

Johnson, Jochum headline 2017 MIAC Football Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The 2017 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) football season concluded earlier this month and on Tuesday, the Conference recognized the top performers from another outstanding campaign with the announcement of the 2017 MIAC Football Awards.

Concordia fullback **Chad Johnson** was selected Jim Christopherson MIAC Player of the Year for his outstanding season running the ball for the Cobbers, while St. Thomas defensive lineman **Austin Jochum** earned the Mike Stam award as the top interior lineman in the Conference. MIAC Football coaches also selected St. Thomas head coach **Glenn Caruso** and Saint John's head coach **Gary Fasching** as co-recipients of the John Gagliardi Coach of the Year award.

In addition to individual honors, the MIAC also announced First Team, Second Team and honorable mention All-Conference selections, as well as the members of the 12th annual MIAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Johnson (Sr. | Glyndon, Minn. | Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton) received the Conference's top honor for his impressive play in 2017, as he carried the ball 130 times for a League-high 982 yards and 13 touchdowns in eight MIAC contests this year. The senior fullback averaged 122.8 yards on the ground per game in Conference play, a full 50 yards more than the next-highest rushing average in the MIAC. An All-Conference honoree in each of the last three seasons, Johnson scored at least one touchdown in eight of the Cobbers' ten games overall in 2017, and finished his Concordia career as the program's all-time leader in touchdowns with 42 total scores to his name.

Jochum (Sr. | Foley, Minn.) becomes the third consecutive St. Thomas player to receive the Mike Stam Award as the MIAC's top interior lineman, joining former teammates Will Hilbert (2016) and Ryan Winter (2015). The senior nose guard wreaked havoc on opposing offensive lines all season long, totaling a Conference-leading 10 tackles for loss in eight MIAC contests. Jochum registered 23 total tackles to go along with five sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery in Conference play. He was also recognized as a First Team All-Conference selection for the first time in his career after garnering honorable mention accolades a season ago.

A pair of familiar faces were recognized as co-recipients of the John Gagliardi Coach of the Year award. In five seasons at Saint John's, Gary Fasching has been voted the MIAC Coach of the Year twice, while St. Thomas head coach Glenn Caruso has been honored by his peers with selection for the award in six of the last eight seasons. Both men have taken their respective programs to the postseason each of the last four years while presiding over two of the top defensive units in all of NCAA Division III this season. Caruso's Tommies have won 28 consecutive games against MIAC foes, tying a record set by Saint John's from 2001-04. Meanwhile, Fasching's Johnnies have lost just four Conference matchups over the last four years combined and no coach in Saint John's history has a better winning percentage through their first 56 games at the helm than Fasching (46-10, .821).

Thirty-seven players were also honored as First Team All-Conference selections with an additional 26 players garnering Second Team accolades. The First Team squad featured 19 seniors, 14 juniors and four sophomores, while the Second Team included 10 seniors, nine juniors, five sophomores and a pair of freshmen.

The Conference champion Tommies led the way with 12 First Team selections, followed by Saint John's with nine. Concordia had five First Team honorees, while Augsburg and Bethel had four apiece. Gustavus, Hamline and St. Olaf each had one player selected to the 2017 First Team.

Seven players earned their third First or Second Team All-Conference nod in 2017, including Bethel wide receiver **Bryce Marquardt**, Concordia fullback **Chad Johnson**, Gustavus kicker **Branden Boche** and linebacker **Casey Decker**, Hamline punter **Kyle Johnson**, and St. Thomas linebacker **Steve Harrell** and safety **Isaac Seering**. Bethel's **Joel Koenecke** also earned the unique distinction of being an All-Conference selection at two different positions in 2017, receiving First Team accolades as a receiver and Second Team honors as a return specialist.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 12th 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.



2017 MIAC Football Awards

Jim Christopherson MIAC Player of the Year – Chad Johnson, RB, Concordia (Sr. | Glyndon, Minn. | Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton)

Mike Stam Award – Austin Jochum, DL, St. Thomas (Sr. | Foley, Minn.)

John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach of the Year – Glenn Caruso, St. Thomas (10th Season) and Gary Fasching, Saint John's (Fifth Season)

2017 MIAC First Team Offense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
QB	Jackson Erdmann	Saint John's	So.	Rosemount, Minn.
QB	Jacques Perra	St. Thomas	Jr.	Roseville, Minn.
RB	Chad Johnson	Concordia	Sr.	Glyndon, Minn. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
RB	Dusty Krueger	Saint John's	Sr.	Lake Elmo, Minn. Hill-Murray
RB	Tucker Trettel	St. Thomas	Jr.	Lino Lakes, Minn. Centennial
WR	Evan Clark	Saint John's	Sr.	Phoenix, Ariz. Apollo
WR	Nick Heenie	Augsburg	Jr.	Victoria, Minn. Waconia
WR	Joel Koenecke	Bethel	So.	Delano, Minn.
WR	Troy Peterson	St. Olaf	Sr.	Edina, Minn.
TE	Matt Christenson	St. Thomas	Sr.	Nicollet, Minn.
TE	Josiah Harris	Hamline	Sr.	River Falls, Wis.
OL	Matt Beck	St. Thomas	Jr.	Plymouth, Minn.
OL	Brandon Bundgaard	Concordia	Jr.	Moorhead, Minn.
OL	Dan Greenheck	Saint John's	So.	St. Paul, Minn. Cretin-Derham Hall
OL	Andrew Jarosz	Saint John's	Sr.	White Bear Lake, Minn. Totino-Grace
OL	Elijah Rice	St. Thomas	So.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville
OL	Nolan Richardson	Bethel	Jr.	Bellevue, Wash. Newport

2017 MIAC First Team Defense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
DL	Nathan Brinker	Saint John's	Jr.	Avon, Minn. Holdingford
DL	Austin Jochum	St. Thomas	Sr.	Foley, Minn.
DL	Kyle Kilgore	Bethel	Jr.	Cottage Grove, Minn. East Ridge
DL	Matt Mitchell	St. Thomas	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. East Ridge
DL	Kirby Siewert	Concordia	Sr.	Detroit Lakes, Minn.
ILB	Alex Berg	Concordia	Jr.	Moorhead, Minn. Fargo Shanley
ILB	Adam Brant	St. Thomas	Jr.	Maple Grove, Minn.
ILB	David Franta	Saint John's	Sr.	Winnebago, Minn. Blue Earth Area
ILB	Steve Harrell	St. Thomas	Sr.	New Berlin, Wis. West
ILB	Andrew Thompson	Concordia	Jr.	North Bend, Wash. Mount Si
OLB	Dylan Andrew	St. Thomas	Sr.	Naperville, Ill. Neuqua Valley
OLB	Casey Decker	Gustavus	Sr.	Mapleton, Minn. Maple River
CB	Leonard Gutierrez	Saint John's	Sr.	Phoenix, Ariz. Brophy College Prep
CB	Jabri Guy	Augsburg	Sr.	Moline, Ill. Eagan

S	Dawson Brown	Bethel	Jr.	Becker, Minn.
S	Max Jackson	Saint John's	Jr.	St. Paul, Minn. Cretin-Derham Hall
S	Isaac Seering	St. Thomas	Sr.	Green Bay, Wis. Notre Dame

2017 MIAC First Team Specialists

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
K	Bryan Steinsapire	St. Thomas	Sr.	Santiago, Chile The Grange School
P	Glenn Meyers	Augsburg	Sr.	Blaine, Minn.
KR	Undre Smith-Brewer	Augsburg	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn. Johnson

2017 MIAC Second Team Offense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
QB	Justice Spriggs	Hamline	Jr.	St. Anthony, Minn. St. Anthony Village
RB	Jason Montonye	Concordia	Jr.	Graceville, Minn. C-G-B
RB	Khayleb Willis	St. Olaf	So.	Deltona, Fla.
WR	Will Gillach	Saint John's	Jr.	Lindstrom, Minn. Chisago Lakes
WR	Bryce Marquardt	Bethel	Sr.	Champlin, Minn. Champlin Park
TE	Brayton Finch	Gustavus	So.	Mount Morris, Ill. Oregon
OL	Anthony DeBella	St. Olaf	So.	Naples, Fla. Saint John Neumann
OL	Jack Fiedler	Bethel	Fr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville
OL	Chandler Lamke	St. Thomas	Sr.	Glaesville, Wis. Galesville-Ettrick-Trempeleau
OL	Christopher Lemke	Augsburg	Jr.	Glencoe, Minn. Glencoe-Silver Lake
OL	Brandon Knisley	Concordia	Jr.	New London, Minn. New London-Spicer

2017 MIAC Second Team Defense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
DL	Johnny Heller	St. Thomas	Sr.	Eden Prairie, Minn.
DL	Kevin Krohn	Gustavus	Sr.	Richfield, Minn.
DL	Mitchell Maday	Hamline	Jr.	Alexandria, Minn. Jefferson
DL	Daulton Olinger	Augsburg	Sr.	Spring Lake Park, Minn.
ILB	Matt Berkner	Gustavus	Jr.	Sleepy Eye, Minn.
OLB	Cody Fox	Concordia	Sr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville
OLB	Dan Pietruszewski	Saint John's	Fr.	South St. Paul, Minn.
CB	Mark Dowdle	St. Thomas	Jr.	Northbrook, Ill. Loyola Academy
CB	Ethan Eagerton	Concordia	So.	Tuscon, Ariz. Empire
CB	Isiah Malone	Augsburg	Sr.	Brooklyn Center, Minn. Park Center
S	Chris Fondakowski	St. Thomas	Jr.	Aurora, Ill. Maple Grove
S	Dallas Raftevoid	Concordia	Sr.	Fargo, N.D. South

2017 MIAC Second Team Specialists

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
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K	Brendan Boche	Gustavus	Sr.	Lakeville, Minn. South
P	Kyle Johnson	Hamline	Sr.	Chandler, Ariz. Seton Catholic
KR	Joel Koenecke	Bethel	So.	Delano, Minn.

2017 MIAC Honorable Mention

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
QB	Quinn Frisell	Augsburg	Jr.	Plymouth, Minn. Robbinsdale Armstrong
QB	Blake Kragnes	Concordia	So.	Dilworth, Minn. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton
QB	Jake Marsh	Bethel	So.	Plymouth, Minn. Wayzata
QB	Michael Veldman	Gustavus	Jr.	Becker, Minn.
RB	Karim Ortiz	Gustavus	Sr.	Cancun, Mexico Leonard da Vinci
FB	Jeremy Molina	St. Thomas	Sr.	Chicago, Ill. St. Patrick
WR	Nick Barber	Hamline	Fr.	Palm Bay, Fla. Heritage
WR	Gabe Green	St. Thomas	So.	Springfield, Ill. Sacred Heart Griffin
WR	Ray Guyton, Jr.	Augsburg	Sr.	Stockton, Calif. St. Mary's
WR	Hunter Johnson	Gustavus	Sr.	Cannon Falls, Minn.
WR	Emanual Williams	Carleton	So.	Lovelady, Tex.
OL	Eric Stadelman	Carleton	So.	Davenport, Iowa Bettendorf
DL	Trevor Dittberner	Saint John's	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn. Mahtomedi
DL	Leandro Ferreira	St. Olaf	So.	Orlando, Fla. Freedom
DL	Jacob Heath	Carleton	Jr.	Oshkosh, Wis. West
DL	Mat Hobby	Saint John's	Sr.	Temecula, Calif. Great Oak
DL	Gunnar Kollman	Concordia	Jr.	Fargo, N.D. Fargo Davies
ILB	Luke Dahl	St. Olaf	Jr.	Rosemount, Minn.
ILB	Derek Glynn	Augsburg	So.	Lonsdale, Minn. Fairbault
OLB	Luke Trudell	Hamline	Jr.	Germantown, Wis.
OLB	Blake Weber	St. Thomas	Jr.	Prior Lake, Minn.
CB	Trey Anderson	Bethel	Jr.	White Bear Lake, Minn.
CB	Adrian Cracolici	Hamline	Fr.	Phoenix, Ariz. Verrado
CB	Sam Westby	Saint John's	Jr.	Lake Elmo, Minn. Hill-Murray
S	Cale Ferrin	Bethel	So.	Morrison, Colo.
S	Jake Ossell	St. Olaf	Jr.	St. Paul, Minn. Eagan
K	Tony Kostelecky	Concordia	Jr.	Dickinson, N.D.

2017 MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School
Josh Bentil	Augsburg	Sr.	Milwaukee, Wis. Wisconsin Lutheran
Joey Lee	Bethel	Sr.	Dawson, Minn. Dawson-Boyd
Tyler Rolland	Carleton	Sr.	Burnsville, Minn. Apple Valley
Dan Ringquist	Concordia	Sr.	Fergus Falls, Minn.
Nathan Hajder	Gustavus	Sr.	Rogers, Minn.

Charlie Shervheim	Hamline	Sr.	Bruno, Minn. East Central
Ryan Souza	Saint John's	Sr.	Chanhassen, Minn.
Jorgen Salveson	St. Olaf	Sr.	Wayzata, Minn. Breck
Josh Parks	St. Thomas	So.	Chisago Lakes, Minn.