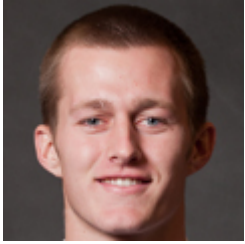


Erik Tengwall, St. Thomas

Spicer, Minn. / New London-Spicer
Week of: 2012-02-27



To win a championship, most teams don't just rely on stars and leading scorers. Usually there are several unsung heroes that contribute in ways the box score doesn't always reflect. That was certainly the case for St. Thomas as it captured the 2012 MIAC Men's Basketball Playoff championship over the weekend. Though sophomore guard **Erik Tengwall's** (Spicer, Minn./ New London-Spicer) stats weren't off the charts, it's quite possible the Tommies wouldn't have claimed the title without his numerous contributions, including the biggest play of Sunday's 66-62 overtime win over Gustavus. For his postseason performance, Tengwall was named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

With the title game tied in overtime and Gustavus in possession of the ball, Tengwell stole an inbounds pass and converted a layup for the key play in St. Thomas' closing 9-0 run that turned a five-point deficit into a four-point victory. The basket was his only score of the game to go along with five rebounds on the heels of a well-rounded six-point, seven-rebound, five-assist, three-steal performance in Friday's semifinal win over Bethel. In addition, Tengwell held the MIAC's leading scorer - Gustavus' Seth Anderson - and talented Royals' guard Daniel Baah each to 7-for-17 shooting performances with his outstanding defense. Tengwell's instincts and hustle were at the heart of the Tommies' playoff wins and his fingerprints all over the championship, if not the stat sheet.

With the title-game win, St. Thomas received the MIAC's automatic bid to the Division III Men's Basketball tournament. The 21-6 Tommies will head to Whitewater, Wis., to open the defense of their national championship for a first-round matchup against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (25-2). The winner will advance to the second round, where it will face the winner of UW-Whitewater and Northwestern. UST's first-round game will be Friday at 5:30 p.m. with the second round scheduled for Saturday at 7 p.m.

Taylor Hall, Bethel

Blaine, Minn. / Bemidji State
Week of: 2012-02-20



Heading into the final week of the season, Bethel needed at least two wins in three games to make the 2012 MIAC Men's Basketball Playoff field with both of the conference's co-champions on the team's final-week schedule. Thankfully, star forward **Taylor Hall** (Blaine, Minn./Bemidji State) was up to the task. The Royals' junior averaged 20 points, seven rebounds, 2.3 blocked shots, 1.3 assists and 1.3 steals as Bethel beat Saint Mary's and MIAC co-champion Gustavus to claim the sixth and final playoff spot. For his performance, Hall has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week for the second time this season.

Hall's big week included 22-point performances in each of the team's victories as he shot .489 from the floor over the three games. He had 22 points, seven rebounds, three blocks, two assists and two steals in a 60-46 win over the Cardinals Monday. In Wednesday's 69-55 loss to St. Thomas Hall had 16 points and six boards and he finished the regular season with 22 points, eight rebounds and three blocks as Bethel stunned the Gusties, 68-52, on Saturday. This season, Hall ranks sixth in the MIAC in scoring (16.2 points per game), 10th in rebounds (6.2 per game) and fourth in blocked shots (1.04 per game).

The 2-1 record over the final week helped Bethel finish the regular season 15-10 overall and 11-9 in the MIAC. The Royals ended in a three-way tie for fifth with Saint John's and Hamline, and due to tiebreaker criteria, SJU got the No. 5 seed and the Royals claimed the sixth and final seed in the 2012 MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs. Bethel opens postseason play Wednesday at No. 3 St. Olaf with tip off set for 7:30 p.m. If the Royals advance, they would travel to St. Paul Friday to take on top-seeded St. Thomas in the semifinals.

Bobby Fong, St. Olaf

Bloomington, Minn. / Kennedy

Week of: 2012-02-13



The St. Olaf men's basketball team won a pair of MIAC games last week with guard **Bobby Fong** (Bloomington, Minn./Kennedy) leading the way to help the Oles punch its ticket to the postseason. The senior averaged 22.0 points, 8.0 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game in wins over Concordia and Saint John's to lock up a bid to the MIAC Men's Basketball Playoffs. For his performance, Fong has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Fong's big week started with a 27-point performance against the Cobbers. The Oles' star added four steals and two rebounds as St. Olaf cruised to an 81-64 win over Concordia last Wednesday. He continued his hot streak Saturday with 17 points, eight rebounds and one steal in a 72-47 win over Saint John's. For the week, Fong shot 16-for-31 from the floor and a perfect 7-for-7 from the line. Over his last three games, Fong is averaging 26.7 points per game while shooting .574 from the floor and this season he ranks fifth in the MIAC in scoring (16.2 points per game) and seventh in made 3-point field goals (1.68 per game) while adding 4.6 rebounds per game and shooting .370 from behind the 3-point arc.

With the two wins last week, St. Olaf has now won seven of its last eight games and will look to finish the regular season strong this week. The Oles improved to 14-9 overall and 13-5 in conference play, and currently they sit in third place in the conference standings. St. Olaf wraps up its regular season with a 7:30 p.m. game at Augsburg Monday night, and a 3 p.m. home tipoff against cross-town rival Carleton Saturday.

Aaron Barmore, Saint John's

Bloomington, Minn. / Jefferson

Week of: 2012-02-06



Basketball players often strive to get: "in the zone," and it's hard to imagine anyone getting in a better zone than Saint John's **Aaron Barmore** (Bloomington, Minn./Jefferson) found last week. In two huge Johnnie wins, Barmore didn't miss a single shot from the field. In the pair of victories, Barmore averaged 16.0 points and 6.0 rebounds per game while shooting a perfect 1.000 percent from the floor, making all 12 of his field goal attempts. For his perfect shooting performance and contributions to his team, Barmore has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Barmore's big week started with a 7-for-7 shooting performance with 22 points and seven rebounds in SJU's 61-56 upset win of rival St. Thomas Wednesday in St. Paul. The victory was the Johnnie's first at UST since 2003, and helped the team sweep the Tommies in the regular-season series for the first time since 1993-94. Barmore's hot hand continued Saturday in front of the home crowd as SJU scored at the buzzer to beat Hamline, 69-67. The senior forward was 5-for-5 from the floor en route to a 10-point, five-rebound performance. In MIAC games this season, Barmore leads the league in minutes played (34.4 per game), is second in shooting percentage (.603) and ninth in scoring (15.1 points per game).

The two victories helped Barmore and the Johnnies improve their postseason positioning as the season winds down. SJU is now 13-7 overall and 9-6 in the conference, currently good for fifth place and a spot in the six-team MIAC Playoff field. Saint John's hopes to keep its four-game winning streak alive this week when it faces Bethel Wednesday in Arden Hills at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday it travels to St. Olaf for a 3 p.m. tip off against the Oles in Northfield.

Daniel Baah, Bethel

Farmington, Minn. / Lakeville North
Week of: 2012-01-30



The Bethel men's basketball team has been one of the hottest teams in the MIAC as of late, with four-straight wins over the past two weeks. Last week's continued success was sparked by senior **Daniel Baah** (Farmington, Minn./Lakeville North). The guard was superb in wins over Augsburg and Macalester, leading the Royals in scoring in both games while averaging 21.5 points, three rebounds and 2.5 steals per game. For his big performances, Baah has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Baah started his big week by leading Bethel to a decisive 72-55 win over Augsburg on Wednesday to give the Royals their third-straight win over potential MIAC Playoff teams. Baah's stat line featured 21 points, four steals, one blocked shot and one rebound while shooting 9-for-16 from the floor and 2-for-2 from the line. He was just as good in Saturday's 85-65 win over Macalester with 22 points, five boards, two assists and one steal while shooting 6-for-10 from the floor and a near-perfect 9-for-10 from the line. For the week, Baah shot .577 from the floor and an outstanding .917 from the charity stripe. This season, Baah is averaging 12.7 points, 3.6 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game while shooting .413 from the floor and .771 on free throws.

The four-game winning streak has helped Bethel pull to even in the MIAC and above .500 overall. The Royals are now 10-7 overall and 6-6 in MIAC play, currently alone in seventh place and just one spot out of the MIAC Playoff field. Bethel will be road warriors this week with three conference games away from Arden Hills. Monday night it travels to Carleton for a 7:30 p.m. game. Wednesday the Royals head northwest to Moorhead for a 7:45 p.m. game against Concordia, and Saturday they'll return to Northfield to face St. Olaf at 3 p.m.

Taylor Hall, Bethel

Blaine, Minn. / Bemidji State
Week of: 2012-01-23



To say that the Bethel men's basketball team had a week to remember would be an understatement. The Royals knocked off a pair of MIAC first-place teams, including defending Division III champions St. Thomas on a buzzer-beater, with junior **Taylor Hall** (Blaine, Minn./Bemidji State) leading the way in the two unforgettable wins. The forward averaged 19.5 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 1.5 blocked shots and 0.5 steals per game in Bethel's back-to-back upsets and, as a result, he has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

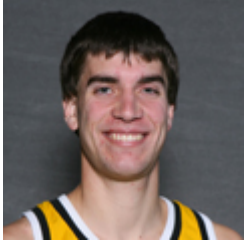
Hall started the week with an 18-point, seven-rebound, three-block performance in the Royals' biggest win to date. Thanks to a put-back at the buzzer, Bethel pulled off a thrilling 69-68 win on the Tommies' home floor in St. Paul on Wednesday night. For an encore, the Royals returned home to hand Gustavus a 75-71 win in Arden Hill Saturday with Hall again playing the role of the star. He just missed on a 20-10 game with 21 points, nine rebounds, four assist and a steal. This season, Hall ranks fifth in the MIAC in scoring (15.8 points per game), eighth in assists (2.62 per game), ninth in rebounding (6.1 per game) and third in blocked shots (1.15 per game) while shooting better than 50 percent from the floor and 70 percent from the line.

The two victories pushed Bethel over .500 overall. Now the Royals have an 8-7 overall record and are 4-6 in MIAC play, currently in eighth place, just a half-game out of the sixth and final Playoff spot heading into the final month of the season. This week, Bethel hopes to keep its winning streak alive with a pair of MIAC home games. Wednesday Augsburg comes to Arden Hills for a 7:30 p.m. tip off, and Saturday Macalester will visit the Royals with a 3 p.m. start time.

Seth Anderson, Gustavus

Minnesota Lake, Minn. / Maple River

Week of: 2012-01-16



The Gustavus men's basketball team picked up two more MIAC wins last week to stay in the hunt for the conference championship with star scorer **Seth Anderson** (Minnesota Lake, Minn./Maple River) at his best. The senior guard averaged 26.5 points while shooting .618 from the floor in victories over Saint John's and Macalester last week, including his fourth game with 30 or more points this season. For his high-scoring performances, Anderson was named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Anderson's big week started with 20 points on 9-of-17 shooting in a 63-49 win over a previously red-hot Saint John's team. The Gusties' guard followed that up with a 33-point performance in an 86-70 win over Macalester, which featured a remarkable second-half outburst by Anderson. He scored 23 of his 33 points after halftime while shooting 7-for-8 from the floor and 8-for-8 from the line in the final 20 minutes. For the game, he was 12-for-17 from the floor. Anderson is the MIAC's leading scorer this season by a comfortable margin with an average of 25.4 points per game. His impressive .580 field goal percentage is tied for the fourth-best mark in the MIAC and he also pulls down 4.1 rebounds per game.

The two conference victories helped Gustavus improve to 9-4 overall and 6-2 in MIAC play, where they're currently tied for second place with Augsburg, trailing first-place St. Thomas by a single game. The Gusties hope Anderson can continue his hot shooting this week with three big conference contests on the schedule. Gustavus will host Concordia Monday (7:45 p.m.) and Hamline Wednesday (7:30 p.m.) before hitting the road Saturday to take on Bethel in Arden Hills for a 3 p.m. tip off.

Seth Marx, Saint John's

Maple Grove, Minn. / Benilde-St. Margaret's

Week of: 2012-01-09



Saint John's men's basketball team has stormed into 2012 as one of the MIAC's hottest teams, with breakout star **Seth Marx** (Maple Grove, Minn./Benilde-St. Margaret's) leading the charge over the Johnnies' six-game winning streak. Just last week, Marx averaged 13.3 points and 7.0 rebounds per game while shooting better than 60 percent both from the floor and from 3-point range to help SJU win its first three conference games of the new calendar year. For his performance, Marx has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

The sophomore forward started his big week with a game-high 15 points in the Johnnies' 68-66 upset of nationally-ranked rival St. Thomas Monday, including the game-winning 3-pointer with just 23 seconds left. He added eight rebounds to give SJU its second Top 25 upset of the past month. Marx contributed five points and three boards Wednesday in a 66-52 win over Bethel, then erupted again in Saturday's 78-71 road win at Hamline with his first career double-double thanks to career highs in both points (20) and rebounds (10). For the week, Marx shot .619 from the floor and .615 from three, and he currently ranks second in made 3-pointers (2.18 per game) and third in 3-point percentage (.429) in the MIAC this season while averaging 9.7 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

The three wins last week helped SJU improve to 8-3 overall and 4-2 in the MIAC, where they are currently in a three-way tie for third, just a game out of first place. The Johnnies will try to keep rolling this week with a pair of tough MIAC games on the schedule. Wednesday, they'll travel to St. Peter to face Gustavus at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday SJU will return home to host St. Olaf in a 3 p.m. tip off.

Mike Burfeind, Saint Mary's



The Saint Mary's men's basketball team dropped a pair of closely-contested games to MIAC opponents last week, but the individual excellence of forward **Mike Burfeind** (Lewiston, Minn./Lewiston-Altura) transcended the outcome. The junior averaged 32.0 points and 9.5 rebounds per game for the Cardinals, including the highest single-game scoring output for a Saint Mary's player in more than three years. For his performance, Burfeind has been named the MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week.

Burfeind's big week began with his first collegiate double-double, a 26-point, 12-rebound effort in a 69-58 road loss at Saint John's. Just two days and 700 miles later, Burfeind was back in top form in an 85-78 loss at Concordia. The junior poured in a career-high 38 points - his first 30-point game - thanks to an 11-for-12 performance at the free throw line, with seven rebounds on his stat line as well. It was the most points scored by a Cardinal since Will Wright had 41 on Nov. 22, 2008, and Burfeind has now scored in double figures in seven of eight games, and is 27-of-29 from the line in his last three games. Overall, Burfeind ranks second in the MIAC in scoring (20.3 points per game), third in free throw percentage (.903) and 11th in rebounding (6.3 per game). He's been even better in conference play, ranking second with 23.0 points and 8.5 rebounds per game and a .935 free throw percentage.

Despite Burfeind's strong stat lines, Saint Mary's is still searching for its first win with an overall record of 0-8 and a MIAC record of 0-4. The Cardinals will have a shot at their first win of 2011-12 Wednesday when they host Viterbo for a 7:45 p.m. nonconference contest. SMU will then take a break and return to the court on Jan. 4, when it travels to Gustavus to resume MIAC play.

Cory Polta, Augsburg



The Augsburg men's basketball team is off to a great start in 2011-12, highlighted by a pair of wins last week to open conference play. The Auggies are 4-0 overall and, after beating Saint John's and Concordia last week, 2-0 to lead the MIAC after one week. A big reason for Augsburg's strong start has been the play of **Cory Polta** (Spring Lake Park, Minn.) in the post. Polta averaged 19.0 points and 9.5 rebounds last week while leading his team to the two MIAC wins. For his performance, Polta has been named the first MIAC Men's Basketball Athlete-of-the-Week in the 2011-12 season.

Polta's big week started with an 11-point, nine-rebound effort in his team's 60-45 win over Saint John's on Wednesday. For an encore, the senior forward turned in one of the best performances of his career, pouring in a career-high 27 points and adding 10 rebounds for his eighth career double-double to help Augsburg knock off Concordia Saturday, 75-59. Polta's 19.0 points and 9.5 rebounds per game rank first and second in conference games only, and his overall season averages are also among the best in the league. He's currently fourth in scoring (16.5 ppg), eighth in rebounding (7.8 rpg), second in field goal percentage (.683) and tied for second in blocked shots (1.5 per game).

With nonconference wins over Northland and North Central also on their resume', the Auggies are unbeaten at 4-0 and just one of three MIAC teams at 2-0 after one week of league play. Polta and his teammates will try to continue their hot start this week with three big games in six days. Monday Augsburg hosts Bethel and Wednesday it travels to Gustavus for two important MIAC games that both tip off at 7:30 p.m. The Auggies will step outside conference play Saturday for a 3 p.m. home game against Central.