

MIAC announces 2021 Football Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – The 2021 Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) football regular season concluded earlier this month and on Tuesday, the conference recognized the top performers from another outstanding campaign with the announcement of the 2021 MIAC Football Awards.

Saint John's wide receiver **Ravi Alston** earned the conference's top prize, being named Jim Christopherson Player of the Year, while Gustavus defensive lineman **Zachary Jakes** and Saint John's defensive lineman **Seth Morem** shared the Mike Stam Award as the most outstanding linemen in the league. Saint John's head coach **Gary Fasching** was honored by his peers with the John Gagliardi Coach of the Year.



Alston (Sr. | Lake Elsinore, Calif. | Vista Murrieta) was named the MIAC Jim Christopherson Player of the Year recipient after helping Saint John's to a perfect 8-0 record in conference play this fall. Alston caught 51 passes for 725 yards and seven touchdowns against MIAC opponents this season. He is the second Johnnie in the last three seasons to receive top individual MIAC honors, joining his former SJU quarterback Jackson Erdmann, who received the award in 2018. Alston is the first wide receiver to be named MIAC Player of the Year since former St. Thomas standout Fritz Waldvogel in 2011. The award was renamed in honor of former Concordia player and longtime coach Jim Christopherson in 2001.

Jakes (Sr. | Mankato, Minn. | West) was a co-recipient of the MIAC Mike Stam Award for Top Lineman after anchoring the Gustie defensive line with 40 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, four sacks, and a forced fumble in eight MIAC games this fall. In addition to lining up along the defensive line, Jakes also saw time on the offensive line and at fullback in 2021. He is the second Gustavus lineman ever to receive the Stam Award, joining 1998 recipient Brent Staples. 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.

Morem (Sr. | Red Wing, Minn.) was a co-recipient of the MIAC Mike Stam Award for Top Lineman after leading the conference with 6.5 sacks in league play this season. Morem helped Saint John's to a perfect 8-0 mark against conference opponents, totaling 31 tackles and 10 tackles for loss on the year. He is the third consecutive Johnnie to receive the Stam Award, joining Nathan Brinker (2018) and current Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman Ben Bartch (2019).

Fasching received his fourth consecutive John Gagliardi Coach of the Year honor and the fifth of his career after guiding the Johnnies to an undefeated regular-season record and the program's 35th MIAC championship. Saint John's 2021 MIAC title also earned the team its seventh consecutive trip to the NCAA Football Playoffs. 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 15th annual MIAC All-Sportsmanship Team. Thirty-seven players were honored with First Team All-MIAC distinction. The honorees included 22 seniors, nine juniors, three sophomores, and three first-year selections. Saint John's led all programs with 11 First Team selections, followed by Bethel and Gustavus with eight each. Carleton had three First Team honorees, Hamline and St. Olaf both had two, and Augsburg, Concordia, and Macalester each had one.

Bethel offensive lineman **Jack Fiedler** became the conference's tenth man on record to be named to four All-MIAC squads, having been selected to the Second Team in 2017 and the First Team in 2018, 2019, and 2021. Saint John's offensive lineman **Nick Neumann** received First Team honors for the third consecutive season, while Bethel quarterback **Jaran Roste** joined Carleton safety **Travis Brown** as two-time Second Team picks who moved up to the First Team in 2021. Neumann, Roste, and Brown now join the exclusive list of just 110 individuals in recorded MIAC history to have earned three First or Second Team All-Conference selections in football.

Eight players also received All-MIAC distinction for the second time in their careers. Saint John's wide receiver **Ravi Alston** joined Gustavus defenders **Zachary Jakes** and **Kaleb Scott** in being First Team selections in both 2019 and 2021, while Hamline wide receiver **Tristan Thomas**, Gustavus offensive lineman **Gunnar Johnson**, and Bethel cornerback **Tavian Swanson** were all Second Team picks in 2019 and First Team honorees in 2021. St. Olaf tight end **Isaac Coutier** and defensive tackle **Jordan Bartholomew** repeated as Second Team selections in 2019 and 2021.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 15th 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.

2021 MIAC Football Jim Christopherson Player of the Year

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
WR	Ravi Alston	Saint John's	Sr.	Lake Elsinore, Calif. Vista Murrieta	--

2021 MIAC Football Mike Stam Award - Co-Linemen of the Year

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
DL	Zachary Jakes	Gustavus	Sr.	Mankato, Minn. West	--
DL	Seth Morem	Saint John's	Sr.	Red Wing, Minn.	--

2021 MIAC Football John Gagliardi Coach of the Year

Name	Institution	Previous Selections
Gary Fasching	Saint John's	2014 2017 2018 2019

2021 MIAC Football First Team Offense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
QB	Jaran Roste	Bethel	Jr.	Alexandria, Minn. Jefferson	2018 (2T) 2019 (2T)
RB	Bryce Kunkle	Bethel	So.	Yuba City, Calif. Sutter Union	--
RB	Henry Trost	Saint John's	Sr.	Lindstrom, Minn. Chisago Lakes	--
RB	Jordan Embry	St. Olaf	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala. Ramsay	--
WR	Dominic Smith	Augsburg	Fy.	White Bear Lake, Minn.	--
WR	Joey Kidder	Bethel	Fy.	New Richmond, Wis.	--
WR	Dalton Thelen	Gustavus	Sr.	Cold Spring, Minn. Rocori	--
WR	Triston Thomas	Hamline	Sr.	Kissimmee, Fla. Gateway	2019 (2T)
WR	Rex Desso	Macalester	Sr.	Evergreen, Colo. Lakewood	--
WR	Ravi Alston	Saint John's	Sr.	Lake Elsinore, Calif. Vista Murrieta	2019 (1T)
WR	Matt Mohr	Saint John's	Sr.	Chisago City, Minn. Chisago Lakes	--
TE	Alex Larson	Saint John's	Jr.	Woodbury, Minn. East Ridge	--
OL	Jack Fiedler	Bethel	Sr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	2017 (2T) 2018 (1T) 2019 (1T)
OL	Travis Sinclair	Bethel	Jr.	Rogers, Minn.	--
OL	Collin Fleisch	Concordia	Sr.	Fall City, Wash. Mount Si	--
OL	Mitchell Borchardt	Gustavus	Sr.	Le Sueur, Minn. Le Sueur-Henderson	--
OL	Gunnar Johnson	Gustavus	Sr.	St. Cloud, Minn. Tech	2019 (2T)
OL	Tyler Johnson	Saint John's	Sr.	Willmar, Minn.	--
OL	Nick Neumann	Saint John's	Sr.	Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Cretin-Derham Hall	2018 (1T) 2019 (1T)

2021 MIAC Football First Team Defense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
DL	Zachary Jakes	Gustavus	Sr.	Mankato, Minn. West	2019 (1T)
DL	Metoriah Faoliu	Saint John's	Sr.	Wildomar, Calif. Vista Murrieta	--

DL	Seth Morem	Saint John's	Sr.	Red Wing, Minn.	--
DL	Michael Wozniak	Saint John's	Jr.	New Hope, Minn. Robbinsdale Armstrong	--
ILB	Isaac Simons	Carleton	Jr.	Oconomowoc, Wis. Lake Country Lutheran	--
ILB	Carson Dekam	Gustavus	So.	Owatonna, Minn.	--
ILB	Erik Bjork	Saint John's	Jr.	Mahtomedi, Minn.	--
OLB	Kyle Kornovich	Saint John's	Sr.	Rogers, Minn.	--
CB	Tavian Swanson	Bethel	Sr.	Burlington, Wash. Burlington-Edison	2019 (2T)
CB	Kaleb Scott	Gustavus	Sr.	Gardena, Calif. Verbum Dei	2019 (1T)
CB	Adrian Cracolici	Hamline	Sr.	Waddell, Ariz. Verrado	--
S	Nate Farm	Bethel	So.	Arden Hills, Minn. Mounds View	--
S	Matt Feldick	Bethel	Jr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	2019 (HM)
S	Travis Brown	Carleton	Sr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	2018 (2T) 2019 (2T)
S	Ezekiel Sundberg	Gustavus	Sr.	Lakewood, Colo.	--

2021 MIAC Football First Team Specialists

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
K	Andrew Abegglen	Gustavus	Jr.	Mound, Minn. Mound-Westonka	--
P	Tyler Huettel	St. Olaf	Fy.	McKinney, Texas North	--
RET	Travis Brown	Carleton	Sr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	--

2021 MIAC Football Second Team Offense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
QB	Cade Sheehan	Augsburg	Fy.	Rochester, Minn. Mayo	--
QB	Jonathan Singleton	Carleton	Jr.	San Martin, Calif. Live Oak	--
QB	Michael Nadeau	Macalester	So.	Garden Grove, Calif. La Quinta	--
RB	Peyton Mortenson	Concordia	Sr.	Marietta, Minn. Lac Qui Parle Valley	--
RB	David Peal	Gustavus	Sr.	Worcester, Mass. Holy Name Central Catholic	--
WR	Braden Tretter	Augsburg	Fy.	Sauk Rapids, Minn. Sauk Rapids-Rice	--
WR	Jake Breitbach	Gustavus	So.	Golden Valley, Minn. Armstrong	--
WR	Jimmy Buck	Saint John's	So.	Orono, Minn.	--
WR	Mitchell Adrian	St. Scholastica	Sr.	Altoona, Wis.	--
TE	Isaac Coutier	St. Olaf	So.	Minneapolis, Minn. Kennedy	2019 (2T)
OL	Evan Ginter	Bethel	So.	Chisago Lakes, Minn.	--
OL	Matthew Rasmussen	Carleton	Sr.	Oberlin, Ohio	--
OL	T.J. Duerr	Saint John's	Jr.	Buffalo, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	--

2021 MIAC Football Second Team Defense

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
DL	Aidan Thomas	Bethel	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman	--
DL	Michael Carey	Carleton	So.	Haddonfield, N.J. Memorial	--
DL	Chase Dockter	Concordia	Jr.	Bismarck, N.D.	--
DL	Sam Jones	Gustavus	Sr.	Jacksonville, Fla. Trinity Christian Academy	--
DL	John Newton	Macalester	Sr.	Highland Village, Texas Coram Deo Academy	--
DL	Collin Franz	Saint John's	Sr.	Otsego, Minn. Rogers	--
DL	Jordan Bartholomew	St. Olaf	Sr.	Kilkenny, Minn. Tri-City United	2018 (HM) 2019 (2T)
DL	Tandrell Foster	St. Scholastica	Sr.	Hurley, Wis.	--
ILB	Thomas Wurdemann	Bethel	So.	North Branch, Minn.	--
OLB	Brayden Finkbeiner	Bethel	Jr.	Gilbert, Ariz. Christian	--
OLB	Jacob Holmen	Bethel	Fy.	Spicer, Minn. New London-Spicer	--
OLB	Nicolas Negron	Gustavus	Sr.	Dallas, Texas Naaman Forest	--
CB	Tommy Deters	Saint John's	Sr.	Maple Plain, Minn. Orono	--
S	Ryan McGregor	Carleton	Sr.	Ellsworth, Wis.	--
S	Ethan Stark	Saint John's	Jr.	Sartell, Minn. Sartell-St. Stephen	--

2021 MIAC Football Second Team Specialists					
Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
K	Damien Silus	Concordia	Fy.	Glencoe, Minn. Glencoe-Silver Lake	--
P	Damien Silus	Concordia	Fy.	Glencoe, Minn. Glencoe-Silver Lake	--
RET	Triston Thomas	Hamline	Sr.	Kissimmee, Fla. Gateway	--

2021 MIAC Football Honorable Mention					
Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	Previous Selections
RB	Aaron Ellingson	Bethel	Fy.	St. Louis Park, Minn.	--
RB	Devin Vouk	Saint John's	Sr.	Sartell, Minn. Sartell-St. Stephen	--
WR	Micah Niewald	Bethel	Fy.	Fridley, Minn.	--
WR	Beau Nelson	Carleton	Sr.	San Diego, Calif. Westview	--
WR	Ty Bruckner	Macalester	Sr.	Bel Aire, Kan. Wichita North	--
WR	Gabe Alada	St. Olaf	Sr.	Minneapolis, Minn. Benilde-St. Margaret's	2018 (HM)
TE	Ethan Sindelir	Gustavus	Sr.	Wells, Minn. Maple River	--
TE	Charlie Wilson	Hamline	So.	Woodbury, Minn.	--
OL	Paul Lemke	Augsburg	Jr.	Glencoe, Minn. Glencoe-Silver Lake	--
OL	Ben Pham	Carleton	Jr.	Lombard, Ill. Glenbard East	--
OL	Abel Perry	Concordia	Sr.	New Effington, S.D. Rosholt	--
OL	Tommy Bigaouette	Gustavus	Sr.	North Mankato, Minn. Mankato West	--
OL	Will Conzet	Hamline	Sr.	St. Paul, Minn. Highland Park	--

OL	Jarod Fike	Saint John's	Sr.	White Bear Lake, Minn.	--
DL	Shaquille Young	Augsburg	So.	St. Paul, Minn. Tartan	2019 (HM)
DL	Ethan Herron	Bethel	So.	Weatherford, Texas	--
DL	Anthony Vo	St. Scholastica	Fy.	St. Paul, Minn. Roseville	--
ILB	Brandon Sjostrand	Augsburg	So.	Bloomington, Minn. Kennedy	--
ILB	Noah Jenson	Concordia	Sr.	Broomfield, Colo.	--
ILB	Ty Moser	Concordia	Jr.	Perham, Minn.	--
ILB	Sam Fritz	Hamline	Jr.	Blaine, Minn. Spring Lake Park	--
ILB	Brandon Foster	St. Olaf	Sr.	Faribault, Minn. Northfield	--
ILB	Jamari Thompson	St. Scholastica	Fy.	Little Rock, Ark. Waller	--
OLB	Noah Bresson	Macalester	So.	Homosassa, Fla. Crystal River	--
CB	Jackson Cleveland	Carleton	Jr.	River Falls, Wis.	--
CB	Andrey Denson	Gustavus	So.	El Paso, Texas Pebble Hills	--
S	Nick Sabatino	St. Olaf	Sr.	Villa Park, Ill. Willowbrook	--
S	Jake Kukowski	St. Scholastica	Jr.	Aitkin, Minn.	--
K/P	Jon Neve	Macalester	Sr.	Minnetrista, Minn. Mound-Westonka	--
K	Conor Pavelko	Saint John's	Fy.	Sioux Falls, S.D. O'Gorman	--

2021 MIAC Football All-Sportsmanship Team

Position	Name	Institution	Class	Hometown High School	
WR	Josiah Ferguson	Augsburg	Sr.	St. Michael, Minn. St. Michael-Albertville	
RB	Sid Boros	Bethel	Sr.	Becker, Minn.	
WR	Carl Marvin	Carleton	Sr.	Wilmington, Del. The Tatnall School	
OL	Collin Fleisch	Concordia	Sr.	Fall City, Wash. Mount Si	
WR	Brett Hufendick	Gustavus	Sr.	Edina, Minn.	
TE	Eli Danielson	Hamline	Sr.	Hayward, Wis.	
OL	Jacob Bulling	Macalester	Sr.	Albuquerque, N.M. Volcano Vista	
QB	Chris Backes	Saint John's	Sr.	St. Cloud, Minn. Tech	
QB	Lars Prestemon	St. Olaf	Sr.	Northfield, Minn.	
LB	Mack Nelson	St. Scholastica	Jr.	Sandstone, Minn. East Central	