

2000 MIAC FOOTBALL PREVIEW

The 2000 MIAC Football season kicks off conference games September 16. Perennial power Saint John's University is favored to defend its 1999 MIAC Championship title after making a trip to the NCAA Championship quarterfinal game a year ago, losing to eventual champion Pacific Lutheran 19-9. The Johnnies have won the conference crown seven of the last ten seasons and finished the '99 season with an overall 11-2 record, making them the favorite to repeat as the MIAC Champion in 2000. Currently the Saint John's football team is ranked third in the NCAA Division III by Sports Illustrated College Football Preview 2000.

Look for St. Thomas and Bethel to make a run at the MIAC Championship and challenge St. John's. Both schools finished the '99 MIAC season tied for second place with 7-2 records. St. Thomas has been playing very well finishing as the MIAC runner-up the last three years. Bethel returns thirteen starters including their top three quarterbacks and six of their seven top receivers this season. Concordia and Gustavus are also expected contenders this season as they finished tied for fourth place with a 6-3 MIAC record last season. Concordia returns seventeen starters from last years squad, including four players who were first or second team All-MIAC. Gustavus has the potential to make a run towards the top of the standings with the return of their starting quarterback and All-MIAC kicker this season, but the graduation of sixteen starters from last season's squad may prove to be a tough challenge to overcome.

The 1999 MIAC Champion was not crowned until the last weekend of conference play, which took place in the H.H.H. Metrodome November 11 and 12. The stage was set for the possibility of five teams being locked in a tie for first place. St. John's needed a victory over Gustavus to win the championship outright, which they achieved by beating the Gusties 31-16. After the tight competition of last fall, look for the 2000 MIAC season to be close and exciting right up to the final games.

| Augsburg | Bethel | Carleton | Concordia | Gustavus | Hamline | Macalester | St. John's | St. Olaf | St. Thomas |

Augsburg College

Head Coach: Jack Osberg (10th season / 46-45 overall)

1999 Record: 6-4 (5-4 MIAC / 6th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Paul Tetzloff (QB, Sr., 6-4, 220), 101 completions, 1,352 yards, 8 TDs in 9 starts

Mark Johnson (WR, Jr., 5-10, 195), All-MIAC HM, 27 receptions, team-highs 594 yards, 6 TDs

Brian Warden (RB, 5-Sr., 5-5, 185), All-MIAC, single-season AUG record 232 carries, 858 yds., 6 TDs

Matt Chappuis (DL, Jr., 6-0, 260), All-MIAC 2nd team, 62 tackles-33 solo, team-highs - 9 sacks, 13.5 TFL

Brent Peroutka (CB, Jr., 5-11, 195), All-MIAC 2nd team, 40 tackles (21 solo), 5 INTs, punting (32.5 yd. avg.)

Season Preview:

There is plenty of room for optimism for the Augsburg College football team in the first season of the new millennium. Seven offensive starters -- including all the skill-position players -- return to the Auggie lineup. Six defensive starters are back, including the entire linebacking corps and three of the four defensive linemen. All signs could point to another successful campaign for head coach Jack Osberg, entering his 10th season as the Auggies' mentor. Osberg has led a resurrection of Augsburg football during his tenure, and with a 46-45 record entering the season, stands as the only Augsburg coach to ever have an above-.500 career mark. Augsburg finished 6-4 for the second year in a row in 1999, marking just the second time in school history that the Auggies have had three consecutive above-.500 seasons. Augsburg has never had four consecutive .500-or-better seasons in its 68-season football history. The key to Osberg's positive outlook for the Auggies is experience. Augsburg returns 19 seniors this season, the largest senior class in Osberg's 10-year tenure. Combined with 16 returning starters, the Auggies have a solid lineup for 2000.

Complete preview can be found at: www.augsburg.edu/athletics/football/0001prev.html

Bethel College

Head Coach: Steve Johnson (12th season)

1999 Record: 8-2 (7-2 MIAC / 2nd-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Josh Savageau, SR, RB, 6-0, 175-All-MIAC, 1030 yards rushing, 10 TDs

Dan Richards, SR, TE, 6-3, 227-4 receptions 50 yards

Mike Hendel, SR, DT, 6-3, 225

Ben Matthews, SR, CB, 6-2, 195-led MIAC in interceptions with 8, 1 int. return for TD

Eric Carlson, SR, WR, 6-1, 190 (injured in '99, played 5 games), 33 receptions, 536 yds, 4 TDs

Season Preview:

Coming off of their second straight 8-2 year, the Bethel Royals will look to put together another impressive season as they welcome back 13 starters.

The biggest concern for the Royals will be replacing the entire offensive line, all of whom graduated. Bethel welcomes back senior wide receiver Eric Carlson (Wadena, MN) who played in just five games due to a broken foot. Senior All-MIAC I-Back Josh Savageau (Blaine, MN) ran for 1,030 yards and 10 TDs and is the leading returning rusher in the MIAC.

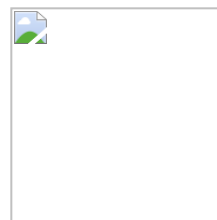
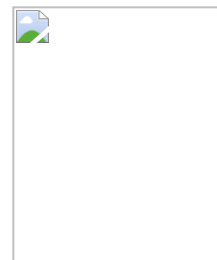
Defensively, the Royals will be as fast as they have ever been with senior cornerbacks Ben Matthews (Milaca, MN) and Kris Collins (Alexandria, MN), both of whom are big and physical.

Complete preview found at: www.bethel.edu/Athletics/Football/00preview.html

Carleton College

Head Coach: Bob Sullivan (22nd season)

1999 Record: 2-8 (1-8 MIAC / 8th-tie)



Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Erik Miller, Sr., WR, '99 All-MIAC, 2nd-leading pass receiver in league, 57 catches, 731 yards

Jon Groteboer, Jr., QB, 1,367 yds and seven TDs in '99 in seven starts, '99 All-MIAC HM

Kyle Swartout, Sr., RB, 1,427 yds the past two seasons with four games over 100 yds, '99 All-MIAC HM

Jeff Thurk, Sr., DE, '99 1st-team GTE Academic All-America and 2nd-team All-MIAC, 57 tackles, 10 sacks

J.J. Franz, Sr., DE, '99 All-MIAC, 68 tackles, 18 tackles for loss, 10 sacks, '00 pre-season All-America Farm tm

Season Preview:

Three consecutive seasons at 2-8 have Coach Bob Sullivan and his veteran Carleton Knights squad eager to prove they can be competitive again in the MIAC. With only five starters from last year's team lost to graduation, this year's roster is full of juniors and seniors hungry for a winning season. Obviously, keeping healthy is key.

Leading the Knights this season will be two returning all-conference players, defensive end J.J. Franz (Sr./Northfield, Minn.) and wide receiver Erik Miller (Sr./Brooklyn Park, Minn.). Franz was a 1999 West Region All-America pick and U.S. Farm Magazine All-American, as well as a 2000 pre-season All-America Farm Team selection. He led the Knights with 68 tackles and 10 sacks and can become Carleton's all-time sack leader with just two more this season. Miller was the second-leading pass receiver in the league with 57 catches for 731 yards. Carleton is also looking to veteran quarterback Jon Groteboer (Jr./Rochester, Minn.), who is expected to become one of the league's top quarterbacks. He threw for 1,367 yards and seven touchdowns before missing the final three games last season with a shoulder injury.

For a full preview of the team, visit www.carleton.edu/campus/newsbureau/Sports/Football/outlook.html

Concordia College

Head Coach: Jim Christopherson (32nd season)

1999 Record: 6-4 (6-3 MIAC / 4th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Joel Nelson, Sr, OG, 6-1, 250, Fargo ND/South

Jeff Hertel, Sr, QB, 6-2, 180, Fargo ND/South

Adam Strainer, Sr, WR, 6-3, 190, Helena MT/Helena High

Mark Hankel, Sr, DE, 6-2, 235, Mapleton ND/Fargo Oak Grove

Joel Vettleson, Sr, MLB, 6-1, 215, Richmond MN/Cold Spring-Rocori

Season Preview:

The 2000 Concordia football season will be head coach Jim Christopherson's 32nd year with the Cobbers. He currently ranks third in wins among active NCAA Division III coaches with a career record of 214-95-7. He will be hoping that senior leadership will carry Concordia to the top of the MIAC race. The Cobbers will have 24 seniors on the team this year, that includes 11 starters returning from last season.

Concordia returns four players that were first or second team All-MIAC in 1999. The list includes defensive players; 1999 Team MVP Mark Hankel (DE, Sr., Mapleton, ND) and Joel Vettleson (MLB, Sr., Richmond, MN) and offensive standouts; Adam Strainer (WR, Sr., Helena, MT) and Joel Nelson (OG, Sr., Fargo, ND). Vettleson and Strainer will also serve as captains for this year's squad.

The Cobbers will return nine starters on offense and eight on defense. The offensive unit will have the passing, receiving and all-purpose yardage leaders return from the 1999 squad. The defense will return the leaders in tackles, sacks and interceptions.

Complete preview can be found at: www.cord.edu/dept/sports/01/miac/fbcord.html

Gustavus Adolphus College

Head Coach: Jay Schoenebeck (7th season)

1999 Record: 7-3 (6-3 MIAC / 4th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Joe Thorvig, QB, JR, 6-3, 190 (10 starts/229 att./130 comp./9 int/1437 yds./8 tds)

Christian White, K, SR, 5-10, 187 (10 FGM/16 FGA, 29 PAT/35 Atmp, 59 pts., 1st team All-MIAC)

Brian Bergstrom, LB, JR, 6-1, 200 (10 starts/41 solos, 95 assists, 7 sacks, 2 int./ 1st team All-MIAC)

Jesse Harvey, Off. Tackle, SR, 6-7, 255 (10 starts, 3 yr. starter)

Brady Brau, WR, SR, 6-2, 200 (10 starts, 28 catches, 298 yds., 10.6 p/catch, 2 tds)

Season Preview:

Gustavus Head Coach Jay Schoenebeck graduated the largest senior class in his six years in St. Peter as 23 players completed their careers including 16 who were starters. Those graduates leave some pretty big holes to fill, however, Schoenebeck has stabilized the Golden Gustie Football Program with solid recruiting classes each year and as a result there are quality players waiting to step into starting roles. The question is how quickly those individuals will become comfortable in their starting roles after having served in reserve roles in the past.

Offensively, the Gusties return four players who started nearly every game last season including quarterback Joe Thorvig, wide receiver Brady Brau, left guard Andy Kopperud and left tackle Jesse Harvey.

Defensively, the Gusties return five starters including sophomore linebacker Brian Bergstrom who was an all-conference selection last year, senior defensive end Tim Sundby, senior cornerback Ryan Frank, and sophomore defensive backs Brad Arndt and Zach Zimmer. New defensive coordinator Jud Keim will mix things up a bit using different variations of the 4-3. Keim comes to Gustavus after serving as the defensive coordinator for four seasons at California Lutheran University.

The Gusties will face national power Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas in their season opener before jumping into their always tough MIAC schedule. Coach Schoenebeck is looking for this squad to be very competitive in league play with the final standing being dependent on how many of the first-time starters flourish in their new full-time roles.

Hamline University

Head Coach: Dick Tressel (23rd season)

1999 Record: 2-8 (1-8 MIAC / 8th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Senior LB Brian Fearing, SR, LB, 2-time second team all-MIAC

Senior QB Tim Couchman, SR, QB, 1,331 yds. passing in '98

Junior RB Joey Kvamme, JR, RB, 662 yds. rushing, 6 TD's in '98

Ryan Wodele, SR, LB

Luke Tressel, SR, CB

Season Preview:

Enthusiasm, energy, and effort, not experience, will be the Piper building blocks in the 2000 season. Hamline loses 25 lettermen and 18 starters as it will look to an excited group of youngsters to fill some big shoes early. Coach Tressel and his Piper squad have established the words, "Get It Done" as their team motto in 2000, and will play with their traditional high level of intensity as they look to "get it done" this upcoming fall season.

Other Pipers to watch this season are Cory Kahl-K, Justin Werner-CB, Ben Nyquist-LB, Adam Friedman-CB, Chad Strehlo-CB, Andy Kunzmann-CB, Jim Miller-TE, Tony Schumann-WR, Brandon Swenson-RB, Andy Gross-RB, Luke Kopel-G, Ryan Donnay-G, Jim Boufford-C, Jason Bell-G, Doug Amsden-WR and Greg Peterson-T. This crowd, along with an excited crew of young players will look to step it up, play some intense football and will be fun to watch in the 2000 season!

Macalester College

Head Coach: Dennis Czech (3rd season)

1999 Record: 2-8 (1-8 MIAC / 8th-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Aaron Quitmeyer (QB, Sr., 6-0, 185 / Williston, ND) All-MIAC (152-for-297, 1862 yards, 11 TDs)

David Schumacher (WR, Sr., 6-2, 195 / Minot, ND) All-MIAC (44 catches for 663 yards & 3 TDs)

Ty O'Connell (WR, Jr., 6-0, 185 / Helena, MT / Capital) (41 catches for 417 yards & 4 TDs)

Grant Heuett (RB, Jr., 5-8, 170 / Pueblo, CO) (521 yds rushing, 20 catches for 220 yds. & 3 TDs)

Nick Fruge (ILB, Jr., 5-8, 190 / Coon Rapids, MN / Blaine) (84 tackles, including 11 for loss and five sacks)

Season Preview:

Back-to-back 2-8 records have Coach Dennis Czech and the Macalester Scots hungry for a winning season.

Ten starters return from an offensive unit which produced 2,132 passing yards. All MIAC quarterback Aaron Quitmeyer (Sr., Williston, ND) has thrown for 3,536 yards the past two years and has his top two receivers back in All-MIAC wideout David Schumacher (Sr., Minot, ND / Bishop Ryan) and Ty O'Connell (Jr., Helena, MT / Capital), who combined for 85 catches and over 1,000 yards. Schumacher caught 44 passes for a healthy 15.1 yards per catch and O'Connell added 41 receptions. Grant Heuett (Jr., Pueblo, CO / South) rushed for 521 yards on just 124 carries and caught 20 passes for 242 yards and three scores. Macalester returns its entire offensive line, led by guard Jack Dusatko (Sr., Palmer, NE), a four-year starter.

Linebacker Nick Fruge (Jr., Coon Rapids, MN / Blaine) led the Scots last year with 84 tackles, including 11 for loss of yardage and five quarterback sacks, and returns to lead a young defensive unit. Paul Dennis (So., Eleva, WI / Mondovi) and Andrew Porter (So., Rogers, MN / Elk River) anchor an improved defensive line.

Saint John's University

Head Coach: John Gagliardi (48th season)

1999 Record: 11-2 (8-1 MIAC / 1st)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Chris Moore, Sr., FB, '99 All-MIAC first team selection

Beau LaBore, Sr., LB, '00 pre-season All-America selection

Tom Linnemann, Sr., QB, 7th leading career passer in SJU history with 2,542 yds passing / 5th on TD passing with 33 TDs

Brian Zirbes, Sr., DT, team's second leading tackler in '99 with 91 tackles

Season Preview:

After continuing a string of 32 seasons without a losing season, a record 24th MIAC title and 11th NCAA playoff appearance in 1999, expectations are high in Collegeville for the 2000 Saint John's University football team. SJU won the MIAC title for the sixth time in seven years and advanced to the national quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III playoffs for the third time in four years. The winningest active coach and second all-time in college football history, John Gagliardi currently owns a 364-107-11 collegiate career record. Gagliardi is currently 44 wins away from Eddie Robinson's all-time collegiate victory record of 408 wins. The 2000 Johnnies expect to return 15 players that saw some starting time last season.

Complete preview can be found at: www.csbsju.edu/sjsports/fbpre00.html

St. Olaf College

Head Coach: Paul Miller (4th season)

1999 Record: 3-7 (3-6 MIAC / 7th)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Joe Hammond, Jr., Quarterback, Led MIAC in passing (2021 yards)

Steve Ryan, Jr., Receiver, (659 yards)

Cory Dingels, Jr., Defensive Back

Manuel Spriegel, Jr., Rushed for 724 yards and 172 yards receiving

Jeff Flugum, Jr., Offensive Line, Two-time, 2nd Team All-Conference

Jeremy Young, Sr., Defensive Line, Two-time All-Conference Selection

Season Preview:

For the first time since Paul Miller's arrival, the Oles will field a veteran team. Said Coach Miller, "We have matured as a team and we have fewer young players that we have to count on as impact players." Joe Hammond will return at quarterback along with one of the top receivers in the MIAC, Steve Ryan. The Ole defensive line will be much improved and five to six players, led by Cory Dingels, with extensive experience will solidify the Ole secondary. "The league is going to be very competitive," commented Coach Miller. "Our focus is to get better ourselves and improve as a program."

University of St. Thomas

Head Coach: Don Roney (3rd season / 14-6)

1999 Record: 7-3 (7-2 MIAC / 2nd-tie)

Key Returners: (Name, Yr, Pos, Highlight)

Brett Gjovik, SR, CB, (1999: 21 tackles, 8 break-ups, 3 fum. recoveries)

Justin Hall, SO, WR, ('99: 42 catches, 590 yds, 3 TDs... 2X relay All-American in track)

Andy Kaiser, JR, DE (Career: 117 tackles, 11.5 sacks, 3 fum. recoveries, 2 INTs)

Marcus Ludtke, SR, HB (Career: 1,523 rushing yards, 6 TDs)

Mike Westland, SR, FB (Career: 79 receptions, 792 yards, 4 TDs...missed 1999 with injury)

Season Preview:

In the last four seasons, UST has had three MIAC runner-up finishes and a 30-10 overall record. In 1999, UST led the MIAC in fewest yards allowed and was in the NCAA Division III playoff race until the final day of the season. The Toms' 7-3 finish included losses to teams with a combined 27-7 record. UST has four prime areas to shore up on a team that returns 11 of 24 starters and has just 12 seniors on its 102-man roster. On the graduation front, UST lost seven defensive starters; the entire interior offensive line from tackle to tackle; and also said goodbye to three-year starting quarterback, Greg Kaiser, and his three-year backup, Andy Juntunen. The Toms also need to get more consistency in their kicking game. The Toms will miss the leadership and clutch play of Kaiser, an Academic All-American and NCAA Postgraduate Scholar, who completed a school-record 61.5% of his career passes for 6,439 yards, with 54 TD passes. But the Kaiser family tradition will continue with junior defensive end Andy Kaiser, an All-America candidate, and freshman linebacker John Kaiser. Two transfers from the University of Minnesota could contribute on offense -- junior QB Nick Ambrasas (6-2, 200) and soph lineman Matt McLaughlin (6-5, 265). Ambrasas was a recruited walk-on for the Gophers after passing for 19 TDs and 1,800-plus yards as a senior at St. Paul Arlington. He'll be challenged for the QB job by athletic soph Alex Jadin (6-1, 175), UST's top punt returner in 1999. UST has a grueling September -- it opens its season Sept. 9 at Bemidji State (8-3 in 1999); begins MIAC play Sept. 16 at home against Concordia-Moorhead; and also gets MIAC favorite St. John's at home Sept. 30.

1999 Links - [Standings](#), [Awards](#), [Players of the Week](#), [Compag Play of the Week](#), [GTE Academic All-America](#), [NCAA Tournament](#),[Good Works Team](#), [Burger King Scholar Award Winners](#)

1999 Final Standings			
	MIAC		Overall
St. John's*	8-1	.889	11-2
Bethel	7-2	.778	8-2
St. Thomas	7-2	.778	7-3
Concordia	6-3	.667	6-4
Gustavus	6-3	.667	7-3
Augsburg	5-4	.556	6-4
St. Olaf	3-6	.333	3-7
Carleton	1-8	.111	2-8
Hamline	1-8	.111	2-8
Macalester	1-8	.111	2-8

*MIAC Champion

