseo
Charlie Dowdle	St. Thomas	Jr.	TE	Glenview, Ill. / Loyola Academy
Austin Duncan	Hamline	Jr.	RB	New Orleans, La. / Jesuit
Marshall Klitzke	Bethel	Jr.	RB	Annandale, Minn. / Providence
Sam Sura	Saint John's	Jr.	RB	South St. Paul, Minn.
Josh Berg	Concordia	So.	OL	Moorhead, Minn. / Fargo (N.D.) Shanley
Ross Carlson	Saint John's	Sr.	OL	Farwell, Minn. / Alexandria
Bubba Friedlund	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Farmington, Minn.
Alex Jarosz	Saint John's	Sr.	OL	White Bear Lake, Minn. / Totino-Grace
Marcus Kelly	Gustavus	Jr.	OL	Woodbury, Minn. / East Ridge
Ulice Payne III	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Greenfield, Wis. / Pius XI
T.J. Woodrow	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Eden Prairie, Minn.

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Defense

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Nate Adams	Concordia	Sr.	DL	Litchfield, Minn.
Colin Brown	St. Olaf	Sr.	DL	Orlando, Fla. / Timber Creek
Chris DeVet	Augsburg	Sr.	DL	Shoreview, Minn. / Mounds View
Sam Pokornowski	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Cokato, Minn. / Dassel-Cokato
Will Van Duzer	Bethel	Sr.	DL	Owatonna, Minn.
Carter Hanson	Saint John's	So.	ILB	Blue Earth, Minn.
Rutger Heffelfinger	St. Thomas	Sr.	ILB	Edina, Minn.
Landon Mathis	Bethel	Jr.	ILB	Anoka, Minn.
Kevin Flaherty	Bethel	Sr.	OLB	Hugo, Minn. / Mounds View
Ben Wahlquist	Bethel	Sr.	OLB	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Matt Workman	Saint John's	Sr.	OLB	Minneapolis, Minn. / Holy Angels
Christian Erickson	Concordia	Sr.	DB	Viking, Minn. / Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
Sean Hamlin	St. Thomas	Sr.	DB	Wayzata, Minn.
Anthony Hill	Hamline	So.	DB	Brooklyn Park, Minn. / Champlin Park
Mozus Ikuenobe	St. Thomas	Jr.	DB	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Andrew Norri	Saint John's	Sr.	DB	Virginia, Minn.
Josh Treimer	Bethel	Sr.	DB	Burnsville, Minn.

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Special Teams

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Alexi Johnson	Saint John's	So.	K	Shakopee, Minn.
Thomas Scheusener	Gustavus	Sr.	P	Rapid City, S.D. / Stevens
Josh Bungum	Saint John's	Jr.	Ret.	Paynesville, Minn.

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Offense

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Erik Peterson	Bethel	Sr.	QB	Orono, Minn.
Josh Bungum	Saint John's	Jr.	WR	Paynesville, Minn.
Bryce Marquardt	Bethel	So.	WR	Champlin, Minn. / Champlin Park
Brandon Zylstra	Concordia	Jr.	WR	Spicer, Minn. / New London-Spicer
J.T. Ford	Saint John's	Sr.	TE	Stevens Point, Wis.
Jack Kaiser	St. Thomas	Jr.	RB	Prior Lake, Minn.
Brandon Marquardt	Bethel	Sr.	RB	Champlin, Minn. / Champlin Park
Luke Martinez	Gustavus	Jr.	RB	Lenexa, Kan. / Saint Thomas Aquinas
Alex McLean	Concordia	Sr.	RB	Hillsboro, N.D.
Jerise Washington	Augsburg	Sr.	RB	Roseville, Minn. / Mounds View
Ben Brown	Saint John's	Jr.	OL	Ceylon, Minn. / Fairmont
Dillon Crum	Bethel	Jr.	OL	Kirkland, Wash. / Juanita
Alec Grimm	Hamline	Sr.	OL	Bainbridge Island, Wash. / Bainbridge
Will Hilbert	St. Thomas	So.	OL	Mequon, Wis. / Milwaukee Marquette
Scott Newby	Gustavus	Jr.	OL	Lakeville, Minn. / South
Cody Pederson	Concordia	Sr.	OL	Buffalo, Minn.
Zach Swingen	Augsburg	Jr.	OL	Cross Plains, Wis. / Middleton

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Defense

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Kyle Asmus	Bethel	Sr.	DL	Isanti, Minn. / Cambridge-Isanti
Josh Corbin	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Northfield, Minn.
Carl Nelson	Concordia	Sr.	DL	Rolla, N.D.
Ben Rossini	Saint John's	Sr.	DL	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. / Rosemount
Zach Severson	Gustavus	Sr.	DL	Savage, Minn. / Burnsville
Erik Bye	Concordia	Jr.	ILB	Moorhead, Minn.
Levi Hintermeister	Concordia	Jr.	ILB	Garfield, Minn. / Brandon
Zack Martinez	Gustavus	Jr.	ILB	Lenexa, Kan. / Saint Thomas Aquinas
Anthony Boyce	Gustavus	Sr.	OLB	Excelsior, Minn. / Minnetonka
Corey Touchette	Hamline	Sr.	OLB	Bainbridge Island, Wash.
Colten Yahn	St. Olaf	So.	OLB	Longwood, Fla. / Bishop Moore
Felix Coleman	Augsburg	Sr.	DB	Alexandria, Minn. / Jefferson
Coleman Foley	St. Olaf	So.	DB	Edina, Minn.
Nick Frandsen	Gustavus	Jr.	DB	North Oaks, Minn. / Totino-Grace
Xavier Fust	Gustavus	Sr.	DB	Columbia Heights, Minn. / Totino-Grace
Mike Hintze	Gustavus	Sr.	DB	Brooklyn Park, Minn. / Park Center
David Morgan	Bethel	Sr.	DB	Rosemount, Minn.

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Special Teams

Name	Team	Year	Pos.	Hometown / High School
Ben Wagner	Concordia	Sr.	K	St. Aubin de Medoc, France / Siuslaw (Ore.)
Griffin Toomey	Saint John's	So.	P	Anchorage, Alaska / South
Nick Waldvogel	St. Thomas	So.	Ret.	Mendota Heights, Minn. / St. Thomas Academy

2014 MIAC Football All-Conference Honorable Mention

Augsburg - Denzel Anderson (Jr., DB, Plymouth, Minn. / Robbinsdale Armstrong), Hunter Friesen (Fr., WR, Mankato, Minn. / West), Alan Medina (Jr., LB, Woodbury, Minn. / Tartan), Bob Rose (Jr., OL, Minnetonka, Minn.)

Bethel - Daniel Leidall (Jr., DB, Maple Grove, Minn. / Heritage Academy), Stein Johnson (So., OL, Minnetonka, Minn.), Drew Neuville (So., TE, Green Bay, Wis. / Bayport), Bridgeport Tusler (Fr., RB, Maple Grove, Minn. / Osseo)

Carleton - Brandt Davis (So., K, La Verne, Calif. / Bonita), Chris Madden (So., RB, Kenosha, Wis./St. Joseph), Alex Polk (Sr., DB, Crystal Lake, Ill. / Central), Eric Wittenburg (Sr., OL, Eagan, Minn.)

Concordia - , Jon Asprey (So., OL, Brainerd), Jon Baune (Jr., WR, Fargo, N.D. / South), Domenic Fraboni (Sr., RB, Princeton, Minn.), Nick Leen (Sr., DL, Sauk Centre, Minn.)

Gustavus - Andrew Lonneman (Sr., DL, Adrian, Minn.), Travis Pepper (Sr., DL, Overland Park, Kan. / Blue Valley West), Mitch Snare (Sr., DL, Rosemount, Minn.), Joe Theiler (So., OL, Maple Grove, Minn. / Totino-Grace)

Hamline - Tim Bona (Jr., QB, Columbia Heights, Minn.), Juan Burciaga (Sr., OL, Laveen, Ariz. / Caesar Chavez), Naji El-Araby (So., WR, Blaine, Minn.), Philip Sherman (Jr., TE, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. / Choctowhatchee)

Saint John's - Ben Eli (Jr., OL, Avon, Minn. / Albany), Andrew Rose (Sr., LB, Stillwater, Minn.), Sean Tillman (Sr., DL, Sartell, Minn. / Sartell-St. Stephen), Trevor Warner (Jr., DB, Murrieta, Calif. / Vista Murrieta)

St. Olaf - Nate Penz (Jr., QB, Rochester, Minn. / Mayo), Joel Reinhardt (Sr., WR, Eagan, Minn. / Minnehaha Academy), J.J. Strnad (Jr., RB, Palo Alto, Calif. / Gunn), Chad Wagner (Sr., DL, Oak Grove, Minn.),

St. Thomas - Kyle Coyne (Sr., DB, Maple Grove, Minn.), John Gould (Jr., QB, Mendota Heights, Minn. / St. Thomas Academy), Paul Grapuner (Jr., K, Minnetonka, Minn. / Benildge-St. Margaret's), Zac Novaczyk (Sr., LS, Richfield, Minn. / Minnehaha Academy)

2014 Football All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Bryce Nelson (Jr., New Brighton, Minn. / St. Anthony Village)

Bethel - Cory Hansen (Sr., Albert Lea, Minn.)

Carleton - Eric Wittenberg (Sr., Eagan, Minn.)

Concordia - Steffen Morical (Jr., Garfield, Minn. / Jefferson)

Gustavus - Zach Vine (Sr., Lino Lakes, Minn. / Centennial)

Hamline - Ryan Ferkinhoff (Jr., St. Anthony, Minn. / St. Anthony Village)

Saint John's - Bryce Jeppesen (Sr., Sauk Rapids, Minn. / Sauk Rapids-Rice)

St. Olaf - Seamus Walsh (Jr., St. Paul, Minn. / Central)

St. Thomas - Cole Kelly (Sr., Red Wing, Minn.)

[MIAC Football Home Page](#)