

# Johnnies sweep top honors as MIAC announces 2018 Football Awards

Posted: Nov 20, 2018

**BLOOMINGTON, Minn.** – The 2018 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 2018 MIAC Football Awards.

Saint John's quarterback **Jackson Erdmann** was selected Jim Christopherson MIAC Player of the Year by Conference coaches for his record-breaking season for the Johnnies, while SJU teammate **Nathan Brinker** earned the Mike Stam award as the top interior lineman in the Conference. MIAC Football coaches also selected Saint John's head coach **Gary Fasching** as the 2018 John Gagliardi Coach of the Year.

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 13th annual MIAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Erdmann (Jr. | Rosemount, Minn.) was an integral part of Saint John's undefeated regular season, completing 65.1 percent of his passes for 1,942 yards and 23 touchdowns against just four interceptions in eight MIAC contests this year. Erdmann ended the regular season ranked second in all of NCAA Division III in both passing efficiency (195.8) and passing touchdowns (34) in overall games. He set a school record with 470 passing yards against then-No. 3-ranked St. Thomas in the annual Johnnie-Tommie rivalry game in October, and closed out the year with another program-high, tossing seven scoring strikes against regionally-ranked Thomas More in the non-conference regular season finale. He is now the 20th Johnnie since 1953 to receive MIAC Player of the Year honors and the first SJU recipient since running back Sam Sura in 2014. The last Saint John's quarterback to win the award was Kurt Ramler in 1996.

Brinker (Sr. | Avon, Minn. | Holdingford) continued to cement his legacy as one of the MIAC's most disruptive interior linemen ever as a senior in 2018. The three-time First Team All-Conference pick logged 13.5 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks, four batted passes, and a pair of forced fumbles in eight MIAC games this fall. He led the Conference in tackles for loss, marking his third consecutive season with double-digit takedowns behind the line of scrimmage, and his 6.5 sacks ranked second only to teammate **Ted Kalina's** 8.5 in Conference play. Brinker is now the eighth Johnnie win the Mike Stam Award and the first since Kyle Schroeder in 2010.

Fasching became a three-time recipient of the award named for his predecessor, having been honored by his peers in 2014, 2017, and 2018. The sixth-year head coach guided the Johnnies to an undefeated regular season for the 21st time in team history, as well as the program's 33rd MIAC football championship. Fasching has also led the Johnnies to five consecutive NCAA Playoff berths, one shy of John Gagliardi's MIAC record of six in a row. A former MIAC student-athlete himself, Fasching was a three-year starter at linebacker for Gagliardi's Johnnies before spending 17 years as an assistant on the legendary coach's SJU staff. The MIAC Coach of the Year Award was renamed in honor of Gagliardi - college football's all-time wins leader - in 2013. Gagliardi passed away on October 7, 2018 at the age of 91.

Thirty-seven players were honored as First Team All-Conference selections, with an additional 26 players garnering Second Team accolades. The First Team squad featured 21 seniors, 11 juniors, and five sophomores, while the Second Team included 14 seniors, seven juniors, four sophomores, and one freshman. St. Thomas led the Conference with 12 First Team selections, followed by MIAC Champion Saint John's with 10. Regular season runner-up Bethel had five First Team honorees, while Gustavus had four, and Augsburg, Concordia, and St. Olaf each had two players selected to the 2018 First Team.

Five players joined elite company in becoming three-time All-Conference honorees. Saint John's defensive lineman **Nathan Brinker**, St. Thomas linebacker **Adam Brant**, and Bethel safety **Dawson Brown** all received First Team honors for the third time in as many seasons, while Augsburg wide receiver **Nick Heenie** (Second Team in 2016, First Team in 2017) and Hamline defensive lineman **Mitchell Maday** (First Team in 2016, Second Team in 2017) both received their third straight All-MIAC nods. Only 93 individuals have been named First or Second Team All-Conference three times in the recorded history of MIAC football.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 13th 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.



**Jim Christopherson MIAC Player of the Year** – Jackson Erdmann | QB | Saint John's (Jr. | Rosemount, Minn.)

**Mike Stam Award** – Nathan Brinker | DT | Saint John's (Sr. | Avon, Minn. | Holdingford)

**John Gagliardi MIAC Football Coach of the Year** – Gary Fasching, Saint John's (Sixth Season)

**2018 MIAC First Team Offense**

| Position | Name             | Institution  | Class | Hometown   High School                          |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------|
| QB       | Jackson Erdmann  | Saint John's | Jr.   | Rosemount, Minn.                                |
| QB       | Michael Veldman  | Gustavus     | Jr.   | Becker, Minn.                                   |
| RB       | Josh Parks       | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Chisago Lakes, Minn.                            |
| RB       | Khayleb Willis   | St. Olaf     | Jr.   | Deltona, Fla.                                   |
| WR       | Will Gillach     | Saint John's | Sr.   | Lindstrom, Minn.   Chisago Lakes                |
| WR       | Nick Heenie      | Augsburg     | Sr.   | Victoria, Minn.   Waconia                       |
| WR       | Brice Panning    | Gustavus     | Jr.   | Hamburg, Minn.   Central                        |
| TE       | Tommy Auger      | Saint John's | Sr.   | St. Cloud, Minn.   Cathedral                    |
| TE       | Brayton Finch    | Gustavus     | Jr.   | Mount Morris, Ill.   Oregon                     |
| OL       | Matt Beck        | St. Thomas   | Jr.   | Plymouth, Minn.                                 |
| OL       | Anthony DeBella  | St. Olaf     | Jr.   | Naples, Fla.   Saint John Neumann               |
| OL       | Dan Greenheck    | Saint John's | Jr.   | St. Paul, Minn.   Cretin-Derham Hall            |
| OL       | Jack Fiedler     | Bethel       | So.   | St. Michael, Minn.   St. Michael-Albertville    |
| OL       | Nick Neumann     | Saint John's | So.   | Inver Grove Heights, Minn.   Cretin-Derham Hall |
| OL       | Elijah Rice      | St. Thomas   | Jr.   | St. Michael, Minn.   St. Michael-Albertville    |
| OL       | Nolan Richardson | Bethel       | Sr.   | Bellevue, Wash.   Newport                       |

**2018 MIAC First Team Defense**

| Position | Name              | Institution  | Class | Hometown   High School            |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| DL       | Nathan Brinker    | Saint John's | Sr.   | Avon, Minn.   Holdingford         |
| DL       | Jesse Bucholz     | Concordia    | Sr.   | Perham, Minn.                     |
| DL       | David Danhauer    | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Barrington, Ill.                  |
| DL       | Kyle Kilgore      | Bethel       | Sr.   | Cottage Grove, Minn.   East Ridge |
| DL       | Ted Kalina        | Saint John's | Sr.   | Bloomington, Minn.   Jefferson    |
| DL       | Luke Swenson      | St. Thomas   | Jr.   | Shoreview, Minn.   Mounds View    |
| ILB      | Matt Berkner      | Gustavus     | Sr.   | Sleepy Eye, Minn.                 |
| ILB      | Adam Brant        | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Maple Grove, Minn.                |
| ILB      | Matt Mitchell     | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Chicago, Ill.   East Ridge        |
| ILB      | Andrew Thompson   | Concordia    | Sr.   | North Bend, Wash.   Mount Si      |
| OLB      | Mark Dowdle       | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Northbrook, Ill.   Loyola Academy |
| OLB      | Dan Pietruszewski | Saint John's | So.   | South St. Paul, Minn.             |
| OLB      | Blake Weber       | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Prior Lake, Minn.                 |
| CB       | Trey Anderson     | Bethel       | Sr.   | White Bear Lake, Minn.            |
| CB       | Sam Gerrety       | St. Thomas   | So.   | Blaine, Minn.                     |
| CB       | Sam Westby        | Saint John's | Sr.   | Lake Elmo, Minn.   Hill-Murray    |
| S        | Dawson Brown      | Bethel       | Sr.   | Becker, Minn.                     |

|   |             |              |     |                                      |
|---|-------------|--------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| S | Max Jackson | Saint John's | Sr. | St. Paul, Minn.   Cretin-Derham Hall |
|---|-------------|--------------|-----|--------------------------------------|

2018 MIAC First Team Specialists

| Position | Name          | Institution | Class | Hometown   High School       |
|----------|---------------|-------------|-------|------------------------------|
| K        | Tyler Knutson | St. Thomas  | Jr.   | Maple Grove, Minn.           |
| P        | Jacob Kraft   | Augsburg    | Sr.   | Hutchinson, Minn.            |
| RET      | Tom Loeffler  | St. Thomas  | So.   | Victoria, Minn.   Chanhassen |

2018 MIAC Second Team Offense

| Position | Name              | Institution  | Class | Hometown   High School                |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| QB       | Jaran Roste       | Bethel       | Fr.   | Alexandria, Minn.   Jefferson         |
| RB       | Kai Barber        | Saint John's | Jr.   | Minneapolis, Minn.   Totino-Grace     |
| RB       | Adam Essler       | Saint John's | Sr.   | New London, Minn.   New London-Spicer |
| RB       | Sam Gibas         | Bethel       | So.   | Elk River, Minn.                      |
| RB       | Dane Ringquist    | Concordia    | Sr.   | Fergus Falls, Minn.                   |
| WR       | Drew Larsen       | Bethel       | Jr.   | White Bear Lake, Minn.                |
| TE       | Grant Slavik      | St. Thomas   | Jr.   | Plymouth, Minn.   Wayzata             |
| TE       | Jared Streit      | Saint John's | Sr.   | Watkins, Minn.   Eden Valley-Watkins  |
| OL       | Ben Bartch        | Saint John's | Jr.   | Dayton, Ore.   Blanchet Catholic      |
| OL       | Tom Delich        | Bethel       | Sr.   | Apple Valley, Minn.   Eastview        |
| OL       | Alex Edwards      | Bethel       | Sr.   | Winter Haven, Fla.   Lakeland         |
| OL       | Christopher Lemke | Augsburg     | Sr.   | Glencoe, Minn.   Glencoe-Silver Lake  |
| OL       | Blake Sikes       | Gustavus     | Jr.   | Valrico, Fla.   Newsome               |

2018 MIAC Second Team Defense

| Position | Name              | Institution | Class | Hometown   High School                       |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| DL       | Mitchell Maday    | Hamline     | Sr.   | Alexandria, Minn.   Jefferson                |
| DL       | Cameron Monson    | Bethel      | Sr.   | Maple Grove, Minn.   Maranatha               |
| ILB      | Derek Glynn       | Augsburg    | Jr.   | Lonsdale, Minn.   Faribault                  |
| ILB      | Drew Ragsdale     | Bethel      | Sr.   | Waverly, Iowa   Waverly-Shell Rock           |
| ILB      | Luke Trudell      | Hamline     | Sr.   | Germantown, Wis.                             |
| OLB      | Dan Johnson       | Concordia   | So.   | Rosemount, Minn.                             |
| OLB      | Trent Substad     | Bethel      | Sr.   | Lakeville, Minn.   South                     |
| CB       | Travis Brown      | Carleton    | So.   | St. Michael, Minn.   St. Michael-Albertville |
| CB       | Jordan Kahlow     | Gustavus    | Sr.   | Le Sueur, Minn.   Le Sueur-Henderson         |
| S        | Chris Fondakowski | St. Thomas  | Sr.   | Aurora, Ill.   Maple Grove                   |
| S        | Brady Miller      | Gustavus    | Sr.   | Delano, Minn.                                |

2018 MIAC Second Team Specialists

| Position | Name           | Institution | Class | Hometown   High School  |
|----------|----------------|-------------|-------|-------------------------|
| K/P      | Blake Hottle   | Bethel      | Jr.   | Waterloo, Iowa   Hudson |
| RET      | Rylie Sheridan | Concordia   | So.   | Fergus Falls, Minn.     |

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**2018 MIAC Honorable Mention**

| Position | Name                   | Institution  | Class | Hometown   High School                      |
|----------|------------------------|--------------|-------|---------------------------------------------|
| QB       | Ricardo Johnson III    | St. Olaf     | Sr.   | St. Paul, Minn.   Cretin-Derham Hall        |
| QB       | Justice Spriggs        | Hamline      | Sr.   | St. Anthony, Minn.   St. Anthony Village    |
| QB       | Christian Zaytoun      | Carleton     | Sr.   | Raleigh, N.C.   Woodberry Forest            |
| WR       | Gabe Alada             | St. Olaf     | Fr.   | Minneapolis, Minn.   Benilde-St. Margaret's |
| WR       | Gabe Green             | St. Thomas   | Jr.   | Springfield, Ill.   Sacred Heart Griffin    |
| WR       | Josh Kirk              | Gustavus     | Jr.   | Garvin, Minn.   Tracy Area                  |
| WR       | Andrew VanErp          | Saint John's | Jr.   | Battle Lake, Minn.   Ottertail Central      |
| TE       | Mathias Durie          | Bethel       | Sr.   | Cambridge, Minn.   Cambridge-Isanti         |
| TE       | Dylan Rye              | Carleton     | Sr.   | Longmeadow, Mass.                           |
| OL       | Aaron Austin           | Augsburg     | Jr.   | Red Wing, Minn.   Goodhue                   |
| OL       | Brandon Bundgaard      | Concordia    | Sr.   | Moorhead, Minn.                             |
| OL       | Ted Nelson             | Hamline      | So.   | Red Wing, Minn.                             |
| OL       | Eric Stadelman         | Carleton     | Jr.   | Davenport, Iowa   Bettendorf                |
| DL       | Jordan Bartholomew     | St. Olaf     | So.   | Kilkenny, Minn.   Tri-City United           |
| DL       | Barclay Bates          | Augsburg     | Sr.   | Sauk Rapids, Minn.   Sauk Rapids-Rice       |
| DL       | Zeke Erickson          | Gustavus     | Jr.   | Clarks Grove, Minn.   NRHEG                 |
| DL       | Noah Jacobson          | Hamline      | Sr.   | Monticello, Minn.                           |
| DL       | Jake LeVahn            | St. Thomas   | So.   | Blaine, Minn.   Spring Lake Park            |
| DL       | Noah Welsh             | Concordia    | Sr.   | Spicer, Minn.   New London-Spicer           |
| ILB      | Sam Michel             | Concordia    | Jr.   | Phoenix, Ariz.   Barry Goldwater            |
| CB       | Dutch Claybaugh        | Gustavus     | Sr.   | Kaneohe, Hawaii   Damien Memorial           |
| S        | Camdin Carlson-Mathies | Augsburg     | Fr.   | Sauk Rapids, Minn.   Sauk Rapids-Rice       |
| S        | Cale Ferrin            | Bethel       | Jr.   | Morrison, Colo.   Dakota Ridge              |
| S        | Ryan LaCasse           | Saint John's | Jr.   | Mountlake Terrace, Wash.                    |
| S        | Jordan Lundell         | St. Thomas   | Sr.   | Cannon Falls, Minn.                         |
| S        | Brendan Whalen         | Bethel       | Sr.   | White Bear Lake, Minn.                      |
| K        | Zach Barwick           | Saint John's | Sr.   | Littleton, Colo.   Dakota Ridge             |

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**2018 MIAC Sportsmanship Team**

| Position | Name             | Institution  | Class | Hometown   High School           |
|----------|------------------|--------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| ILB      | Clayton Byrd     | Augsburg     | Sr.   | Circle Pines, Minn.   Centennial |
| RB       | Brady Bomsta     | Bethel       | Sr.   | Waseca, Minn.                    |
| CB       | Eric McGregor    | Carleton     | Sr.   | Ellsworth, Wis.                  |
| RB       | Michael Heitzman | Concordia    | Sr.   | Spicer, Minn.   Willmar          |
| OL       | Tommy Jech       | Gustavus     | Sr.   | Chatfield, Minn.                 |
| DL       | Mitchell Leyk    | Hamline      | Sr.   | Albany, Minn.                    |
| OL       | Isaac Ackerman   | Saint John's | Sr.   | Mounds View, Minn.   Irondale    |
| OL       | Jack Klein       | St. Olaf     | Sr.   | Glencoe, Ill.   New Trier        |
| OL       | Eli Wawracz      | St. Thomas   | So.   | Lakeville   North                |