

MIAC announces 2019 Football Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The 2019 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 2019 MIAC Football Awards.

St. Thomas running back **Josh Parks** earned the conference's top prize, being named Jim Christopherson Player of the Year, while Saint John's offensive tackle **Ben Bartch** was recognized as the most outstanding lineman in the league, receiving the Mike Stam Award. Saint John's head coach **Gary Fasching** was honored by his peers with the John Gagliardi Coach of the Year.



St. Thomas' Josh Parks (left), Saint John's Ben Bartch (middle) and Gary Fasching (right) received top individual honors.

Parks (Sr. | Chisago City, Minn. | Chisago Lakes) received Jim Christopherson Player of the Year honors after rushing 142 times for 1,075 yards and 15 touchdowns in seven conference games this fall, passing the century mark in every league game he played in 2019. He was also dynamic as a receiver, hauling in 11 passes for 214 yards and three scores. He finished his stellar career as the Tommies' all-time leading rusher (4,180 total rushing yards) and scorer (60 total touchdowns), with his career touchdown mark ranking second only to former Saint John's wide receiver Blake Elliott (78 total touchdowns) among MIAC competitors. Parks also set new MIAC records with 19 career 100-yard rushing games and 45 career rushing touchdowns in conference play. He is the fifth Tommie in recorded MIAC history to receive Jim Christopherson Player of the Year honors and the first since former teammate Alex Fenske in 2016. The award was renamed in honor of former Concordia player and longtime coach Jim Christopherson in 2001.

Bartch (Sr. | Dayton, Ore. | Blanchet Catholic) was named the Mike Stam Award winner as the league's top lineman. The 6-foot-6, 305-pounder has started each of the Johnnies' last 24 games at left tackle after playing his first two seasons in Collegeville at tight end. His combination of size and athleticism earned him an invitation to the 2020 Reese's Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., and his commitment to academics and the community landed him on the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team, where he will be honored at the 2020 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. Bartch helped pave the way for Saint John's MIAC-leading 563.3 yards of total offense per game this season while protecting the blindside of three-time First Team All-MIAC quarterback and reigning Gagliardi Trophy winner **Jackson Erdmann**. The Mike Stam Award was created in 1990 in memory of the former Carleton All-MIAC defensive lineman who died in a snowmobiling accident after his junior season.

Fasching received his third consecutive John Gagliardi Coach of the Year honor and the fourth of his career after guiding the Johnnies to a 7-1 record in conference play and the program's 34th MIAC championship. Saint John's share of the 2019 conference crown also earned the Johnnies a sixth straight trip to the NCAA Football Playoffs, tying a school record set by Gagliardi's teams from 1998-2003. 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.

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 14th annual MIAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Thirty-seven players were honored with First Team All-MIAC distinction. The honorees included 23 seniors, 10 juniors, and four sophomores. Saint John's led all teams with 11 honorees, followed by St. Thomas with nine, Gustavus with six, Concordia with five, Bethel with four, and Augsburg and St. Olaf each with one.

Concordia's **Alex Berg** joined Saint John's **Jackson Erdmann** and **Dan Greenheck** and St. Thomas' **Elijah Rice** as three-time First Team All-MIAC selections, while five more players - Bethel's **Jack Fiedler**, Gustavus' **Brayton Finch**, Saint John's **Danny Pietruszewski**, and St. Olaf's **Khayleb Willis** and **Anthony DeBella** - received First or Second Team All-MIAC distinction for the third time in their careers.

Fourteen players picked up First or Second Team honors for the second time, including: Augsburg's **Derek Glynn**; Bethel's **Jaran Roste**, **Sam Gibas**, and **Drew Larsen**; Carleton's **Travis Brown**; Gustavus' **Michael Veldman** and **Brice Panning**; Saint John's **Kai Barber**, **Ben Bartch**, and **Nick Neumann**; and St. Thomas' **Luke Swenson**, **Tyler Knutson**, and **Tom Loeffler**.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 14th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for football. Members of the All-MIAC Sportsmanship team are selected by their coaches as individuals who demonstrate ideals of positive sportsmanship both on and off the field of competition.

2019 MIAC Football Awards

Jim Christopherson MIAC Player of the Year – Josh Parks | RB | St. Thomas (Sr. | Chisago City, Minn. | Chisago Lakes)

Mike Stam Award – Ben Bartch | OL | Saint John's (Sr. | Dayton, Ore. | Blanchet Catholic)

2019 MIAC First Team Offense					
Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
QB	Jackson Erdmann	Saint John's	Sr.	Rosemount, Minn.	2017 (1T) 2018 (1T)
QB	Michael Veldman	Gustavus	Jr.	Becker, Minn.	2018 (1T)
RB	Kai Barber	Saint John's	Sr.	Minneapolis, Minn. Totino-Grace	2018 (2T)
RB	Josh Parks	St. Thomas	Sr.	Chisago City, Minn. Chisago Lakes	2018 (1T)
WR	Ravi Alston	Saint John's	So.	Lake Elsinore, Calif. Vista Murrieta	--
WR	Josh Kirk	Gustavus	Sr.	Garvin, Minn. Tracy Area	2018 (HM)
WR	Brice Panning	Gustavus	Sr.	Hamburg, Minn. Central	2018 (1T)
TE	Brayton Finch	Gustavus	Sr.	Mount Morris, Ill. Oregon	2017 (2T) 2018 (1T)
OL	Ben Bartch	Saint John's	Sr.	Dayton, Ore. Blanchet Catholic	2018 (2T)
OL	Anthony DeBella	St. Olaf	Sr.	Naples, Fla. Saint John Neumann	2017 (2T) 2018 (1T)
OL	Jack Fiedler	Bethel	Jr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	2017 (2T) 2018 (1T)
OL	Dan Greenheck	Saint John's	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn. Cretin-Derham Hall	2017 (1T) 2018 (1T)
OL	Nick Neumann	Saint John's	Jr.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Cretin-Derham Hall	2018 (1T)
OL	Elijah Rice	St. Thomas	Sr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	2017 (1T) 2018 (1T)
OL	Hans Solberg	Concordia	Sr.	Jordan, Minn.	--
OL	Eli Wawracz	St. Thomas	Jr.	Lakeville, Minn. North	--
OL	Matt Weimann	St. Thomas	So.	Oakdale, Minn. Hill-Murray	--

2019 MIAC First Team Defense					
Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
DL	Zachary Jakes	Gustavus	So.	Mankato, Minn. West	--
DL	John Sfire	Bethel	Jr.	Barrington, Ill. Carmel Catholic	--
DL	Luke Swenson	St. Thomas	Sr.	Shoreview, Minn. Mounds View	2018 (1T)
DL	Mykal Tuiolosega-Siufanua	Concordia	Jr.	Faleniū, American Samoa Juan Diego (Utah)	--
DL	J.W. Windsor	Saint John's	Sr.	Mesa, Ariz. Chandler	--
ILB	Alex Berg	Concordia	Sr.	Moorhead, Minn. Fargo Shanley	2016 (1T) 2017 (1T)
ILB	Richard Carriveau	Saint John's	Sr.	Rice, Minn. Sauk Rapids-Rice	--
ILB	Mike Delich	Bethel	So.	Apple Valley, Minn. Eastview	--
ILB	Derek Glynn	Augsburg	Sr.	Lonsdale, Minn. Faribault	2017 (HM) 2018 (2T)
ILB	Alex Taylor	St. Thomas	Sr.	Glenbard, Ill. North	--
OLB	Willie Julkes III	Concordia	Sr.	Mesa, Ariz. Desert Ridge	--

OLB	Danny Pietruszewski	Saint John's	Jr.	South St. Paul, Minn.	2017 (2T) 2018 (1T)
CB	Chris Harris	Saint John's	Sr.	Lake Elsinore, Calif. Elsinore	--
CB	Joe Hird	St. Thomas	Jr.	Bloomington, Minn. Jefferson	--
CB	Kaleb Scott	Gustavus	Jr.	Gardena, Calif. Verbum Dei	--
S	Cale Ferrin	Bethel	Sr.	Morrison, Colo. Dakota Ridge	2017 (HM) 2018 (HM)
S	Ryan LaCasse	Saint John's	Sr.	Mountlake Terrace, Wash.	2018 (HM)

2019 MIAC First Team Specialists

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
K	Tyler Knutson	St. Thomas	Sr.	Maple Grove, Minn.	2018 (1T)
P	Alex Berg	Concordia	Sr.	Moorhead, Minn. Fargo Shanley	-- (3-time selection at LB)
RET	Tom Loeffler	St. Thomas	Jr.	Victoria, Minn. Chanhassen	2018 (1T)

2019 MIAC Second Team Offense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
QB	Jaran Roste	Bethel	So.	Alexandria, Minn. Jefferson	2018 (2T)
RB	Sam Gibas	Bethel	Jr.	Elk River, Minn.	2018 (2T)
RB	Khayleb Willis	St. Olaf	Sr.	Deltona, Fla.	2017 (2T) 2018 (1T)
WR	Gabe Green	St. Thomas	Sr.	Springfield, Ill. Sacred Heart Griffin	2017 (HM) 2018 (HM)
WR	T.J. Hodge	Saint John's	So.	Miami, Fla. Doral Academy	--
WR	Mack Journell	Carleton	Sr.	Stevens Point, Wis.	--
WR	Drew Larsen	Bethel	Sr.	White Bear Lake, Minn.	2018 (2T)
WR	Triston Thomas	Hamline	So.	Kissimmee, Fla. Gateway	--
TE	Isaac Coutier	St. Olaf	So.	Minneapolis, Minn. Kennedy	--
OL	Aaron Austin	Augsburg	Sr.	Red Wing, Minn. Goodhue	2018 (HM)
OL	Gunnar Johnson	Gustavus	Jr.	St. Cloud, Minn. Tech	--
OL	Danny Munoz	Bethel	Jr.	Monticello, Minn.	--

2019 MIAC Second Team Defense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
DL	Jordan Bartholomew	St. Olaf	Jr.	Kilkenny, Minn. Tri-City United	2018 (HM)
DL	Levi Duininck	Bethel	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla. Lincoln	--
DL	Nick Jensen	Saint John's	Sr.	Sartell, Minn. Sartell-St. Stephen	--
DL	Jake Levahn	St. Thomas	Jr.	Blaine, Minn. Spring Lake Park	2018 (HM)
ILB	Jake Boykin	Gustavus	Sr.	Las Cruces, N.M. Centennial	--
ILB	Sam Michel	Concordia	Sr.	Phoenix, Ariz. Barry Goldwater	2018 (HM)
OLB	Avery Bachman	Gustavus	Sr.	St. Peter, Minn.	--

OLB	Jack Foley	St. Thomas	Sr.	Edina, Minn.	--
OLB	Parker Hlavacek	St. Thomas	Sr.	Plymouth, Minn. Wayzata	--
CB	Tavian Swanson	Bethel	Jr.	Burlington, Wash. Burlington-Edison	--
S	Travis Brown	Carleton	Jr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	2018 (2T)
S	Nick Raddatz	St. Thomas	Sr.	Prior Lake, Minn.	--

2019 MIAC Second Team Specialists

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
K	Ethan March	St. Olaf	So.	Woodbury, Minn. East Ridge	--
P	Noah Johnson	St. Olaf	So.	Northfield, Minn.	--
RET	Le'Andre Benion	Augsburg	Sr.	Roseville, Minn.	--

2019 MIAC Honorable Mention

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
QB	Tommy Dolan	St. Thomas	Jr.	St. Paul, Minn. St. Thomas Academy	--
QB	Quinn Frisell	Augsburg	Sr.	Plymouth, Minn. Robbinsdale Armstrong	2017 (HM)
QB	Blake Kragnes	Concordia	Sr.	Dilworth, Minn. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton	2017 (HM)
RB	Quran Al-Hameed	Augsburg	Jr.	Woodbury, Minn.	--
RB	Sid Boros	Bethel	So.	Becker, Minn.	--
WR	Tanner Lunceford	Hamline	Jr.	Plymouth, Minn. Osseo	--
WR	Emanuel Williams	Carleton	Sr.	Lovelady, Texas	2017 (HM)
TE	Zach Bennett	St. Thomas	Jr.	Woodbury, Minn. East Ridge	--
OL	Alex Burns	St. Olaf	Sr.	Montgomery, Minn. Tri-City United	--
OL	Brandon Decker	Hamline	Sr.	Anthem, Ariz. Boulder Creek	--
OL	Blake Sikes	Gustavus	Sr.	Valrico, Fla. Newsome	2018 (2T)
OL	Eric Stadelman	Carleton	Sr.	Davenport, Iowa Bittendorf	2018 (HM)
DL	Kyle Borgeson	Saint John's	Sr.	Rochester, Minn. Lourdes	--
DL	Zeke Erickson	Gustavus	Sr.	Clarks Grove, Minn. NRHEG	2018 (HM)
DL	Leo Ferreira	St. Olaf	Sr.	Orlando, Fla. Freedom	2017 (HM)
DL	Shaquille Young	Augsburg	Fy.	St. Paul, Minn. Tartan	--
ILB	Peter Hagstrom	Carleton	Sr.	Shakopee, Minn.	--
ILB	Sam Herriges	St. Thomas	Sr.	Sussex, Wis. Hamilton	--
ILB	Alex Sais	Saint John's	Sr.	Los Lunas, N.M. St. Pius X	--
ILB	Monty Stenroos	Hamline	Sr.	Prescott, Wis.	--
OLB	James Inman	Saint John's	Sr.	Bismarck, N.D. Shiloh Christian	--
OLB	Kyle Peach	Bethel	Sr.	Prescott, Ariz.	--
CB	Ethan Eagerton	Concordia	Sr.	Tucson, Ariz. Empire	2017 (2T)
CB	Matthew Montplaisir	Gustavus	Sr.	Buffalo, Minn.	--

S	Matt Feldick	Bethel	So.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael- Albertville	--
S	Maison Grefe	Concordia	Sr.	Cold Spring, Minn. ROCORI	--
S	Max Karpinske	St. Olaf	Sr.	Polk City, Iowa North Polk	--

2019 MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	
LB	Lorenzo Hernandez	Augsburg	Sr.	New Ulm, Minn.	
CB	Riley McCann	Bethel	Sr.	Roseville, Minn.	
WR	Fletcher Metz	Carleton	Sr.	Oconomowoc, Wis. Catholic Memorial	
WR	Matt Bye	Concordia	Sr.	Moorhead, Minn.	
DB	Jake Krull	Gustavus	Sr.	Plymouth, Minn. Wayzata	
QB	Manny Moton	Hamline	Sr.	Lithonia, Ga. Arabia Mountain	
WR	Andrew VanErp	Saint John's	Sr.	Battle Lake, Minn. Ottertail Central	
LB	Shiloh Goodwin	St. Olaf	Sr.	New Richmond, Wis. St. Croix Central	
RB	Stephen Wagner	St. Thomas	Sr.	Stillwater, Minn.	