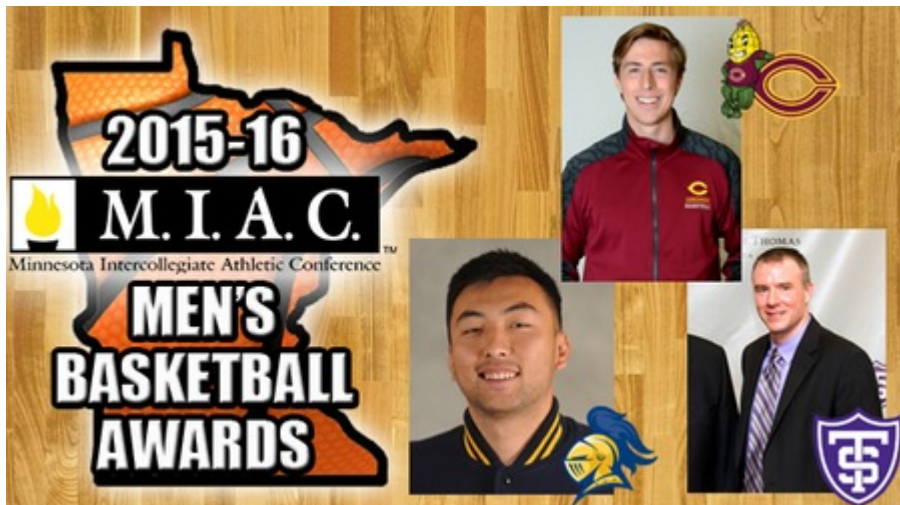


Concordia's Jordan Bolger headlines 2015-16 MIAC Men's Basketball Awards

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn. -- The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) enjoyed another outstanding men's basketball season in 2015-16, with countless unforgettable games and big shots. Tuesday, the conference honored the season's top performers with the announcement of the 2015-16 MIAC Men's Basketball Awards.

Concordia forward Jordan Bolger (Apple Valley, Minn. / Eastview) headlined the awards announcement, as the senior star was named the Joe Hutton Player-of-the-Year. Carleton forward Tianen Chen (Germantown Hills, Ill. / Metamora Township) was named the MIAC's top sub as the junior was voted Sixth Man-of-the-Year, and St. Thomas Head Coach John Tauer was recognized by his peers as the conference's Coach-of-the-Year for the second season in a row.



In addition to the top individual honors, the MIAC also announced its All-Conference Team, All-Defensive Team, All-Freshman Team and All-Conference Honorable Mention selections Tuesday. The conference also announced the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team.

Bolger's brilliant season was a fitting end to a tremendous career, as the MIAC Player-of-the-Year also became the only 2015-16 senior to earn a third-straight All-Conference honor. The Cobber forward led the MIAC in scoring both in overall (18.8 points per game) and conference (19.3 ppg) games. He scored in double figures in all 20 MIAC games and had all of his eight double-doubles in conference play.

In league play, Bolger's 386 points and 36.5 minutes per game also led the league, while he ranked second in rebounds (8.9 per game) and sixth in field goal percentage (.580) and free throws made (74). Overall, Bolger ranked second in the MIAC in minutes (36.5 per game) and field goals made (173), third in rebounding (8.5 per game) and sixth in field goal percentage (.571) and free throws made (95).

Bolger led Concordia to a 16-10 overall record and a 13-7 MIAC mark, which was good for a third-place tie and a spot in the MIAC Playoffs. He was also named to the All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team for his positive sportsmanship on and off the court.

Carleton super-sub Chen was honored as the MIAC's Sixth Man-of-the-Year and was also an All-MIAC Honorable Mention pick. He came off the bench to rank sixth in the MIAC in scoring in both overall (15.5) and conference (15.8) games. His 24.5 points per 40 minutes average in conference play ranked first in the MIAC, and he ranked second in free throws (116 overall, 89 MIAC). His 51 offensive rebounds ranked sixth in the MIAC overall, as he averaged 4.7 rebounds per game. Chen led the Knights to a 13-12 record, including 10-10 in conference play, and a tie for sixth place.

Tauer received his second-straight Coach-of-the-Year award and third in his five-year tenure after guiding the Tommies to their 11th-straight MIAC regular-season championship. UST completed a 23-2 regular season, including an 18-2 MIAC record, and is currently ranked No. 8 in the nation. The team also reached the MIAC Playoff championship game and receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, where it will host a four-team regional Friday and Saturday to start the "Big Dance."

This season, Tauer coached four players to All-MIAC honors, and one to All-Defensive Team recognition. Tauer's team led the MIAC in scoring defense (64.2) and ranked second in scoring offense (76.6) and its 9.1 turnovers and 3.7 blocked shots per game and defensive field goal percentage (.433) also led the league. The Tommies were second in the MIAC in field goal (.500) and three-point (.352) percentage.

In addition to his Player-of-the-Year award, Bolger also headlined the All-Conference Team, which includes the MIAC's top 15 players, for the third-straight season. St. Olaf's Ben Figini, Saint John's Mitchell Kuck and Alex Schmitt, St. Thomas' Taylor Montero and Ryan Saarela and Bethel's Bridgeport Tusler each received their second-straight All-MIAC selection.

The All-Conference team consisted of 10 seniors, two juniors and three sophomores. The conference-champion Tommies led the way with four selections, while St. Olaf, Saint John's, Concordia and Bethel had two apiece. Augsburg, Carleton and Gustavus each had one player recognized. The MIAC also recognized a five-player All-Defensive Team, which was led by repeat selections Saarela and St. Olaf's Riley Aeikens. A five-player All-Freshman Team was also recognized, as were All-Conference Honorable Mention selections.

As part of a conference-wide sportsmanship initiative, the MIAC also announced the 10th annual All-MIAC Sportsmanship team for men's basketball. 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.

Joe Hutton Player-of-the-Year - Jordan Bolger, Concordia (Sr., Forward, Apple Valley, Minn. / Eastview)
Sixth Man-of-the-Year - Tienen Chen, Carleton (Jr., Forward, Germantown Hills, Ill. / Metamora Township)
Coach-of-the-Year - John Tauer, St. Thomas (Fifth season)

2015-16 MIAC Men's Basketball All-Conference Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Riley Aeikens	St. Olaf	Sr.	Guard	Maynard Minn. / MACCRAY
Jordan Bolger	Concordia	Sr.	Forward	Apple Valley, Minn. / Eastview
Gary Cooper	Gustavus	Sr.	Wing	Detroit, Mich. / Denby
Ben Figini	St. Olaf	Sr.	Forward	Chisago City, Minn. / Chisago Lakes
Tom Fraase	Concordia	Sr.	Guard	Bismarck, N.D. / Century
Kevin Grow	Carleton	So.	Forward	Circle Pines, Minn. / Centennial
Trevor Hall	Bethel	Jr.	Guard	Blaine, Minn. / Spring Lake Park
Mitchell Kuck	Saint John's	Sr.	Wing	Lino Lakes, Minn. / Centennial
Taylor Montero	St. Thomas	Sr.	Wing	Brooklyn Park, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Collin Olmscheid	Augsburg	So.	Forward	Buffalo, Minn.
Ryan Saarela	St. Thomas	Sr.	Forward	Lakeville, Minn. / North
Alex Schmitt	Saint John's	Sr.	Guard	Waconia, Minn.
Grant Shaeffer	St. Thomas	Jr.	Guard	Eden Prairie, Minn.
Cortez Tillman	St. Thomas	Sr.	Guard	St. Paul, Minn. / Cretin-Derham Hall
Bridgeport Tusler	Bethel	So.	Guard	Maple Grove, Minn. / Osseo

2015-16 MIAC Men's Basketball All-Defensive Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Riley Aeikens	St. Olaf	Sr.	Guard	Maynard, Minn. / MACCRAY
Kevin Grow	Carleton	So.	Forward	Circle Pines, Minn. / Centennial
Trevor Hall	Bethel	Jr.	Guard	Blaine, Minn. / Spring Lake Park
Joe Risinger	Saint John's	Sr.	Wing	Shorewood, Minn. / Minnetonka
Ryan Saarela	St. Thomas	Sr.	Forward	Lakeville, Minn. / North

2015-16 MIAC Men's Basketball All-Freshman Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Wyatt Ferm	Macalester	Fr.	Forward	Farmington, Minn.
Michael Gutierrez	Macalester	Fr.	Guard	Stillwater, Minn. / St. Croix Prep Academy
Connor Knutson	Hamline	Fr.	Guard/Forward	Forest Lake, Minn.
Derek Magnuson	Bethel	Fr.	Forward	St. Paul, Minn. / Roseville
David Stokman	Saint John's	Fr.	Guard	Maple Lake, Minn.

2015-16 MIAC Men's Basketball All-Conference Honorable Mention

<u>Name</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>
Tienen Chen	Carleton	Jr.	Forward	Germantown Hills, Ill. / Metamora Township
Wylie Ferron	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Forward	Waconia, Minn.
Kareem Ismail	Macalester	Jr.	Center	Pasadena, Calif. / Flintridge Prep
Chris Narum	Gustavus	Sr.	Guard	Eagan, Minn. / Eastview
Justin Pahl	St. Olaf	Sr.	Guard	Woodbury, Minn. / East Ridge
Brett Rasmussen	Augsburg	Jr.	Forward	Lakeville, Minn. / North
Joe Risinger	Saint John's	Sr.	Wing	Shorewood, Minn. / Minnetonka
Zach Smith	Hamline	So.	Guard	Burnsville, Minn.
Quashingm Smith-Pugh	Saint Mary's	Jr.	Guard	St. Paul, Minn. / Johnson
Will Swiggum	Saint Mary's	Sr.	Forward	St. Charles, Minn.
Brycen Wojta	Bethel	Jr.	Guard	Maple Grove, Minn.
Brody Ziegler	Gustavus	Sr.	Post	Mankato, Minn. / East

2015-16 Men's Basketball All-MIAC Sportsmanship Team

Augsburg - Steele Krause (Sr., Parker, Colo. / Legend)
Bethel - Kyle von Schmidt-Pauli (Sr., Oakdale, Minn. / Tartan)
Carleton - John Eckert (Sr., North Judson, Ind.)
Concordia - Jordan Bolger (Sr., Apple Valley, Minn. / Eastview)
Gustavus - Brian Jacobs (Sr., Lake Crystal, Minn. / LCWM)
Hamline - Nick Powell (So., Harmony, Minn. / Filmore Central)
Macalester - Kyle Bernhard (Sr., Sleepy Hollow, Ill. / Dundee-Crown)
Saint John's - Mitch Wollin (Sr., Litchfield, Minn.)
Saint Mary's - Mark Schumacher (Sr., Perham, Minn.)
St. Olaf - Caleb Lunning (Sr., Zimmerman, Minn.)
St. Thomas - Will Dunn (Jr., Edina, Minn. / Benilde-St. Margaret's)

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