

St. Thomas trio headlines 2016 MIAC Football Awards

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Photos by Mike Ekern and Mark Brown, University of St. Thomas

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The University of St. Thomas recently completed a perfect 10-0 regular season and an 8-0 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) campaign to win a second-straight conference championship, so it was no surprise Tuesday when the Tommies headlined the 2016 MIAC Football Awards.

St. Thomas swept the conference's top three individual honors, as senior quarterback Alex Fenske (Marshall, Minn.) was named the Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP, senior offensive lineman Will Hilbert (Mequon, Wis. / Milwaukee Marquette) was named the Mike Stam Award winner as the conference's top interior lineman, and Head Coach Glenn Caruso (ninth season) was voted the John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year by his peers.

In addition to the individual honors, the MIAC also announced the All-Conference selections, which include First Team, Second Team and Honorable Mention. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team were also announced.

Fenske received the conference's top honor for his outstanding play in 2016, as he piloted the Tommies to a conference championship, a perfect regular season, and into the NCAA Playoffs. The UST senior signal caller was great in conference play, completing 107 of 188 passes (56.9 percent) for 1,797 yards and 17 touchdowns with just four interceptions. He ranked second in the MIAC in passing yards, passing yards per game (224.6), passing TDs and fifth in completion percentage.

Overall, Fenske is 146-for-254 passing (57.5 percent) for 2,495 yards, 23 touchdowns and he's been picked off just four times, while also running for a touchdown. The MVP and All-Conference QB ranks second overall in the MIAC in passing yards, passing yards per game (226.8), passing TDs and he's third in completion percentage. Fenske has directed the Tommie offense to the top of the MIAC leader board in points, points per game and total offense.

Hilbert is the second-straight St. Thomas player to receive the Mike Stam Award as the league's top interior lineman, and he also received his second-straight All-MIAC First Team honor after appearing on the Second Team as a sophomore. Hilbert anchored a dominant offensive line that has surrendered just 10 sacks on 203 dropbacks in 2016 and has paved the way for the MIAC's No. 1 offense, both in terms of scoring and yardage.

Hilbert's impact has been felt in both the running game and the UST passing attack. In conference games only, he's led the Tommies to 1,771 rushing yards on 331 carries (5.4 average). The team led the MIAC with 30 rushing touchdowns, ranked second in yards per carry and third with an average of 221.4 rushing yards per game. The overall numbers are similar with a league-leading 39 rushing TDs, 4.8 yards per carry (2nd in MIAC) and 2,209 rushing yards on 460 carries.

Caruso received Coach-of-the-Year honors for the fifth time in his nine years leading the Tommies. He also won the honor three years in a row from 2010 to 2012, now in back-to-back years in 201 and 2016. Caruso guided the Tommies to a perfect 10-0 regular season, including an 8-0 conference record to capture UST's fifth MIAC title in the last seven seasons. The team is ranked third in the nation, and will host Coe College Saturday at noon in the second round of the NCAA Division III Football Playoffs.

In their eight MIAC wins, the Tommies were certainly impressive, leading the league in points scored (384), points per game (48.0), total offense (3,962 yards), yards per game (495.3), rushing touchdowns (30), punting average (38.8) and defensive touchdowns (three), and UST ranked second in nearly every defensive category, including points allowed, yards allowed, interceptions and sacks. Caruso coached the MIAC's MVP and Mike Stam Award winners and also guided 23 players to All-Conference accolades – 14 First-Team picks, five Second-Team selections and four Honorable Mention honorees.

The MIAC All-Conference First Team was led by Fenske and Hilbert, who received his second-straight First Team honor. Concordia offensive lineman Josh Berg and Saint John's linebacker Carter Hanson – who was named a Gagliardi Trophy semifinalist – were both named to the First Team for the third-straight season. Bethel tight end Drew Neuville, Carleton defensive lineman Pete Boerma, Saint John's defensive lineman Peyton Thiry, St. Thomas defensive lineman Ryan Winter, St. Thomas outside linebacker Jesse Addo and Concordia punter Eddie Clifton all joined Hilbert as back-to-back First Team honorees, and Hamline defensive back Anthony Hill and Saint John's kicker Alexi Johnson also received their second career First Team honor as both also earned the distinction in 2014.



As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC announced the 11th 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.

2016 MIAC Football Awards

Jim Christopherson MIAC MVP - Alex Fenske, QB, St. Thomas (Sr., Marshall, Minn.)

Mike Stam Award - Will Hilbert, OL, St. Thomas (Sr., Mequon, Wis. / Milwaukee Marquette)

John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach-of-the-Year - Glenn Caruso, St. Thomas (9th Season)

2016 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Offense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Alex Fenske	St. Thomas	Sr.	QB	Marshall, Minn.
Michael Herzog	Concordia	Jr.	QB	Detroit Lakes, Minn.
Justice Spriggs	Hamline	So.	QB	St. Anthony, Minn. / St. Anthony Village
Chad Johnson	Concordia	Jr.	RB	Glyndon, Minn. / Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
Tucker Trettel	St. Thomas	So.	RB	Lino Lakes, Minn. / Centennial
Evan Clark	Saint John's	Sr.	WR	Phoenix, Ariz. / Apollo
Bryce Marquardt	Bethel	Sr.	WR	Champlin, Minn. / Champlin Park
Nick Waldvogel	St. Thomas	Sr.	WR	Mendota Heights, Minn. / St. Thomas Academy
Jackson Hull	St. Thomas	Jr.	TE	Mahtomedi, Minn.
Drew Neuville	Bethel	Sr.	TE	Green Bay, Wis. / Bayport
Josh Berg	Concordia	Sr.	OL	Moorhead, Minn. / Fargo (N.D.) Shanley
Ben Eli	Saint John's	Sr.	OL	Avon, Minn. / Albany
Will Hilbert	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Mequon, Wis. / Milwaukee Marquette
Andrew Konieczny	Augsburg	Sr.	OL	Tomah, Wis.
Ryan Ross	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Champlin, Minn. / Champlin Park
Sean Scharlau	St. Thomas	Sr.	OL	Albertville, Minn. / St. Michael-Albertville
Joe Theiler	Gustavus	Sr.	OL	Maple Grove, Minn. / Totino-Grace

2016 MIAC Football All-Conference First Team Defense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Pete Boerma	Carleton	Sr.	DL	Watertown, S.D.
Nathan Brinker	Saint John's	So.	DL	Avon, Minn. / Holdingford
Anthony King-Foreman	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Mitchell Maday	Hamline	So.	DL	Alexandria, Minn. / Jefferson
Godfrey Mpetey	Bethel	Jr.	DL	Farmington, Minn.
Peyton Thiry	Saint John's	Sr.	DL	Lester Prairie, Minn. / Lester Prairie-Holy Trinity
Ryan Winter	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Woodbury, Minn.
Alex Berg	Concordia	So.	ILB	Moorhead, Minn. / Fargo (N.D.) Shanley
Adam Brant	St. Thomas	So.	ILB	Maple Grove, Minn.
Carter Hanson	Saint John's	Sr.	ILB	Blue Earth, Minn.
Steve Harrell	St. Thomas	Jr.	ILB	New Berlin, Wis. / West
Hank Van Liew	Concordia	Sr.	ILB	Snoqualmie, Wash. / Mount Si
Jesse Addo	St. Thomas	Sr.	OLB	Plymouth, Minn. / Wayzata
Dawson Brown	Bethel	So.	OLB	Becker, Minn.
Casey Decker	Gustavus	Jr.	OLB	Mapleton, Minn. / Maple River
Jack Pietruszewski	Saint John's	Sr.	OLB	South St. Paul, Minn.
Michael Alada	St. Thomas	Sr.	CB	St. Paul, Minn. / Hill-Murray
Anthony Hill	Hamline	Sr.	CB	Brooklyn Park, Minn. / Champlin Park
Garrett Ackerman	Saint John's	Sr.	S	Temecula, Calif. / Great Oak
Bennett Celichowski	St. Thomas	Sr.	S	Shorewood, Minn. / Minnetonka

2016 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>
Alexi Johnson	Saint John's	Sr.	K	Shakopee, Minn.
Eddie Clifton	Concordia	Sr.	P	Buffalo, Minn.
Nick Waldvogel	St. Thomas	Sr.	Ret.	Mendota Heights, Minn. / St. Thomas Academy

2016 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Offense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Gunnar Bloom	Bethel	So.	RB	Ostego, Minn. / Rogers
Luke Martinez	Gustavus	Sr.	RB	Lenexa, Kan. / St. Thomas Aquinas
Jeremy Molina	St. Thomas	Jr.	RB	Chicago, Ill. / St. Patrick
Jason Montonye	Concordia	Jr.	RB	Graceville, Minn. / C-G-B
Zack Sundly	Saint John's	Sr.	RB	Harris, Minn. / North Branch
Zach Creighton	Carleton	Sr.	WR	Lakeville, Minn. / North
Nick Heenie	Augsburg	So.	WR	Victoria, Minn. / Waconia
Hunter Johnson	Gustavus	Jr.	WR	Cannon Falls, Minn.
Nick Kampa	Hamline	Sr.	WR	St. Anthony, Minn. / St. Anthony Village
Jon Pytlak	Bethel	So.	WR	Mankato, Minn. / West
Josiah Harris	Hamline	Sr.	TE	River Falls, Wis.
Matt Christenson	St. Thomas	Jr.	TE	Nicollet, Minn.
Jon Asprey	Concordia	Sr.	OL	Brainerd, Minn.
Andrew Jarosz	Saint John's	Jr.	OL	White Bear Lake, Minn. / Totino-Grace
Ryan Landherr	Gustavus	Sr.	OL	Prior Lake, Minn.
Kevin Olson	Bethel	Sr.	OL	Andover, Minn.

2016 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Defense

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Micah Hausman	St. Thomas	Sr.	DL	Eagan, Minn.
Gunnar Kollman	Concordia	So.	DL	Fargo, N.D. / Davies
Chris Nelson	Gustavus	Jr.	DL	New London, Minn. / New London-Spicer
Daulton Olinger	Augsburg	Jr.	DL	Spring Lake Park, Minn.
Steven Plocker	Bethel	Sr.	DL	Blue Earth, Minn.
Parker Anderson	Saint John's	Sr.	ILB	Prior Lake, Minn.
Josh Dalki	Bethel	Jr.	ILB	Minnetonka, Minn.
Zack Martinez	Gustavus	Sr.	ILB	Lenexa, Kan. / St. Thomas Aquinas
Jonny Nguyen	Hamline	Sr.	ILB	Mounds View, Minn. / Irondale
Cody Fox	Concordia	Jr.	OLB	St. Michael, Minn. / St. Michael-Albertville
Colten Yahn	St. Olaf	Sr.	OLB	Longwood, Fla. / Bishop Moore
Leonard Gutierrez	Saint John's	Jr.	CB	Phoenix, Ariz. / Brophy College Prep
Jordan Kahlow	Gustavus	So.	CB	Le Sueur, Minn. / Le Sueur-Henderson
Isiah Malone	Augsburg	Jr.	CB	Brooklyn Center, Minn. / Park Center
Matt Ahrndt	Concordia	Sr.	S	Benson, Minn.
Lucas Glomb	Saint John's	Sr.	S	Woodbury, Minn. / Hill-Murray
Dallas Rafevold	Concordia	Jr.	S	Fargo, N.D. / South
Zach Schwalbach	Hamline	Sr.	S	Stewartville, Minn.
Isaac Seering	St. Thomas	Jr.	S	Green Bay, Wis. / Notre Dame Academy

2016 MIAC Football All-Conference Second Team Special Teams

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown / High School</u>
Brendan Boche	Gustavus	Jr.	K	Lakeville, Minn. / South
Bryan Steinsapir	St. Thomas	Jr.	K	Santiago, Chile / The Grange School
Kyle Johnson	Hamline	Jr.	P	Chandler, Ariz. / Seton Catholic
Brady Bomsta	Bethel	So.	Ret.	Waseca, Minn.
Dylan Saline	Carleton	Sr.	Ret.	Anoka, Minn. / Champlin Park

2016 MIAC Football All-Conference Honorable Mention

Augsburg - Jabri Guy (Jr., DB, Moline, Ill. / Eagan), Lorenzo Hernandez (So., LB, New Ulm, Minn.), Christopher Lemke (So., Glencoe, Minn. / Glencoe-Silver Lake), Khoa Nguyen (Sr., DL, Rochester, Minn. / Lourdes)

Bethel - Mason Diedrick (Jr., OL, Norwood, Minn. / Mayer Lutheran), Jake Marsh (Fr., QB, Plymouth, Minn. / Wayzata), Brett Norling (So., DB, Loretto, Minn. / Delano), Andrew Ragsdale (So., LB, Waverly, Iowa / Waverly-Shell Rock)

Carleton - Hunter Brown (Sr., OL, Hingham, Mass.), Brandt Davis (Sr., K, La Verne, Calif. / Bonita), Mark Leedy (So., DB, Naples, Fla. / Barron Collier), Tyler Rolland (Jr., OL, Burnsville, Minn. / Apple Valley)

Concordia - Ethan Feil (Sr., OL, Fortuna, N.D. / Divide County), Joshua Kolar (Sr., DL, Coon Rapids, Minn.), Landon Moline (Sr., DB, Hanover, Minn. / Buffalo), Noah Welsh (So., DL, Spicer, Minn. / New London-Spicer)

Gustavus - Matt Berkner (So., LB, Sleepy Eye, Minn.), Leeland Lauti (Jr., LB, Ewa Beach, Hawaii / Damien Memorial), Karim Ortiz (Jr., RB, Cancun, Mexico / Leonaro da Vinci), Iker Ortiz-Hidalgo (Sr., DL, Cancun, Mexico / Universidad Tec Milenio)

Hamline - Deon Bishop (Sr., WR, Los Angeles, Calif. / Santa Monica), Chase Duwenhoegger (Sr., OL, Alexandria, Minn.), Naji El-Araby (Sr., RB, Blaine, Minn.), Jack Loughrey (So., DL, Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson)

Saint John's - Ben Alvord (So., QB, St. Joseph, Minn. / St. Cloud Apollo), David Franta (Jr., LB, Winnebago, Minn. / Blue Earth Area), Ted Kalina (So., DL, Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson), Dusty Krueger (Jr., RB, Lake Elmo, Minn. / Hill-Murray)

St. Olaf - Luke Dahl (So., LB, Rosemount, Minn.), Coleman Foley (Sr., DB, Edina, Minn.), Troy Peterson (Jr., WR, Edina, Minn.), Connor Yahm (Sr., WR, Longood, Fla. / Bishop Moore)

St. Thomas - Michael Blume (Sr., LS, Elk River, Minn. / Big Lake), Gavin Dauwalter (Jr., OL, Carver, Minn. / Belle Plaine), Austin Jochum (Jr., DL, Foley, Minn.), Joe Reed (Sr., WR, Woodbury, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall)

2016 Football All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Connor Helgeson (Sr., Onalaska, Wis.)

Bethel - Cameron Svihla (Sr., Foley, Minn.)

Carleton - Brett Sterk (Sr., Hermantown, Minn.)

Concordia - Cody Fox (Jr., St. Michael, Minn. / St. Michael-Albertville)

Gustavus - Jake Schmitz (Sr., North Branch, Minn.)

Hamline - Lucjan Januszewski (Sr., St. Paul, Minn. / Como Park)

Saint John's - Gunnar Anderson (Sr., International Falls, Minn.)

St. Olaf - Ted Deitz (Sr., Alexandria, Minn.)

St. Thomas - Luke Hermann (Sr. St. Paul, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall)

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